

All Hail 711

Chapter 711 - 711: Break from Official Duties Due to Mourning

“Yu! Zong! Shen!” Yu Zongzheng’s face turned red, and his face burned as if someone had peeled off his skin. “Our Yu Residence is a noble family. Xie Roujia is just a businesswoman. It’s their blessing to be able to marry into our family.”

Yu Zongshen was furious. “What blessing? The blessing of an early death? Or the blessing of a shameless husband who had an affair with someone that was secretly pregnant? Or the blessing of a husband who couldn’t wait to welcome another new wife before her corpse turned cold and the funeral was over? Or is it that you’re still doubting her reputation and her daughter’s blessing?”

Haha, if I had been as shameless as you back then, would Mother not let me marry Xie Roujia?”

What Yu Zongshen regretted the most in his life was that on the day the Yu Residence held a banquet to entertain the Xie Residence, Xie Roujia had secretly drunk wine.

She had a low alcohol tolerance and she was drunk after taking a sip. She mistook the Yu Residence for the Xie Residence and ran to the wrong courtyard. If he had been more heartless at that time and arranged for a servant to see him alone with Xie Roujia...

He could say that he had seduced Xie Roujia and wanted to express his affection for her. Perhaps the outcome would be different.

However, the more deeply he loved her, the more he had to take care of her, and the more careful he had to be. He was worried that it would be abrupt, but in the end, he was still the most worried that it would damage Xie Roujia’s reputation, so he quietly avoided her and lured a maidservant over.

Yu Zongzheng was embarrassed.

Even so, it was a fact that Second Brother was thinking about Madam Xie, which still made him feel like a fishbone was stuck in his throat. He couldn’t help but feel furious. ‘You care about your eldest sister-in-law and disregard your family. Isn’t that shameless?’

Yu Zongshen sneered. “I’ve already sent a notice to the Imperial Court to hand over Dehua County in Fujian. Why would I care? If she wasn’t my eldest sister-in-law, do you think I would have given up on her?”

In the previous dynasty, their Yu Clan had once snatched someone’s wife.

There was a saying that went, “The past should enlighten the future generation.”

Why didn’t he dare to do what his predecessors had dared to do?!

However, Xie Roujia was her eldest sister-in-law.

He could ignore Yu Zongzheng.

He did not care about his reputation.

He couldn't ignore Xie Roujia's reputation. It was easy to get married, but Xie Roujia would only die.

However, after thinking so much, Xie Roujia was still dead.

Yu Zongzheng was furious. With a flick of his sleeve, he swept the cups, bowls, plates, and plates on the table to the ground. With a clang, they fell to the ground in a mess.

After a short commotion in the room, there was silence.

An unknown period of time passed!

It was Yu Zongzheng who couldn't hold it in anymore. He took a deep breath.

"It's against the etiquette of kinship for brothers to fight over a woman.

Madam Xie has been dead for more than ten years, and Mother has passed away. I don't want to argue with you about this." Yu Zongshen's lips twitched in understanding.

Indeed!

Yu Zongzheng changed the topic and said, "Mother had to be a widow for many years. It's not easy to raise the two of us until we're adults and make contributions. We have to thank Mother for her kindness. Now that Mother has passed away, one of us has to mourn for her for three years."

Yu Zongshen said nothing.

It wasn't that Yu Zongzheng wasn't smart. Perhaps he had been fooled by Madam Yang and Nanny Li for a moment. In addition, he had a deep grudge against Old Madam and had suppressed it for many years. On impulse, he had quarreled with her. However, now that Old Madam had passed away and Madam Yang had been abandoned, even if Yu Zongzheng had a grudge, he wouldn't make this matter public.

Her younger brother coveted his first wife. Did Yu Zongzheng still care about his pride?!

Yu Zongzheng had used this matter to strike first.

He could only scheme against him using the matter of mourning.

Yu Zongzheng waited for a while, but when Yu Zongshen did not say anything, his expression turned even uglier. He could only say, "There's order in seniority. As an elder brother, it's my duty to mourn for my mother."

As an elder brother, he was the one at a disadvantage.

Be it when his mother was alive or after she died.

His mother was biased towards Yu Zongshen, so it was only right for Yu Zongshen to mourn for their mother.

Yu Zongshen still did not speak.

Yu Zongzheng was a little angry. "I've also become one of the 13 Imperial Censors, and the emperor's grace is vast. It's fine if I'm the Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs, but once I have to mourn home, it's equivalent to removing my title as one of the 13

Imperial Censors. During this period of time, the drought in the north has become more and more serious. The emperor wants me to be the Imperial Censor to help the refugees. If I'm at home now, wouldn't I be letting down the emperor's grace?"

In the past dynasties, there was no official position that someone could continue to hold after three years of mourning. It was impossible for him to be in mourning.

Using the emperor's grace to counterattack was justified!

Yu Zongshen was a little amused. It wasn't good for Yu Zongzheng to be in mourning as the dignified Cabinet Grand Secretary? Was he using Madam Xie to force him to take the initiative to mourn at home?

Xie Roujia had been dead for more than ten years, but he still refused to let her have peace.

He was really shameless.

Yu Zongshen chuckled. "If you don't want to mourn, you can ask the Imperial Court for help. There's a drought in the north, and the emperor wants you to go to disaster relief. It's a special situation that requires special intervention. The court officials won't think that you're 'unfilial'."

Yu Zongzheng frowned. "Although that's the case, it's still a fact. In the previous dynasty, there was a Prime Minister Zhang. It was because he did not give up his official position that the later people died. He was even hated by the emperor at that time and the dead Prime Minister Zhangs family confiscated his title and his descendants were exiled. Mother is still a widow, so it's even more difficult to raise us. Filial piety is the top priority. No matter what the reason is, it is a must to mourn for her. Otherwise, our family's reputation of loyalty and filial piety will be tarnished."

Yu Zongshen chuckled. "So?"

At that time, Prime Minister Zhang was hovering between filial piety and power, which was why he had caused trouble later. However, the emperor was still young and needed the help of a good minister.

Yu Zongzheng did not want to not show filial piety, nor did he want to give up his power. After becoming a whore, he still wanted to show his chastity.

It was extremely unbearable—

He had even selectively forgotten that he was the one who had caused Matriarch's death.

Yu Zongzheng perked up. "You've always had a stable position in the cabinet. Even if the mourning takes three years, it won't affect anything."

Even if he did not want to admit it, he knew very well that the cabinet ministers were different from people like him who had only obtained power because of the emperor's grace.

"Alright." Yu Zongshen couldn't be bothered to feign civility with him. "At dawn, I'll send a memorial to the palace."

Yu Zongzheng was overjoyed, but he looked guilty. "Second Brother..."

"However," Yu Zongshen interrupted him in a gentle voice, as if he had returned to his usual calm and elegant self. "On account of Mother and Xie Roujia, I'll

tolerate you one last time. In the future, without Mother protecting you, we'll really be enemies from the same family."

A trace of mockery appeared on Yu Youyao's face. Yu Zongzheng did not want to worry about the mourning period, so he used her biological mother to threaten Yu Zongshen, forcing him to do it for him.

What a good show.

She did not want to stay in the Yu Residence for another moment..

Chapter 712 - 712: I Won't Cry

"Your eyes are red and swollen from crying. I'll get some ice for you." Yin Huaixi held her hand and sat at the table.

"Cousin, I don't have a grandmother anymore." Yu Youyao whimpered. The tears she had been holding back rushed out again. Even if she sniffed hard, she couldn't stop crying.

Yin Huaixi's heart ached as he pulled her into his arms. "If you're fine in the future, she'll be at ease in the netherworld."

"But I keep feeling that this isn't true," Yu Youyao looked up. Her swollen eyes matched her pale face. Her lips, which were already dry and cracked, were like a faded apricot flower. "Am I dreaming?"

Yin Huaixi shook his head. "You're not dreaming."

Yu Youyao said in a daze, "After Divine Physician Xie entered the residence, I often felt my heart palpitate and often dreamed of Grandmother. She ate half a bowl of porridge in the morning and I thought her health had improved. At night, she suddenly passed away. It was too sudden. I wasn't prepared at all and didn't have time to say anything. When I saw Grandmother again, her body was cold."

The scene in the nightmare overlapped with reality, causing her to be in a daze. She couldn't tell reality from dream.

Yin Huaixi had only left the residence for three to four months, but so many things had happened in the Yu Residence. The trajectory of reality had uncontrollably developed closely to Yu Youyao's nightmare after Divine Physician Xie appeared.

However, there was a difference.

In reality, Madam Yang was about to die. Yu Jianjia was alone and helpless. Yu Youyao was in charge of the residence and was also wary of Divine Physician Xie.

Yu Youyao's slender fingers grabbed Yin Huaixi's sleeve. "Cousin should be trading with Harmon in the North now." As she muttered, she shook her head until she was dizzy. The person in front of her became blurry. "I'm indeed dreaming."

Yin Huaixi did not allow her to shake her head. "I came back early."

Yu Youyao looked at her cousin. Her thin eyebrows made her eyes look extremely fragile.

“Close your eyes.” Yin Huaixi picked up some ice and wrapped it in a cotton cloth.

Yu Youyao looked at him blankly. Her eyelashes trembled slightly and she slowly closed her eyes. Then, her eyes were cold. She couldn't help but shiver and finally realized that this wasn't a dream! Her grandmother had really passed away.

“Cousin, I won't cry...” There was a lump in her throat and a stinging sensation in her nose, but she resisted the urge to cry.

Although she said that she wouldn't cry, her voice broke and she was out of tune. Yin Huaixi's gaze was gentle. “Matriarch is in the coffin. Tomorrow, someone from the clan will be here to hold the funeral. There are still many things in the family that need you to step in and manage. If the funeral is handled well, it can be considered to have fulfilled the relationship between the grandmother and granddaughter.”

Yu Youyao nodded. She felt terrible, but she forced herself to perk up and ask,

“You're back early. What about the deal?”

Yin Huaixi changed his eye to apply ice. “Yin Yi will handle it later.”

These casual words made Yu Youyao even more worried. “Didn't you say that the last deal is the most important? How can you give it to Yin Yi?”

Yin Huaixi could only say, “The contents of the deal have all been agreed. After the previous two tests, both sides have established trust. Besides, Harmon has lost an arm and his injuries haven't completely recovered. He urgently needs this batch of food to consolidate his status in the Di Clan and further increase his strength.”

Yu Youyao was finally a little relieved. She asked, “Why are you back early?”

Yin Huaixi took out three letters. “This is the letter that Yin San sent to me on the day we left the capital. Later, you mentioned in the letter that Matriarch

Yu was sick. I was worried that something would happen to the Yu Residence.”

If it weren't for the fact that Harmon had lost an arm and delayed the transaction, he would have returned at the beginning of August at the latest.

He would have been able to catch up with everything that had happened in the Yu Residence recently, and the little girl wouldn't have suffered so much.

Harmon, that dog!

In the end, he was still worried about her. Yu Youyao bit her lip and took the letter. There was another lump in her throat. “It's a personal letter from Grandmother.”

Yin Huaixi nodded. “I haven't seen it yet.”

This was probably the last entrustment and arrangement that Old Madam Yu had made for her granddaughter. However, it was no longer needed. Old Madam Yu also understood that she had never mentioned anything about a letter before she died.

Yu Youyao's fingers trembled as she opened one of the letters. The letter explained that after she passed away, her granddaughter, You Yao, from the Yu Clan, would return to the Xie Residence of her mother's clan. From then on, the Yu Clan would not interfere much. They would even donate 50% of the assets under their name to the Yu Clan, hoping that the clan would not obstruct them.

Every word and sentence was well thought out and protective.

Her biological mother, Madam Xie, was the first wife. Firstly, her mother was not a divorcee, and secondly, she was the eldest daughter of the first wife. The Great Zhou Dynasty valued the first wife.

Her grandmother had passed away, but her father was still around.

Even if her father was no longer around, there were still her uncles and aunts.

If Uncle and Aunt were no longer kind to her, there was still the clan.

As the eldest daughter of the first wife, as long as she had good etiquette, no matter if it was in the family or the clan, she had to be valued and not be tortured.

The traditional families valued etiquette and reputation. There is no precedent that she had to stay in her father's clan and could not return to her mother's clan.

Her grandmother's request was too much.

However, her grandmother had also expected this.

In the letter, she mentioned the hardships of her residence as a widow. Every word and sentence was filled with bitterness. She even gave up her face and mentioned her contributions to the Yu Clan over the years.

The clan was brought together by bloodline, so there was nothing more important than etiquette. The dead were the most important. No matter how dissatisfied and angry the Yu Clan was, they had to consider their grandmother's last wish.

After reading this letter, the clan members would realize that her grandmother had stayed chaste for her grandfather for half of her life. She had earned a good reputation for the Yu Clan, nurtured two important ministers of the court, and even donated the assets under her name. With her cousin's and even the Xie Residence's support, this matter would most likely succeed.

In the second letter, she explained that her son, Yu Zongzheng, had an affair with Yang Shuwan who was secretly pregnant, causing the death of his first wife, Madam Xie.

This was to prevent Yu Zongzheng from using his position as a father to manipulate his daughter in the future. This was Yu Zongzheng's greatest weakness.

Once Yu Zongzheng harmed Yu Youyao, as long as she handed this letter to the Imperial Court, Yu Zongzheng's reputation would be ruined.

The third letter was for "Zhou Linghuai."

Every word and sentence was solicitous. She hoped that he could protect his granddaughter more in the future. She even gave him a portion of her collection of calligraphy, paintings, antiques, and ancient books.

Yu Youyao sobbed uncontrollably.

Yin Huaixi regretted taking out the letter and hugged her again. "Matriarch arranged for you to leave in peace. I even revealed my identity to her."

Indeed!

Hearing this, Yu Youyao couldn't be bothered to cry anymore. She asked in a hoarse voice, "When Grandmother found out about your identity, did she get angry? What did she say?"

Yin Huaixi nodded and did not mention the token. "She was not angry. She only asked a few questions and entrusted you to me.."

Chapter 713 - 713: Obedient and Soft

Her grandmother had saved up a lot of energy and held on until her breath. She had waited for her cousin to return just to entrust him with her before she died. There was nothing wrong with that.

However, Yu Youyao felt that something was amiss.

Without their relationship as cousins, King Yue Fei had become a complete outsider. The Great Zhou Dynasty was more open-minded than past dynasties. There were not many taboos between relatives, so it did not matter if they were closer. However, men and women were still very particular about being wary of outsiders.

Her grandmother had asked King Yue Fei to take care of her more so that she could pass on in peace,

It was a little inappropriate to entrust him to her.

Seeing her thoughtful expression, Yin Huaixi's eyes flashed. "What are you thinking about?"

Yu Youyao was suspicious, but she still shook her head. "It's nothing. I'm just thinking that when the people from the clan arrive tomorrow, they should seal the coffin and prepare the burial items carefully."

Since her cousin had said that he was entrusted with her, he wouldn't lie to her.

Since her grandmother had made such an arrangement, there must be a reason.

If her cousin hadn't mentioned it, she wouldn't have asked.

"It's not too late to prepare the burial items after the people from the clan arrive."
"

Yin Huaixi suddenly bent down and picked her up. The little girl's thin figure lay in his arms. She was obedient and light, as if she weighed nothing.

Yu Youyao panicked when her body suddenly left the ground. She placed her hands on Yin Huaixi's chest. The two of them were pressed against each other. Through the thin material of his clothes, she could feel that Yin Huaixi was very thin, but his chest was hard and his bones were broad. There

was a thin layer of muscles on his body. It was now tense. When her hands were on it, they were like a barrier, exuding a stern and firm aura.

It always reminded Yu Youyao of the inner courtyard of the palace wall that she had seen when she entered the palace with her grandmother earlier. When she entered it, she felt a suffocating feeling.

Yu Youyao knew that this was against the rules. She nestled in Yin Huaixi's arms like a small quail, shrinking her head timidly.

She was very easy to bully!

Yin Huaixi hurriedly chased away some of the inappropriate thoughts in his mind. He felt that after obtaining the Matriarch's token, his guts had increased a little, but in the end, it was not right. She was a beautiful and virtuous woman who would be a good spouse for a gentleman. Without the relationship of being cousins, he would be an outsider in the future. He had to be wary of the relationship between men and women.

Yin Huaixi suddenly felt that there was still a long way to go— It was really too difficult for him!

Sighing to himself, Yin Huaixi walked to the window and carefully placed her on the soft couch. He took out a thin blanket and covered her with it.

“Matriarch has arranged to be placed in the main hall of the front courtyard. Yu Zongzheng and Yu Zongshen are keeping watch outside. Have a good sleep first. Don't tire yourself out.”

Yu Youyao did not want to sleep. “I can't sleep.”

“Be good.” Yin Huaixi took off the hairpin on her head and spread her hair. Her long black hair spilled out like water on the pillowcase. It was bright black, complementing her palm-sized face that was pale, delicate and fragile. Yin Huaixi felt pity for her. His throat rolled, but in the end, he couldn't help but bend down and lower his head to meet her watery eyes. However, he paused. “Close your eyes.”

Yu Youyao was very obedient. Her eyelashes fluttered slightly, and her thick and long eyelashes covered her eyes like a row of small fans.

A light kiss landed on her forehead and left immediately.

Yu Youyao couldn't help but open her eyes. One was looking down on the other. Their eyes met.

The little girl's eyes lit up and she dazzled in Yin Huaixi's eyes. His heart was beating wildly. He kept feeling that her gaze was like resin. She was glued to him, making him unable to dodge or move.

He wanted to kiss her!

“Don't look at me.” Yin Huaixi's voice was hoarse as he reached out to cover her eyes. Without her clingy gaze, he heaved a sigh of relief. “Close your eyes now and sleep well.”

Under his hand, the little girl's eyelashes trembled slightly, and she felt a slight itch in her heart. Yin Huaixi removed his hand as if it was burning.

The little girl looked at him eagerly. Finally, there was color in her pale face.

Yin Huaixi felt guilty and flustered. "I haven't seen you for a while. You've lost a lot of weight. Don't make me worry."

Yu Youyao nodded. "I was good."

In order to prove that she was really obedient, she closed her eyes obediently.

Yin Huaixi's throat rolled, and he couldn't help but chuckle. "I'm going to the front courtyard to take a look and get Chun Xiao to come in and look after you."

Yu Youyao nodded.

Yin Huaixi stood up to leave.

When Yu Youyao heard the commotion, she panicked a little. She reached out and tugged at his sleeve, opening her eyes. "You know everything that happened in the residence?"

Yin Huaixi sat down beside her again. "Yes, I do."

Yu Youyao frowned. Yin Huaixi gently rubbed her forehead until her eyebrows relaxed. "You've arranged it well in the beginning. It's not convenient for you to step in for the rest, so leave it to me to handle."

Yu Youyao nodded.

Yin Huaixi continued, "Don't think too much about it. On the seventh day of your grandmother's passing, I'll step in and discuss with the clan. Your father-daughter relationship with Yu Zongzheng will only exist in name. There's no need to care about irrelevant people."

It wasn't until this moment that Yu Youyao felt that nightmare and reality were different after all. She was about to break free from the cage of the Yu Residence and completely break through the tragic fate of the older Yao Yao in her nightmare.

Yu Youyao suddenly said, "I was about five or six years old. On the day of the

Buddhist Festival, I had some arguments with Yu Jianjia at the Precious Peace Temple. On impulse, I ran out of the courtyard and bumped into a fugitive who had injured someone at the rockery of the Bodhisattva of Wishes. At that time, I was small and bold, so I scared the thief away and saved a young master who was covered in blood...

She told him everything that had happened back then.

After Yin Huaixi heard this, his eyes darkened. "Was that Song Mingzhao?" Yu Youyao shook her head and nodded. "I didn't know in the past. Now that I think about it, it's most likely him."

When the string of fragmented images in the nightmare was pieced together, it became very clear.

The longevity lock that her mother had given her was broken. Her grandmother felt that it was inauspicious, so she put it away.

The two branches of the Yu Residence had split up. Her grandmother's belongings belonged to the main branch and had been cleaned up by Madam Yang and her daughter. Yu Jianjia had taken the longevity lock that she had broken and pretended to thank Song Mingzhao for saving her life.

Due to the fact that he had saved her life, Song Mingzhao felt appreciation and affection for Yu Jianjia. However, he hated her and her grandmother because of his marriage with her.

After her grandmother's death, Madam Yang and her daughter would definitely tarnish her biological mother's reputation and question her background. Without her grandmother, Yu Zongzheng trusted Madam Yang and her daughter deeply.

Although family scandals shouldn't be spread in public, Madam Yang and her daughter would definitely think of a way to let the Zhenguo Marquis

Residence know about this..

Chapter 714 - 714: Dedicated to You

Her "unbearable" and "dirty" background was an unspeakable humiliation to Song Mingzhao and the entire Zhenguo Marquis Residence.

However, her marriage with Song Mingzhao had been arranged by her elders. The two Matriarchs who had been involved had already passed away and tied a dead knot in this marriage.

The Zhenguo Marquis Residence was also a family that cared about their reputation, so they couldn't do something like "reneging the marriage". That would mean going against elders and being heartless. They could only pinch their noses and admit in an aggrieved manner that Song Mingzhao had to marry her.

Song Mingzhao was a prodigy and cared about Yu Jianjia. How could he tolerate marrying a woman with an "unbearable" and "dirty" background?

No other man could accept it.

In Song Mingzhao's opinion, she had an "unbearable" background, snatched Yu Jianjia's position as the first wife and reduced the woman he loved to a second wife.

She owed Yu Jianjia.

The best outcome for someone with an "unbearable" and "dirty" background like her was to secretly "die of illness" at home and not live well in the world.

Letting her be Yu Jianjia's blood medicinal catalyst to save her life could be considered an eye for an eye. It was considered benevolent to let her live for a few more years.

It was suitable and reasonable.

Therefore, the Zhenguo Marquis Residence did not care about her and indulged Song Mingzhao's evil actions.

Where was Yu Zongshen?

Now that Matriarch had passed away, he must have returned to the clan to mourn. Without the emperor's summons, unless the three-year mourning was up, he couldn't return to the capital casually.

Madam Yao, who was in the capital, hated her so much. Why would she care about her?

This was the entire story of the older Yao Yao's misery in the nightmare.

Yin Huaixi had also thought of this. He held her hand. It was soft, but wet and cold. "It's fine. It's just a nightmare after all."

"I feel like it was really just a dream now..." Yu Youyao closed her eyes again. As soon as she closed them, she felt a dry and stinging pain in her eyes.

This time, Yin Huaixi was not in a hurry to leave.

Indeed!

As soon as her tense mind relaxed, Yu Youyao's temples hurt terribly. "If I'm seriously ill one day and need human blood as a catalyst, will you lock an innocent woman up in a shabby courtyard like Song Mingzhao and cruelly raise her into a blood medicinal catalyst?"

She did not know much about Song Mingzhao.

After interacting with him, she couldn't help but feel a little puzzled. Although Song Mingzhao wasn't very magnanimous, he was still a gentleman and wasn't as crazy as in her nightmare.

Yin Huaixi's gaze was deep. "In essence, Song Mingzhao and I are actually the same kind of people."

Yu Youyao's eyes widened, and they were bloodshot. She looked very haggard. "What do you mean? Would you really this?" Her voice was angry and anxious, and her face was flushed. Her hoarse voice rose a little, making her look extremely angry. "Yin Huaixi, I won't allow it."

"Don't be angry." Yin Huaixi held her hand and said gently, "If you don't allow it, I won't do it."

Yu Youyao was stunned. "Tell me clearly, what do you mean?"

"Whether I do this or not depends on you." Yin Huaixi's lips curled up. "You're devoted to kindness, and I'm devoted to you. I won't do anything you don't

Song Mingzhao would only do something so cruel because Yu Jianjia wanted to.

A man would easily change his stance or even his principles for a woman. His eyes, ears, mouth, and heart would be deceived. He would see what he wanted to see and have selective hearing. The so-called right and wrong would become insignificant. It was no different from being possessed! When he met a good person, he would become a better person.

When he met a bad person, he would become bad.

His father had met her mother and become better.

Song Mingzhao had become bad when he met Yu Jianjia.

He was lucky to have met Yu Youyao. Everything was getting better.

Yu Youyao finally heaved a sigh of relief and emphasized again, "I don't like it, so Cousin, you're not allowed to do it."

With that, she felt that something was amiss.

If you don't allow it, I won't do it!

You're devoted to kindness, and I'm devoted to you!

I won't do anything you don't like!

Yin Huaixi's words suddenly echoed in her ears. A strange emotion suddenly surged in Yu Youyao's heart. There was a hint of jealousy. It was like the green plum fruit she had eaten in the past. After taking a bite, the sourness spread in her mouth and rushed to her face. Her face felt slightly hot. When the sourness gradually subsided, there was a hint of sweetness lingering. There was a fragrance on her teeth and cheeks. The fruit was sweet to the core.

Therefore, she used to like eating green plum fruits very much.

Yu Youyao suddenly closed her eyes and turned around. With her back facing him, she said in a muffled voice, "I'm sleepy!"

The little girl's thin back was gently arched, like a small shrimp. It was curled up, and her round shoulders were trembling slightly, making her look delicate and beautiful. A fair jade-like neck was exposed, looking flawless. Her black hair was pushed aside, and her ears were red.

Yin Huaixi said in a low voice, "Sleep!"

Exhaustion surged from the bottom of her heart. Only then did Yu Youyao vaguely remember how much had happened yesterday.

Yu Jianjia was sick. Hui Xiang had sent Old Madam Lai out of the residence. Madam Yang had planned to ruin her birth mother's reputation and question her background. Nanny Li had bumped into the corner of the table and disappeared. Yu Zongzheng had rushed into An Shou Hall, and her grandmother was furious.

Madam Yang was divorced, Divine Physician Xie was detained, and Yu Jianjia's hair was cut and she was to be sent back to the clan!

Her cousin was back.

Her grandmother had passed away.

Lying on the couch, her mind was filled with her grandmother's love for her in the past. The more she wanted to fall asleep, the less she could.

Yin Huaixi seemed to know that she was in low spirits and tense, so he stayed by her side and kept patting her shoulder. Unknowingly, her mind was distracted by the gentle pats. Her breathing slowly became slow and long, and she fell asleep at some point.

In a daze, she seemed to have dreamed again that the older Yao Yao was locked up in a broken small courtyard called the Frost Residence and had her blood extracted with needles.

There was an osmanthus tree planted in front of the courtyard. When the osmanthus flowers bloomed, the courtyard was filled with fragrance. The branches of the osmanthus flowers quietly poked into the courtyard wall. The older Yao Yao liked to sit on the stone steps in the courtyard and look at the strings of golden osmanthus flowers on the branches. They were small, cute, bright, and elegant. They were the only vivid colors in the lonely courtyard.

In the past, she had always felt an uncontrollable sense of despair. This time, those desperate images had changed.

She was no longer the older Yao Yao who was locked up in a shabby small courtyard and at the mercy of others.

Instead, she stood in a courtyard called the Tranquil Heart Residence and looked down at the vicious and smug Madam Yang. She crawled at her feet and cursed in despair.

The “pure and kind” Yu Jianjia was pressed to the cold ground. Her long hair was cut, and she whimpered helplessly and begged for mercy.

The sinister and vicious Divine Physician Xie was tied up like a dumpling, waiting for his final judgment...

Chapter 715 - 715: How Would I Dare To!!

No matter how real the nightmare was, it was still a dream.

After waking up from her dream, she was no longer the daughter of the Yu Clan, Yu Youyao, who was alone and helpless.

Her fate was in her own hands.

After falling asleep, Yu Youyao finally managed to relax after a stressful day. Her eyes were red and swollen, and her eyes were dark. Her delicate lips were dry and white, and her palm-sized face was tired and thin.

Yin Huaixi’s heart skipped a beat. He bent down and tucked her in. The moment he turned around, the corners of his lips collapsed and the corners of his eyes drooped. He was filled with hostility.

Yin Huaixi pressed down on the scimitar at his waist and strode out of the room. When he saw Chun Xiao guarding the door, he instructed, “Your young miss is asleep. If anything happens, report it to me directly. Don’t alarm her. Get Nanny Xu to prepare a medicinal bath. When she wakes up, get her to rest and make some exquisite appetizing food.”

The little girl had not eaten much the entire day yesterday. If she was asked to eat now, she definitely wouldn’t be able to eat much. When she woke up and felt more energetic, she would probably have some appetite,

Chun Xiao heaved a sigh of relief. “Yes!”

After giving his instructions, Yin Huaixi strode away.

Chun Xiao looked at the young master’s majestic steps. His tall and thin back exuded a suffocating killing intent, and his aura was like water that had been blocked by a dam.

He did not look like a scholar that held a brush and painted, but like a general who went into battle to kill the enemy.

Yin Huaixi left An Shou Hall and returned to the Green House.

Chang An quickly welcomed him. Before he could speak, Yin Huaixi asked, "Where is Divine Physician Xie locked up?"

His tone was low and hoarse, revealing a terrifying ruthlessness. Chang An was shocked and quickly lowered his head. "He's locked up in the woodshed in the side courtyard."

As soon as he finished speaking, Yin Huaixi had already walked into the side courtyard and kicked open the door of the woodshed.

Divine Physician Xie, who was about forty years old, had his hands tied behind his back. He leaned against the firewood and looked at him in fear.

Yin Huaixi's sheepskin boots hit the ground like a noble and elegant big cat that was taking a stroll in a forest and stared at the prey in front of him. The confidence of the king of the forest made him not need to wait for a flaw when facing weak prey. He could tear them apart and succeed in one strike.

Divine Physician Xie had been in the martial world for many years and was sharp-eyed. He could tell at a glance that this person in front of him had a murderous aura. Not only was he a ruthless person who killed people until they bled, but he was also not inferior to Ye Hanyuan, whom he had seen in Zhejiang earlier.

Instantly, even his bones went limp.

Yin Huaixi kicked him. Divine Physician Xie screamed and fell to the ground with a thud. He vomited blood when he pressed a foot heavily against the side of his neck.

"Lord, please spare me. I don't have any other abilities, but I have some experience in medicine. I'm willing to work for you. Please spare my dog life."

As long as the foot on his neck was a little heavier, it would break his neck. He who understands the times is a wise man. Divine Physician Xie begged for mercy.

Yin Huaixi looked at him arrogantly. "What's your motive for coming to the capital?"

He only hesitated for a moment before he felt the pressure on his neck increase. Divine Physician Xie quickly said, "I'll talk, I'll talk immediately. I happened to hear Lord Yu mention that the emperor's body was weak, so I used the excuse of treating Old Madam Yu to enter the capital with her. I

thought that as long as I treated Old Madam Yu, I could ask Lord Yu to introduce me to the palace."

Yin Huaixi continued to ask, "Why did you want the eldest daughter of the first wife of the Yu Residence to become a blood medicine catalyst?"

If Divine Physician Xie said he was treating Yu Jianjia, he would definitely not believe it. There must be another reason.

There was a metallic taste in his throat, and even Divine Physician Xie found it difficult to breathe. How could he dare to hide anything? “I realized that

Eldest Miss Yu’s body was strong and immune to all illnesses. It’s very rare, so I asked Third Miss Yu about it. Only then did I know that Eldest Miss Yu had used the Gu medicine of the Xie family since she was young. Her physique is very suitable to nurture blood medicine.”

Before he saw Divine Physician Xie, Yin Huaixi felt that things were lucky. He felt that the nightmare might not be an omen. Perhaps it was just a nightmare.

Yin Huaixi closed his eyes. When he opened them again, his eyes were filled with killing intent.

It was just a nightmare.

However, it was not just a nightmare.

A dream was just a dream.

However, he felt that the omen had both real and fake elements.

All the pain and despair in the nightmare had affected her in reality and caused her a lot of mental damage.

Blood welled up in Divine Physician Xie’s nose. Without needing to ask, he confessed on his own. “The Medicine King Valley has an inherited witchcraft medicine technique that can nurture blood medicinal catalysts, treat all illnesses, and extend one’s lifespan. I was greedy for a moment and wanted to nurture Eldest Miss Yu into a blood medicinal catalyst. I wanted to take her blood to refine medicine and offer it to the emperor...”

“How dare you!” Yin Huaixi crushed him like an ant. A cracking sound that made one’s scalp tingle and goosebumps rise sounded.

Divine Physician Xie let out a cry as blood spewed out of his mouth. His eyes widened, and he stopped breathing in a moment.

Yin Huaixi moved his feet away. “It’s done cleanly.”

She slept soundly. When Yu Youyao woke up, it was already half-past six in the morning.

When Chun Xiao heard the commotion, she quickly entered the house. “Young Niaster asked Nanny Xu to prepare a medicinal bath. After Young Niiss wakes up, she has to soak in the medicinal bath to relieve her fatigue and recuperate.” As if worried that she would refuse, she explained, “Young Master said that Young Miss is too sad and it’s inevitable that you’ll be hurt. It’s not good for your health. Matriarch’s funeral hasn’t been confirmed yet, so it won’t hurt to soak in it. Take care of your health.”

Yu Youyao combed her hair briefly and moved back to her room.

Seeing that she was much better, Nanny Xu was a little relieved. She instructed the servants to carry the medicinal bath into the bathroom and mix it with hot water. After adjusting the temperature, she ordered someone to help Yu Youyao soak in it.

After soaking in it, Yu Youyao felt much more refreshed.

Liu'er took the cypress leaf fruits and helped Young Miss nourish her hair and massage her acupuncture points. She was good at it. Yu Youyao's scalp relaxed and she felt lighter.

Dong Mei picked out a plain white snow satin dress with a narrow waist. She combed her hair into a simple and polite single bun. She tied a snow satin headband to her bun and didn't add any accessories.

There was still time for the funeral, so her outfit was simple, clean, light and comfortable.

After fixing her hair up, Chun Xiao came over. "Young Miss, Young Master heard that you were awake, so he specially came over to eat breakfast with you. He's waiting for you outside."

He was worried that she wouldn't have an appetite and wouldn't be able to eat.

Yu Youyao nodded and asked, "How's the front courtyard?"

Chun Xiao replied, "Eldest Master and Second Master returned at dawn. Second Madam is in front, and the clan is on the way. Young Master has sent someone to receive them."

Yu Youyao was not surprised.. "Who's here?"

Chapter 716 - 716: If You Want to Be Handsome, Be Filial

Chun Xiao said, "There are a total of ten people here. In addition to the Clan Chief and First Madam, the two elders, Old Granduncle and Fifth Granduncle, are also coming over. Second Old Madam and Fifth Old Madam have also brought a few clan aunts and uncles to help deal with the funeral."

When Yu Youyao heard this, she knew that the clan took her grandmother's funeral very seriously.

The current elder of the clan was Yu Shande's father. Eldest Madam was the wife of the clan. The couple handled matters fairly and were very prestigious in the Yu Clan.

Her old great-uncle was respected and a true grand elder of the clan. He was already starting to not be involved in the clan's matters.

Fifth Granduncle was in charge of the clan school. He was the great-uncle of the Yu Residence in the capital. He did not have a branch yet and was the closest to the Yu Residence's bloodline. Fifth Granduncle and his wife were all here,

The Second Old Madam was talented and very prestigious in the clan. She was in charge of all the matters related to weddings and funerals in the clan.

Yu Youyao nodded. "Get the small kitchen to prepare some light and nourishing medicinal cuisine. The elders in the clan are exhausted because of our family. We can't torture their bodies."

Chun Xiao said, "Young Master has invited Nanny Xu to help out in the small kitchen. He said that it's to entertain the elders."

The rest was handed over to the main kitchen.

Yu Youyao was stunned, suddenly not knowing what to do.

Chun Xiao smiled and said, ‘Young Miss, don’t worry. Young Master has already arranged everything that needs to be arranged. I guarantee that there won’t be any mistakes. You have to be careful first.’

The funeral lasted for many days, and there were still many tiring tasks in the future. Matriarch doted on Young Miss the most, and Young Miss was the eldest daughter of the first wife. It would definitely not be easy in the future.

Young Master was also worried about Young Miss, so he took the initiative to do everything he could.

If he did more, Young Miss would do less and work less. Yu Youyao nodded and smiled. “Let’s go out for dinner!”

Chun Xiao led Young Miss to the corridor.

At this moment, it was already seven o’clock. The sun had just risen and the light was bright. There was dew on the flowers and trees, and the air was slightly cold and wet. It was refreshing.

Yin Huaixi sat under the corridor and watched Yu Youyao walk over.

Her neck collar complemented her long neck, revealing her fair skin. Her waist was lightly tightened and it made her look soft and gentle.

Her slender wrists were exposed.

The morning was humid. The servants were worried that she would wear thin clothes and catch a cold, so they draped a wide piece of cloth that was as thin as a pair of beautiful wings around her. Although it was thin, it could block the wind. It was lightly pulled to the side. When she walked, it was elegant and light, like the wind brushing against willow vines.

It matched her figure.

She was very charming!

She really wanted to be beautiful and filial.

Yin Huaixi realized that obtaining Old Madam Yu’s token had also fueled his lust.

The delusions, infatuation, and greed that he had usually restrained in his heart seemed to have suddenly been released. Suddenly, a small crack appeared in the door. He stood behind the crack and squeezed his eyes to look out through the small crack. The matters of the men and women that should be hidden suddenly became clear in his eyes.

What he was paying attention to was no longer what the little girl used to dye her eyebrows or lipstick. These were all about outward appearances.

Instead, he thought about a kiss that was branded between her eyebrows. How lingering would it be? How fragrant, soft, and beautiful would her lips taste? Her slender figure would be soft and fragrant in his arms.

He couldn’t help but admire her figure!

Yin Huaixi took a deep breath in the morning and instructed the servants to set the table.

Yu Youyao restrained her dress and sat opposite Yin Huaixi. “Yesterday, I was so focused on being sad that I forgot. Cousin, it’s been hard on you to travel for a few days in a row. After breakfast, Cousin, go to the front courtyard and find a house to rest your eyes. When someone from the clan comes, I’ll send someone to inform you.”

Yu Youyao sat down, her silk draped over her shoulders. She was quiet and graceful. Yin Huaixi couldn’t help but take a few more glances. When he reacted, he immediately restrained his eyes and nodded distractedly.

Perhaps because they had been separated for a long time, he always wanted to stay with her. He always wanted to look at her. When he saw her, he always wanted to take a closer look. After seeing her, he always wanted to evaluate if she had lost weight, if she had grown taller, or if she had grown shorter.

In particular, after obtaining Matriarch’s token, he was feeling smug. He couldn’t help but look at her and become impudent.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder!

He couldn’t think about it anymore.

Seeing his perfunctory attitude, Yu Youyao pretended that he hadn’t heard her. “Didn’t Grandmother leave immediately? It wasn’t good yesterday afternoon, so I kept watch until Grandmother passed away. Such a long time is enough for me to be mentally prepared. The time when I was most sad has passed. A dead person can’t be revived. After a night of calming down, I’ve already accepted the reality of Grandmother’s death.”

Her grandmother had passed away in peace. The most regretful thing was that she could not let go of her mother’s death.

“I’ll listen to you and rest after breakfast.” Seeing that her eyes were red again, Yin Huaixi felt his scalp go numb. “Don’t cry anymore. It’s said that women are made of water. Your tears can’t help but flow like this.”

Ever since she returned to the residence yesterday, her tears had almost never stopped flowing. Her eyes were still swollen. She did not know how the maidservant in front of her served her, but why did she not know how to apply ice on them?

Yu Youyao burst out laughing, and the tears in her eyes disappeared. “What I mean is, don’t just worry about me. You have to take care of your health too. If your body is damaged, I’ll be worried too.”

Yin Huaixi heaved a sigh of relief.

At this moment, Chun Xiao brought the servants to set the table.

In the small kitchen, he was worried that she wouldn’t have a good appetite.

There was a lot of dishes for breakfast. He had prepared porridge, bird’s nest soup, red dates and silver fungus soup, soup dumplings, crystal dumplings, and so on.

There was a pot of white jade ginseng medicinal cuisine,

In addition, he had also prepared a lot of snacks. There were a few that she had eaten in the palace previously, such as pine nuts and lilies, egg fragrance pastry, sesame cake, and so on.

The recipes had been given to Yu Youyao by the Empress Dowager. Yu Youyao had seen them long ago. The snacks were delicious, but the method was too complicated.

Even if she liked them, she couldn't eat them often.

Chun Xiao quickly said, "Auntie Xu is busy in the small kitchen before dawn.

Miss, you have to eat more."

Yu Youyao was very touched.

Yin Huaixi scooped a bowl of milky white jade ginseng and placed it in front of her. "The milky white jade ginseng is light and nourishing. You haven't eaten anything seriously all day yesterday. Have a bowl of soup first to moisten your internal organs."

Yu Youyao still did not have a good appetite, so Yin Huaixi coaxed her to eat some.

Yin Huaixi did not force her. The medicinal cuisine in the small kitchen was always prepared well. Every two hours, she could drink some soup and eat some food.

After breakfast, Yin Huaixi went to rest.

Yu Youyao went to the front hall. The front hall had already been turned into a mourning hall. There were a few long benches in the middle, and her grandmother's longevity coffin was placed on them..

Chapter 717 - 717: Someone from the Clan

Her grandmother paid respects to Buddha. The longevity coffin was made of top-grade sandalwood.

Sandalwood was relatively rare. The new material had a pungent fragrance and fishy smell. It would have to be put aside for a while, and the sandalwood smell would slowly become steady and mellow.

As time passed, the fragrance became gentler and purer.

The texture would also be more exquisite and smooth.

Large families with old people at home had all prepared boards in advance and stored them at home. As soon as an elder passed away, they would assemble the boards into coffins and use them immediately.

Yu Youyao knelt in front of her grandmother's coffin and bowed three times. Then, she stood up and lit three incense sticks before putting them into the furnace.

As the people from the clan had yet to arrive, Yu Zongzheng and Yu Zongshen guarded the night and went to busy themselves during the day. Madam Yao guarded the mourning hall expressionlessly.

Yu Shanyan brought his siblings to the brazier in front of the mourning hall to burn paper money and cry softly.

Yu Youyao pursed her lips slightly. "Second Aunt has been busy the entire night. She went to the nearby courtyard to rest first. When someone from the clan arrives, I'll send someone over to inform you."

Madam Yao nodded, stood up, and left.

Yu Youyao's expression darkened. Madam Yao hated her grandmother, so she didn't care much about her grandmother's funeral. She did not treat her well at all. She must have vented her anger on her.

She did not judge Madam Yao's thoughts.

After all, in the future, everyone would go their separate ways.

The most important thing now was to try her best to settle her grandmother's funeral.

It wasn't until noon that Xia Tao came over to report, "Someone from the clan is here. They sent a servant over to report first. He'll be entering the residence soon. "

Yu Youyao quickly arranged for someone to inform them everything they needed to know so that they wouldn't be rude.

After another hour, a maidservant came over to report, "The elders of the clan are here.'

Yu Shanyan and Yu Youyao quickly brought their younger siblings to the door. The men and women stood on each side and quickly greeted the elders.

The Clan Chief supported the old clan elder. Yu Zongzheng supported Fifth Granduncle, Eldest Madam supported Second Old Madam, and Madam Yao supported Fifth Old Madam. Behind them were a few men of the ancestral generation and a few daughters-in-law.

A group of more than ten people entered the mourning hall majestically. They paid their respects and offered incense.

Second Old Madam's eyes welled up with tears on the spot. "Since the coffin hasn't been sealed, quickly let me take another look at my sister-in-law." Before she could finish speaking, she had already choked and cried. "I won't be able to see her again."

Fifth Old Madam and Old Madam Yu were close. As she stepped forward, she shouted, "My old sister-in-law, why did you leave just like that? You didn't even let us see you for the last time. You stubborn donkey. You gritted your teeth and endured everything..."

A few elders of the "ancestral generation" came over to open the coffin.

The two old madams lay beside the longevity coffin and looked at Old Madam Yu in it. They cried until they couldn't hold back their tears

The daughters-in-law who had come over to help deal with the funeral were also from families close to the Yu Residence. They also went over to pay respects to Matriarch Yu.

The mourning hall was filled with sobs.

The two great-uncles looked sad and called the ancestors over to discuss their sorrows.

The old granduncle looked at Yu Zongzheng. "Have you discussed the matter of mourning?"

The Great Zhou Dynasty had a clear rule that if one's parents died and they did not report it, they would be punished once they were found out.

Yu Zongzheng looked ashamed. "It's only right for me to be filial to Niother by mourning. Honrever, Second Brother sent a memorial to the palace at dawn today."

He made it sound like the two brothers were both fighting to worry for their mother, but Yu Zongshen beat them to it. He made it sound like he was so filial.

Yu Zongshen lowered his head and said nothing.

The old great-uncle glanced back and forth between the two brothers and frowned. Then, he said, "Your mother is a widow. She's guarded your father for most of her life. She suffered to raise you two brothers. You two have to pay more attention to her funeral."

They wondered how the brothers had discussed it.

Why was Second Brother the one who would be mourning?

Second Brother had just taken over as the Grand Secretary not long ago, and the court was also filled with internal and external troubles. It was time for him to settle down in the cabinet and help the country.

On the other hand, Eldest Son seemed to have power over the court, but his foundation was weak. If he could use the mourning period of three years and build the reputation of being filial to his mother, he would be able to advance steadily in the future.

Mourning would severely harm Second Brother. To Eldest Son, it was the only good opportunity to improve his status.

Eldest Son did not make much progress in the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs. On the contrary, the Imperial Censor of the Imperial Court did his job well.

Eldest Son had been in the Imperial Court for ten years and was qualified.

That was why the emperor had asked him to become one of the 13 censors. Previously, he had also made a great contribution to the disaster relief.

The Imperial Court had censors on the left and right.

The left censor, Lord Qi, was extremely famous in the Imperial Court. On the other hand, the right censor's political achievements were mediocre and he was not young. Eldest Son might have a chance to advance in the Imperial Court.

The power of the Imperial Court depended on the emperor.

Eldest Son had already received the emperor's grace, Now that he had a good official reputation and was known for his filial piety, he was simply like a fish in water when he arrived at the Imperial Court.

In the cabinet, Second Brother handed over the authority of the Imperial Court to Eldest Son. The two brothers, one inside and one outside, complemented each other. Most of the court rules were in their hands.

Wasn't that better than being in the 13 censors?

However, the memorial for mourning had already been written. There was no point in saying anything else.

If Second Brother wanted to be filial to his mother, they couldn't stop him.

However, he was still a little disappointed and felt that the two brothers were a little too rash. The two brothers could discuss such a big matter first and wait for someone from the clan to come to make a decision.

Making Second Brother be responsible for the mourning was short-sighted. Yu Zongzheng and Yu Zongshen nodded in unison.

The old granduncle said, "The coffin will be sealed in the afternoon. Everyone has to prepare a few things for the funeral. When the things are ready, bring them to second daughter-in-law to see if they've violated the taboo. How many days will the funeral take?"

Yu Zongzheng quickly asked, "Granduncle, how many days do you think is suitable?"

The old granduncle said, 'Your mother is a widow. It's not easy to raise you.

Her funeral should be held in glory. It's just that the court isn't peaceful now. The north is experiencing a drought, so it's not appropriate to hold it wantonly. How about this? The funeral will last for 21 days."

21 days was neither long nor short. Yu Zongzheng glanced at Yu Zongshen. Seeing that he had no intention of speaking, he could only say, "We'll do as Granduncle says."

The group discussed for two hours before agreeing on all the matters related to the funeral.

It was getting late,

Yu Youyao ordered someone to prepare lunch and invited the elders of the clan over.

Seeing that her eyes were still swollen, the clueless Old Madam held her hand. "Now that your grandmother has passed away, this family will have to rely on you, the eldest daughter of the first wife, in the future. You have to be more open-minded."

Even if Concubine Jiang supported someone else, she would not be able to surpass the eldest daughter of the first wife.

Yu Youyao had even been conferred the title of County Head. With the title of an imperial relative, she had to command respect.

The Yu Residence and the clan exchanged information.

Everyone in the clan knew that Old Madam Yu had raised Yu Youyao very well. Her personality was like Old Madam Yu's, and she was a person in charge of the family..

Chapter 718 - 718: Unfilial

Yu Youyao's eyes turned red as she nodded obediently.

Fifth Old Madam also said, "Poor child. If you have any difficulties in the future, send a letter to the clan. Don't be like your grandmother. She was stubborn for her entire life, and in the end, she still suffered."

At the mention of Old Madam Yu, her eyes turned red and she couldn't help but cry again.

Yu Youyao quickly comforted her.

After dinner, the old clan elder called the juniors in the family over, planning to explain all the etiquette.

As soon as First Madam saw it, she frowned and asked, "Why isn't Third Miss here? Is she feeling unwell?"

Yu Youyao took a step forward and handed the letter that her grandmother had written on her behalf to First Madam. "Before Grandmother died, she instructed that Third Sister was not allowed to wear mourning clothes for her."

As soon as these words were spoken, everyone was shocked!

What mistake had Yu Jianjia made to anger the Matriarch? She actually disregarded their grandmother-granddaughter relationship and did not allow Yu Jianjia to wear mourning clothes, making her bear the title of "unfilial"?

How serious was it?

First Madam's expression turned solemn. She suddenly remembered that on the day Matriarch passed away, Yu Zongzheng had divorced Madam Yang. He had guessed that there was something going on, and it was not a small matter.

She quickly opened the letter and read it. She sent someone to call Nanny Liu over, and the two of them went to Matriarch Liu's house to talk in private.

About the time it took to burn an incense stick, First Madam came out with a cold expression. Facing everyone's doubts, she said coldly, "Such a rebellious daughter will be locked in the house for the time being. Don't let her out and ruin Matriarch's luck. After the funeral is over, bring her back to the clan and send her to the nunnery."

At this point, the clan had an idea of what happened.

Matriarch's sudden death must have something to do with this granddaughter of hers.

No one looked happy.

Yu Zongzheng wanted to defend his daughter, but when he thought of Old Madam Yu's last words, he swallowed his words.

After that, no one mentioned Yu Jianjia anymore.

The old clan master explained all the etiquette of the funeral and arranged for it to be handled by second eldest madam. Madam Yao would help from the side, and there will definitely not be any mistakes. Yu Zongzheng, Yu Zongshen, and the men in the clan will support her. The women and

the juniors of the family will all mourn in the mourning hall. We'll make arrangements for the rest if there's a need."

After giving her instructions, they all returned to their houses to prepare for the burial.

Yu Youyao prepared a few scriptures that she had obtained from the Precious Peace Temple, as well as scriptures that she had copied herself and everything that her grandmother had liked when she was alive.

It was time to seal the coffin.

The Second Eldest Madam led the women and juniors of the family to the mourning hall. When she took one last look at Old Madam Yu, the adults were still fine, but the juniors cried on the spot.

At this moment, Xia Tao rushed over to report, "Young Miss, Nanny Liu is

Yu Youyao was stunned. The tears that she had finally stopped rushed out of her eyes again. She heard Xia Tao say, "After Matriarch's coffin was sealed,

Nanny Liu returned to Matriarch's house and swallowed rat poison..."

Yu Youyao's body tilted, and luckily, she was supported by Chun Xiao.

Yu Youyao stabilized herself. "I'll go take a look."

Nanny Liu waited until she had finished talking to First Madam and revealed everything about Matriarch when she was alive before leaving.

This was what her grandmother had instructed. She was worried that Yu Zongzheng would not acknowledge his biological daughter, so she had to explain it to the clan clearly. With the clan's help, no one would make a fuss about her granddaughter's background in the future.

She actually had a premonition, so she asked Xia Tao to accompany Nanny Liu.

However, it was difficult for the King of Hell to save someone who was seeking death.

Nanny Liu left cleanly. She combed her hair and changed her clothes. She lay quietly on the couch. It was said that those who died after swallowing rat poison were in great pain, but she looked very peaceful.

Yu Youyao closed her eyes, and tears slid down her face. "It's fine. Let's bury her!"

Grandmother had passed away, and Nanny Liu had also passed away. There was nothing left in the Yu Residence that was worth staying for.

The next day, someone from the Xie Residence came.

It was said that not only was Yu Youyao's maternal grandmother, Old Madam Xie, her eldest aunt, the Wang family, and her third cousin, Xie Jingliu, but even her great-grandfather, Old Master Xie, was here.

Old Master Xie had a high status. Even Old Granduncle was a generation inferior.

Everyone was shocked and quickly went out to welcome him.

Old Master Xie was almost 80 years old. He strode forward with a straight back. When he stood with the old clan master, their ages and seniority seemed to have been exchanged.

The group bowed to Old Madam Yu for the first time and offered incense.

The Second Eldest Madam quickly arranged for the people from the Xie Residence to rest in the small courtyard and let Yu Youyao greet them. She excused herself and left with the excuse that she was still busy.

Old Madam Xie sighed with emotion. Old Madam Yu was knowledgeable.

How could she not be busy? It was obvious that she wanted to avoid them so that their family could talk to their granddaughter alone and know what was going on.

Old Madam Xie quickly pulled her granddaughter into her arms.

Yu Youyao whimpered, "Grandmother."

Old Madam Xie replied with a sigh, and her eyes immediately turned red. Even her voice was hoarse. "My Little Yao Yao, you have grown up so much in a blink of an eye. You look like your mother. You're really beautiful." As she spoke, she saw that her eyes were red and swollen, and her heart ached. "Good child, everyone's end is like this. Don't be too sad."

Yu Youyao nodded slightly.

Old Madam Xie had not seen her granddaughter for many years. She hugged her granddaughter and did not let go.

Eldest Uncle and Aunt watched from the side with greedy eyes. What a good girl. She was so gentle and doted on more than their young brat in the family.

Old Master Xie also watched eagerly.

Xie Jingliu held it in and couldn't help but laugh. He opened his fan and covered his mouth.

The Xie Residence now housed four generations. In the fifth generations, Aunt was the only young lady. She loved her and cherished her only daughter

Therefore, she had received Yu Youyao's letter earlier. Although the letter only mentioned some trivial matters of the Yu Residence, the people from the Xie Residence still sensed that there was a change in the Yu Residence.

Old Master Xie went against all opinions and wanted to go to the capital.

In the face of filial piety, Old Master Yu dared to be angry but did not dare to say anything. He looked at his father eagerly as he brought his wife, grand daughter-in-law, and great- grandson into the capital.

Before leaving, he even instructed. "I think Little Yao Yao isn't having a good time in the Yu Residence. Watch carefully and see if you can think of a way to bring her back to Quanzhou. Even if the Yu Residence doesn't agree, she can come over and stay for a while."

The incense stick was about to burn out, but Old Madam Xie was still hugging her granddaughter and chattering non- stop.

Old Master Xie was jealous and coughed.

Old Madam Xie did not seem to notice her father-in-law's abnormality. "The last time I saw you was when you were seven years old. You were a round little person, delicate and smooth. You looked heavy and likable. How did you lose so much weight? I heard that you helped manage the household at the age of nine. Your grandmother's health wasn't good either. You're in charge of the family inside and out.. Oh, my little girl, you've been tired..."

Chapter 719 - 719: Talking About Love

Old Madam Xie felt terrible and held back her tears. How could a child without a mother have a good life? Even if she had her grandmother to dote on her, this child without a mother still had to suffer the grievances.

Yu Youyao was embarrassed for a moment and tried her best to defend herself. "I'm 13 years old now. That's why I lost weight. Girls still look better when they lose weight."

Madam Wang disagreed. "You're too thin. You have to nourish yourself carefully later..."

There was a type of thinness that only Grandmothers thought of their grandchildren.

Yu Youyao was indeed quite thin.

However, she was naturally thin and had always been in good health.

Old Master Xie felt that the tea in his mouth was not fragrant, so he coughed hard again.

Madam Wang hurriedly said, "Your great-grandfather entered the capital once when you were born. It's rare for him to come over. Hurry up and greet him with a cup of tea."

This cup of tea was a little late.

However, there was no choice. As soon as her mother-in-law entered the house, she hugged her granddaughter and chatted with her. He couldn't disturb her, right?

Only then did Old Madam Xie let go of her granddaughter reluctantly.

Yu Youyao quickly tidied her clothes and took the tea from the maidservant. She took a step forward and bowed. "Grandfather, please have some tea!"

"Good, good, good!" Old Master Xie immediately beamed with joy and said "good" three times in a row. He quickly took the teacup and poured it into his mouth without caring if the tea was warm or hot.

Yu Youyao pursed her lips and chuckled.

Her family's love for her diluted the sadness of her grandmother's death.

After drinking a cup of tea, Old Master Xie immediately took a box from his servant and stuffed it into Yu Youyao's hand. "Take it and spend it!"

Yu Youyao understood that there were banknotes in this box.

During the holidays, in the gift list sent by the Xie family, Grandfather's gift would always be in banknotes, and it would never be less than ten thousand taels.

It was as if he was always worried that she did not have enough money to spend in the Yu Residence.

Yu Youyao could understand his thoughts. The Yu Residence and even the Yu

Clan valued profits very much. This was also common in aristocratic families. What could make them feel at ease was always money. Everything else was useless.

This time, it was Xie Jingliu's turn to be jealous. However, with his elders present, he couldn't interrupt for a moment.

The family chatted for a long time.

After talking about their relationship, Old Master Xie asked, "Now that your grandmother has passed away, the Yu Residence is also a troublesome place. What are your plans from now on?"

The Xie Residence knew very well how Yu Zongzheng joined the 13 censors and had obtained the task of going to Zhejiang to provide disaster relief.

The Xie Residence would not sit back and do nothing.

However, all of this depended on Little Yao Yao,

Yu Youyao did not hide anything. "My fate with the Yu Residence is over. Before Grandmother died, she also left a letter for me to return to my mother's clan. She hopes that you would help to mediate the situation with the clan."

With that, she bent down and bowed.

Old Madam Xie's eyes widened, then she said happily, "That's great. With Old Madam Yu's last words, this matter will be much easier." At this point, she said excitedly, "Old Master really made the right choice to come this time. With our seniority, the Yu Clan has to give us some face. At most, we'll give them more benefits. I don't think the Yu Clan will refuse."

Madam Wang also smiled and said, "Old Madam Yu really dotes on our Little Yao Yao, so she made such an arrangement. As long as Little Yao Yao can return to her mother's clan, it's worth it no matter the price."

Xie Jingliu closed his fan. "Although that's the case, Little Yao Yao is the eldest daughter of the first wife and has been conferred the title of County Head of Shaoyi. Yu Zongzheng also cares about his reputation. If the eldest daughter of the first wife returns to her mother's clan, won't it be a hit to his pride? This will also affect his reputation. As long as Yu Zongzheng doesn't agree, it's useless even if the clan agrees."

The Great Zhou Dynasty valued the first wife and the eldest son. Yao Yao was related to both.

Old Master Xie frowned. "Has Old Madam Yu made arrangements?"

Yu Youyao nodded. "Grandmother left a letter before she died, indicating the birth of Yu Jianjia."

Perhaps outsiders did not know about this, but the Xie family had definitely noticed something fishy long ago, so there was no need to deliberately hide it.

Old Master Xie had an idea. He sighed softly. "Your grandmother indeed dotes on you. Before she died, she didn't forget to make plans for you. You have to remember her kindness."

Yu Youyao's eyes turned red, and she held back her tears.

Old Madam Xie and Madam Wang also sighed slightly.

Their daughter had married into the family for only about three to four years before she passed away. It was impossible to say that they did not resent Old Madam Yu. However, now that the young lady was gone, they had to take care of their granddaughter. All these years, they had to tolerate her.

Now that they saw that Old Madam Yu really doted on Little Yao Yao, the resentment in their hearts dissipated a little.

Yu Youyao thought of Madam Yang and her daughter's scheme and said,

"There's one more thing I have to mention to Grandfather, Grandmother, and Aunt." She recounted Yu Jianjia's intention to taint her mother's reputation and question her background. Then, she said, "Although Grandmother has passed away and Madam Yang has been abandoned, this matter will be left unsettled. However, Yu Zongzheng is suspicious. He will definitely suspect that Mother had a private relationship with my second uncle."

Her grandmother had used her own life to dispel Yu Zongzheng's doubts about her background.

However, it was true that Second Uncle was infatuated with his mother.

It was impossible for Yu Zongzheng to completely trust his mother.

This concerned her mother's reputation, so she couldn't interfere. In order to avoid further complications, she could only leave this matter to the Xie Residence.

Old Madam Xie was so angry that she slammed the table. "Outrageous. Not only did the Yu Residence harm my Roujia's life, but they also tarnished her reputation..."

No wonder Little Yao Yao had written to the Xie Residence earlier and vaguely mentioned that there was a "change" in the Xie Residence?!

However, she really did not expect Second Brother Yu to have designs on Roujia.

Back then, Second Brother Yu was indeed very solicitous to the Xie Residence, and his etiquette was thorough and appropriate. Their family only thought that Second Brother Yu had a favor to ask of them.

Those who could be ranked first were more scheming than others. Their family did not see through this.

Otherwise, they wouldn't have sent such a good girl into a fire pit.

Madam Wang frowned and said, "Yu Zongzheng is really too outrageous. When Old Madam Yu's seventh day passes, we'll argue with him and look for the Yu Clan to let the clan judge. Our Xie Residence is a merchant family after all. We're not afraid of our reputation. At that time, it'll be Yu Zongzheng and his Yu Clan who will lose face."

Thirty percent of Roujia's dowry was still in the Yu Clan.

Since the Yu Clan owed them a favor, they would not sit back and do nothing.

Otherwise, if they directly brought Roujia's memorial tablet back to the Xie Residence, the 30% of the Yu Clan's assets would definitely have to be returned.

If this matter blew up, Yu Zongzheng's reputation would be over.

Family scandals could not be publicized. That was the best way to get back at the Yu Residence.

The Xie family did their job well and were righteous. They were not afraid of blowing this matter up.

Yu Youyao made up her mind to ask the Yu Clan to step in. With the clan's approval, no one would dare to cause trouble with her mother's reputation.

Everything was justified.

At this moment, Chun Xiao came over to report, "Young Master is here to greet the elders.."

Chapter 720 - 720: Being Courteous for No Reason

Old Master Xie looked puzzled as he turned to look at Xie Jingliu. "Didn't he greet us just now? Why did he specially come over?"

Yu Youyao often mentioned her cousin in her letters. He even specially took a few more glances at him but he did not match the sickly and handicapped person in a wheelchair that Jingliu had described.

Jingliu said that this person was unfathomable.

He believed her.

Xie Jingliu was also a little confused. He only nodded and said, "He's close to Cousin, so it's reasonable for him to be more polite."

Yin Huaixi was invited into the house and he greeted his elders obediently.

Old Master Xie saw that his eyebrows were lowered and he looked obedient. For some reason, he thought of Second Brother Yu back then, and his eyelids twitched.

He felt that he had other hidden motives and couldn't be taken lightly. His eyes couldn't help but scrutinize him. He saw that this person's face was like white jade, with the stars and moon as his eyes. He was like the mountains and seas, cold and hidden. His thoughts were as deep as water.

He was really unfathomable!

Old Master Xie became more wary, and his expression faded a little. "You're Little Yao'er's cousin and you've also taken good care of her. Our family can't thank you enough. There's no need to be so polite."

Someone who was so courteous for no reason was definitely up to something.

Second Brother Yu was a ready-made example.

It was indeed the Imperial Court's intention to help Second Brother Yu open the sea restriction. As a merchant, it was naturally impossible for the Xie family to go against the Imperial Court. This was an order and had to be done.

However, there was something hateful about this!

Due to the meritorious reputation of the Yu Residence's ancestors and future generations, Second Brother Yu spared no effort to help the Xie Residence. From then on, the Xie Residence firmly believed in Second Brother Yu's character and respected Old Madam Yu's status as a woman.

They had thought that the entire Yu Residence was loyal and trustworthy, so they had agreed to marry Roujia into the Yu Residence. In the end, they had sacrificed Roujia's life.

Yin Huaixi only said, "You're all relatives that Cousin respects. It's also rare for you to enter the capital and talk to her. Naturally, the Yu Residence doesn't dare to be negligent. No matter how polite we are, it's only right."

When Old Master Xie heard these polite words, he understood what he meant. It was as if he was very close to Little Yao'er.

He was indeed right.

This young brat had ulterior motives and deliberately came here to establish his presence.

Seeing that the atmosphere was a little off, Old Madam Xie smiled and said, "Since he's Little Yao'er's cousin, he's not an outsider. Quick, sit down and talk!"

She did not have much prejudice against her cousin, Little Yao'er, and her attitude was relatively gentle.

"Thank you, Old Madam." Yin Huaixi followed suit and sat down in front of Xie Jingliu.

"What are you thinking?" Xie Jingliu tilted his head to look at him. He kept feeling that after not seeing him for three years, Zhou Linghuai had grown older and his aura had become more majestic.

The two of them had been on good terms in the past and more or less knew each other, so they also felt that his attitude was a little strange.

You're all my future relatives, so we definitely have to get to know one another from now on. Yin Huaixi smiled. "Cousin's elders are naturally my elders. In front of my elders, what else can I do?!"

Xie Jingliu felt that these words were strange. As the two of them were cousins, he did not think too much about it.

However, when he thought about how this was also someone who had "snatched" his cousin, he was very unhappy. He did not like him at all.

He snorted coldly and ignored him.

Madam Wang hugged her fragrant and soft niece. "In Little Yao'er's letter, she mentioned a lot that Cousin takes very good care of her. It was originally our family's turn to prepare etiquette and personally thank Young Master Zhou. However, it's rare for our family to enter the capital and talk about kinship with Little Yao'er, so it's inevitable that our etiquette will be delayed."

“Eldest Aunt, you’re too polite,” The Xie family’s polite and distant attitude wasn’t in line with Yin Huaixi’s expectations so he could only talk about serious matters. “To be honest, I came to visit because of Cousin.’

The words “Eldest Aunt” made Madam Wang frown slightly before she calmed down.

The Xie Residence and the Yu Residence were in-laws. Since Zhou Linghuai represented the Yu Residence, it was not impossible for him to call her “Aunt.” After all, when they arrived at the Yu Residence, all the juniors in the residence called her that.

Old Master Xie’s eyelids twitched again, and his gaze became sharp.

Yin Huaixi braced himself and took out Old Madam Yu’s handwritten letter. “This is the letter that Matriarch entrusted to me before she died.’

Everyone’s gaze landed on the letter on the table.

The room was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop.

Before Old Madam Yu died, she had entrusted a letter to Zhou Linghuai. What did this mean?

Old Madam Yu trusted Zhou Linghuai and indirectly entrusted her granddaughter to him. Zhou Linghuai had the right to interfere in her granddaughter’s future.

Old Master Xie’s face darkened.

Zhou Linghuai had yet to reach his prime. If it weren’t for the fact that there was no one to trust in this huge residence, how could Old Madam Yu have entrusted her beloved granddaughter to her cousin?

This also reflected Little Yao’er’s isolated and helpless situation in the Yu Residence.

She really couldn’t stay in the Yu Residence anymore.

Yin Huaixi took out one of the entrusted letters and handed it to Old Master Xie, but he did not mention the keepsake.

Old Master Xie unfolded it and took a look. Every word and sentence was about how Old Madam Yu entrusted Zhou Linghuai to take care of her granddaughter. His expression gradually turned solemn as he handed the letter to Old Master Xie.

Old Master Xie’s eyes turned red as she said sternly, “Let’s not beat around the bush. Just tell me the reason for your visit!”

Yu Youyao pursed her lips slightly. Her maternal grandfather and the others’ attitudes towards her cousin were polite and distant. She couldn’t interrupt and could only watch from the side.

She also knew that although the Xie family knew that her cousin took very good care of her, they had never interacted with him after all. They did not have any interaction, so it was inevitable that they would be a little wary.

Yin Huaixi hurriedly said, "I have a deep relationship with Cousin. Before Matriarch died, she entrusted Cousin to me. Naturally, I'll fulfill her last wish and help Cousin return to her mother's clan. I'll also protect her in the future and not let her suffer any harm or grievances."

These words were equivalent to a declaration.

He directly announced to the Xie Residence that he had promised Old Madam Yu that he would take care of Yu Youyao. The Xie Residence could not surpass Old Madam Yu, so they naturally could not stop him.

At the same time, he expressed to the Xie family that he wouldn't hurt Yu Youyao.

This was also a bottom line.

Yin Huaixi had specially come over today to tell them the truth. Regardless of whether the Xie family would be dissatisfied with him because of this, they should still give him face.

This was unlike Song Mingzhao's overly cautious and magnanimous actions that made people fed up.

If it weren't for the fact that the person involved was Little Yao'er, Old Master Xie would have admired Yin Huaixi's straightforward behavior. Old Master Xie said coldly, "Our family understands what you mean." He was just short of saying explicitly that he could get lost!

Yin Huaixi was also tactful and stood up. "In that case, I won't disturb Old Master and Cousin's reunion..