

All Hail 761

Chapter 761 - 761: Promise of Alliance

Yin Huaixi smiled. "That way, I can feel more at ease."

Yu Youyao subconsciously asked, "Are you leaving?" After asking, she seemed to realize something and looked a little flustered. She subconsciously lowered her head and pursed her lips slightly. When she looked up again, other than her face still turning a little pale, she had already regained her composure. "That's true. You still need to manage the overall situation in the North. You've delayed things a lot in Quanzhou." She lowered her eyes and picked up her teacup. She lowered her head and took a sip to hide it. "When do you plan to leave?"

Yin Huaixi suddenly stood up.

Yu Youyao was used to seeing Yin Huaixi sitting in a wheelchair, looking graceful and noble and holding a chess piece in his hand. Only then did Yu Youyao truly realize that the person in front of her was slender and sharp, like a rugged mountain that was majestic and powerful.

There were eight hardships in life. They are the four sufferings of birth, aging, sickness, and death, plus the suffering of having to part from those whom one loves, the suffering of having to meet with those whom one hates, the suffering of being unable to obtain what one desires, and the suffering arising from the five senses that constitute one's body and mind.

There were five types of Yin: seasons, organs and body systems, senses, colors and tastes

The five Yin types were hot like flames.

There were many reasons that could affect the five Yin types.

If five Yin types were burning, there would be many barriers in the heart.

If there was a barrier in her heart, she would suffer for a long time and not be free.

There were eight hardships in life. Yin Huaixi was not "old" but he would experience it in the future. He had endured the other seven hardships one by one.

Yin Huaixi had been struck by the fickleness of the world. He had been cut and tortured by all kinds of suffering in life. After being cut and grinded, he looked calm and majestic.

Yin Huaixi squatted in front of Yu Youyao and took out the embroidered fish token. "You also have a jade pendant like this."

Yu Youyao's eyes widened. Before her grandmother died, she had given her a similar jade pendant and instructed her to keep it well and not lose it. She had originally thought that this was a memento from her grandmother.

But that did not seem to be the case now.

She was a little stunned!

Yin Huaixi asked her, "Do you have the jade pendant with you?"

“I-I do.” Yu Youyao nodded in a daze. As it was a relic of her grandmother, she had to wear items from her family when she was alive to express her sorrow. Therefore, after her grandmother passed away, she carried the jade pendant with her.

Yin Huaixi chuckled. “Take it out!”

“Oh, okay, I’ll take it out immediately.” Yu Youyao acted like she received an order. She answered and moved immediately. She quickly lowered her head and took out an arrogant yellow jade pendant from the pouch at her waist.

The small fish lay in her soft palm like a crescent moon.

Yin Huaixi took the small fish pendant from her hand. “Look carefully.”

“Okay!” Yu Youyao blinked and stared at it without blinking. There were two brocade fishes in Yin Huaixi’s hand, one red and one yellow. They looked obedient, soft, and cute.

Yin Huaixi let out a low laugh and moved the red and yellow jade pendants closer.

“Ding—” Yu Youyao clearly heard a soft, pleasant, clear, and pure sound, like the the waves of river water that flowed gently. With this heavenly sound, in her eyes, the two jade pendants, one red and one yellow, fused into one. The curved two fishes turned into one round pendants with their heads and tails combined.

The pendant was complete and round.

“Ah—” Yu Youyao exclaimed in surprise.

Yin Huaixi held her hand and solemnly placed the round pendant into her palm. “Did you see anything?”

Yu Youyao picked up the jade pendant and observed it a few times. With a gentle twist, the round pendant that had become one became two curved fish again. The heads and tails of the two small fishes connected, and it became a round pendant.

She seemed to have realized something and pursed her lips. “These two jade pendants are...” Her mouth suddenly felt a little dry, and her voice suddenly became dry and hoarse. “They’re a pair?!” With that, she quickly lowered her head.

Yin Huaixi nodded. “Yes, they’re a pair!”

After receiving the affirmation, Yu Youyao looked up at him, wanting to ask him why the other jade pendant was with Yin Huaixi. However, when the words reached her lips, she hesitated.

Actually, the answer was already obvious.

However, she did not dare to think about it.

She did not dare to ask.

She shouldn’t ask.

Yin Huaixi knew what she wanted to ask. “I asked Matriarch for this jade pendant before she died.”

Although at that time, he had promised Matriarch not to tell Yu Youyao about the token for the time being,

However, there was no clear way to determine how much of this was a temporary situation. At the very least, for now, the Xie family had already admitted that the token was effective.

In that case, it meant that he had received the approval from his elders.

He was about to return to Youzhou. He couldn't see her for a few months. If he didn't reveal this to her, he wouldn't be able to address the elephant in the room in the future. There was still a barrier between the two of them, so he couldn't feel at ease.

Previously, he had promised Old Master Xie that he would discuss the marriage three years later, but he had not promised him that he would not let Yu Youyao know his intentions.

He had only taken out the token, but he had not mentioned anything about the marriage.

As for what Yu Youyao would think after seeing the token, that was not something he could control. If Old Master Xie found out, it couldn't be his fault.

There was too much information that was new, making Yu Youyao feel a little dizzy. “Why did Grandmother...” Why did she want to give you the other half of the jade pendant?!

It was clearly a pair of jade pendants, but they were divided into two and given to her and Yin Huaixi for safekeeping?!

In a flash, Yu Youyao thought of Ye Hanyuan and Yin Ruocha's vow.

It was also because Ye Hanyuan admired the princess that he had asked King Li of Zhou to give him a token as proof of the alliance between him and the princess in the future.

Was Yin Huaixi the same?!

Was this double fish jade pendant also Yin Huaixi's oath to her?

Yu Youyao had too many questions in her heart. In the end, she only asked,

“Do Grandfather and the others know about the jade pendant?”

If all of this was arranged by her grandmother before she died, she definitely could not surpass the Xie Residence.

Yin Huaixi nodded. “The last time I visited the elders of the Xie family, I mentioned this to Old Master.”

With just a simple sentence, Yu Youyao understood everything. As a woman, she shouldn't have mentioned such things in private. Since her elders hadn't asked her about it, she shouldn't have asked too much.

However, there was one thing. Yin Huaixi had taken the initiative to mention this today after gaining the approval from the elders.

Yu Youyao had a strange feeling in her heart. It was different from the past when she had eaten green plum fruit. Instead, it felt like the green plum fruit she had eaten with Eldest Aunt in the restaurant today.

Her heart suddenly skipped a beat. She couldn't help but ask, "You've been in Quanzhou for so long. Have you eaten any green plum fruits?"

Weren't they talking about a token? Why did they suddenly change the topic? Yin Huaixi was slightly stunned. "I heard that it's a special type of green fruit. It's one of the specialties of Fujian. I've never eaten it before."

Yu Youyao knew that he did not like sweet and sour food. It was not surprising that he had never eaten it before. She only pursed her lips and chuckled. "I think it's delicious. I like it very much.."

Chapter 762 - 762: Embarrassed

For the first time in his life, Yin Huaixi felt that his intelligence was questioned. He wished he could crawl into Yu Youyao's mind and see what she was thinking! !

After carefully putting the other half of the jade pendant that belonged to her back into her pouch, Yu Youyao changed the topic. "When are you returning to Youzhou?"

Before Yin Huaixi left, he mentioned the jade pendant to reassure her.

It was as if she couldn't wait for him to leave early!

Yin Huaixi was speechless.

He had taken the original pair of jade pendants to indirectly show her his intentions. The meaning of the hint was too clear.

Of course, it wasn't that he didn't want to express it more clearly.

However, Yu Youyao was still young and ignorant about love. He did not want to be too abrupt, in case he frightened her. But what the hell was the Green Plum Fruit?!

Wasn't her reaction a little too calm?

Seeing that he had not said anything, Yu Youyao asked, "What's wrong? Did something happen in the North?"

"I'll leave the day after tomorrow." Yin Huaixi had mixed feelings and felt a little upset. Holding the jade pendant that belonged to him, he had a thousand thoughts in his mind, but he still couldn't figure out what Yu Youyao meant.

However, she had clearly changed the topic, so he couldn't push her too hard. "I originally planned to meet you at the Xie Residence tomorrow and say goodbye."

Upon hearing that it wasn't a problem with the North, Yu Youyao heaved a

sigh of relief. made a lot of incense medicine in my house. I'll pack it up later and bring it to you tomorrow. It's bitterly cold in the North in winter. You have to take care of your health." She thought for a moment and said, "By the way, I'll ask Grandmother for a few prescriptions tomorrow. Bring them back to the North to nourish the soldiers' bodies.'

Medicinal wine had the effect of nourishing blood. Most soldiers had hidden injuries, especially rheumatism and bone pain that was mind numbing. Every winter, it was very painful and annoying.

It was bitterly cold in the North, and the soldiers had the habit of drinking in winter to keep warm.

On the other hand, the medicinal herbs needed to soak to make the medicinal wine were not expensive. One set of medicinal herbs could be soaked in ten kilograms of medicinal wine, and a small cup every morning and night was enough.

As Old Madam Sun was old, she had a numbing problem due to the humidity. Previously, an old servant of the Xie family had given Old Madam Sun the medicinal wine rewarded by the main family.

After drinking for three to five days, the pain in Old Madam Sun's body subsided.

It couldn't be treated completely.

However, drinking it for a long time could slow down the worsening of the illness and any relapse, preventing it from affecting her normal life.

It was also because of this that she noticed the medicinal wine.

Every word and sentence was filled with concern for him. It was no different from before, but the biggest difference was that Yin Huaixi kept feeling uncomfortable.

"Yu Youyao." Yin Huaixi's eyes darkened. He opened his mouth and asked, "Who am I?"

Yu Youyao was a little puzzled. "Why do you ask? You're you. Who else can you be?"

Her expression seemed to ask if there was something wrong with his brain, making Yin Huaixi feel even more uncomfortable. "I'm asking you, who am I in your eyes?"

Yu Youyao looked at him quietly and said nothing.

The sudden silence made a sense of ruthlessness surge in Yin Huaixi's heart, and his eyes darkened. "Why aren't you saying anything?"

Yu Youyao looked at him strangely. "Yin Huaixi?!"

Yin Huaixi nodded and suddenly reacted. "You called my name just now?"

Yu Youyao was a little speechless. For some reason, she felt that the wise and mighty Yue Fei, King Dingbei, seemed to be a simple-minded person?! She suddenly shuddered.

The scene was too beautiful to look at.

She quickly shook her head to chase away the messy thoughts in her mind!

"Zhou Linghuai?"

"Cousin!"

"Yin Huaixi!"

"Brother Jingzhi!"

Yin Huaixi looked at her and said nothing.

He was a bystander, so he knew better. Yu Youyao said, "Whether it's Zhou Linghuai or Yin Huaixi, you've always been the one who treats me well. Whether it's Cousin or Yue Fei, I'm certain that it's you, not the identity the name represents. Don't ask such childish questions in the future. I remember that I already said this three years ago on the day Ye Hanyuan beat the drum."

Yin Huaixi quickly asked, "You just said that identifying with me is equivalent to accepting me?"

Yu Youyao suddenly felt that the room was a little hot and dry, so she raised her hand to pick up her teacup.

In the past, she had practiced etiquette countless times. This time, she accidentally caused the teacup to hit the bottom of the cup, resulting in a clear clang.

The atmosphere suddenly fell silent!

Yu Youyao lowered her head and drank her tea, no longer looking at Yin Huaixi.

Yin Huaixi pursed his lips tightly, but he couldn't help but smile crazily. Every time, he pursed his lips tightly, not daring to be too blatant.

It turned out that she had a reaction.

She was pretending to be calm.

On careful thought, he and Yu Youyao could be considered childhood sweethearts and had grown up intimately with each other. Now that they were suddenly talking about love, Yu Youyao felt a little shy and confused.

It was inevitable that it would be like the words of a poem. She would lower her head to the dark wall and not be called out once.

She did not know how to respond.

He did not need her to respond.

As long as she knew.

There was still time in the future.

There was no hurry.

Yin Huaixi nodded, cleared his throat, and changed the topic. "Have you felt better recently?"

Yu Youyao finally heaved a sigh of relief. Her previously ignorant and hazy feelings suddenly became clear, making her feel at a loss and not knowing how to face him.

She was not used to this sudden change.

"The climate in Quanzhou is suitable for recuperation. There's nothing to worry about in the residence. Eldest Aunt also saw that I was much better, so she brought me out to relax."

Yin Huaixi was finally relieved. “Rest your body in Quanzhou first. Yin San will stay behind and secretly protect you. Although Chun Xiao is good at fighting, Quanzhou is not like the capital. There are all kinds of people in Quanzhou.

Let Yin Shi follow you.”

Yu Youyao was about to ask who Yin Shi was when she heard Yin Huaixi clap.

A woman in black flew in from the window and knelt on one knee in front of

Yu Youyao. She cupped her fists and lowered her head. “I’m Yin Shi. Greetings,

Young Miss. Greetings, Your Highness.”

Yin Shi was tall and thin. Her face was covered by a black scarf, so his face could not be seen, only revealing a pair of willowy eyes. They were long and sharp, like knives. Her voice was cold, like gold and jade.

Yu Youyao was a little curious. “Get up quickly.”

“Thank you, Young Miss.” Yin Shi stood up cleanly and swiftly. Like a shadow, she stood behind Yu Youyao silently, as if she did not have any presence. If one did not deliberately pay attention, everyone would subconsciously ignore her.

Yin Huaixi nodded in satisfaction. “The secret guards around me are all ranked by their abilities. Yin Shi is not bad. In the future, when you walk around outside, you have to bring her along. If you encounter any trouble, leave it to Yin Shi to handle..

Chapter 763 - 763: Yearning in Dreams

Yu Youyao nodded obediently. “Okay!”

Yin Huaixi continued, “There are 100 elite troops arranged in the residence, and all of them are skilled. It won’t be a problem for them to take on ten enemies alone. Leave anything that Yin Shi can’t resolve to them. Don’t let yourself suffer.”

Yu Youyao was touched. “Alright, I’ll see you in Youzhou.”

At this moment, Madam Wang finished looking at the residence and returned to the reception pavilion.

Yin Huaixi mentioned Yin Shi.

When she heard that they were looking for someone to protect Yu Youyao’s safety, Madam Wang naturally had no objections. Seeing that it was getting late, she brought Yu Youyao back.

Yin Huaixi stood at the door and watched as the carriage gradually drove out of the alley. He instructed Chang An, “Go and ask around about the green plum fruits and buy some back.”

He wanted to see what was so special about the Green Plum Fruit.

Chang An returned in no time.

He brought back a bag of green plum fruits. “It’s a kind of licorice candied plum. It’s made of Chinese medicinal licorice and sugar water. It’s can be considered medicinal food.’

Yin Huaixi was deep in thought as he ate a piece of the greenish-yellow fruit with frosting.

An indescribable sour and sweet taste stimulated his saliva. He only felt that the fragrance was refreshing. When he ate a piece of fruit, there was still a fragrance on his teeth and cheeks.

It was a little like the plums he had eaten before, but the taste was even richer. The plums were sour and sweet, but the green plum fruits were delicious.

Yin Huaixi suddenly understood why Yu Youyao had asked him if he had eaten the green plum fruit.

The green plum fruit was like plums, but it was sweeter and mellower than plums.

“I think it’s delicious. I like it very much.” Yu Youyao had already responded implicitly.

The ignorant childhood sweetheart was enlightened.

She was implying that she was shy.

After returning to the Xie Manor, Yu Youyao brought Yin Shi to greet her grandmother.

Old Madam Xie nodded. “Since it’s someone arranged by your cousin, I don’t think there’s a problem. She can stay by your side.” Yu Youyao’s status was also important. After all, she was different from the young misses of ordinary families. It was the Xie family who had been negligent. “There are many guards in the residence. It’ll be more thorough to bring a few guards out in the future.’

She was not worried about any danger.

She was still worried that she would bump into rowdy people like Jia Changfeng.

Little Yao’er’s status was precious. Almost all the daughters of foreign ministers who had been conferred the title of relatives in history had married into the imperial family. The rules in the imperial family were strict, so it was good to be more careful.

Old Madam Xie changed the topic and asked about what Yu Youyao had seen when she went out today.

Yu Youyao’s eyes lit up, and she spoke a lot. Her face was flushed with excitement from what she had seen and heard on the streets.

After saying that, she looked at her grandmother and blinked. “Grandmother, teach me how to do business!”

Quanzhou was filled with business opportunities, and she had a treasure mountain. She was not in a hurry to earn money now. Instead, she wanted to learn how to use this treasure mountain to maximize the benefits.

When Old Madam Xie heard this, she was amused. “Alright, pick a few books about business first. Take a look yourself. If there are any questions you don’t understand, come and ask me.’

Yu Youyao knew how to look at accounts and check them. She was also proficient in managing matters.

In the past two years, she had been managing the businesses under Yu Youyao's name. She did not have to operate the business, but she had been managing the businesses behind the scenes.

In particular, her management method was delegating staff to the shop to make it self-managed. She was responsible for her own profits and losses and rewarded and punished clearly. Not only was it easy and effortless, but it also promoted healthy competition in the shop.

Many shops in the Xie Residence also used the same method.

Yu Youyao did not lack management methods for doing business.

All she lacked was knowledge and practice in doing business.

Yu Youyao accompanied her maternal grandfather and grandmother for dinner. Before she left, Chun Xiao held a stack of books, as many as five or six of them.

The next day, Yin Huaixi came to bid farewell to the Xie Residence and brought the gifts he had prepared for Yu Youyao. They were all fresh fruits and food.

The Xie Residence naturally had to hold a banquet to send him off.

Yu Youyao did not attend, which was within Yin Huaixi's expectations.

However, before Yin Huaixi left, he passed by the Water Cloud Pavilion of the Xie Residence and heard a farewell song called "Three Layers at Yang Pass." It was mellow and sincere.

Frosty nights and frosty dawns.

Hasten, hasten! After a long trek through the pass, only sorrow remains in this body.

What tough journey, what tough journey! Each moment will be tough, so please take care, please take care.

Parting words exchanged with reluctance to depart, sleeves stained with tears.

There will no longer be a friend like you.

Reminiscence, reminiscence! I think of you every hour of the day.

Like the Shen and Shang, we each occupy an opposite end of the universe. Who to rely on, who to rely on! Who can I rely on now? Each day, my mind flies to your side, my mind flies to your side.

Even a thousand rounds will come to an end, but the sadness in my heart is incessant, the immeasurable sadness.

The Chu skies and Xiang waters are far apart, but I will implore every bird and fish to bring you letters soon.

Endless letters, endless letters! I'll write endless letters, as though we are meeting in person, as though we are meeting in person.

Alas!

After today we will think of each other miles apart and meet only in our dreams.

I will listen for the sound of fluttering wild geese.

Yin Huaixi stopped and listened.

Xie Jingliu, who had sent Yin Huaixi out, subconsciously closed his fan.

She played the song three times. The sound of the zither was sad and quiet. The sound gradually slowed down and became weaker. However, the sound lingered in her mind, and she couldn't bear to leave. She only sighed.

Yin Huaixi strode into the Water Cloud Pavilion.

Yu Youyao was wearing a snow satin dress and kneeling in front of the zither table. Her fairy bun was tied diagonally on her head, but a long tassel was inserted diagonally into her hair. It hung by her ear and swayed lightly. There was a faint layer of brow powder between her eyebrows. Like a mountain after the rain, it was beautiful.

In front of her was Shao Yu, which he had personally made. Her slender fingers pressed on the strings, and she couldn't bear to leave for a long time.

"Yao Yao," Yin Huaixi called out in a low voice.

Yu Youyao looked up at him. Her eyes were slightly red, and misty, making her eyes look even more charming. "I've prepared some wine at the Water Cloud Pavilion. I'll have a drink with you as a farewell. I won't send you off outside the city tomorrow."

It wasn't that she didn't want to go.

Instead!

After sending him off for a thousand miles, they had to part in the end.

She also knew that in the past, when Yin Huaixi left, he would always leave quietly before dawn and often wouldn't give her a chance to send him off.

Yu Youyao moved to the table and sat down.

Yin Huaixi stared at her soft and light figure. There was a light belt around her waist, making her look even more delicate, like a willow branch. Her figure was already as exquisite as a woman's.

He slowly walked to sit opposite her. "The green plum fruit is sweet and sour.

It's fragrant and pleasing to the heart."

"As long as you like it." Yu Youyao's cheeks heated up. She quickly poured two glasses of wine and handed one to him.

Yin Huaixi raised his hand to take it. It was unknown if his fingers had accidentally scraped the back of her hand, but the back of her hand felt slightly numb as if it had been stung by a bee.

Yu Youyao's heart skipped a beat, and she quickly retracted her hand.

The instigator acted as if he did not see it. He brought the wine glass to his nose and sniffed it gently. "Red Daughter which has been buried in the ground for more than ten years. This is a rare good wine."

Red Daughter was glutinous rice wine. Its color was like amber, clear and pure. Its taste was even sweet, sour, bitter, spicy, fresh, and astringent. The six flavors were one, and it tasted fragrant, mellow, soft, cottony, and sweet.

It was suitable for both men and women, old and young..

Chapter 764 - 764: Deep Love

It was as if someone had seen through the bottle of Daughter's Wine that had been buried under the osmanthus tree for more than ten years. As soon as she tasted it, the fragrance assailed her nose. It was a strong and mellow feeling...

Yu Youyao panicked and quickly raised her wine glass. "This glass of wine wishes you a safe journey across the border. It will be a tough journey so take care of yourself."

With that, she drank the wine in one gulp.

Yin Huaixi stared fixedly at her as she finished her glass. There was a faint charm on her face, and the smell of alcohol entered his nose. He drank the wine, and a wisp of soft and sweetness seeped into his heart. The hints of affection were dense and lingering.

The wine fragrance also made him a little little tipsy, and even his voice was hoarse. "Where did you get the wine?"

Yu Youyao pursed her lips. "After I was born, my mother used three acres of glutinous rice to brew three jars of Shaoxing Wine and carefully sealed them under an old osmanthus tree in the Jade Courtyard. Only after Grandmother was seriously ill did she mention this to me. When I left the capital, I dug out the wine and brought it to Quanzhou."

Deeply buried with the wine was a deep love for her daughter.

As this wine was buried underground for a longer time, the fragrance of the wine became mellow, just like the deep love her mother had for her.

When her daughter got married, she would dig out the wine and use it as a congratulatory gift for the dowry. She would respectfully send it to her husband's family. According to the rules, the first three bowls of wine from the jar had to be presented to her daughter's in-laws' father-in-law, biological father, and her husband respectively. It showed her wishes for longevity and prosperity.

This was a tradition in Shaoxing, Zhejiang.

There was no such custom in the capital.

Her mother knew that she couldn't accompany her daughter as she grew up, so she brewed wine to express her deep love for her daughter and sealed it underground. She hoped that her daughter would have a bright future.

However!

The wine had already been dug out before she got married, so it wasn't appropriate to bury it back.

Today, she had opened a jar of wine to send Yin Huaixi off.

“The wine is good, and so is the person. It’s just that the time to drink isn’t good.” Yin Huaixi chuckled. “Keep the remaining wine and let’s drink it when the time is right in the future. It should have a different taste.”

Yu Youyao looked at him quietly and said nothing.

These words were too rash. Yin Huaixi rubbed his forehead. “Give me the zither. I’ll do the maintenance work for you again. I don’t think you will need to fix it until the next time we meet.’

Yu Youyao was not good at maintaining the zither. He was usually the one who helped to maintain the zither.

Yu Youyao nodded and carefully placed the zither into the zither case, then handed it to Yin Huaixi.

“Tomorrow morning, I’ll get someone to send the zither to the Xie Residence.” Yin Huaixi took it and picked up the wine jar on the table that still had most of the Red Daughter left. “I’ll wait for you!”

With that, he strode out of the Water Cloud Pavilion.

Yu Youyao looked at his slender and tall back and felt sad. However, because of his words, it was as if she had eaten a mouthful of green plum fruit.

When she first ate it, it tasted bitter.

After chewing for a long time, it was fragrant and sweet, with an endless aftertaste.

Coupled with licorice and sugar water, it was sweet and sour, moderately salty and fragrant.

After returning home, Yin Huaixi went to the study and took out all the tools needed to maintain the zither. He removed the strings and soaked them in tung oil. He would moisten the strings, reduce the friction of the zither, clean the surface, and repaint it...

A dozen steps were needed to maintain it.

Every step was very complicated.

However, Yin Huaixi was not tired and meticulously maintained every part.

After all the maintenance was completed, the entire zither looked brand new.

The next day, when Yu Youyao received the zither from Yin San, he was already in Yuzhong.

She sat in the pavilion and opened the zither box. She carefully took out the zither and played the “Three Layers at Yang Pass.”

The zither, which had been fixed, sounded like a sob when it was played.

Next!

Yu Youyao composed herself and asked Yin San to investigate the Lin family in Quanzhou and the Yan family in Shuchuan. She also instructed Manager Ren to organize all the matters related to the incense medicine business.

She did not stay idle either.

She carefully read the books about business that her grandmother had given her and felt that she had benefited a lot. If she encountered something she didn't understand, she would memorize it first and ask her grandmother for guidance.

Her family knew that she wanted to learn how to do business. Her maternal grandfather, maternal grandfather, and a few uncles and cousins would occasionally give her pointers when they were free.

It often enlightened Yu Youyao.

After Madam Wang brought her out to discuss business twice, she arranged for her to meet Lin Ruoru at the Immortal Pavilion which belonged to the Xie Residence.

Yu Youyao brought four guards, two old maids, Chun Xiao, and Yin Shi to the reserved private room.

Yin San was good at gathering information, so Yu Youyao knew the Lin and Yan families very well.

The four guards were well-trained. They consciously chose places with weak doors, windows, and roofs to guard. Two old maids guarded the door of the private room, and Yin Shi and Chun Xiao followed them into the private room.

Seeing that Lin Ruoru was already waiting in the private room, Yu Youyao was slightly stunned. She turned around and asked Chun Xiao, "What time is it now?"

Chun Xiao replied respectfully, "It's 15 minutes early."

Yu Youyao nodded.

Lin Ruoru stepped forward to greet Yu Youyao and said in a clear voice, "I've arranged to meet the County Head at nine. The County Head has arrived 15 minutes ago and isn't late. It's because I've heard of the County Head's good reputation for a long time and have long wanted to befriend her, so I came early to show my respect. I hope I didn't offend you."

Her voice was clear, but very crisp.

Today, the County Head of Shaoyi was the host and had asked her to meet her. The County Head of Shaoyi was the host, and she was a guest. According to the etiquette of the host and guest, she only needed to come over at the agreed time.

However, this County Head of Shaoyi was from a noble family and had a noble status. She could not be negligent.

Courtesy came first, and etiquette came second.

Lin Ruoru arrived an hour early and was waiting. On the one hand, she was not sure of the County Head of Shaoyi's personality, so she could only be more cautious. She would try her best not to offend her.

On the other hand, she had no intention of probing her. Although she was not afraid of the County Head of Shaoyi, since they had business to discuss, it was still necessary to test her personality.

She had deliberately come early to see if the County Head of Shaoyi would arrive early, at the appointed time, or late.

The most important thing in doing business was sincerity.

Her arrival time directly reflected the other party's sincerity.

If she arrived early, it meant that the County Head of Shaoyi valued etiquette and this meeting. If she did not emphasize her status, this business could be discussed on equal grounds.

This was the best situation.

If they met at the agreed time, it would be a little pretentious for the County Head of Shaoyi as the host. However, her status was important, so it was not a big deal for her to be pretentious.

If the County Head of Shaoyi had arrived late, not only would that show off her status, but she was also putting on airs. Clearly, she was not someone easy to get along with. It was best to keep a respectful distance. There was no need to talk about cooperation.

Of course, the County Head of Shaoyi was also very smart. After entering the private room and seeing her, she asked about the time.

On the surface, the County Head of Shaoyi seemed to think that she was late and was worried that she was rude and neglected a guest so she confirmed the time with the servants beside her..

Chapter 765: Who Can You Blame?

How could she really be late?

She had sensed her probing and expressed her politeness as a host.

One had the intention to probe, while the other had the intention to cooperate.

With just a few words, her sincerity was obvious.

Both sides were sincere, so there was much room for negotiation. This business discussion was already 70% done.

Her maternal grandfather had said that one had to be sincere and trustworthy in doing business. Sincerity.

Trust and credibility.

Yu Youyao smiled. "Miss Lin, you're too polite. I hope we can have a chance to cooperate."

The two of them looked at each other and smiled with admiration for each other. Smart people often had a tacit understanding. It did not take much sharpness and probing to understand if they could get along with each other."

They were both straightforward people. After greeting each other and exchanging a few simple words, they went straight to the point.

Yu Youyao smiled and said, "I have a few rouge shops under my name. In the past, I used the spices and medicinal herbs from the Lin family, and it was also Miss Lin who was in charge. However, I specially arranged to meet Miss Lin today not just for the supply of the jewelry shop."

Lin Ruoru nodded. "Please elaborate."

Only then did Yu Youyao continue, “The Jade Pavilion has to develop new things and expand its operations. There are many types of medicinal herbs and spices needed, and the quantity is relatively large. The Lin family’s medicinal herbs and spices are not inexhaustible. Every family has a certain number of supplies. I hope that the Lin family can supply them to me first. I’m willing to increase the price of the medicine by 5%. I won’t let Miss Lin suffer.” Lin Ruoru understood.

She had specially asked about Yu Youyao and knew that Yu Youyao had an Auntie who had served the Empress Dowager in the palace in the past. She had learned how to make incense from this Auntie and her incense was quite famous in the capital. It made sense for Eldest Miss Yu to want to expand the business of the Jade Shop.

With Eldest Miss Yu’s reputation, many people would probably buy her items.

It was not a problem to increase the supply. If Lin Ruoru wanted to befriend Yu Youyao, she would not make excuses for such a small matter.

What was rare was that Yu Youyao was very tactful. She knew everything about the supply of spices and medicinal herbs and understood that spices and medicinal herbs were rare. She took the initiative to increase the price by 5%.

Eldest Miss Yu was sincere, and Lin Ruoru also wanted to befriend her. She hurriedly said, “It’s not a problem to increase the supply. The Xie family is on good terms with the Lin family, and I feel like old friends with the County Head at first sight. There’s no need to increase the price by 5%. Let’s just maintain the original price. Take it as a gesture of friendship. What do you think?”

In any case, it wasn’t a loss.

This 5% price increase could be considered a favor.

Yu Youyao smiled. “Miss Lin, you’re a straightforward person. I’m the one who is taking advantage of you. I can’t refuse, lest you say that I’m still pretending after taking advantage of you.”

Lin Ruoru also smiled. “Alright, County Head is also on the same side as me so it saves me the trouble of talking. You don’t know this, when I discuss business with others, it usually gets annoying.”

As soon as she said this, the two of them became much closer.

Yu Youyao took a small booklet and handed it to Lin Ruoru. “This is a booklet for future supplies. I’ll have to trouble Sister Lin in the future.”

Lin Ruoru took the booklet and clicked her tongue.

There were more than 200 types of spices and medicinal herbs listed in the book and she wanted more than ten times the original supply. Lin Ruoru almost destroyed the book on the spot and left.

It was a mistake.

She had originally thought that if Jade Restaurant wanted to expand its operations and innovate, it wouldn’t be too ridiculous no matter how much it expanded, so she spoke too readily.

However, since she had already said it, how could she take it back?

Yu Youyao had also taken the initiative to increase the price of the medicine by 5% previously. She had no intention of tricking her. She had tricked herself.

Who could she blame?

Lin Ruoru looked at her faintly. "The supply is a little big. You're really not holding back. "

Yu Youyao pursed her lips and chuckled. "The Lin family is doing a big business. My supply is just a drop in the bucket. The Lin family can easily do it. "

"It seems that County Head came prepared today." Lin Ruoru understood immediately when she heard this. Yu Youyao learned about the Lin Residence's supply situation in advance. The supply requirements in this booklet depended on the ingredients.

If she refused, it would seem too insincere.

Yu Youyao only smiled. "Who doesn't want to be prepared when doing business? If I weren't prepared, I don't think Miss Lin would be at ease doing business with me.'

She spoke as if she was a businessman.

Lin Ruoru smiled faintly. "You know the Lin family's supply situation, so you definitely know that medicinal herbs are rare resources. There's a shortage of them in the market. County Head's demand is not small. If I agree to supply them to you, the other merchants' supply will be relatively reduced. The Lin family will definitely offend someone. I'm afraid no one will be willing to do such a thankless business.'

Yu Youyao also knew that this was just Lin Ruoru's probing words. She had already said that she would agree to supply the goods. What she said was like spilled water. Businessmen valued integrity. If Lin Ruoru retorted, she would

not be able to maintain the word "trust". This would violate the principles of businessmen.

Lin Ruoru was not so stupid.

Yu Youyao also agreed. "In the future, when Miss Lin goes to Jade Pavilion, I'll give you a 20% discount."

Lin Ruoru did not think much of it. How could she not have enough money to buy incense?

At this moment, Lin Ruoru did not know that not long after, the supply of goods from Jade Pavilion would not be able to meet the demand. Only then did she realize how much convenience Yu Youyao had given her.

Of course, these conveniences were naturally incomparable to business.

Women cared about beauty and often spent all of their money on beauty.

Yu Youyao was already prepared. She turned to look at Chun Xiao.

Chun Xiao quickly handed a jade box to Young Miss.

Yu Youyao took the box and pushed it in front of Lin Ruoru. "I heard that when Madam Lin went to the mountains to pick medicinal herbs in her early years, she accidentally injured her legs and this was the root of her illness. Every time it was cold, she would suffer from pain in her muscles and bones. My cousin used to have a similar illness. This is the ointment I concocted myself. It's good for treating muscles and bones pain. The effect is very strong. Why don't you use it?"

Lin Ruoru had asked about Yu Youyao, so she naturally knew that Zhou

Linghuai's legs had already recovered.

It seemed that this ointment was indeed quite extraordinary.

Thinking of how her mother's old illness had acted up recently and her legs had become swollen and painful, she couldn't help but feel very tempted. No matter how effective the ointment was, she accepted it.

If this ointment was really useful, with the word "filial piety", not to mention increasing the supply, she was even willing to give more benefits.

Therefore, business did not only have to be done through negotiation.

They had to learn how to do favors.

This was over.

Yu Youyao picked up her tea and took a sip. She said unhurriedly, "The medicinal herbs produced in the Ten Great Daoist Lands are all different. I still have more than ten medicinal herbs shops in the country and an escort business under my name. I'm lucky to have befriended Miss Lin. It's time to expand the medicinal herbs business.."

Chapter 766: Great Ambition

There were many suppliers from more than ten pharmaceutical shops. With the escort business as a link, if it continued to expand, this would no longer be a small business. "The medicinal herbs of the ten great Daoist lands would become available, and the benefits were very huge. If Miss Lin is interested, I can increase the price of the original medicine by 30%. If there's money, everyone can earn it. If there's business, everyone can do it together." Lin Ruoru's heart was beating wildly.

The escort business was Yu Youyao's, and she was also in charge of the marketing. The Lin family was only in charge of supplying the goods, so they could gain an additional 30% of the profits on the original basis. This was a big business that guaranteed profits.

No one wouldn't be tempted.

After the huge excitement, Lin Ruoru gradually calmed down. After thinking about it carefully, Yu Youyao's words and actions from the moment she entered the private room immediately caused a layer of cold sweat to appear on her back.

Yu Youyao had clearly come prepared.

First, she used the business of the Jade Pavilion to establish a preliminary trust and relationship with her. Then, she proposed to expand the medicinal herbs business.

She took the initiative to increase the price of the medicine.

Businessmen valued profits. With 30% of the profits as bait, how could the Lin family not be willing to give the medicinal herbs to others at a low price?

If it were anyone else, Lin Ruoru would have been a little wary. However, Yu Youyao was from an aristocratic family and had a noble status. Furthermore, she had the Xie family, the richest family in Quanzhou, as an external family. Naturally, her words were trustworthy.

Lin Ruoru looked at Yu Youyao with a complicated expression. "The County Head has a big appetite!"

Was this the eldest daughter of the first wife who had been raised by an aristocratic family? Was she the County Head of Shaoyi personally conferred by the Imperial Court?

She was calm and magnanimous, not obsessed with small benefits. She would give in when she should and take risks when she should. With just a few words, Yu Youyao had already taken control of the overall situation.

More importantly, working with such a person was clearly the most reassuring.

She had no reason to refuse.

However, Lin Ruoru also knew that she was not the only one who could take on this business. Yu Youyao's ambition aligned with her, the Lin family, and the Yan family behind her.

The medicinal herbs produced in the Ten Great Dao Lands were different.

The Lin family was the only family in the medicinal herb production area in Jiangnan.

What about Shuchuan?

Her mother had no children. Due to the Yan family, although her father did not dote on his concubines more than his wife, her mother's life in the Lin family was not easy.

As the daughter of the first wife, she was unwilling to give up her huge family business that belonged to her and her mother to a concubine's child.

Therefore, in the future, her status in the Lin family would definitely require the support of her mother and the Yan family. It was impossible for her to watch helplessly as the Lin family benefited and grew while the Yan family remained weak.

The Lin and Yan families were in-laws, so they could earn money together. This was in line with the situation of two families working together to win.

Not only had Yu Youyao calculated all the benefits, but she had also calculated everyone's hearts.

This County Head of Shaoyi was really too impressive.

Indeed!

Yu Youyao continued, "The medicinal herbs of the Dao lands are the agreed standards for the quality of the medicinal herbs. The medicinal herbs are specially nurtured under specific growing conditions, such as the environment, climate, and many other factors. There will be medicinal herbs that are suitable for production, high quality, have high production rates, are refined, have outstanding curative effects, and have local characteristics." The Compendium of Herbs recorded:

Whenever medicine is picked, one must choose from suitable land and there is a basis for using different types of medicine...

All grass, wood, and insects had their origins.

Roots, leaves, flowers, and fruits were picked at the right time.

If the location is wrong, the taste would be different.

If the timing is wrong, the smell would be incomplete.

Therefore, the medicinal herbs produced in various areas were irreplaceable.

Yu Youyao's appetite was really big. A pharmaceutical business in Jiangnan couldn't satisfy her. Her cooperation with the Yan family was also within her calculations.

In fact, after she cooperated with the Lin and Yan families, she could even use the powerful advantage of the medicinal herbs of the two great paths to continue to cooperate with the other medicinal herbs areas.

Yu Youyao dared to do what she wanted to do. She wanted to do the medicinal herbs business in the top ten medicinal herbs areas in the country.

If others wanted to do this, they would first have to face the problem of channels. Without channels, it meant that they would have to bear a huge risk and losses.

On the other hand, the escort business created a channel for Yu Youyao to exchange information.

Lin Ruoru's mouth was dry. She gritted her teeth and said, "As you said, this is a big business. I have to discuss it with the elders in the family before making a decision."

Yu Youyao nodded. "Miss Lin, you can discuss it slowly. These are all matters for the future. At the moment, there's a more urgent business that needs the support of the Lin and Yan families."

Lin Ruoru was shocked again. She braced herself and asked, "Please elaborate!"

Yu Youyao took another box from Chun Xiao's hand and placed it on the table. She gently lifted the lid. "There's a drought in the north, and the people are starving and cold. The Imperial Court has already appointed officials to relief the disaster victims. I also have the intention to do my best for the Imperial Court and the people. I want to buy a batch of medicinal herbs from the Lin and Yan families to help the North. The price of the medicinal herbs will be based on the market price. This is a banknote of 300,000 taels of silver. Consider it a deposit."

Lin Ruoru looked at Yu Youyao with a complicated expression. "County Head's plan is flawless. I'm impressed."

Purchasing medicinal herbs from the Lin and Yan families for disaster relief was a good sell. It also expressed her sincerity for the cooperation between the Lin and Yan families, and also showed her financial resources to the Lin and Yan families.

Shaoyi County mainly purchased medicinal herbs from the Lin and Yan families for disaster relief. The Lin and Yan families would definitely take on the responsibility. As suppliers, the Lin and Yan families easily hooked up with the County Head of Shaoyi and earned a good reputation.

Yu Youyao did not deny it. “Everyone in the world values fame and fortune.

However, fame comes first, and benefits come later. The fundamental reason is that fame is the foundation of the family inheritance. Only fame is beneficial.’

Fame was not easy to obtain. It often took years, decades, or even generations to accumulate it. The Lin and Yan families had also been managed for generations to reach their current scale.

Lin Ruoru agreed deeply. “County Head, you’re wise.”

Now, a good opportunity to seek fame was right in front of them. It was easy to obtain. There was no need for the Lin and Yan families to pay anything. They could even make a profit. Even if it was a pirate ship, the Lin and Yan families would dare to take it.

After this matter, the subsequent medicinal herbs cooperation was almost a foregone conclusion.

The County Head of Shaoyi took every step carefully, pressing forward step by step. There was almost nothing for her to do.

Even so, Lin Ruoru did not dare to agree easily. She could only say, “I’ll answer you as soon as possible after I discuss it with my elders.”

Since she wanted medicinal herbs for disaster relief, the amount would not be too large.

There was still a lot of preparation to do at home.

Yu Youyao expressed her understanding, so she took two medicinal herbs booklets and handed them to Lin Ruoru. “In that case, I’ll wait for good news from Miss Lin.’

Eldest Miss Yu really did not hesitate at all. One of the medicinal herbs listed in the two medicinal herbs book corresponded to the Jiangnan medicinal herb production area, and the other corresponded to the Shuchuan medicinal herb production area.

In addition to some medicinal herbs for cold and flu, there was also a large portion of medicinal herbs to reduce inflammation and stop bleeding. The amount needed was really not small.

However, there were many kinds of medicinal herbs for anti-inflammatory medicine that had a wide range of uses to begin with. Therefore, Lin Ruoru did not pay much attention to it..

Chapter 767 - 767: The Building Is About to Fall

Lin Ruoru took a deep breath. From the beginning, the County Head of Shaoyi was not someone she could deal with.

Yu Youyao was playing a high-end chess game. It was no longer just an exchange of chess moves, but there was also a psychological strategy. Compared to her, she was a small fry.

What would happen if a small fry was being asked to join a high-end game?!

If he was asked, he would do it!

This was a very good opportunity for Lin Ruoru. As long as she worked with Yu Youyao, at least half of the Lin family’s business would be in her hands in the future. This was a conservative estimate.

If their cooperation could deepen further, the Lin family would be hers in the future.

With this noble lady from a noble family behind her, her status in the Lin family would also rise.

After figuring this out, Lin Ruoru was filled with motivation. "Eldest Miss Yu, don't worry. I'm very interested in the cooperation you've proposed. I'll definitely do my best to facilitate this cooperation."

As soon as she finished speaking, it was as if a bucket of cold water had been poured on her.

Lin Ruoru immediately calmed down. All of this was probably within Yu Youyao's scheme, Yu Youyao clearly knew that with her current status in the Lin family, she definitely wouldn't be able to make such a big decision. However, she didn't look for the head of the Lin family directly. Instead, she took a detour and found her.

Most importantly, she could be used as a bridge to communicate with the Lin and Yan families and she would support her rise. Only then could the two sides cooperate better and the future cooperation would be smoother.

Yu Youyao had taken a fancy to the Lin family and the Yan family behind her. If she wanted to control the Lin family and the Yan family, she had to first create an opportunity for her to rise to power.

She also needed a chance to cooperate with Yu Youyao to consolidate her status in the Lin family. She needed the powerful backing of the County Head of Shaoyi even more.

Yu Youyao had calculated that she wouldn't refuse.

In order to reach a cooperation with Yu Youyao, she did not hesitate to use the Yan Residence as a bargaining chip.

Only then did Lin Ruoru truly realize how shrewd this smiling girl in front of her was. Throughout the entire conversation, she had been completely led by the nose by the other party's huge benefits. She realized belatedly that from the beginning to the end, she had been in a trap.

"It's a wise decision." Yu Youyao picked up her wine glass. "This glass of wine is to give a toast to Miss Lin. I wish us a happy cooperation."

She raised her head and drained her glass.

Lin Ruoru placed her hand on her wine glass and hesitated for a long time.

Then, she gritted her teeth, picked up her wine glass, and toasted Yu Youyao.

"Happy cooperation."

She knew that the cooperation that Yu Youyao was talking about was not directed at the Lin and Yan families.

Instead, it was her and Yu Youyao.

Yu You would support her to rise up the ranks, and she was the bridge between the Lin and Yan families, bringing benefits to Yu Youyao.

Both sides had an unspoken mutual understanding and formed a rather stable and mutually beneficial alliance. Yu Youyao's goal of meeting Lin Ruoru was perfectly achieved.

At the moment, when she expanded the incense business of the Jade Pavilion, a portion of the rouge, powder, makeup, and so on were all managed by the Jade Pavilion. The other portion of incense medicine with special effects, such as cold-repelling incense, Essence Nourishing Pills, and some medicinal oil to relax the tendons and meridians, were all shipped directly to the North as military supplies.

The medicinal herbs of the ten great Daoist lands were greatly available. Other than the Imperial Court, she would benefit as long as the Yue Fei's Residence could obtain them.

Later on, she used the excuse of disaster relief to buy a large number of medicinal herbs. Some of them were indeed used for the refugees, but the other portion was bought for the You army.

Of course, even brothers had to settle accounts clearly.

These supplies were not for free. Even Yue Fei could not give them to the North King.

After the business discussion, the two of them chatted.

Although the two of them had just met, their knowledge of the world was not weak. They chatted a lot, and the more they chatted, the more they clicked.

Lin Ruoru changed the topic and suddenly mentioned the imperial examination. "By the way, a few days ago, the Imperial Court reopened. This time, the person who passed the imperial examination is Prince Song of the Zhenguo Marquis Residence." Her tone inevitably revealed a hint of surprise and praise. "True gold is not afraid of fire. Prince Song is indeed Mr. Xian

Yun's disciple."

Yu Youyao was stunned.

Ever since she came to Quanzhou, she had not paid attention to the movements in the capital for a long time. As she was filial, she usually lived in seclusion and rarely went out.

Everyone around her knew that she had a deep relationship with her grandmother. They were worried that she would miss her grandmother and this was not beneficial to her health. As a result, people rarely even mentioned anything about the capital.

Yu Youyao couldn't help but ask, "When did the Imperial Court reopen?"

Lin Ruoru was a little surprised that she did not know. "It opened in mid-October. At that time, you were still on the merchant ship heading to Quanzhou. Due to the last imperial examination, there was a huge case of fraud. Recently, the court has not been peaceful, and the drought in the north is inevitable. This examination is far less lively than before, and the commoners did not dare to discuss it wantonly. It was only when the Imperial Court released the rankings not long ago that it became lively for a few days."

Yu Youyao sighed softly. Quanzhou was a place of trade. It valued business more than literature, and it was also when one was far away from the authority the powers that would not intervene. A

grand event like the imperial examination would definitely cause a commotion in the capital for a while.

Even if people were sitting at home, the news would still reach their ears. However, after arriving in Quanzhou, everyone only discussed it for a while before stopping.

Lin Ruoru seemed to be very interested. "In this Imperial Examination, the examinees who were exempted from the second examination and obtained the title of tribute student will directly enter the palace to participate in the palace examination."

Yu Youyao agreed deeply. "The Imperial Examination is a grand occasion for the Imperial Court to recruit talents. It can't be delayed from April to now. The Imperial Court definitely wants to settle this matter as soon as possible. With the previous examination, the candidates who can continue to be referenced are all really talented and have character. There's no harm in missing a second examination."

Most of the candidates who were mainly referenced for this process were released from prison alive after the previous fraud case. Now that the Imperial Court was bold and unrestrained as it reorganized Zhejiang and the southeast coast, it was a troubled period. When they needed people and if nothing unexpected happened, this batch of candidates would be highly valued by the Imperial Court.

However!

The prosperity of official governance was in the investigation.

The future generation of leaders of the country were determined by the imperial examination.

The Imperial Court was exclusively used to investigate and impeach hundreds of officials. It was a division of the emperor's eyes and ears.

There were many evil ministers in the court who formed alliances and wreaked havoc.

Hundreds of officials were despicable, greedy, and corrupted.

They enabled academic injustice, change, and chaos to happen.

Together with officials from the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs that determined the promotion and demotion of officials, the case would be tried and judged fairly with the Ministry of Justice and the Court of Judicial Review.

They were ordered to comfort the outside world and to patrol and supervise the various places to ensure they were following orders.

All of the above were the responsibilities of the Imperial Court. They investigated court matters and kept a strict rule over the higher-ups and the lower-ups. They would also govern the rise of the officials. They would be the eyes and ears of the emperor whom hundreds of officials bowed down to. Only then could the emperor manage the affairs of the people well and the court could prosper.

However, now, the eunuchs in the Imperial Court were stealing power and the cabinet still held power, causing chaos in the court.

It was already obvious that the Great Zhou Dynasty was dealing with corruption.

The fraud in the previous examination also indicated to a certain extent that the country was about to fall apart..

Chapter 768 - 768: Teasing

The examination was delayed all the way until November. People only thought that since the imperial court was in a mess, it made sense that the examination kept getting pushed back.

However, Yu Youyao knew that after Yu Zongshen became the Cabinet Grand Secretary, he placed the reopening of the imperial examination as priority. The candidates would have been able to enter the examination hall at the end of August at the latest.

Unfortunately, Yu Zongshen had lost his position, and the cabinet was busy fighting for power and benefits. This caused the imperial examination to be delayed again and again.

If the imperial examination did not prosper, how could the country prosper?

All of this showed that the Great Zhou Dynasty was about to collapse.

It was also because she had seen through this that Yu Youyao no longer paid attention to the news in the capital as it was unnecessary.

Yu Youyao asked again, “When will the palace examination be held?”

Lin Ruoru smiled. “Today is the day of the palace examination. Everyone is guessing that the title of the top scholar in this palace examination will definitely belong to Heir Song.”

Yu Youyao deeply agreed. The three princes were vying for the throne. There was a turbulent undercurrent in both the court and the public. The officials grading the papers would be coming from various parties and factions.

Every faction had to think of a way to suppress the other party’s talents during the process of grading the papers. They couldn’t do it openly, so they had to choose to pick on the mistakes in the examination papers.

Song Mingzhao was still able to stand out under such circumstances. His reputation as an outstanding talent was not undeserved.

After lunch, Lin Ruoru couldn’t wait to go home and let her mother try the effect of the ointment. Yu Youyao was filial and didn’t have an elder to accompany her, so it wasn’t appropriate for her to stay outside for long.

The two of them left the restaurant together. After taking a few steps, Yu Youyao heard a hooligan’s voice behind her.

“Oh, which family’s young lady is this? Why is she showing her face in the restaurant? Is she meeting a man in a private room with that b*tch, Lin

Ruoru?”

Jia Changfeng, who she had seen on the streets previously, had brought more than ten guards and surrounded her. In the blink of an eye, he blocked Yu Youyao’s path.

Jia Changfeng's face was red. He looked at Yu Youyao with a lecherous gaze and his tone was very arrogant.

A guard took a step forward and spoke to Old Madam Sun.

Old Madam Sun quickly came to Yu Youyao's side and whispered into her ear, "The guard on the roof saw that after Young Miss entered the Immortal

Pavilion, the servant in front of Jia Changfeng was sneaking around the place. Not long after he left, Jia Changfeng came over and even ordered a private room adjacent to Young Miss'. As soon as Young Miss left the private room, Jia Changfeng, suddenly stopped drinking and followed you out."

Yu Youyao was deep in thought. Did Jia Changfeng watch her go out just to tease her?

Lin Ruoru's face turned green with anger. She shook the long whip in her hand and pointed it at Jia Changfeng. "The County Head of Shaoyi and I are only discussing matters in the private room. Don't spout nonsense here."

People in Quanzhou were open-minded and it was not unusual for women to do business. However, a woman like Lin Ruoru who was in her prime and had yet to get married, would definitely be criticized for coming out and entering a restaurant like that.

Most of the businessmen were men, and Lin Ruoru often stayed in the same room with men to discuss business. As time passed, there would naturally be a lot of gossip.

Lin Ruoru did not care about this. She was determined to take over the Lin family and recruit a son-in-law in the future. She would give birth to a son and a daughter who will take after her surname.

However, Yu Youyao was a noble lady. How could this bastard tarnish her reputation?

Lin Ruoru deliberately emphasized the words "County Head of Shaoyi." Although Jia Changfeng was drunk, he was not so drunk that he could not hear clearly.

A noble lady from the capital was not someone the son of a local official could bully.

However, Jia Changfeng deliberately pretended not to understand and laughed. "Why are you pretending to be chaste? You little wh*re, don't you often stay in the same room with a man to 'discuss matters'? Haha... 'discuss matters'. What is there for men and women to talk about? Do you take off your clothes and then talk? Hahaha..."

He smiled, and the guards who were with him also laughed. Pairs of lustful eyes looked at Lin Ruoru and Yu Youyao.

"How dare you!" Chun Xiao berated. She took a step forward and stood in front of Young Miss.

These unbearable words made Lin Ruoru's face turn red. "Jia Changfeng, you bastard, watch your mouth. Otherwise, I won't be polite to you."

Jia Changfeng laughed. "Come, let's go to the private room together. How can you be rude to me? Do you want me to take off my pants or call you Madam?"

I'll do as you say, haha..."

Lin Ruoru's face turned red. Just as she was about to whip him, Yu Youyao held her hand and asked coldly, "I'm the eldest daughter of the Left Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs and the 13th Imperial

Censor, Lord Yu. I'm the County Head of Shaoyi personally conferred by the Emperor. I wonder what this young master's name is and why he's blocking my way."

Jia Changfeng's eyes flashed, but it was as if he hadn't heard her. "What, what did you say just now? The wind was too strong, so I didn't hear you clearly. I just want to invite you to the private room to 'discuss matters.' Will you do me the honor..."

Yu Youyao's gaze was indifferent. It did not matter if he really did not hear her or if he pretended not to. What was important was Jia Changfeng's attitude.

Lin Ruoru held her breath and said angrily, "Why are you being polite to such a person? This dog is clearly pretending to be a crazy drunkard. How dare he be impudent here? Let's go!"

Although she wasn't afraid of such a scheming thing, it was still really disgusting. There was no need to pester him here, in case he caused trouble. Lin Ruoru pulled Yu Youyao away.

However, Jia Changfeng did not relent. "Little lady, don't leave. Let's 'discuss matters'. Come with me to the private room to 'discuss'..."

The passers-by who overheard felt that Jia Changfeng was crazy. A concubine's son actually dared to tease a noble lady from the capital on the streets. He was probably drunk stupid.

Yu Youyao turned around and instructed Yin Shi, "Break his leg!"

Yin Shi stepped forward like an afterimage and kicked Jia Changfeng to the ground. Jia Changfeng fell to the ground with a bang and let out a wail. "Ah, ah! Someone! Someone!"

The guards beside her rushed forward. The guards of the Xie Residence hurriedly stepped forward and stood in front of Yu Youyao.

Yin Shi raised his foot and stepped on Jia Changfeng's knee. With a crack, the wail that Jia Changfeng was about to utter immediately turned into a scream. It was so painful that tears flowed freely on the spot. The guards present were so frightened that their legs trembled on the spot, and they did not dare to come up.

Yu Youyao was neither happy nor angry. She looked at this scene calmly, but she exuded an innate noble and dignified aura, making everyone present keep quiet out of fear.

This was a noble lady who had come from the capital. A county official was inferior to a current official. She did not hesitate to break the legs of the son of an official.

Jia Changfeng fell to the ground and screamed. Yin Shi retracted his leg..

Chapter 769 - 769: Calamity

Yu Youyao added calmly, "I meant break his legs."

Yin Shi understood and stepped on Jia Changfeng's other leg. Jia Changfeng rolled around in pain. "Ah, you, you b*tch. How dare you. I won't let you off..."

Yu Youyao continued, "If you can't speak human language, don't open your mouth in the future."

Yin Shi squatted down and took out a porcelain bottle. He poured out a brownish-black pill and pinched Jia Changfeng's face, forcing him to open his mouth and stuff the pill into his mouth, making him swallow it.

Although Jia Changfeng did not know what medicine the other party had forced him to take, he could guess that it was bad. He desperately clutched his neck, wanting to vomit the medicine out.

After a while, he realized that he couldn't make a sound.

Jia Changfeng's eyes widened in horror. He opened his mouth and kept making sounds.

Everyone present widened their eyes in shock.

Lin Ruoru was even more stunned on the spot. Although she was not afraid of Jia Changfeng, she would not fight him easily.

Yu Youyao said calmly, "This can be considered a small punishment. However, it's the father's fault for not teaching his son well. As an official of a prefecture, the Jiazhou Residence indulged his son who bullies men and women on the streets. When I return home, I'll naturally report it to the Imperial Court."

The County Head had the right to report to the Imperial Court. In addition, Yu Youyao's father was the 13th censor. The Jiazhou Residence indulged his son, so the Imperial Court would definitely impeach him.

Her words were not a bluff.

The guards who had come with Jia Changfeng were immediately frightened out of their wits. They immediately lifted their young master and slipped away faster than a rabbit.

Lin Ruoru watched as Jia Changfeng left. She unclenched her fists and apologized to Yu Youyao. "County Head, this matter today was also caused by me. You were implicated and your reputation was damaged."

Yu Youyao shook her head. "It's not your fault. You don't have to blame yourself."

Lin Ruoru couldn't help but smile bitterly, and her face was a little pale. "I don't have a good reputation in Quanzhou. Jia Changfeng is very lecherous. Every time he sees me, he will tease me a little. However, because of the Lin and Yan families, he didn't really attack me. I don't know what guts he has today to dare to tease you."

Yu Youyao said calmly, "I didn't suffer. He was also punished."

Lin Ruoru looked worried. She hesitated for a moment before saying, "The

Jiazhou Residence's influence covers the whole of Quanzhou. It's said that a strong dragon can't suppress a local snake. Moreover, Jia Changfeng is the son of Jiazhou Residence's beloved concubine. You..."

It was fine if his leg was broken, but why did she have to poison him until he was mute?

The Jiazhou Residence would definitely not let it go.

Yu Youyao said calmly, "I've already have bad blood with Jia Changfeng. He is arrogant and despotic, so he definitely would hold a grudge. No matter what, I'll offend him. In order to prevent endless trouble in the future, it's better to settle it once and for all and make him unable to cause trouble. He's a cripple anyway. It's impossible for the Jiazhou Residence to make things difficult for me on the surface for a piece of trash."

Of course, all of this was because Jia Changfeng was the son of a concubine.

If it were the legitimate son, she wouldn't have been so ruthless.

Besides, she had other reasons for doing this.

Lin Ruoru came to a realization. "When you mentioned later that you wanted to report to the Imperial Court, the Jiazhou Residence shouldn't resent you for crippling his son. Instead, they should blame his useless son for causing trouble and provoking the dignified County Head. He even implicated the family and caused a commotion in the royal court. Jia Changfeng's concubine wouldn't dare to brag anymore."

If this matter was resolved, she would have nothing to do with it.

The County Head of Shaoyi was really impressive.

Yu Youyao smiled but said nothing.

With the matter resolved perfectly, Lin Ruoru's expression relaxed and she bade Yu Youyao farewell.

Yu Youyao also got into the carriage. As soon as the curtain of the carriage was lowered, her expression immediately darkened. She instructed Yin Shi, "Send someone to keep an eye on the Jia Residence immediately. Don't let go of any commotion. Also, investigate the recent movements of the Jiazhou Residence on where they went and who they've interacted with. Tell me about the background of these people."

Yin Shi agreed.

At this moment, the Xie Residence had already received the news. Xie Jingliu and Xie Jingzhou quickly brought the guards to the Immortal Pavilion.

On the way, she encountered Yu Youyao's carriage returning to the residence.

The two of them asked Yu Youyao about it. After knowing that she was fine, they heaved a sigh of relief.

Xie Jingzhou went to the Immortal Pavilion to deal with the aftermath.

Xie Jingliu accompanied Yu Youyao back to the residence.

As soon as she entered, Old Madam Xie welcomed her anxiously.

Seeing that Yu Youyao was fine, she felt a little relieved. "Little Yao'er, I heard that you met Jia Changfeng at the Immortal Pavilion today. Did he bully you..."

Yu Youyao nodded. "Yes, he said some unbearable things."

Old Madam Xie's expression was a little ugly. She held her granddaughter's hand and softened her voice. "It's common for a girl to walk around outside. Don't worry. Although our Xie family is a

merchant family, not everyone can bully us. Don't worry, the Xie family will definitely take care of this matter. We won't let you suffer for no reason."

The reason why the Xie Residence could become the richest family in Quanzhou was because of the huge connections behind them. At the very least, the Jia Prefecture had been officials in Quanzhou for more than ten years and was in harmony with the Xie Residence.

"There's no need for that." Sensing her grandmother's anger, Yu Youyao said gently, "I've always taken revenge on the spot. I asked Yin Shi to break his legs and feed him mute medicine."

Old Madam Xie was shocked for a moment, then she smiled. "Well done. Since we've offended such a despicable and shameless person, we can't show mercy.

Otherwise, it will definitely become worse and cause endless trouble." The two of them entered the house together.

Old Master Xie and her three uncles were all waiting in the house.

Yu Youyao explained the situation with Jia Changfeng and skipped over the despicable and shameless words he said. "...After I entered the Immortal Pavilion, the guards saw Jia Changfeng's servant behaving suspiciously near the place. After that, Jia Changfeng came to the Immortal Pavilion and even booked a private room adjacent to me. When I left the Immortal Pavilion, he followed me out."

Xie Jingliu's expression was solemn. "He followed you into the Immortal Pavilion."

Yu Youyao nodded. "Lin Ruoruo was so angry that she couldn't stand Jia

Changfeng's dirty words and deliberately mentioned my identity as the County Head. I felt that something was amiss, so I deliberately used my status as a member of our family to test Jia Changfeng further. However, Jia Changfeng pretended to be a crazy drunkard and acted as if he didn't hear me clearly."

Old Master Xie's expression gradually darkened. "It seems that Jia Changfeng knew your identity long ago and deliberately followed you into the Immortal Residence. It wasn't a coincidence that he used alcohol as an excuse to tease you later."

The atmosphere in the living room was heavy.

Madam Wang's face darkened. "Where did a fourth-grade official's concubine's son get the guts to humiliate Little Yao'er? You have to know that not only is Little Yao'er the daughter of a noble family, but she's also the County Head personally conferred by the Imperial Court. Her status is precious. Isn't the Jia Residence afraid of becoming enemies with the entire Yu Clan?"

How could a mere official have the confidence to be enemies with a noble family?

Something was wrong..

Chapter 770 - 770: Afraid of Shooting a Rat

Xie Jingliu thought for a moment and pointed out the crux of the matter. "Jia Changfeng is arrogant and despotic, and he's not a blind fool. He's done a lot of bullying, but he's always chosen his

targets carefully. He even has to be wary of Lin Ruoru, but he has his eyes on Little Yao'er. Somethings wrong."

"The Xie family is superior to the Lin family. In the past, Jia Changfeng did not dare to offend our family. Now, although he clearly knew Little Yao'er's identity, he still dared to mess with her. Not only does he not take the

Imperial Court and the Yu Clan seriously, but he also the Xie family."

Little Yao'er was first conferred the title of County Head of Shaoyi by the Emperor to represent the noble clans.

Next, she was the daughter of a noble family and the young miss of an official.

Lastly, she was also the granddaughter of the Xie family.

With these three identities added together, other than the fact that they were really blind, no one would deliberately provoke her.

Yu Youyao said, "Jia Changfeng isn't looking for trouble for no reason. He's brought over ten guards but he did not make a move easily. He clearly knew my identity, but he pretended not to know me. He had the guts to tease me, but he didn't plan to fall out with the Xie family directly. It's obvious that he was hesitating. What does this mean?"

Xie Jingliu frowned. "It means that he heard about our Xie Residence from somewhere and the news that we might lose power. He's no longer afraid of the Xie Residence, but because this news is very secretive and it's not good to reveal it, he still has scruples in his heart and doesn't dare to be too blatant. He deliberately teased Little Yao'er. On the one hand, he wanted to find out more about you, and on the other hand, he was probably blinded by lust. He really had his eyes on you. After all, the County Head has power in the capital but in Quanzhou, the Jiazhou Residence has influence over everything. If the Xie Residence loses power, you'll be too far from authority to get any help. As long as Little Yao'er takes a step back, he'll push his luck and become even worse."

Where else could a playboy who ate, drank, whored, and gamble get such secret information other than from his own family?

It was confirmed that the Jiazhou Residence wanted to deal with the Xie Residence.

However, the Xie Residence had a lot of connections. Where did they get the confidence to attack the Xie Residence?

Unless there was someone else with a high status behind him.

Who would it be?

Old Master Xie sighed softly. "Once the news of the Emperor's critical illness spreads and the princes fight for the throne, I'm afraid the news of the

Marquis of Ningyuan colluding with King Liang can't be hidden anymore.

King Liangs intention to rebel is obvious. He definitely won't wait for the new Emperor to ascend the throne and settle his crime. Instead, he will take advantage of the chaos."

“King Liang sent the heir into the capital to be a hostage to gain the trust of the Imperial Court. Isn’t it also to monitor the movements of the Imperial Court? I think he has also sensed the actions of the palace.”

“The Marquis of Ningyuan is still locked up in the edict prison and hasn’t been tried. He’s always a knife hanging over the King of Liangs head. King Liang has no way out and has already made preparations to force him to rebel.”

“The Jiazhou Residence has already sided with King Liang. He wants to attack the Xie Residence for their wealth.’

It was not far from Yu Youyao’s guess.

The Imperial Court coveted the Xie family’s wealth.

How could King Liang not be envious?

Old Master Xie said, “Fortunately, Little Yao’er sensed that Jia Changfeng had ill intentions. When she broke his leg, she even poisoned him and said confidently in public that she wanted to report to the Imperial Court. Next, no matter what the Jiazhou Residence does to the Xie Residence, I’m afraid they’ll be afraid. It solved the Xie Residence’s urgent problem.”

Previously, the Xie family had learned from Yin Huaixi that King Liang was going to rebel.

During this period of time, the family was also preparing to evacuate Quanzhou, including Xie Jingzhou and his brothers

However, plans could not keep up with changes.

Who would have thought that the Jiazhou Residence would secretly side with King Liang and plot to attack the Xie Residence in advance?

Old Master Xie pondered and said, “The Xie Residence can’t sit back and do nothing. Eldest Son and I will make a trip to the Jiazhou Residence later and make a fuss out of this. The bigger the matter, the more wary they will be, and the less they will dare to act rashly.”

Xie Xun, who had been silent all this while, also nodded. “Although we can delay the Jiazhou Residence for the time being, King Liang is behind them. We have to speed up the preparations for our evacuation from Quanzhou. In order to hide it, we’ll gather food and winter clothes for the disaster relief from the Xie Residence and transport them to the North.”

Xie Liao and Xie Tiao quickly nodded. “Alright, if the family business can be transferred out, we’ll do it. If it can’t be transferred out, we’ll directly give it to King Yue Fei. Xue Qianhu of the Sea Defense Department is his man. Leave this matter to him. King Liang and the Jiazhou Residence don’t have the guts to touch the Sea Defense Department now.”

The family spoke one after another. There was no hurry. Soon, they came up with a plan.

If the officials and women in the court had any grievances, they would all complain to the Empress Dowager in the palace. The Empress Dowager would decide according to the priority of the matter. She would either deal with it herself or discuss it with the Emperor.

Only those at the fifth-grade and above were qualified to hand over a memorial to the palace.

As soon as Yu Youyao returned to the Yi Water Garden, she went to the study room. She first planned to complain to the Empress Dowager, then sent a letter to the Yu Clan.

If the Xie Residence could guess it, the Yu Clan could probably come to the same conclusion. At that time, they would definitely mobilize their connections in the court and try their best to impeach the Jiazhou Residence. The more people impeached, the bigger this matter would become.

The news that the Emperor was seriously ill had not spread, and the three sons in the palace were not in chaos. If King Liang wanted to rebel, he had to have a reason. The Jiazhou Residence was controlled by the Imperial Court, so King Liang did not dare to act rashly.

According to the Great Zhou Dynasty's law, the officials who were impeached had to send a memorial to the Imperial Court based on the number of people impeached and the severity of the crimes. They had to take out strong evidence to refute the crimes of impeachment and vouch for their innocence.

At that time, the Imperial Court would investigate the details of the memorial.

If there was anything incomplete, the Imperial Court would order him to temporarily leave his position and personally bring evidence to the capital. Both sides would take out the evidence and argue with each other.

If the impeached official had sufficient evidence and won, the Imperial Court would present evidence to the Emperor to prove his innocence.

The promotion and demotion of officials had to be finalized by the Imperial Court. Officials who could win in the trial often had character and political achievements that could withstand the test. They would be recorded in the official's evaluation. There was no lack of the word "excellent", and there would be fewer obstacles to promotion in the future.

However, if they lost, they would naturally be imprisoned and investigated.

Often, this process would take at least two to three days. It could also take up to five months, or even longer.

Yu Youyao was worried that her actions today would alert the enemy. She wanted to use the Imperial Court to temporarily restrain the Jiazhou Residence and buy more time for the Xie Residence.

Although the Yu Clan valued profits, they were still fair and took care of her fairly. This letter could be considered a kind reminder to them.

After writing the memorial, Yu Youyao called out to Yin San, "Send someone to the capital at full speed."

After Yin San left, Yu Youyao sorted out what had happened today again.

Suddenly, she thought of a problem and couldn't help but frown.

At this moment!

Chun Xiao came over. "Young Miss, the Jiazhou Prefecture is on the way to the Xie Residence with Jia Changfeng.."

