

All Hail 751

Chapter 751 - 751: Yi Water Garden

The Xie Residence was also used to seeing exquisite things. Things that she had personally made were more considerate and personal. The family, which was originally a little unfamiliar with her, immediately became closer to her.

Everyone from the Xie Residence remembered that Yu Youyao was tired after coming all the way here. They didn't push for any etiquette. After acknowledging her family, they asked Yu Youyao to go back and rest.

As soon as they returned to the main house, Old Madam Xie did not stop and brought Yu Youyao to the courtyard. "You will stay in the Yi Water Courtyard where your mother used to live. It's by the mountains and rivers. It's not inferior to the Jade Courtyard in the capital."

When the Yi Water Garden was built, it imitated the layout of a garden in Suzhou. The mountains, water, residences, and gardens were integrated and lived as one. The scenery was unique.

As soon as Xie Roujia was born, the Xie family hired a famous gardener from Suzhou and spent a huge sum of money to build a garden. It took seven years. As there was a stream that passed through the garden, Old Master named it "Yi Water Garden".

It was the best courtyard in the Xie Residence.

Xie Roujia had also built the Jade Courtyard after the Yi Water Garden.

Madam Wang also said, "The Yi Water Garden was maintained in the same state when Youngest Aunt got married. We specially sent a maidservant to clean and manage it. Old Madam was worried that you wouldn't be used to it.

After returning from the capital, she specially hired someone to renovate it."

The Xie Residence had lived in Quanzhou for generations, and their residence occupied a larger area than the Yu Residence.

They followed the undulating, winding, and wave-like corridor to a new scenery. They also saw small bridges and flowing water. The curved paths were quiet with many turns.

The stone path circled the garden mountain. The ancient trees were lush, the bamboo cypresses were green, and the vines were hanging. Wild flowers were everywhere. When the wind blew, thousands of branches shook in the air, and the greenery was even and refreshing.

As Old Madam Xie walked, she introduced the scenery in the garden. She even mentioned some interesting things about Xie Roujia before she married.

Yu Youyao had liked to hear her grandmother talk about her biological mother when she was young. There were many things that she never grew tired of hearing. She pieced them together bit by bit from these words. She was a beautiful and generous woman.

The biological mother that her grandmother was talking about was more alive than her imagination.

After walking for a while, Yu Youyao saw that not far away, there were buildings of different heights. They were surrounded by mountains and rivers, and there were red and green vines. They were faintly discernible and elegant.

Old Madam Xie pointed ahead. "That's the main courtyard."

After passing through a cave door, everything suddenly opened up in front of them. The limestone and tiles were natural. Everything was natural.

Madam Wang explained, "The houses in the main courtyard are all made of limestone from Lantian Mountain. The limestone produced there is jade. It's cold in summer and warm in winter. It's used to build houses that are comfortable and nourishing."

Yu Youyao was shocked.

Mount Lantian was located at the north foot of the Qinling Mountains in Shaanxi. It was beautiful because it was rich in beautiful jade. One of the four beautiful jade pieces of the Great Zhou Dynasty was produced there.

Bai Juyi had a poem called "Bluestone". "The bluestone came from Lantian Mountain and was transported to Changan."

The limestone was good, and the limestone that came from Lantian Mountain was not rare. What was rare was that it was good luck at the same time. It was difficult and costly.

After entering the courtyard, Yu Youyao immediately saw a tall purple elm tree. The crown was majestic and intertwined, resembling a dragon lying on the ground. On the old and strong branch, there was a green cover that was like a cloud, covering the surroundings with a thick shade.

Yu Youyao suddenly thought of the cut tree in the Jade Courtyard.

Back then, when her mother built the Jade Courtyard, she probably wanted to plant an elm tree in the courtyard.

However, the elm tree symbolized an abundance of money. Yu Zongzheng looked down on his first wife who was from a merchant family. In his eyes, an elm tree was indeed not as elegant as the Parasol Tree.

Yu Youyao felt that it was ironic.

The elm tree in the north was auspicious. Be it in front of the king's pavilion or in the backyard of the commoners, they liked to grow elm trees. The elm trees were elegant and common. They were tenacious and heavy. Since ancient times, they had been widely used.

Seeing her stop under the elm tree, Old Madam Xie sighed softly. "This purple elm was transported from the north and has grown for more than a thousand years. I originally planned to plant it in the courtyard. When your mother grew up, I wanted to cut down the tree and use the wood to make an old elm bed for her as a dowry. Who knew that your mother would be reluctant to part with it?"

Elm trees are divided into yellow and purple elms.

Yellow elms were rare. Purple elms were naturally dark purple, and their color was similar to old redwood. They were very rare, and their price was comparable to boxwood.

Elm wood was also known as the longevity tree. It could grow for thousands of years without rotting or deforming. The longer it was used for, the more beneficial it was. It was said that using old wooden elm as a bed could extend one's lifespan.

Madam Wang also sighed with emotion. "I watched this old elm tree grow up. In the past, I used to like to play under the tree. Every year, when strings of samaras were tied to the tree, I would always pick them and make them into cakes to eat. Little Yao'er, have you eaten elm cakes before?"

Yu Youyao shook her head. "I've never eaten it."

However, she knew that the elm tree was called a "life-saving tree." Its roots, leaves, flowers, and fruits were all edible. The elm tree was resistant to dry weather, low nutrients and floods. It would not die after three years of drought.

Usually, elm could be fed to cows and sheep.

Tree bark could be used to wash clothes and hair.

In the wilderness, the bark could be crushed into powder and eaten as food. It would not harm anyone.

The entire body of the elm tree could be used as medicine to calm the mind and nourish the spleen.

An elm tree was filled with useful materials in 30 years. An elm tree was sold for ten taels of silver.

Old Madam Xie hurriedly said, "When you eat the elm fruits raw, they taste a little sweet. Not only can it satisfy your hunger, but it's also delicious. When the fruits grow on the tree next spring, I'll let you try them."

Yu Youyao was looking forward to it, but she knew that she probably wouldn't be able to eat the elm fruits on this tree.

Seeing that she was a little sad, Madam Wang thought that she was thinking of her biological mother. She quickly said, "Let's go in and take a look."

Yu Youyao realized that the layout of the room was similar to the Jade Courtyard, but more elegant. All the furnishings and decorations were based on the Jade Courtyard.

When she suddenly entered the house, she thought that she had returned to the capital.

Old Madam Xie said, "I was worried that you wouldn't be used to living in Quanzhou when you first came. All the arrangements in the house were made according to the Jade Courtyard. You'll be more comfortable living in a familiar environment."

Yu Youyao was touched. "I like it very much. Thank you, Grandmother."

Everything was so similar to the Jade Courtyard.

However, it was more meticulous than the Jade Courtyard.

It wasn't that her grandmother wasn't as meticulous as her grandmother, but that she was much more particular in the capital and had greater scruples. She had to follow rules and etiquette everywhere. It was different from the casual environment far away authorities in Quanzhou.

Madam Wang looked for Auntie Xu to see if there was anything missing from the Yi Water Garden.

The grandfather and granddaughter were talking in the room.

Old Madam Xie said, "Ever since your mother married into the capital, I haven't had a single day of peace. In the past, I was thinking about your mother, but later on, she passed away." At this point, her eyes turned red and she couldn't help but cry. Even her voice was hoarse. "I was thinking about how my poor little granddaughter had lost her mother not long after she was born. A good girl was born earlier than others. She was a little thin and it was as if she wouldn't be able to recover for a long time. Her biological father was heartless, and her stepmother was unpresentable.. What should she do in the future..."

Chapter 752 - 752: Scheming

Yu Youyao's eyes were also red. She could originally hold back her tears, but as soon as she opened her mouth, tears rushed out of her eyes. "Grandmother, don't cry. Little Yao'er has always been fine..."

How could she have a good life? What was good about living under her stepmother and stepsister? A child without a mother would suffer a lot no matter how much her grandmother doted on her.

No one could replace their biological mother.

How many people were there in the Yu Residence? All of them acted like humans in front of her, but there were ghosts behind her back. They were very

scheming. It was difficult for her obedient Yao'er. She was already able to manage the family at such a young age. How many young misses had only learned some things about managing the household from their elders after they were engaged?

"My good Yao'er, I've been thinking about you for thirteen years. I've been looking forward to seeing you back." Old Madam Xie pulled her granddaughter into her arms and wailed.

The little girl in her arms was thin and delicate. She did not take up much space in her arms.

Back then, when Roujia passed away, she followed the Old Master to the capital in a hurry. She was still a wrinkled little monkey even after being born for a few days.

Everyone said she would not be able to live for long.

A seven-month-old child had a higher chance of survival than eight months.

When Little Yao'er was born, it happened to be eight months and 29 days. It was one day away from nine months, but this difference of one day was also terrifying.

She held the wrinkled monkey in her arms and kept looking at it. She did not even dare to blink, afraid that such a thin little person would not grow.

Now that the grown-up girl was in her arms, she still felt uneasy. She kept feeling like she was dreaming.

"Grandmother..." The grandmother and granddaughter hugged each other and cried.

Old Madam Xie cried, “I won’t let you suffer in the future.”

The grandmother and granddaughter hugged each other and poured their hearts out. The 13 -year barrier between them had unknowingly collapsed.

This was Yu Youyao’s first time in Quanzhou. Auntie Xu was worried that she wouldn’t be used to the weather, so she personally went to the small kitchen to prepare light, nourishing, and easily digestible medicinal porridge for lunch. She also prepared some appetizers.

After sitting on the boat for more than half a month, her feet finally landed on solid ground. However, she still felt that she was floating. Yu Youyao did not have much of an appetite. She forced herself to eat some porridge and rested.

When she woke up, the Xie family had found a brilliant doctor to enter the residence to take her pulse.

Imperial Physician Hu still said the same thing. “She is overworked, causing her Qi and blood flow to be weak. Fortunately, her foundation is good and she is still young. She shouldn’t worry or tire herself out. She will be fine after recuperating for a while.”

Then, he prescribed a prescription.

In the afternoon, Yu Youyao’s luggage was transported into the residence one after another.

Yin Huaixi and Xie Jingliu came to the Yi Water Garden.

Yin Huaixi walked around the Yi Water Garden and felt that his residence in Youzhou could be renovated. Due to the geographical conditions in the North, it was a little impossible to build a Suzhou-style garden. However, Youzhou was located in the north and was not far from Shanxi and Shaanxi. There was no lack of all kinds of stone and high-grade elm wood. He could spend more effort on increasing comfort.

Xie Jingliu glanced at him. “No matter what, you’re Little Yao’er’s cousin. You sent her all the way to Quanzhou and are also an important guest of our Xie Residence. Do you really not plan to stay in the Xie Residence for the time being?”

He deliberately emphasized the word “cousin”, and there was a hint of cold mockery in his tone.

Yin Huaixi pretended not to notice and shook his head. “I’ve bought a residence in Quanzhou. It’s only an alley away from the Xie Residence. I can reach it in an incense stick’s time by carriage. It’s not good to disturb the peace of the residence.’

Since he had even prepared a residence, it was obvious that he was not in a hurry to leave. Xie Jingliu sneered. “Why? Are you worried that our Xie family will treat Little Cousin badly?”

Yin Huaixi nodded and did not deny it. “Sending her back to Quanzhou was just a matter of interest. I had no choice. Compared to you, I trust myself more.”

Xie Jingliu was so angry that he closed his fan with a whoosh. “What do you mean by you don’t want to disturb the peace of the residence? Are you sure you’re not just being a coward?”

After bringing his cousin back to the Xie Residence, he definitely had to give Old Master an explanation.

The emperor was seriously ill, and this was a serious matter.

Ning Yuanbo and King Liang were also related, but they had an extraordinary relationship.

How could he not tell Old Master everything?

Once he was done, what would he say was the source of the news?

How could he not mention Yin Huaixi's identity?

If Old Master found out that Yin Huaixi, this dog, was coveting his young cousin, would he take a cane and break his legs?

How could Yin Huaixi not want to live in the Xie Residence?

It was obvious that he was taking preventive measures.

If it weren't for his status, he would definitely have stayed in the Xie Residence so that he could be closer to his little cousin.

As expected, Yin Huaixi was timid and refused to admit it. "What are you saying? It's Yao Yao's first time in the Xie Residence, so she has to talk to her family more. How can I, an outsider, disturb her?" At this point, he changed the topic and looked sincere. "I haven't seen the residence I've bought in Quanzhou yet. It still needs a few days to be arranged. When the residence is settled, I'll send a greeting card to the residence. When the time comes, I'll prepare a gift and officially visit. I can't be rude in front of Old Master."

These words angered Xie Jingliu. "You're the only one who's scheming."

A few days later, no matter how angry Old Master was, he would have mostly calmed down. At this moment, Yin Huaixi would send a greeting card and prepare a generous gift to visit. Since he was polite, the Xie family had to give him some face.

Yin Huaixi did not acknowledge these words. If he did, it would be as if he was playing tricks in front of his elders, making it easy for others to gossip about him. "I sent Yao Yao over on behalf of the Yu Residence. Scholarly families are more particular and have more rules. We can't be careless with our etiquette. I will send a greeting card and prepare a generous gift before visiting. Only then will I seem cautious."

Xie Jingliu could only pinch his nose and endure it.

Before leaving, the Second Old Madam of the Yu Clan had indeed solemnly instructed her young master, Zhou Linghuai, to be polite when he arrived at the Xie Residence.

The reason why the Yu Clan was so cautious was also because her younger cousin represented them. This expressed how much the clan valued her. The Xie Residence didn't know how important she was to them.

Yin Huaixi continued, "Yu Shansi has also come to Quanzhou. He went to the residence earlier to settle down. I'm also worried about leaving him alone there and Yao Yao is likely not as easy too."

Everyone from the Xie Residence hated Madam Yang. They would not vent their anger on Yu Shansi but they definitely did not like him.

Yu Shansi was also tactful. Along the way to Quanzhou, other than greeting Yu Youyao every day, he stayed in his room obediently.

Not only was it a good excuse, but it was also reasonable.

Xie Jingliu thought that he was eloquent, but when he met Yin Huaixi, he realized what it meant to have a glib tongue. It was said that Yin Huaixi had learned from Ghost Valley and could reverse Yin and Yang with his mouth, distorting right and wrong. Today, he experienced it.

When they entered the courtyard, Yin Huaixi immediately saw the purple elm tree in the courtyard. He suddenly felt that Yu Youyao might like the elm tree more than the Parasol Tree..

Chapter 753 - 753: Mother

Elm fruits were very auspicious!

Although Yu Youyao had grown up in the capital, she was an out-and-out money-grubber. She had a stomach full of business experience and was very bold when it came to money. Other than ill-gotten gains, she dared to earn and touch any kind of money. Her personality was not like the Yu Residence at all. Instead, it was more like the Xie Residence.

As she was thinking about something, Yu Youyao had already arrived at the courtyard.

Knowing that the “cousins” had something to say, Xie Jingliu was also tactful. “If the two of you have something to talk about, talk first. Previously, Grandmother asked me to prepare pebbles and make a small stone path by the courtyard gate. In the future, Cousin, you can go back for a walk after dinner. It’s good for your health. I’ll go and see how to make the small stone path.” Under the elm tree, only Yu Youyao and Yin Huaixi were left.

After all, they were in the Xie Residence. It wasn’t appropriate for Yin Huaixi to stay in the Yi Water Garden for long, so he could only make it short.

He took out a pouch and a set of keys. “This is the title deed, house deed and the key to the residence.”

The title deed and house deed were signed in her name. It was a three-way house. It clearly stated the exact location of the house.

He was worried that she wouldn’t be able to live well in the Xie Residence, and he didn’t want her to suffer.

Yin Huaixi was still explaining it to her, “I bought the residence in the name of the Yu Residence. Earlier, I found a landscaper to rebuild the garden. Just like the Yi Water Garden, I incorporated mountains and water into the garden. I arranged for trusted servants in the courtyard. I also found an honest couple from the Yu Clan to guard the residence. I’ll arrange it carefully later. It won’t be a problem to go over from time to time for a few days.”

Yu Youyao’s eyes suddenly turned red.

This was equivalent to the Yu Residence specially buying a property for her in Quanzhou. It was like they had even arranged for their clansmen to take care of her in Quanzhou. Even if she went over to stay for a while, it would be justifiable.

Yin Huaixi softened his voice. "This is definitely against the rules in the capital, but Quanzhou is far away, and the atmosphere is open. There's no need to worry so much." He sighed slightly. "When you reach Quanzhou, don't restrict yourself anymore. As long as you're not too out of line, don't let

yourself suffer even during the filial period. Life here is peaceful, and the weather isn't too cold or hot. Take this time to relax and completely recover."

When they arrived in the North, they would be limited by their congenital geographical location and living environment. In the end, life would not be as luxurious as the capital, nor would it be as comfortable as Quanzhou.

Yu Youyao nodded slightly. "Okay!"

The delicate word "Okay" was obedient and sweet. Yin Huaixi's heart couldn't help but soften. "I'll stay in Quanzhou for about ten days. Tomorrow morning, in the name of Yue Fei, I'll hand over a greeting card to the Xie Residence.

Three days later, I'll bring Yu Shansi to officially visit."

After getting approval from the Xie Residence, his marriage with Yu Youyao could be considered to be a clear path.

At that time, he could legitimately nurture his relationship with her.

Yu Youyao shook her head. "The officials of the Imperial Court's disaster relief have already arrived in the North. Yue Fei's Residence wants to help the

Imperial Court relief the refugees, so we can't hand everything over to Yin Yi.

You should set off early to return to Youzhou. I'm doing well in the Xie Residence.'

In the past, Yin Huaixi, who was physically disabled, was trapped in a wheelchair. He held a chess piece in his hand and moved it around freely. However, the current Yin Huaixi was more suitable to gallop on the battlefield.

He shouldn't be implicated by her.

As if worried that he wouldn't believe her, Yu Youyao explained, "This is where my mother has lived since she was young, and it's also the freedom I've always yearned for. Everything is related to my mother, and I'm born with a natural sense of closeness to this place. The people from the Xie family also take good care of me. When I interact with them, they're not mixed with too many interests and schemes like the Yu Residence, so I'm naturally very close to them."

Ever since she was young, she had always been naturally wary of the Yu Residence.

Even her grandmother was the same.

Everyone said that she was mischievous, stupid, and uneducated. She was an eight or nine-year-old girl who was still as ignorant as a child.

However, every time her father taught her a lesson, it was because she had stolen Yu Jianjia's limelight. From a young age, she knew that she couldn't be smarter or more sensible than Yu Jianjia.

In the entire family, only her grandmother doted on her. She had only known how to please her grandmother since she was young.

She had also grown into her grandmother's favorite and the child she cared about her most.

Ignorance was her disguise.

She only had her grandmother!

No one would suddenly become smarter after having a foggy nightmare.

No one would suddenly change completely because they had someone powerful by their side.

The spiritual dewdrop did not have any heaven-defying effects. It only had the effect of strengthening one's foundation and nurturing one's essence, expelling poison and filth.

It was easy to change countries, but it was difficult to change one's nature. Yu Qingning had learned the rules for a few years. She had learned the etiquette on the surface, but her personality was becoming more and more of the opposite.

That nightmare had only allowed the little girl to see the ugliness of human nature, She had a sense of worry and was careful to show the sharpness hidden in her bones.

Auntie Xu knew very well, but she did not expose her.

Instead, she tried his best to teach her.

Yin Huaixi was a little relieved and chuckled. "The calamity in the North isn't as serious as it seems. I'll use the name of the Yue Fei's Residence to ask for credit from the Imperial Court."

Yu Youyao felt relieved and shook her head. "I don't care about this."

Yin Huaixi played with the Ruyao beauty bottle in his hand. "This is very important."

How could Yue Fei, who was guarding the North, be openly related to the County Head of Shaoyi, who was far away in the capital? They were even related by marriage. This was a crucial part.

After Yin Huaixi left, the people who had followed her to the Xie Residence also entered.

It was still the same as before in the Jade Courtyard.

As she had just arrived, there were still many things that needed to be settled in the courtyard. After a long afternoon, she could be considered to have settled down. She would slowly arrange the rest later.

At night, the entire Xie family gathered for a meal to welcome Yu Youyao. At night, Yu Youyao slept with Auntie Xu.

After sitting on the boat for more than half a month, when Yu Youyao lay on the bed, she felt that she was in a daze. When she closed her eyes, she felt like she was back on the boat.

Unknowingly, she fell asleep. She even had a dream.

She dreamed that she was mischievous and had climbed onto a purple elm tree to pick elm fruits. Her mother stood under the tree and looked at her with a gentle smile. "Little Yao'er, why are you being mischievous again? Come down quickly. It's very dangerous on the tree."

Little Yao'er sat on a branch and swayed her little feet as she smiled innocently. "Mother, I picked a lot of elm fruits. Mother, make elm fruit pancakes for me, okay?"

Her mother waved at her with a warm smile. "Come down quickly. I'll make it for you later."

Little Yao'er obediently got down from the tree.

Her mother squatted in front of her and gently helped her straighten her slightly messy clothes. She held her hand. "You're not allowed to climb trees anymore.. What if you fall from the tree and get injured?"

Chapter 754 - 754: Yue Fei Represents the King of the North

Little Yao'er wrinkled her nose. "With Mother around, I'm not afraid. Niother will always protect me..."

The next day, when Yu Youyao woke up, Auntie Xu was no longer around.

In her dream, her mother was holding her hand. It was so warm and sincere. Her mother's gentle voice echoed in her ears. "Okay, Mother will always protect my Little Yao'er..."

Yu Youyao called out in a daze, "Mother..."

Auntie Xu heard the commotion and entered the house.

Yu Youyao's eyes were red. "Auntie, I dreamed of my mother."

Auntie Xu chuckled. "What did you dream about?"

Yu Youyao held back her tears. "I dreamed that my mother wanted to make elm pancakes for me to eat. I also dreamed that she said she would always protect me."

Auntie Xu stroked her hair and said nothing.

Yu Youyao threw herself into Auntie Xu's arms again. "Auntie, I want to eat elm fruits pancakes. My mother liked to eat this when she was young. I've never eaten it before."

Auntie Xu looked at the tall purple elm tree outside the window, which was already turning yellow. "At this time of the year, you can't eat elm fruit pancakes, but you can get powder from the elm bark. You can also make elm bark powder pancakes. When the elm tree grows elm fruits next spring, I'll pick the elm fruits and make you elm fruit pancakes, okay?"

Yu Youyao quickly nodded. "Okay, I will eat eat elm bark pancakes."

After breakfast, Yu Youyao gave the gifts that she had prepared long ago to everyone in the Xie Residence. Some of these etiquette were prepared in the name of the Yu Residence. They were all specialties, spices, supplements, and so on from the capital. Some were prepared by Yu Youyao herself. Most of them were incense, tea, fat, powder, and so on. Her grandmother and a few aunts each received a small box of gems and agate.

Yu Youyao had just moved into the Yi Water Garden and had many things to do.

Worried that there would be insufficient manpower in the main courtyard of the Yi Water Courtyard, Madam Wang instructed familiar people to enter the residence as soon as they arrived.

When Yu Youyao received the news, she quickly welcomed her.

Madam Wang happily held Yu Youyao's hand. "Did you sleep well last night? Are you used to sleeping on the bed?"

Yu Youyao nodded. "I've been on the boat for many days. After I got ashore, I also felt like my body was floating. I finally had a good sleep yesterday and even dreamed of my mother."

Madam Wang also saw that she looked good. "That's good." Then, she changed the topic and said with a smile, "When you came to Quanzhou, not all the servants in the courtyard came over together. It's inevitable that there won't be enough people in the courtyard. Also, there aren't many people in your courtyard. I'm worried about the local servants in Quanzhou taking care of you, so I found some people to come over. Pick some of them to take care of you later."

The Xie Residence made the decision to arrange this in case Yu Youyao came over and was flustered. It would be inconvenient for her in every way.

The servants in the courtyard were all serving in the house. They had to be close to their masters, so they were very picky. Yu Youyao had to choose someone they liked, so she had to choose herself.

Yu Youyao knew that Eldest Aunt was worried about her thoughts and was very touched. "The rules are different everywhere. I wonder how the people here should be chosen."

Seeing that she wanted to listen to her opinion, Madam Wang's smile deepened. She quickly said, "Auntie Xu is a dignified person. She can teach the servants herself, so there's no need to choose those who can serve you soon as they come over. Pick some people who have death contracts. They have clear backgrounds and have only been briefly taught the rules. The younger ones will be more useful when they're in front of you and are taught by you."

Little Yao'er was the daughter of an official and the County Head of Shaoyi. Although she did not show it, she had to be more cautious.

It was also more appropriate to teach someone herself.

Every word and sentence was sincerely for her sake, so Yu Youyao naturally appreciated it. "When choosing people, I will have to get Eldest Aunt to help

Auntie Xu with my choice."

Madam Wang agreed immediately.

Yu Youyao held Madam Wang's hand and went to the courtyard.

Auntie Xu was talking to the broker.

The broker was in his forties. He was round and smooth, and he was very kind. When he saw Yu Youyao, his eyes narrowed into slits with a smile. "Oh, oh, oh, you've grown up as a noble lady in the capital. You're indeed extraordinary. Your family is really lucky..."

After all, she was a real noble lady who had been conferred the title of County Head. Even if she did not put on airs, she was not someone who could be judged by anyone and sized up unscrupulously.

The broker was also tactful and did not dare to size her up.

However, it was inevitable that he would glance at her from the corner of her eye. This County Head of Shaoyi was filial. She had a simple comb on her head and tied her hair with a headband. She did not have any accessories on her. She was wearing a snow satin dress with a slanted top and a pleated waist skirt. Under the dress, only the tips of her shoes were revealed, revealing a reserved and quiet beauty. There were no patterns on her clothes, making her look simple and elegant. The snow satin was not just cold and white. It shone like pearls, and did not look unlucky.

Not only did it show filial piety, but it was also part of the “etiquette” of visiting.

Madam Wang beamed. “Our family has been looking forward to seeing her for more than ten years. She’s finally here.”

The two of them chatted for a while before starting to choose people.

The broker took the name list and Yu Youyao checked it one by one. When she met someone she was interested in, the broker was sensible and introduced the person from head to toe again. When Yu Youyao felt that it was suitable, she would ask for Wang’s opinion.

Yu Youyao dipped her brush in ink and handed the name she had taken a fancy to to Auntie Xu.

After Auntie Xu saw the candidates, she already had candidates in mind. She then compared them to the candidates that Yu Youyao had chosen. In the end, she decided to choose ten people. The ten young maidservants were all around the age of nine or ten.

For the next two days, Yu Youyao was busy settling down in the courtyard.

By the time everything was settled, it had been three days since Yu Youyao had entered the residence.

Early in the morning, the Xie Residence opened their doors and prepared to welcome guests.

At this moment, Yin Huaixi entered the Xie Residence in a black python robe and high boots. As Yin Huaixi’s identity couldn’t be made public, the Xie

Residence only treated him as “Young Master Zhou from the Yu Residence.” Yin Huaixi also followed suit and greeted the elders of the Xie family.

After that, Old Master Xie brought Yin Huaixi to the study. “King Yue Fei, please take a seat.”

How could Yin Huaixi dare to? He quickly said, “Old Master, you flatter me. I’m here to greet my elders as a junior today. How can I accept such etiquette?”

Please take a seat.’

Old Master Xie knew that he had an ulterior motive, but he had the token that Old Madam Yu had handed over before she died. The Xie family was already in a passive position.

Yin Huaixi did not reveal his identity after visiting. Instead, he directly sent a greeting card as Yue Fei, the King of the North. He had already established an imposing air for himself.

Old Master Xie did not decline.

Xie Jingliu must have already conveyed all his thoughts to Old Master Xie. Yin Huaixi did not say anything else. “I took the liberty to come and disturb you to discuss my marriage with Yao Yao,” He

took out a small box the size of his palm and respectfully handed it to Old Master Xie. “There’s a token as proof. Old Master, please take a look..”

Chapter 755: Descendant of the Royal Family

Old Master Xie accepted the box and took out the token. He rubbed it gently with a complicated expression. “The Xie Residence is a remnant of the Yue

Country. Later on, when the Yue Country was destroyed, our branch moved to Quanzhou to settle down and changed our surname to Xie. From then on, we hid our identities. This token is our proof as descendants of the Si Clan.”

Yin Huaixi was shocked.

The King of Yue Country’s surname was Si, and Si was the surname that Shun had given to Yu. After King Yue moved his base to Langye, in order to dominate the Central Plains and become one of the great powers, he gave himself the title of “the King of Yuee Country.” He proactively absorbed the culture of the Central Plains and coexisted peacefully with the Emperor and the Marquis of the Central Plains at that time, maintaining a long period of peaceful rule.

This was a fusion of the Yue culture and the Han culture of the Central Plains.

Later on, Chu destroyed Yue and Yue surrendered to the Qin Dynasty. The Yue Dynasty was officially over.

The remaining people of the Yue Country colluded with the vassal lords of the world to rebel against the Qin Dynsaty and the rule once against belonged to the Han Dynasty.

Later, he was conferred the title of King of Minyue and continued to offer sacrifices to the Yue Country without being controlled by the Han people.

It was not until the reign of Emperor Wu that the remaining Minyue forces completely fell under the Han rule, and the people migrated to the Jianghuai area to live.

Yue Country had been active in history since the Xia Dynasty.

From the looks of it, the Xie family’s background was really not small. No wonder their ancestors had left behind a legacy of not being officials in the world.

The status and foundation of a descendant of the royal family of Yue Country was indeed enough to be on par with Yue Fei. Old Master Xie telling him about this secret was both a test and a deterrent.

The Jianghuai area included Jiangsu, Anhui, and Henan. It covered most of the south-central area, and there were many people in Minyue.

As the “royal family” of Minyue, even though the glory of their ancestors was gone, the surname Si still had a huge influence in the Central South region.

Since ancient times, the Jianghuai area had been an important place for food production and trade. It was also a place that soldiers had to fight for.

He had borrowed Ye Hanyuan’s hand to coincidentally take over the southeast coast. However, a strong dragon could not suppress a local snake. The Xie family could strangle him in terms of food and trade.

This was the pride and foundation of the Xie family.

Yin Huaixi said cautiously, “The Xie family has an extraordinary background. Please forgive me for my disrespect.”

Old Master Xie shook his head. “Since the Xie family has hidden their identities, they’ve already betrayed their ancestors. They’re naturally not worthy of inheriting the virtues of their ancestors. King Yue Fei, we’ve embarrassed ourselves.”

These indifferent words were actually filled with deep meaning.

After several dynasties and generations, the Fujian and Han Dynasties have achieved cultural integration. However, the status of a descendant of the royal family of Yue Country could not be praised. The Xie family had changed their surname to seek stability for their descendants.

From the Xia Dynasty to the Han Dynasty, Yue Country had always been a powerful country. The so-called virtues of their ancestors could not be brought up.

He claimed that they had betrayed her ancestors and were not worthy of inheriting the virtues of their ancestors. He had also expressed his stance about losing his ambition to regain the virtues of his ancestors.

Old Master Xie was a sensible person. The Xie family had already boarded Yue Fei’s ship. They had revealed their family background for their granddaughter. They were showing weakness and also trying to be strong.

He had taken the initiative to tell him his weakness to surrender.

At the same time, he had to place a huge bargaining chip on the surface, Only with added value would he have the right to negotiate.

Yin Huaixi nodded. “When it comes to filial piety, the most important thing is being filial to your family. It’s pure filial piety for the Xie family to pass on the legacy of our ancestors and help the world.”

Old Master Xie did not say anything else and changed the topic. “Logically speaking, your marriage with Little Yao’er was personally arranged by Old Master Yu before she died. It can be considered an order from her parents. It’s the most appropriate situation. Naturally, the Xie family has no objections.” When Yin Huaixi heard this, his eyelids twitched. He had a bad feeling.

Indeed!

Old Master Xie changed the topic and asked despite knowing the answer,

“Does Little Yao’er’s father know about your marriage?”

Yin Huaixi braced himself and said, “He doesn’t know.”

“I see.” Old Master Xie’s expression relaxed and he smiled. “Before Old Master Yu died, she left behind a token for Little Yao’er to return to the Xie family. It was also a family heirloom that the Xie family had given to Yao Yao’s mother back

then. I don't think this marriage is fixed. She also has the intention of letting the Xie family interfere."

He was just short of saying explicitly that the parents' orders and the matchmaker's words were important in marriage.

Old Madam Yu had passed away, so Yu Zongzheng should be in charge of the marriage. However, Yu Zongzheng did not know that Yu Youyao had returned to her mother's clan, so the Yu Residence could not interfere in her marriage casually.

Only the Xie family could make the decision.

Yin Huaixi sighed in his heart. The older the wiser. It was clearly impossible to muddle through with a token.

He also carefully chose his words. 'Old Madam Yu hopes that I can obtain the Xie family's approval and marry Yao Yao under their witness.'

Previously, when he found out about the origin of the token, Yin Huaixi knew that he had been tricked by Old Madam Yu.

The token was a real token, but Old Madam Yu had also dug a hole for him.

She said that he shouldn't tell Yao Yao about the token for the time being.

In fact, Old Madam Yu had not agreed to anything at all, let alone make any promises about this marriage. Instead, she had indirectly handed it over to the Xie family to make plans.

That was why he sent a greeting card as Yue Fei.

First, he would take a stand and let the Xie family know that he was not someone who could be dismissed with a few words. Later, it did not matter if he lowered his head or knelt down.

Old Master Xie had seen through his thoughts.

He also revealed her status as a descendant of the royal family of the Yue Country to deal with him.

Old Master Xie frowned. "Little Yao'er is still in mourning, so it's not easy to plan a marriage. Why don't we ask her for her opinion after her mourning?"

As her granddaughter and according to the funeral etiquette, Yu Youyao only needed to mourn for Old Madam Yu for a year to fulfill her filial piety.

The bad thing was that Yu Youyao had a deep relationship with her grandmother and wanted to observe mourning for Old Madam Yu for three years. Three years later, Yu Youyao would be 16 years old. He could wait, but he couldn't just wait for nothing.

At the very least, they had to settle on a status first. With the permission of the elders, it would be legitimate to nurture their relationship.

Otherwise, why would he specially ask Old Madam Yu for a token? As soon as he arrived in Quanzhou, he couldn't wait to enter the Xie Residence and expose his identity.

Yin Huaixi had expected this and made a plan. "I believe Old Master has heard that in the first half of the year, a crop called sweet potatoes was widely planted in the north. Due to the appearance of

this crop, it greatly eased the drought in the north and helped Yue Fei's Residence stabilize the North. It contributed greatly."

Old Master Xie's eyelids twitched. Little Yao'er's merchant ship had gone out to sea with the Xie Residence, and the Xie Residence knew the origins of the sweet potatoes. Little Yao'er had tried planting them for two years before succeeding. Later, under the push of King Yue Fei of Youzhou and Ye Hanyuan in Zhejiang, they had obtained approval for a large-scale planting of sweet potatoes. He knew this better than others.

King Yue Fei had specially mentioned this. Could it be...

Indeed!

Yin Huaixi continued, "The production of sweet potatoes is high. There are dozens of sweet potatoes per mu, which is ten times better than typical grains. In addition, it's moist and edible. Not only can it fill stomachs, but it can also quench thirsts and replace drinking water. Not only can it relieve the disaster, but it can also benefit all the people in the world. I plan to go to the Imperial Court and ask for credit to be given to the County Head of Shaoyi.."

Chapter 756: Only One For Him

Old Master Xie took a deep breath and tightened his grip on the short staff in his hand. Only then did he hold it in and not break his leg. "Do you admire the County Head of Shaoyi because of this?"

Not to mention that Little Yao'er had been conferred the title of County Head of Shaoyi because of the emperor's grace. Yu Zongzheng's official position was not low, but he relied on the emperor's grace. The dog emperor probably couldn't wait to marry Little Yao'er to King Yue Fei.

Any gentleman would want to pursue a graceful lady!

With the sweet potatoes to relieve the drought, even if the Xie family did not agree to this marriage, King Yue Fei could still use the excuse to marry Little Yao'er openly.

At that time, who would dare to snatch her from him, King Yue Fei?

Yin Huaixi braced himself. "That's also the truth."

Old Master Xie endured it again and again. He couldn't help but slap him on the shoulder. "You've already planned everything. Why are you still asking me?"

With a tooth-aching crack, Yin Huaixi gasped, and his face turned pale. Old Master Xie had dislocated his shoulder bone.

It hurt. It really hurt.

Showing mercy was really showing mercy.

He would go back and find a doctor with brilliant medical skills to correct his

bones. He would recover in three to five days. Fortunately, he did not really

break his bones. Otherwise, it would be really tragic if his muscles and bones were injured for a hundred days.

Old Master Xie probably knew that he was going back to Youzhou soon, so he still knew his limits.

Yin Huaixi said, “No matter how much I scheme, don’t I still need the Xie family’s approval? How can a willing agreement be the same as a forceful agreement? It’s rare for Yao Yao to return to the Xie family. She has relatives to rely on and family to enjoy. This is also a good thing. I naturally don’t want her to be in a difficult position.”

Hearing his words, Old Master Xie felt a little better. “The emperor’s body is filled with poison, and the King of Liang is restless. What about you?” He paused, his sharp gaze piercing. “If the Great Zhou Dynasty is in chaos, Yue Fei will decide that the King of the North will bear the brunt. He will either be loyal or establish himself. There’s no third way.”

Yin Huaixi was cunning and had single-handedly disrupted the power of the Great Zhou. It was impossible for him to be loyal to the Great Zhou.

It was even more impossible for him to gain credit.

Firstly, as a direct descendant of the Yin family, it was impossible for Yin Huaixi to betray his ancestors and support others to ascend the throne.

Secondly, Yin Huaixi had 500,000 You soldiers and was extremely powerful. No matter who was the emperor, it was impossible for him to tolerate him. Thirdly, a few princes were fighting for the position of heir, causing them to fight among themselves. It was against the morals of the world. As the orthodox descendant of the Yin family, Yin Huaixi was the only one who was legitimate.

Yin Huaixi did not hide anything. “I forced the King of Liang to rebel firstly to overthrow the Great Zhou, and secondly to bring order to chaos and hold the banner of killing rebels high.”

Old Master Xie had a complicated expression. “The Eldest Prince and the

Second Prince are fighting for the throne. It’s only right for you to enter the Imperial City in the name of purging the emperor.”

King Yue Fei was in charge of 500,000 troops. At that time, the vassal lords would not dare to move.

However, wasn’t it too cruel to force the vassal lords to rebel and overturn the Great Zhou, causing chaos in the world?

Yin Huaixi chuckled. “There’s no building without destruction.”

The Great Zhou Dynasty had accumulated ills, and the political treasury had become corrupted. The treasury was empty, and it was difficult to make up for the shortfall. Natural and man-made disasters happened everywhere, and riots arose everywhere. The commoners complained and suffered unspeakably. The vassal lords were endless trouble, and foreign countries were even more dangerous.

After forcing the King of Liang to rebel, Yin Huaixi would destroy the rebels and establish a new dynasty. Only then would there be a logical reason to eliminate the vassal states. Without the vassal lords’ help, he could establish a new system of governance that was built on benevolence, and select good talents to govern the country.

The commoners were loyal, and the people were righteous. What was there to be afraid of?!

Old Master Xie was silent for a long time. “What about Little Yao’er? What position are you putting her in?”

He did not want Little Yao’er to enter the palace, even if she was an empress.

Yin Huaixi smiled. “I know that Yu Yue was originally a matriarchal clan, so they don’t have any concept of men being superior to women. Of course, not all Minyue people are like this. However, the Xie family is orthodox and has a long history, so they have an ancestral teaching and don’t take in concubines. Old Master naturally doesn’t want Yao Yao to suffer in this aspect in the future.’

After that, tragedies of brothers killing each other frequently happened in the third generation of the Yue Country. This was also the root cause of the destruction of the Yue Country.

This was very likely the reason why the Xie Residence did not take in concubines.

Back then, the reason why the Xie Residence had married Xie Roujia into the Yu Residence was because the Yu Residence had an ancestral rule that all descendants of the Yu Clan were only allowed to have one wife and one concubine.

Xie Roujia accepted Concubine He.

Later, when Old Madam Yu sent Concubine He to the manor, she mentioned Concubine Qiu.

It was because Madam Yang had entered the Tranquil Heart Residence that Yu Zongzhengs backyard was empty. There were many matters in the residence, so he had taken in Concubine Jiang. However, Concubine Jiang was meant to be promoted.

When Old Master Xie thought of the Yu Residence, his expression immediately darkened. Back then, Roujia’s marriage had been ruined because of this.

Since they couldn’t find a family with one husband and one wife, a family with strict rules like the Yu Clan naturally caught their attention.

The Yu Residence had too many advantages. Since they were aristocratic, they had a small family and a clean backyard.

The Xie Residence owed the Yu Clan a favor, and Old Madam Yu sincerely proposed to marry them.

Yu Zongzheng had just entered the royal court and was still considered young.

They couldn’t tell if he was good or bad. Considering the family style of the Yu Residence, he probably couldn’t be too bad.

This was extremely attractive to the Xie family.

Unexpectedly, they had chosen someone who would harm Roujia’s life.

Seeing that Old Master Xie was silent, Yin Huaixi could guess what he was thinking. As he thought about it, he knew that with what happened with Xie Roujia, it was useless even if he cursed and swore.

“Before Old Madam Yu died, I promised her that I would only have one lover in my life.”

Old Master Xie sneered. “Emperor Gaozu and his first wife have been through thick and thin together, and their relationship is stronger than gold. After Emperor Gaozu ascended the throne, in order to stabilize Gong Quan t s position and balance the royal court, he still welcomed new concubines into the palace under the advice of the court officials.”

Yin Huaixi’s words were easier said than done.

Even the high and mighty emperor could not do as he pleased, especially since the new dynasty had just been established. When the new emperor ascended the throne, the first thing he had to do was reward the meritorious generals and balance the power of the royal court. If he could not make them submit, it would cause the emperor’s power to be unstable and the court to be uncertain. At that time, there would be another bloodbath.

Choosing new concubines was the most convenient, fast, and effective way.

There were no exceptions in the past dynasties.

Yin Huaixi frowned. “The Emperor of Mingzong doted on the eldest palace maid in front of him. She didn’t enter the harem for more than 20 years and didn’t receive the affection of the concubines. Later, the eldest palace maid died of illness, and the Emperor of Mingzong passed away. Before he died, he left his last words that he wanted to sleep with her and die together. It could be considered a life and death contract.’

Of course, in the end, because the head palace maid did not have a title, she only had a lone coffin in the side hall of the Imperial Tombs, fulfilling the emperor’s last wish.

Old Master Xie did not say anything, but his expression was disapproving.

Yin Huaixi only took one look before lowering his head and continuing, “Emperor Xianzong only took one wife. For the rest of his life, his harem was empty. He only married a wife as his wife and was his long-term companion.

They were like ordinary husband and wife and were loving for the rest of their lives..

Chapter 757: Only One Person

“My father had a short life. He never had second thoughts, doesn’t have any strange children, and is loving with Mother.” He bowed and said sincerely and firmly, “I’m just an average person who is willing to imitate my father’s actions. I don’t want a harem of 3,000 beauties. I only want to be with one person for the rest of my life. Old Master, please fulfill my wish.”

If Yin Huaixi had imitated Emperor Yang of Sui, Yang Jian, and made a poisonous oath that he wouldn’t have any clueless thoughts in this life, Old Master Xie wouldn’t have believed it at all.

It had to be known that it was precisely because Yang Jian had broken the oath that Empress Dugu had passed away from depression. After that, he had indulged himself too much, causing him to die of overindulgence.

However, Yin Huaixi had used the Yin family's ancestor as a tool. Even with his father's wisdom, the weight of this was obvious.

No matter what happened in the future, at least for now, Yin Huaixi was indeed 100% sincere. Old Master Xie did not know what to say.

Yin Huaixi did not think that he could gain Old Master Xie's trust with just a few words. "No matter what I say, in Old Master Xie's opinion, it's just words." He took out a letter and respectfully handed it to Old Master Xie. "Everything I said today will be in black and white. Old Master, please understand."

Old Master Xie took the letter and unfolded it to take a look. It was indeed filled with the clear wishes of the Mingzong, Xianzong, and King Li of Zhou. It showed his determination to treat Little Yao'er wholeheartedly. In this life, he would only be with her. He even promised that he would treat his wife well. It was signed, and stamped with Yin Huaixi's private seal and Yue Fei's seal. It was obvious how sincere he was.

No one could find anything wrong with the contents of the letter. It was obvious that the person who had written the letter had thought it through before writing.

The world liked to swear to the heavens.

If they respected the Heavenly Dao, they naturally did not dare to go against it.

If they were disrespectful, this oath was equivalent to nothing.

The oath of the Heavenly Dao tested the human nature of the human heart and needed a lot of self control.

Very few people used their ancestors and parents to swear an oath.

Filial piety was the most important thing. One had to respect filial piety to be able to stand on the grounds of heaven and earth and walk whenever they wanted in the world. This was the basis of human nature. While restraining themselves, they had to be tested by the world.

If he disobeyed it, his reputation would be over. There were very few people in the world who could bear such consequences. Therefore, he was always cautious and did not dare to blaspheme easily.

When this piece of paper was taken out, Yin Huaixi had already cut off all his escape routes.

Old Master Xie had no reason or excuse to refuse. "Are you serious?"

Yin Huaixi lifted his clothes and kowtowed. "Old Master, please fulfill my wish. After Yao Yao's mourning period, let's officially discuss marriage." Now, Old Master Xie had no room to refuse.

Before Old Madam Yu died, it was also a fact that she had given Yin Huaixi a token. The marriage was not fixed, but they had made an agreement. It was not appropriate for the Xie family to refuse immediately, so they insisted that this marriage did not count.

He had originally planned to use Little Yao'er to mourn for her grandmother for three years and delay the marriage for three years so that Yin Huaixi would retreat in the face of difficulties. It wouldn't be considered breaking the agreement.

However, Yin Huaixi was not easy to fool. First, he used the sweet potatoes in the North as a threat. Then, he used his ancestral parents to move them with emotions and “tempt” them. After that, he did not do anything else. In for a penny in for a pound, he wrote in black and white, directly expressing his

“intent.”

At this point, the Xie family could no longer be vague about this marriage.

However, they couldn’t agree immediately.

However, Yin Huaixi was like a worm in his stomach, guessing his thoughts accurately. In the end, he said he would fulfill his wish and discuss marriage 3 years later. Then, he sent the ladder to his feet and asked him to go down.

After fulfilling Yin Huaixi’s wish, Yin Huaixi would be able to come and go from the Xie Residence openly and interact with Little Yao’er in the future.

Little Yao’er was still in mourning, so it was fine to discuss small matters.

However, the engagement still had to wait until the filial mourning passed.

Yin Huaixi did not force the Xie family to answer immediately. Instead, he agreed to the Xie family’s request. He wanted to use the excuse of delaying filial piety for three years to give the Xie family enough face.

But what about three years later?

Little Yao’er had long known Yin Huaixi’s identity. The two of them were close, but because of their front as “cousins”, she definitely did not expose him. There was still room for negotiation.

However, once Yin Huaixi confessed his identity to the Xie family and obtained their approval, Yin Huaixi would be interacting with a graceful lady if he met with Little Yao’er again. He would be a gentleman’s suitor.

The two of them had a foundation in their relationship to begin with. Three years later, the marriage was even more logical.

Old Master Xie was speechless. “For Little Yao’er, you’ve put in so much effort. You’re not vague at all.” Forget it. If he couldn’t reject this marriage immediately, with Yin Huaixi’s will, he would get what he wanted sooner or later. Why should the Xie family be the villain and make things difficult for Little Yao’er? “Just do what you agreed with Old Madam Yu previously!’ Everything Yin Huaixi did today was for Little Yao’er.

Little Yao’er knew his identity. The two of them had crossed the etiquette of men and women being on guard against each other. However, Yin Huaixi had never been able to talk about the open secret to address the elephant in the room. Instead, he had to get the approval of his elders.

He didn’t want Little Yao’er to be labeled as having an “infidelity”.

He clearly wanted to bring Little Yao’er back to the North, but he had taken a detour and let her return to her mother’s clan first because he did not want to let her suffer.

If he wanted to be with Little Yao’er, he had to be legitimate and magnanimous.

He wanted to ask for credit from the Imperial Court for Little Yao'er. He wanted the world to know about Little Yao'er's kindness. Then, he would love her openly and marry her. It would be announced to the world.

Little Yao'er's reputation had soared and she was admired by the world. In the future, no one would dare to surpass her.

The deeper the love, the deeper the plan.

Every step Yin Huaixi took paved the way for their future.

Yin Huaixi bowed respectfully. "Thank you, Old Master."

Old Master Xie had a complicated expression. "Although I've fulfilled your wish, you'll have to ask Little Yao'er about your marriage in the future. Whether it succeeds or not depends on Little Yao'er's opinion. You're on your own."

Before Old Madam Yu died, she had handed the token to Yin Huaixi. She probably had the same intention.

Yin Huaixi was very scheming, but he was magnanimous in this matter. He did not dare to lie and only used the "token" to let the Xie family fulfill his feelings for Little Yao'er, but he did not manage to get the Xie family to fulfill this marriage.

At noon, the Xie Residence held a banquet to entertain Yin Huaixi.

Yu Youyao was filial and did not attend.

Yin Huaixi felt regretful, but he did not insist. He had specially come to visit his elders, so it was not appropriate for him to take the opportunity to meet Yu Youyao and ask Xie Jingliu to hand over a gift.

There was nothing special, but they were all specialties of Quanzhou, as well as some fresh fruits and food.

The Xie Residence naturally did not lack this.

However, Yu Youyao liked these things.

If something was lacking, it was the Xie family's business. However, giving them a gift was meant to show his appreciation..

Chapter 758: Doing Business

In the blink of an eye, it was November.

Yu Youyao settled down in the Xie Residence. She was far away from the troubles in the capital and the rules of the Yu Residence. Her days in the Xie Residence were undoubtedly leisurely and carefree.

The only thing was that after coming to Quanzhou, the number of times she had seen Yin Huaixi could be counted on one hand. Moreover, every time, there were elders present. Due to etiquette, she did not even have a chance to talk to him alone.

She also knew that this was because of the distance between men and women.

In her spare time, Yu Youyao sent letters to her good friends from the Yu Residence and the Yu Clan, as well as from the capital. She also sent them some specialties from Quanzhou.

She lived in seclusion all day. Madam Wang was worried that she would be bored staying at home. “We have a few good shops in Quanzhou. Do you want to go out and shop?”

Yu Youyao was stunned for a moment.

Madam Wang looked embarrassed. She remembered that Yu Youyao was a daughter of an official and had even been conferred the title of County Head of Shaoyi. How could she casually go out and show her face?

An official’s family was not like a merchant’s family. They had more farmland and were more dignified. They had fewer businesses, and they were all handed over to the loyal servants of the family to manage. Usually, they only needed to show up in the residence.

Madam Wang hurriedly said, “I see that you’ve been in Quanzhou for a while. It’s not good for you to stay at home all the time. It’s good for your health to take a walk.”

Only then did Yu Youyao realize what was going on. She smiled and said, “It’s good to take a look at the shops and relax. The shops in Quanzhou are all managed by Eldest Aunt. In the past, I sat back and enjoyed the fruits of her labor. Now that I’m in Quanzhou, I naturally have to go over and take a look. It’s not good to continue troubling Eldest Aunt.”

Her mother had married into the capital from afar, and most of the businesses under her name had been repurposed by the Xie family in the capital, including shops, manors, fields, forests, and so on.

On the other hand, there were not many businesses in Quanzhou.

When Madam Wang heard this, she felt that it was appropriate. She held her hand and said, “There are a total of seven shops. Three of them are cosmetics shops that your mother built herself back then. The other four shops sell rare items on merchant ships. Moreover, the things that are popular in the capital are all old shops. It doesn’t take much effort. I just have to take some time to look at the accounts. There’s nothing to work on. I’m just worried that you’ll be bored staying at home all day. With something to do, you’ll feel more at ease.”

However, Yu Youyao knew that the profits of these seven shops were very considerable. They were all saved directly in the bank and the accounts were sent to her every quarter.

It was obvious that someone had put in a lot of effort to take care of them.

You can only truly know someone after going through the ups and downs of life with them. The Xie family was a big family, so they wouldn’t be greedy for the low profits of seven shops. However, after more than ten years, they have been managing other people’s shops diligently. It was obvious how sincere they were.

“Thank you, Aunt.” Yu Youyao was very touched. “Grandmother bought a courtyard for me in Quanzhou when she was alive and hired the clan’s uncles and aunts to take care of it. Cousin and Fourth Brother live there. It’s rare for me to go out today, so I want to go over and take a look.”

Madam Wang hurriedly said, "The Yu Residence has arranged for someone to take care of you in Quanzhou. This is also a good thing. In the future, when you're free, it won't hurt to go over more often."

Yu Youyao returned to her room and changed into a lotus-colored dress. The color was simple and elegant.

Chun Xiao took out a squirrel fur cloak that reached her waist. Yu Youyao couldn't help but think that it would be winter in the capital every year when October came. In November, it was already cold.

The family would have already started setting up the fireplace and charcoal steamer.

She was afraid of the cold. Every winter, she felt that life was difficult and wished she could eat, drink, and poop in bed.

The climate in Quanzhou was warmer. In November, she was only wearing a thin jacket and did not feel cold.

Madam Wang first brought Yu Youyao to look at the shops and explained everything to her carefully. She even brought her to check the operations, purchases, and profits of the shop.

They were all business matters. They were a little different from the accounts and household management matters that Yu Youyao had learned in the Yu Residence.

Yu Youyao listened with interest.

Seeing that she was interested, Madam Wang taught her how to do business.

Then, she said, "The Lin family is also one of the top wealthy families in Quanzhou. Their main business is the medicinal herbs and spices business.

The spices and medicinal herbs needed in your shop are from the Lin family.

Some of the Lin family's small business is handed over to Miss Lin to manage. Coincidentally, a batch of spices and medicinal herbs is going to enter your shop. If you're interested, I'll arrange for you to meet Miss Lin another day. How about I leave this discussion to you?"

There was no one in the room who knew her well. As women, it was appropriate for them to discuss business together and broaden their horizons. Now that Little Yao'er had come to Quanzhou, she had to get to know some people of the same age. In the future, it would be more lively when she made more friends.

Madam Wang mentioned some more details about the Lin family.

Yu Youyao's heart skipped a beat. She held Madam Wang's arm and wheedled, "This is the first time I will be talking about business. Eldest Aunt, teach me more."

The Lin family's medicinal herbs source was very stable. To be able to expand their business, they needed their own medicinal plantation and supply channels.

The North did not lack money and food, but medicinal herbs and spices were controlled by the Imperial Court. During peaceful times, they still had to be prepared, and during the disaster, they had to be controlled more strictly.

Medicinal herbs were rare resources. Many medicinal herbs had special sources, and there were also special suppliers. They had passed through countless people along the way who were almost impossible to identify.

There were many merchants in the country who dealt in medicinal herbs, but because medicinal herbs were rare and resources were strictly managed by the Imperial Court, the relationships behind them were also complicated.

Even if an escort company appeared, it would not be safe.

She also had medicinal herbs shops under her name, but they were all small- scale.

Yu Youyao couldn't help but ask about the Lin family. "Miss Lin doesn't have brothers?"

Although Quanzhou was open-minded, if there were brothers in the family, they wouldn't let their daughters do business in public.

Madam Wang said meaningfully, "Master Lin's first wife, Madam Yan, is from the Yan family in Yizhou, Shuchuan (Chengdu). The Yan family's family background is similar to the Lin family's and they're also in the medicinal herbs business. They have their own medicinal plantation manor. Master Lin and his first wife only have one daughter. The family has taken in a few concubines and given birth to a few sons of concubines. However, her daughter was very smart. Since she was young, she helped the family look at the accounts.'

In just a short sentence, Yu Youyao could tell what was going on.

The Great Zhou Dynasty had a medicinal herb production area. Fujian was the medicinal herb production area of Jiangnan Dao, and Shuchuan was the medicinal area of Sichuan. The medicinal herbs produced in each area were different.

Through the marriage between the Lin family and the Yan family, they reached a win-win situation.

Madam Yan did not have any children, but she had a powerful maiden family. How could she watch helplessly as a concubine's son climbed over her head and abused his power?

Quanzhou was an important place for trade. It was open-minded, and merchants valued mutual interest and courtesy.

As a woman, Miss Lin had the support of Mother Yan and the Yan family. As long as the Lin family did not want to give up on a cooperation with Madam Yan, Jiang and Chuan's medicinal herbs, they would not give up on Miss Lin.

In the future, even the business dealings between the Lin family and Madam Yan would have to go through Miss Lin..

Chapter 759: Eyes Widened

Yu Youyao thought to herself that Shuchuan was vast and had abundant resources. There were many mountains and forests, and it was also the handover place to Yun, Gui, Gansu, Shaanxi, and many other places. It was considered the largest medicinal real estate area in the Great Zhou.

"I have more than ten medicinal herb shops under my name. The medicinal herbs produced in the ten major medicinal herbs areas are all different. If I can

negotiate with Miss Lin, it will be a huge business that will definitely be profitable.”

Eldest Aunt had taken the initiative to mention the Lin Residence to her because she wanted to introduce her to Miss Lin and befriend her. It seemed that the Xie Residence had a good relationship with the Lin Residence, and

Miss Lin’s character was not bad.

Indeed!

Madam Wang smiled. “Miss Lin has a straightforward personality. If you get along, you have to go out more in the future. You can’t stay at home all day without anyone to befriend.”

Yu Youyao quickly nodded.

After roughly looking at a few shops, Madam Wang brought Yu Youyao to the best restaurant in Quanzhou for lunch. She ordered braised tofu, peanut crisps, dried bamboo shoots, green fruits, and so on.

They were all specialty snacks from Fujian.

Yu Youyao had eaten a lot of these dishes in the capital in the past. It was because the Xie family had sent these dishes to the capital through a merchant ship.

After lunch, Madam Wang brought Yu Youyao shopping again. “This is the most prosperous street in Quanzhou. It’s located in the center, and trade is very prosperous.”

On the 12th Street of the capital, there were all kinds of streets. Tumen Street was even more prosperous than the capital.

There were people coming and going on the streets, and there were all kinds of shops on both sides of the street. There was a dazzling array of goods.

When they reached a crowded place, the old maids spontaneously stepped forward and surrounded the two of them to prevent them from being hit by the passing crowd.

Quanzhou welcomed guests from all walks of life. There were all kinds of people. Businessmen emphasized harmony to make money and did not easily get into conflict with others.

The guests who came and went also had the mentality that it was better to avoid trouble.

Madam Wang had an imposing aura. It was obvious that she was either rich or noble.

Yu Youyao was dressed plainly, but she was the eldest daughter of a first wife and she had been raised by an aristocratic family. Her etiquette and upbringing were extraordinary, so she naturally exuded a delicate and noble aura. She was not to be trifled with.

Those who had traveled extensively were all sharp-eyed. As long as they were not arrogant and domineering people, they would basically give way.

The Imperial Court had set up eight thousand households in Quanzhou and 45 patrol divisions. When the pirates arrived in Fujian, they had to take a detour to Quanzhou, and even the heinous villains had to be restrained.

This delicate balance maintained the prosperity and peace of Quanzhou. As time passed, the atmosphere in Quanzhou became bolder. The young misses who were raised in private rooms could also walk around fearlessly.

Madam Wang pointed at a two-story shop in front of her. “The Jade Pavilion in front is the rouge shop that your mother opened back then.”

Yu Youyao followed Madam Wang into the Jade Pavilion.

When Manager Ren of the Jade Pavilion saw Madam Wang, he quickly came over to greet her. Madam Wang introduced Yu Youyao to him, and he was very excited. He knelt on the ground and kowtowed to Yu Youyao.

Yu Youyao was shocked.

Madam Wang patted her hand. “Manager Ren used to be your mother’s maidservant. Before your mother passed away, she returned the indenture to her. On account of her master-servant relationship with your mother, she followed the merchant ship back to Quanzhou and has been helping to manage your mother’s three rouge shops in Quanzhou. She hasn’t married yet.”

Manager Ren had learned many methods of incense medicine from her aunt and was also quite talented.

Yu Youyao hurriedly stepped forward and bent down to help Manager Ren up. “Mother Ren, get up quickly.”

Manager Ren looked very excited. “Young Miss, you’ve grown up. I thought that I wouldn’t have the chance to see you again in my life. I didn’t expect...” Her voice was choked with sobs, and her eyes turned red. “When Young Miss came to Quanzhou, I originally planned to visit you at the Xie Residence after you were completely settled. I didn’t expect you to come personally today.”

Now that Manager Ren had taken back her indenture, she was no longer a slave. She no longer needed to call herself a “servant” in front of Yu Youyao.

Yu Youyao appreciated her loyalty. “My mother has returned the indenture to you. Don’t act like a servant anymore. In the future, you’ll have to continue managing the business in the shop. Don’t be too polite.”

Manager Ren quickly agreed and brought Yu Youyao to look at the incense and makeup available in the shop.

The quality of the incense medicine in the Jade Pavilion was not bad, and business was very stable.

In Yu Youyao’s opinion, most of the incense and medicinal items in the shop had been popular in the capital two years ago. It was just that they lacked novelty and there had not been any innovation for a long time.

It was not difficult to tell that the reason why the Jade Pavilion could maintain a “stable” business was all thanks to Manager Ren’s efforts, the reputation of the old name, and even the name of the Xie family.

However, if no improvements were made, this business would be eliminated and replaced sooner or later.

Manager Ren told her a lot about the operations of the shop. When Yu Youyao heard that a box of peach-colored lipstick that had been popular in the capital two years ago actually cost eight taels of silver, her eyelids twitched.

Just because peach color was rare?!!

However, in fact, the cost of a box of peach-colored lipstick from spices to manpower was less than one tael. She had her own incense shop under her name and did not use any middlemen or distributors.

A box made a net profit of seven taels.

Yu Youyao finally realized that she had a treasure mountain and did not know it.

She had a large number of incense recipes in her hands. There were at least 800 of them, if not 1,000. Many of them were even lost ancient recipes. On the basis of each recipe, she could modify even more...

Yu Youyao took a deep breath.

Currently, other than the escort business being established by her alone, most of the businesses under her name were given to her by the Xie family, as well as the dowry her mother had left her. Even the merchant ships were revered by the Xie family.

She had yet to run her own business.

Today, she had come out to visit the shops with Eldest Aunt. There was no veiled hat on her head that restricted her.

There were no old servants by her side who constantly reminded her to pay attention to rules and etiquette.

Without the restrictions of the rules, Yu Youyao had broadened her horizons and had a more intuitive understanding of doing business. Unknowingly, she was also thinking about this in her heart.

Yu Youyao was very excited. Her eyes began to glow as she looked at Manager

Ren.

If she ran the incense business, Manager Ren would be the most capable person on the spot.

However, Quanzhou was not stable at the moment, so this idea had to be delayed for the time being. She had never done business seriously in the past, so she could take this time to understand more about the incense workshop and the business of incense medicine.

Only when everything was ready would it be appropriate.

The most important thing now was to interact with Miss Lin first and see if he could establish a cooperation with her for the supply of medicinal herbs.

Yu Youyao's mind was filled with messy thoughts about doing business. Suddenly, she heard a delicate reprimand from outside the door—

“Jia Changfeng, open your dog eyes and see clearly who I am. Whether you’re really drunk or pretending to be crazy with alcohol, I, Lin Ruoru, am not afraid of you.”

Yu Youyao’s position happened to be by the door. When she tilted her head, she saw a man and woman confronting each other on the street outside the Jade Pavilion..

Chapter 760: Impure Thoughts

The woman was about 14 or 15 years old. She was tall and slender, and her scarlet clothes made her look dazzling. She even held a fiery red whip in her hand, exuding an oppressive heroic aura.

Was this the Miss Lin that Eldest Aunt had mentioned?

As she was thinking, Madam Wang frowned. “That girl in red is Miss Lin Ruoru and the young master who she is trying to stop is Jia Changfeng, the son of a concubine of the Jiazhou Prefecture. He’s the son of a favored concubine of the Jiazhou Prefecture and known as Third Young Master Jia. As this favored concubine is very doted on, the Jiazhou Prefecture also favors this son very much. Third Young Master Jia is arrogant, domineering, and arrogant. He often does some bullying.”

Yu Youyao glanced at Jia Changfeng again, feeling a little worried. “Then wouldn’t Miss Lin...

He was about eighteen or nineteen years old and was wearing a sapphire blue python robe. He looked sloppy and seemed to have drunk too much wine. His face was red, and his eyes were dark. He stood crookedly, looking like he had overindulged.

Yu Youyao had seen many bullies like Jia Changfeng in the capital, so she hated him very much.

The state capital was the largest official in a prefecture. A county official was inferior to a current official. Jia Changfeng became arrogant because the

Jiazhou Prefecture indulged him. From this, it could be seen that the Jiazhou Prefecture did not have good officials.

Madam Wang did not have time to answer!

After being reprimanded by Lin Ruoru, Jia Changfeng sobered up a little. He narrowed his eyes and burped. “Uh, so, so it’s you! You stinky woman, how dare you shout in front of me? You...”

“A good dog doesn’t block the way. Move aside...” Lin Ruoru looked disgusted and suddenly swung the whip in her hand at Jia Changfeng.

Jia Changfeng was shocked and subconsciously dodged to the side. He staggered and was supported by the servant in front of him, preventing him from falling to the ground.

He had always been arrogant, so how could he withstand this anger? His red eyes glared fiercely at Lin Ruoru. Just as he was about to scold someone, he couldn’t help but be stunned. He stared at the door of the Jade Pavilion, as if his throat was blocked.

Jia Changfeng was a ruthless bully. The Xie family was not afraid of him, but they were also worried that he would offend Yu Youyao. Madam Wang quickly brought Yu Youyao out of the Jade Pavilion.

The ignorant and incompetent bully thought of something. “Fragrant and rich, cool and melancholic; White teeth that look charming in a smile; Long eyebrows and a slight gaze; Her beauty is soul-stirring, and seeing her makes the heart happy.”

Yu Youyao felt a sticky gaze on her back. Feeling a little disgusted, she quickened her pace.

Madam Wang noticed her strange behavior. “What’s wrong?”

When she reached the corner, the gaze that was stuck to her body disappeared. Yu Youyao shook her head. “I’m just a little tired after shopping for a while.”

Quanzhou valued business, and trade was the foundation. As a parent official of a prefecture, the Jiazhou Prefecture would not go against the local noble merchants.

Jia Changfeng was even afraid of Lin Ruoru.

He probably wouldn’t provoke the Xie family, let alone her.

Yu Youyao did not take it to heart.

Madam Wang nodded. “It’s getting late. Let’s go take a look at the residence the Yu Residence has bought for you first.”

She only thought that the residence was Yu Youyao’s own business. so there was no need to visit officially.

She stepped forward and knocked on the door.

The servant guarding the door quickly opened the side door and led Eldest Miss’s carriage in through the Flower Gate. At this moment, the clan aunt who was guarding the house had already received the news and rushed over.

After the two sides greeted each other, they exchanged a few polite words.

Seeing that this clan aunt’s words and actions were very methodical, Madam Wang felt a little relieved and suggested walking around the residence.

In the future, Yu Youyao would have to visit this residence often. She would definitely have to take a closer look at the residence and ask about the situation before she could feel at ease.

Madam Wang was not a vague person. She had asked everything she needed to know.

The clan aunt was not someone to be fooled. This residence was indeed very well arranged.

The three-way courtyard occupied a few hundred acres of land. The Fengshui was good. The scenery was quiet and elegant, not inferior to the Yi Water Garden at all. Both places were built after the Jade Courtyard, and the layout was a little similar.

After walking around and admiring the place, Madam Wang was already very satisfied. “Your grandmother is really considerate.”

Yin Huaixi had carefully prepared this residence for her. Yu Youyao pursed her lips and chuckled. “Yes, she’s always been very good to me.”

After looking at the garden, the group arrived at the reception pavilion.

Yin Huaixi brought Yu Shansi over to greet Madam Wang.

Madam Wang did not know Yin Huaixi's identity. She only thought that he was Young Master Zhou, who took good care of Yu Youyao. After exchanging a few polite words, she held Yu Youyao's hand.

"You haven't seen your Cousin for a long time. I think you two have something to say. I'll take a closer look at the residence." It would be more appropriate to take a closer look.

As soon as Madam Wang left, Yin Huaixi dismissed the servants and looked at Yu Youyao with a burning gaze.

He had been in Quanzhou for seven to eight days, but he had only seen Yu Youyao four times.

Other than talking to Yu Youyao alone on the day she first entered the Xie Residence, the next few times were under the eyes of her elders, and he did not even dare to take a few more glances.

Yu Youyao's heart skipped a beat under his gaze. She quickly picked up her tea and drank it to hide her slightly burning cheeks.

Yin Huaixi's heart itched like a cat's. However, he was afraid that he would be rude, so he coughed hard and broke the silence in the room.

"You've been in Quanzhou for a few days. Are you used to it?" As he asked, his gaze couldn't help but fall on her again.

The little girl was wearing a lotus-colored dress. She looked elegant and gentle.

Her top was a small jacket with a slanted collar. It reached her waist and was tied into a bow. The curve of her chest made Yin Huaixi's eyes burn and he quickly looked away.

He had only wanted to take a closer look and see if she was doing well in the Xie Residence. Had she gained weight or lost weight?

However, his eyes were sharp. At first glance, he could tell that she was a little bigger than before, so he subconsciously looked over.

At first, he really did not have any thoughts. However, after sensing that something was amiss, Yin Huaixi had some wild thoughts, and his thoughts became impure.

Fortunately, Yu Youyao did not notice his abnormality. She put down her teacup. "It's quite good. The rules of the Xie Residence aren't that strict, and there aren't too many unnecessary etiquette rules. The relatives in the residence are also good to me." There were no benefits involved, no pros and cons, and no human schemes. This was probably what family should be like, Yu Youyao felt a little strange. It was a full and stable feeling. "I like it very much."

I like it very much! Her voice was very soft and carried a hint of caution, making Yin Huaixi's heart suddenly ache.

Yu Youyao had lived in a dragon's den since she was a young girl. Even her grandmother, who doted on her the most, had too much guilt towards Xie Roujia. Her feelings were not completely pure.

Yu Youyao was meticulous, sharp, and lacked security. Even though she had been bullied by her sisters and scolded by her father, she did not have the confidence to complain to her grandmother. She could only pretend to be a little foolish. She more or less curried favor with her grandmother, so it was inevitable that she would be careful when interacting with her grandmother..