

## All Hail 901

### Chapter 901 - 901: Fearless

Yu Youyao shook her head. "I'll only do what I can to give the refugees a place to live. The future is up to them."

She was not Buddha and did not have the ambition to cut off her flesh to feed the eagle.

It was better to teach someone how to fish than to give them fish. She had already done her best to find local silkworm farmers and teach the refugees how to raise silkworms, fish, plant, print, embroider, and so on.

Even the sweet potato vines that grew into seedlings were prioritized for the refugees to cultivate.

They even found locals, who entered the refugee camps to help the refugees learn the local customs and people's lifestyles, integrating them into Liaodongs life.

What had to be done had been done.

How they lived was their own business.

"I've underestimated you." Yin Huaixi smiled. Once a person invested more energy in certain matters, they would care more. He thought that Yu Youyao was the same.

After all, she had always been clear about gratitude and grudges. She was soft-hearted and valued relationships.

Yu Youyao did not say anything else and only said, "Chun Xiao is still waiting outside. Hurry up and go to The Green House."

The servants in The Green House were all people who had served Yin Huaixi in the Yu Residence previously. They were originally Yin Huaixi's own people.

The decorations in the courtyard were a little similar to those in the capital. The tools, decorations, and so on in the house were all used by him in the past.

By the time Yin Huaixi finished washing up, the small kitchen had already prepared a few light and delicious dishes.

Yu Youyao even personally cooked a simple sea cucumber medicinal soup. It was brewed with medicinal herbs such as ginseng and wolfberries. It had the effect of strengthening the foundation and nurturing the essence, removing fatigue.

He ate two sea cucumbers a day for three to four years in a row. Yin Huaixi still couldn't accept this kind of thing that was red and had thorns that looked like rust.

However, under Yu Youyao's expectant gaze, he could already eat without changing his expression while praising, "The sea cucumber is soft and plump."

It's fresh and sweet in your mouth, and the abalone is delicious and smooth. The two complement each other, making the soup fresh and not greasy in your mouth. It's rich and mellow. It's really delicious."

Yu Youyao chuckled. Of course, she knew that he didn't mean what he said.

Every time Yin Huaixi saw sea cucumbers, he clearly despised them to death. His entire body was filled with rejection, but he still pretended that nothing had happened. It was too interesting.

Yin Huaixi braced himself and finished the two sea cucumbers in one gulp. He felt his entire body go numb. He took two mouthfuls of rice before suppressing the strange feeling that kept surging into his stomach and throat.

Sea cucumbers were actually not bad. The texture was even unique.

Those who did not like to eat sea cucumbers were definitely not afraid because it was not delicious, but because its appearance was really unacceptable and incompetent. They could not muster the courage to eat it.

After Yin Huaixi finished his meal, the two of them took a walk in the courtyard to digest their food.

Yin Huaixi asked about what had happened in Xiangping recently.

Yu Youyao recounted everything that had happened after she arrived in Xiangping. "... According to Madam Zhangs confession, the government office summoned those who had interacted more with her after Liu Dagan's death to the government office to be interrogated one by one. Coupled with the confessions of the hooligans, we followed the clues and found out that the person who instigated all of this was a relatively capable steward from He Zhixian's family in Xiangping County. Yesterday morning, the government office had already taken He Zhixian into custody."

As the two of them were talking, Chun Xiao came over to report, "Old Madam Sun has returned from the government office and is requesting an audience outside.'

Yu Youyao perked up and looked at Yin Huaixi. "It seems that my case has come to an end." She turned around and instructed Chun Xiao, "Invite Old

Madam Sun in.'

Not long after, Chun Xiao led Old Madam Sun into the courtyard. Old Madam Sun bowed respectfully to Yin Huaixi and Yu Youyao before recounting the interrogation process in the government office.

. The government office has already issued a notice confirming that someone was deliberately instigating and instigating Madam Zhangs complaint to frame the Princess. As for the motive behind the case, we still have to investigate further if there are other people involved."

Yu Youyao nodded. "Has He Zhixian confessed?"

Old Madam Sun said, "He Zhixian kept saying that Steward Mu had taken the

initiative to frame the Princess. He didn't know. He admitted that he wasn't strict with his subordinates, but he refused to admit that this matter was related to him. Steward Mu, who was in

front of He Zhixian, took all the blame. There's indeed no clear evidence that all of this is related to He Zhixian.

It was obvious that He Zhixian's methods were quite impressive.

Yu Youyao sneered. "It seems that He Zhixian is holding out hope until he's faced with the grim reality."

The reason why He Zhixian was fearless was none other than because he had instructed Steward Mu to plot Madam Zhangs complaint. He had indeed done it flawlessly. If Steward Mu bore all the crimes, he would not be implicated.

Other than that, he should have something else to rely on.

Yin Huaixi had also guessed this. "Framing the Princess is the same as deceiving the emperor. It's provoking the dignity of the royal family. Once the crime is carried out, the lightest punishment will be dismissal, and the most serious punishment will be imprisonment. Now that the matter of framing is exposed and it implicates He Zhixian, if He Zhixian is smart, he will definitely think of a way to protect himself and reduce his crime. He Zhixian has been an official for many years, so he can see the situation clearly. He refuses to cooperate, as if he's very confident that he can definitely escape punishment."

Yu Youyao was stunned for a moment. "Don't tell me he still naively thinks that the Han Clan will think of a way to absolve him of his crimes? Where did he get his confidence from?"

Even a merchant like the Bai Residence knew that the Han Clan was unreliable, so they did not hesitate to climb up another social ladder.

Did he think that the Han Clan would take a mere seventh-grade official seriously?

Yin Huaixi said meaningfully, "What if he has a bargaining chip that makes him fearless?"

The power of the nobles was concentrated in the mountains and Shaanxi. Both sides had a marriage alliance since ancient times.

Furthermore, because Shaanxi had a long history and had the reputation of being the capital of the emperor since ancient times, and it was where the ancient capital, Chang An, was located, the development of Shaanxi was more advantageous than that of Shanxi.

The Han Clan was the number one clan in Shaanxi. It was a behemoth that occupied the northwest area.

He Zhixian had the backing of the Han family in Xi'an, so he indeed had the ability to be fearless.

However, the premise was that he could really get the Han Clan to exonerate her.

Yu Youyao instantly understood what he meant. "It's obvious that the direct descendant of the Han Clan is definitely involved in the matter of framing the Princess. That direct descendant of the Han Clan should still be hiding in Xiangping County.

After Madam Zhangs complaint, Yu Youyao immediately went to the government office to beat the drum and plead guilty, catching He Zhixian and the others off guard.

After that, Xiangping City was under martial law.

The direct descendant of the Han family from Xi'an would definitely not be able to escape in time.

This was an unexpected surprise!

A smile appeared on Yu Youyao's face. "The Great Zhou Dynasty values the first wife and the eldest son. As long as the direct descendant of the Han Clan stays in Xiangping City, the Han Clan can forget about cutting off their tail and surviving. It has nothing to do with this matter. With King Li of Zhou being framed and killed, the Han Clan's situation is worrying.."

Chapter 902 - 902: Health Is Damaged

In the capital, she had the backing of the royalist faction led by the Empress of Aether.

In the North, there was also King Yue Fei, who had a large army.

Even the princes and princesses in the palace might not have as strong a background as her. He Zhixian was not a fool. It was impossible for him to lose his head for the Han Clan.

As the saying went, a strong dragon couldn't suppress a local snake.

King Li of Zhou was impressive, right? He was a legitimate descendant of the royal family, but after arriving in the North, under the control of the nobles, even a dragon had to lie low, right?

In the end, he even lost his life.

The person who had really framed King Li of Zhou and led all of this was still high up in the air in the North.

In He Zhixian's opinion, the Han Clan was a local tyrant in the North. In the North, even King Yue Fei did not dare to fight them head-on.

If the Han Clan was the mastermind behind the matter of framing the Princess, He Zhixian would at most follow suit. If the sky fell, wouldn't the Han Clan still be in charge?

The Han Clan couldn't possibly dig their own grave!

Framing the Princess was not a small matter. It required He Zhixian's cooperation. Not just anyone could intimidate He Zhixian and make him follow orders.

From this, it could be inferred that the person sent by the Han Clan must be a direct descendant of the Han Clan.

Yu Youyao's expression was a little complicated. "Do you think the Han Clan is too confident? Or do they think too highly of me? When Xu Jie wanted to defeat Yan Song, he had to first obtain the support of the emperor, Jiajing. He had to dismantle the emperor's trust in Yan Song. However, the emperor's trust in Yan Song was almost deeply rooted. Xu Jie used a roundabout method to start with Yan Song's son, Yan Shifan, and finally achieved his goal. The Han Clan actually dared to let the direct descendants of the family get involved in framing the Princess."

Weren't they worried that the framing wouldn't go through and that the direct descendant of the Han family would become the second Yan Shifan?

Yin Huaixi smiled faintly. "There's a prerequisite for Xu Jie to defeat Yan Song. Xu Jie and Yan Song were both powerful ministers of the cabinet. It's a conflict of equal status. The Han Clan even dares to frame the vassal lord. Although they're confident, you're already on the same level as them now. It's not that they think too highly of you, but that they don't dare to underestimate you."

Yu Youyao was in a daze for a moment. “After Yu Zongzheng went into mourning, Elder Han, who was already the second-in-charge, was even more successful in the cabinet. The Han Clan’s reputation soared. If it weren’t for the fact that the emperor hasn’t been in the court for a long time and the Empress Dowager is in charge of the court, I’m afraid the royalist faction would have been suppressed by Elder Han.”

This was the root of the Han Clan’s confidence.

“That’s not all.” Yin Huaixi raised his hand and flicked the drooping branch above his head, letting Yu Youyao pass first. “The emperor hasn’t been in the court for a long time, and the hearts of the people in the court are fluctuating. The battle for the throne is already on the table. The royalist faction follows the Empress Dowager’s lead. However, there was news from the palace earlier that the Empress Dowager’s health was damaged because she was overworked.’

Yu Youyao held her breath in surprise. “Is the Empress Dowager’s condition very serious?”

Ever since she was conferred the title of County Head, her relationship with the palace had gradually become closer. Most of her current dignity stemmed from the Empress Dowager’s deep love.

It was not up to her to comment on what kind of person the Empress Dowager was.

However, at least in her matters, the Empress Dowager was still considered fair.

The Empress Dowager was not careless about donating to the disaster relief.

Yin Huaixi nodded. “She’s already sick and lying in bed. The news has been kept secret. Outsiders only think that the Empress Dowager is old and can’t withstand fatigue. It’s just that her health isn’t well, but the court officials will more or less have some guesses. On the surface, the person in charge of the royalist faction is still the Empress Dowager, but in fact, not long after the Empress Dowager fell sick, the Empress used the excuse of attending to her illness to move into the Longevity Palace.”

“It’s simply right for one to take the initiative to take care of their mother-in-law when she’s in a bad state.” Yu Youyao was shocked. She took a deep breath and stabilized her emotions. She continued, “Filial piety comes first. The Empress will definitely be famous, so the Empress is in charge of the royalists now.”

There was no more logical way to claim credit for the work of others.

It seemed that Concubine Lan and Concubine Xu in the palace were already so angry that they were stomping their feet. Compared to the unfathomable Concubine Lan, this one was really hiding her strength.

Yu Youyao had mixed feelings. “I’ve heard long ago that the Fourth Prince has close ties with the Yi Kun Palace, so the royalists are forced to take sides, right?”

It turned out that the battle for the crown prince had already reached this stage.

Yin Huaixi nodded. "There are rumors in the capital that the Empress lost her beloved son in her early years. As she couldn't take the blow, she fell sick and couldn't get up, so she sealed the palace door. It's also because of this that the Empress pitied the Fourth Prince, who had lost his mother at birth. It's also because of the Fourth Prince's company that the Empress gradually recovered from the shock of losing her son and her health gradually improved."

When Yu Youyao heard this, she understood. "The Empress treats the Fourth Prince deeply and treats him as her own son. Since the Fourth Prince can help the Empress walk out of the pain of losing her son, I think the Fourth Prince should also be a talented and filial prince." At this point, she sighed softly. "As virtue rises by one foot, vice rises ten. How can Concubine Lan and Concubine Xu fight until their heads bleed? From this point alone, Concubine Lan and Imperial Concubine Xu are inferior to the Empress."

With the Empress's virtue, she was the mother of the world.

Only when the prince had a good reputation could he win people's hearts.

The Great Zhou Dynasty valued the first wife and the eldest son. The Empress occupied the title of the first wife, so it was very difficult to surpass her innate advantage. If she was not careful, she would be infamous for doting on the concubines and destroying the wife.

Unless the Empress lost her virtue first, Concubine Lan and Imperial Concubine Xu could do nothing about the Empress on this point.

After the Ning Residence was convicted, the emperor did not vent his anger on the Empress. Although there were all kinds of reasons, it also meant that the Empress was a model of virtue. She was enough to be a mother to the world and could not be punished because of her maiden family.

This was also the Empress' cover.

Yin Huaixi agreed deeply. "There are rumors in the capital that the Empress

Dowager wants to adopt the Fourth Prince under the Empress's name. The

Fourth Prince is the heir who was promoted from the son of a concubine to the son of a legitimate wife. It has nothing to do with the Second and Third Princes. However, Concubine Lan and Imperial Concubine Xu have been running around for so long. How can they be willing? Even if it's to protect themselves, they won't let it go easily. It won't be long before the capital is in chaos.'

This day was even faster than she had imagined. Yu Youyao was a little dazed. "You just said that there's another reason why the Han Clan attacked me, right?"

"That's what I'm going to say next." Yu Youyao walked a short distance on the cobblestone path, but her feet felt a little sore. Yin Huaixi quickly supported her and slowed down.

"The Empress is the empress, but her mother's family, the Ning Residence, was convicted early on, and her family is already in dire straits. In addition, she has been sealed in the palace for many years. Now, she has only gradually gained power with the help of the Empress Dowager, but it's not enough to control the entire royalist party. The hearts of the royalists are also fluctuating.."

## Chapter 903 - 903: Xiang Zhuang's Sword Dance

Yu Youyao suddenly understood. "The Empress Dowager is seriously ill, and the Empress is weak. Yu Zongshen and Ding You are at home, and the royalists are at their weakest. Concubine Lan and Imperial Concubine Xu are going to take advantage of the situation to attack the royalists."

Most of the royalists were old nobles with deep roots. They only assisted the country and did not participate in the battle for the throne. Concubine Lan and Imperial Concubine Xu naturally would not go against the royalists.

However, the Empress and the Fourth Prince were like mother and son, and they had indirectly divided the royalists into the Fourth Prince's camp.

Concubine Lan and Imperial Concubine Xu naturally wouldn't watch helplessly as the Empress grew.

Yin Huaixi nodded. "What they never expected was that Princess Shaoyi would appear out of nowhere. Not only did she plant sweet potatoes to relieve the drought in the North, but she also came to the North to help the King of the North and vigorously promote the planting of sweet potatoes, pushing the reputation of the royalists to a high point and disrupting their plans. After that, your every move in Liaodong was in line with the interests of the royalists, causing their reputation to rise."

Hearing Yin Huaixi's words, many of Yu Youyao's doubts were resolved. "The court is now divided into three factions."

"Concubine Lan has the emperor's backing. The Second Prince is the eldest and is deeply valued by the emperor. Although the Marquis of Ningyuan's Residence has been imprisoned, they haven't been convicted yet. In the eyes of outsiders, this might be the emperor's protection of Concubine Lan and the second prince. There are many officials who are respectful to the first wife and are good at grinding the hearts of the sacred ones. They support the Second Prince. As a general, the Marquis of Ningyuan has nurtured many forces in the army. As long as the Marquis of Ningyuan isn't convicted, these people won't be implicated and will still be used by Concubine Lan."

Concubine Lan's power could still not be underestimated.

"Imperial Concubine Xu is the head of the concubines. The Third Prince's son is noble because of his mother, and his status is the most noble. The Xu Residence is powerful and in charge of the military. Many powerful ministers in the court have chosen to support the Third Prince. Among them, there's the Han Clan. Shanxi and Shaanxi are across the river. Since ancient times, there has been a marriage alliance between them. For many years, they've been united. I think many people from the land-owning class in the Shanxi and the Shaanxi areas are part of the Third Prince's party."

Therefore, there was a reason for the Han Clan's arrogance.

“In that case, it’s the royalists who are at a disadvantage. Meanwhile, I showed righteousness and took the initiative to come to the North to help the King of the North. In the eyes of outsiders, this action became a signal for the royalists to express their goodwill to Yue Fei.”

She had not thought of this previously. It was only today when Yin Huaixi mentioned the situation in the court that she came back to her senses.

After walking through the cobblestone path, there was a tall tree in front of her. There was a stone table and a stone chair under the tree. Yin Huaixi helped Yu Youyao sit down.

Yu Youyao’s train of thought gradually sorted out. “The royalists’ rise to power is a deterrent to Concubine Lan and Imperial Concubine Xu. That’s why the Empress Dowager cooperated with my every move in the North and even gave you her power. The royalists support me even more strongly. I can only succeed after I reach the North.”

This was because not only were her actions in line with the interests of the royalists, but they were also in line with the interests of the Yue Fei’s

Residence. The Yue Fei’s Residence had benefited from the royalists, so it was more involved with their interests.

In the eyes of outsiders, the Yue Fei’s Residence already belonged to the royalists.

Yu Youyao thought that she had seen through the situation in the court, but she did not expect that what she had seen and understood was still one-sided.

In the struggle for the court, the cabinet fell apart, and the situation was unpredictable.

The young maidservant immediately brought over tea and snacks and placed them on the table one by one before quickly leaving.

Yin Huaixi poured a cup of tea and handed it to Yu Youyao. “Concubine Lan and Imperial Concubine Xu don’t want to see the royalists obtain my support, so they want to frame you and achieve their goal of dragging the Yue Fei’s Residence down. The vassal lords have a large number of troops and are already very suspicious of the Imperial Court. Once they’re involved in the battle for the succession and collude with the rebels, they can achieve their plan to divide me and the royalists into alliance.”

When Yu Youyao first came to Liancheng, the Empress Dowager was in charge of the court. At this moment, Yu Youyao was using the excuse of helping King Yue Fei to promote the planting of sweet potatoes and alleviate the drought. Everyone was happy to see this.

This was because the royalists did not participate in the struggle for the throne.

However, right on the heels of that, once the Empress was involved, the situation in the court immediately turned upside down.

The royalists were protecting the country. If even the royalists were involved in the struggle for the throne, the Great Zhou Dynasty’s fate would be completely over.



Yu Youyao reached out to take the teacup, but her heart trembled violently. “Therefore, on the surface, the Han Clan’s actions against me are because I used the Xie Residence’s donation to deal with the nobles. This has violated the interests of the aristocratic families. However, in the end, I was involved in the battle for the succession and blocked the path for the Second and Third Princes.”

Yin Huaixi nodded.

“The Han Clan did not hesitate to mobilize their direct descendants to deal with me. This is the result of the Third Prince’s faction led by Imperial Concubine Xu. Concubine Lan helped to encourage it, and it’s in line with the interests of the Second Prince and the Third Prince’s faction. Therefore, the Han Clan is fearless. After all, this is still a partisan conflict of the Imperial Court.

The battle had never stopped. Even though she was far away from the royal court, regardless of whether she was in Quanzhou or Liaodong, she still could not break free.

Yin Huaixi continued, “There’s a stone tablet in the harem. It says that the harem is not allowed to interfere in politics. This is to warn the concubines.

Now that the emperor hasn’t been in the court for a long time, the Empress Dowager and the Empress are in charge of the court. It seems logical, but isn’t it also interfering with the rules of the court?”

Yu Youyao took a sip of tea. “The emperor hasn’t been in court for a long time, so it’s only right for the crown prince to supervise the country. However, the emperor hasn’t appointed a heir yet. The princes should work with the ministers to manage the government.”

The princes in the palace were not young anymore. They should have received a job long ago to work for the Imperial Court to show their talent and virtue.

However, all these years, the court had not been peaceful either. First, King Li of Zhou had died tragically, and there had been a dark tide in and out of the court. Then, Ye Hanyuan had knocked on the drum and pleaded for King Li of Zhou. There had been a rebellion in Shandong, the invasion of the Japanese pirates, a flood in Zhejiang, and a drought in the northwest. Every matter had too many implications. It was not a good time to enter the royal court.

This delay lasted until now.

The emperor had not been in the court for a long time, so it was difficult for the princes to take on a heavy responsibility. They could only let the Empress Dowager manage the court.

It was true that the harem could not interfere in politics, but the Empress Dowager had the responsibility to assist the country.

Yin Huaixi said, “The Empress Dowager and the Empress are both responsible for assisting the country, but it’s only assisting. It’s different from the main principle. They’ve indeed overstepped their etiquette. It’s just that the reputation of the royalists has increased greatly now. Be it to quell the flood or to relieve the drought, it’s all led by the royalists. No one dares to provoke the Empress Dowager and the Empress at this time.”

Yu Youyao's face darkened. "I thought this was like pinching a persimmon. If it's hard and can't be pinched, I'll choose the soft one. The Han Clan wants to accuse me of interfering with the court and causing chaos in the law. This is an elaborate deception that hides malicious content, insinuating that the spearhead is directed at the Empress Dowager and the Empress. After all, the reason why I can have my current reputation is all because of the Empress Dowager's love. In the eyes of outsiders, my every move is at the Empress Dowager's behest.."

#### Chapter 904 - 904: Good Scheme

This way, the court officials would have an excuse to impeach the Empress Dowager and the Empress.

The Empress Dowager and the Empress could not manage the court affairs, so the princes should work with the court officials to manage the court affairs. The Second and Third Princes would benefit.

Yu Youyao was speechless. "Ever since the Yi Kun Palace opened its doors, Concubine Lan and Imperial Concubine Xu, who were originally fighting to the death, have become natural allies."

The Great Zhou Dynasty valued the first wife and the eldest son. Once the Empress gained power and adopted the Fourth Prince, they would have nothing to do with it.

It was necessary to eliminate the Empress first.

When the Empress was no longer a threat, they would cross the sea and show their abilities. That would be in line with the best interests of the heir.

Fortunately, she did not fall for this.

Seeing her relieved expression, Yin Huaixi guessed what she was thinking and couldn't help but laugh. "They're just a group of clowns. They won't be arrogant for long. Why are you afraid of them?"

So what if she was schemed against?

There was no conclusion to this matter for the time being. As long as she refused to admit it, without concrete evidence, who could do anything to her?

What did it have to do with her whether the Empress Dowager and the Empress were affected?

Yu Youyao glared at him. "I'm not afraid of them. I'm afraid that if I'm not careful, they'll implicate you. The Imperial Court has issued a national policy. If you have more power in your hands, the Imperial Court will be even more afraid of you. Everyone in the world is watching the North. so you can't make a mistake. I know you're not afraid of the Imperial Court, but you can't expose it."

The court was so dangerous. Once it was exposed, Concubine Lan and Imperial Concubine Xu would take advantage of the situation. King Li of Zhou's death was a lesson for them.

Yin Huaixi's heart couldn't help but skip a beat when she glared at him. He only felt that her eyes were gentle and terrifying. "So you're worried about me!"

His meaningful smile made her face heat up. Yu Youyao couldn't help but raise her hand and brush away the messy hair by her ear. She used the act of brushing her hair to hide the blush on her face.

Her narrow sleeves slid down slightly, revealing a small portion of her jade-like wrist. The silk-patterned jade bracelet wrapped around her wrist and swayed lightly, making her jade wrist look even more exquisite.

She had learned her bearing extremely well. Her every move was as gentle as water, revealing her age. She should be shy and beautiful.

She was like a cardamom flower with branches hanging down. The crystal-like flower bud was delicate and beautiful. On the white jade-like flower, there was a hint of intoxicating redness. She was beautiful and suffocating.

Yin Huaixi suddenly felt his hands itch. He wanted to reach out and grab this jade wrist to play with it.

However, he still restrained himself in the end.

Yu Youyao used the excuse of brushing her hair to calm herself down and quickly changed the topic. "Now, it seems that everything is clear. Framing the princess is a serious crime. The reason why He Zhixian is fearless is because he knows very well that in order not to be implicated, the Han Clan will think of ways to absolve him."

In the end, Yin Huaixi couldn't help but reach out and gently brush her soft hair, which she had just brushed just now but was still not behaving. Her hair gently brushed past his fingers, bringing with it a slight itch that reached the bottom of his heart.

Yu Youyao was stunned for a moment before she tilted her head to look at him.

Yin Huaixi felt guilty and retracted his hand. He rubbed his nose resentfully, and a faint fragrance rushed into his nose, making him hold his breath for a moment. It was as if as long as he didn't breathe, this fragrance would stay in his nose,

However, in fact, this fragrance was fleeting.

However, the more this was the case, the more he wanted to smell it. He was captivated, and it was as if his heart had been clutched.

Yin Huaixi coughed dryly. "He Zhixian has the Han Clan behind him. He thinks that Liu Dagen's case was done flawlessly. As long as the Bai Residence is convicted, the government office can't take another step forward. They can find strong evidence that proves that Liu Dagen's death is related to him. When the case is investigated on Steward Mu, the case will be closed." "There's no evidence to prove that he was the one who instructed Steward Mu to frame the princess. It's true that Steward Mu is very involved with He Zhixian, and He Zhixian will more or less be implicated. However, it's easy for the Han Clan to absolve Steward He of his crimes."

Therefore, He Zhixian had a good plan.

Yu Youyao sneered. "The ox bezoar sold by the People's Relief Hall is fake and doesn't have any medicinal effects. The framing has become an established fact. There's no way to implement the case. We definitely have to continue investigating."

“The government office doesn’t need any evidence. As long as the Bai Residence steps forward and admits that all of this was set up by the Han Clan, and takes out the evidence in their hands regarding the Han Clan’s lawlessness, the Han Clan will have a motive to frame the Bai Residence, and this case can be opened.”

“The reason why the Han Clan framed the Bai Residence was to frame Princess

Shaoyi. The Han Clan became the greatest suspect in framing the Princess.”

“The evidence of the Han Clan breaking the law has been presented in court.

It’s impossible for the state government office not to investigate.”

The Han Clan was immediately embroiled in four lawsuits. Even if the emperor’s father came, it would be difficult for him to escape.

Liu Dagen’s death was one case.

Framing the Bai Residence was the second case.

The third case was breaking the law.

Framing the princess was the fourth case.

Thanks to the Han Clan moving the stone and smashing their own feet, Liu Dagen’s death had already become public knowledge.

The unfavorable rumors about Princess Shaoyi had also spread like wildfire. Even the Imperial Court had heard the commotion. The case had blown up so much, so it was impossible to let it go so easily.

Once the Bai Residence was exonerated, it could be confirmed that someone had deliberately instigated and instigated the commoners to frame Princess Shaoyi. The Han Clan that the Bai Residence had identified would bear the brunt.

Madam Han had already fallen, so how could He Zhixian dodge the bullet?

Yin Huaixi chuckled. “You’ve already planned everything. Even without He

Zhixian and the direct descendants of the Han family, the Han family will definitely fall this time.”

Smart people never cared about whether there was evidence or not. If there was no evidence, they would create it themselves. If there was no opportunity, they would also create it themselves.

The key was still how to cleverly use the resources they had to achieve their goal amidst law, morals, and human nature,

Yu Youyao was an expert.

Yu Youyao shook her head. “That’s different. Without He Zhixian and the direct descendants of the Han family, I would still have to go through a series of twists and turns to deal with the Han family. It’s very difficult to uproot the Han family. The foundation of the aristocratic families is often beyond imagination. The greatest possibility is that the Han family will suffer heavy losses.’

She had planned to uproot the Han Clan, but she was actually not absolutely confident.

Yin Huaixi smiled and said, "The rats leave a sinking ship. Once the Han Clan loses power, with their previous domineering and arrogant behavior, many people will kick them when they're down.."

Chapter 905 - 905: Killing the Chicken to Warn the Monkey

Yu Youyao pursed her lips. "Although you're right, I don't want to let the Han Clan off just like that."

Yin Huaixi immediately understood what she meant and frowned. "Liu Dagen's death has nothing to do with you. You don't have to blame yourself for this.'

"I didn't kill them, but they died because of me." Yu Youyao's expression was still ugly, and her voice seemed to be covered in a layer of frost. "The Han Clan attacked Liu Dagen in order to deal with me. Liu Dagen was originally just an ordinary citizen, but he suffered an undeserved calamity and died tragically."

"You can't say that." Yin Huaixi said seriously, "The reason why the Han Clan framed you was to deal with the Empress Dowager and the Empress, and take the opportunity to attack the royalists. You're also a victim."

The Empress Dowager was seriously ill. Although the news was covered up, the harem was currently controlled by Concubine Lan, and the Longevity

Palace was not made of iron and copper.

The harem was in charge of politics, and it was against the rules. It was an act of losing virtue.

Only when the Empress lost her virtue would she lose the advantage of being the first wife. The Fourth Prince, who was as close as a son to the Empress, would also not have the chance to compete for the position of heir.

The Empress Dowager's serious illness could no longer be covered up.

"I'm not blaming myself. I just can't let it go." Even the evil person who had killed someone didn't blame themselves. How could she punish herself for the evil of others? Yu Youyao said coldly, "If this hadn't happened to me, I would have pitied Madam Zhang and arranged a good job for them so that Madam Zhang's family could live well in the future. However, I have no reason and obligation to uphold justice for her. It's not that I don't want to, but I can't." Although it was very cold, reality was really cruel.

The Great Zhou Dynasty had already rotted into its roots. There were many unfortunate people like Madam Zhang, so it was impossible for her to manage everyone.

There was a turbulent undercurrent behind Liu Dagen. She only dared to interfere because she was in the middle of it. If she did not interfere, she would definitely implicate the entire Yu Clan and even Yin Huaixi in the battle for the succession.

She couldn't bear such consequences.

Anything that did not match the interests of the royalists would only be given up in the end.

Hearing the deep helplessness in her words, Yin Huaixi's heart ached. "You've already done very well."

Yu Youyao looked sad. "However, such a thing happened to me. I can't pretend that it didn't happen. The Han Clan treats human lives like grass. I have to pursue the matter to the end and give Liu Dagen and Madam Zhang justice."

Yin Huaixi did not know how to comfort her about this. "Don't let your imagination run wild."

In his eyes, the nobles were like ants.

There were many bandits in the Shanxi and the Shaanxi area. When the Great Zhou Dynasty fell into chaos, they would let the Hidden Dragon Army disguise themselves as bandits. Taking advantage of the chaos, they would capture those nobles who had done many evil things. They would kill those who should be killed and steal those who should be stolen from. It was just that simple and crude.

It was true that this method was not very straightforward, and it was not inferior to the King of Liang.

But!

There was an old saying that went, "Those who achieve great things don't care about trifles."

If one wanted them to die, they had to be arrogant first. The more arrogant a noble was, the more miserable their outcome would be.

However, how was he going to tell Yu Youyao about this?!

The matter of the Xie family escaping had always been a thorn in Yu Youyao's heart. Not to mention whether she could accept it rationally, even emotionally, she couldn't help but let her imagination run wild.

He might as well not have told her.

Yu Youyao's lips curled up and she smiled. "I'm not that kind of person. I'm not a sentimental person. I mainly feel that the Han Clan is despicable and shameless, and they're also under the consort party. Right now, there's a conflict between the court and the outside world. The Han Clan lives in the

North and is under your control. There will be endless trouble in the future.

Besides, because of the Flower Festival at the Duke Rongs Residence, Imperial

Consort Xu and the Yu Residence have quite a conflict. Since Imperial Consort

Xu can order the Han Clan to deal with me, she must be able to order others.'

At this point, she lowered her eyes slightly, her trembling eyelashes blocking the thoughts in her eyes.

However, Yin Huaixi knew that if it weren't for the Flower Festival at the Duke Rongs Residence back then, Old Madam Yu wouldn't have suddenly developed an overbearing illness, causing her health to deteriorate.

She pretended to be fine, but she had been brooding.

Yu Youyao looked up at him and saw that his gaze was deep. She smiled to hide it and quickly changed the topic. "The power of the nobles is deep-rooted.

In the case of King Li of Zhou, the emperor killed many people in the North, implicating more than a thousand people. The nobles were intimidated by the methods of the Imperial Court and restrained their actions. However, they still don't take the Yue Fei's Residence seriously. At the bottom of it all, the real culprit is still at large. He's rich and powerful in the North."

The nobles of the North were all connected and had power in the court. Elder Han was an old minister of the cabinet and had many disciples. Even the Imperial Court was in trouble.

The nobles' actions of framing King Li of Zhou did not harm the emperor's own interests. Although they had provoked the dignity of the royal family, the emperor had already achieved the goal of intimidation by killing so many people.

The Imperial Court was afraid that the vassal lords would have a large army and still needed the land-owning class to continue restraining the King of the

North, Yin Huaixi.

The aristocratic families knew the emperor's heart well, so they were naturally fearless. "It's useless to knock on the mountain to scare the tiger when dealing with the nobles. Only by killing the chicken to warn the monkeys can they really be afraid."

Yin Huaixi pulled her into his arms and suddenly realized how petite she was in his arms. He was in disbelief. How did such a delicate and thin girl bear so much?

"I schemed to get you a title as a member of the imperial family and asked you to come to the North to free you from the restrictions of etiquette and the many withers of the mortal world. I want you to feel more at ease." Yin Huaixi sighed softly, his voice filled with helplessness. "You're making me look very useless."

Yu Youyao couldn't help but burst out laughing. "Don't think that I don't know. I can easily control the situation in Xiangping City and pass some real and fake news to the Han Clan to numb them. You secretly helped to encourage this. I'm afraid you contributed to the rapid progress of the case in the state government office."

Even the Bai Residence had a lot of evidence about the Han Clan breaking the law.

Did Yin Huaixi, the opponent, not have anything?

How was that possible?!

Yin Huaixi had always been far-sighted and planned ahead. Since he wanted to deal with the Han Clan, it was impossible for him not to be prepared. However, because the Imperial Court did not

plan to attack the Han Clan, it was very likely that rashly attacking would cause the Imperial Court to be wary, so he hid it.

The Han Clan had been operating in the North for many years. Was it so easy to catch the spies planted in Xiangping?!

Of course not.

Yin Huaixi must have been on guard long ago. This time, he had used the commotion in Xiangping City to take advantage of the situation and capture all these people.

He Zhixian was under the surveillance of the Yue Fei Kings Residence, so it was impossible for Yin Huaixi not to notice. He Zhixian was working for the

Han Clan, so he must have ordered someone to keep an eye on it long ago. That was why Madam Zhangs case could be investigated so quickly..

Chapter 906 - 906: What a Person

Yin Huaixi smiled but said nothing.

Yu Youyao pursed her lips. "I'm not a fool. The Han Clan's power is intertwined, but ever since Madam Zhang complained, everything has been going according to my plan. There's no deviation from my expectations. Everything has gone unbelievably smoothly. It's as if there's a pair of hands secretly pushing all of this."

Yin Ten and Yin San were both secret guards under Yin Huaixi whose strength was ranked at the top.

Yin San was in charge of contacting the other secret guards, executing dispatches, and controlling public opinion in Xiangping City. He would muddy the waters in Xiangping City and give the spies planted by the aristocratic families a chance to fish in troubled waters.

Yin Shi was good at gathering information, so she hid in the dark and kept an eye on the commotion in Xiangping City. As long as those people appeared, they could not escape Yin Shi's eyes.

The two of them cooperated very well, one in the light and one in the dark.

"As expected." Yin Huaixi sighed slightly. "I can't hide anything from you. After you arrived in Xiangping City, the situation in the court took a turn for the worse. I was worried that the consort party would take the opportunity to attack you, so I arranged it in advance. I originally only planned to be on guard in case you suffered. Who knew..."

Towards the end, his tone became a little strange.

Yu Youyao's intuition told her that it wasn't anything good. Her eyes widened. "How would I know what?"

Who knew that she was so crazy!! With an unfriendly gaze, Yin Huaixi did not dare to say that. He coughed lightly and cleared his throat, spouting nonsense with a serious expression. "Who knew that you were so capable? You knocked on the door to voice your grievances and created public opinion to stir up trouble in Xiangping City."



There was a foul atmosphere. The words circled on the tip of his tongue before he swallowed them and changed them to, “It’s earth-shattering. Not only did it fool the Han Clan, but it also almost stunned me.”

An inexperienced person defeated a master by throwing out the rules of traditions. These words were really not an exaggeration. The Han Clan had a thousand schemes and all kinds of methods. If they encountered someone who did not play according to the rules, wouldn’t it be all in chaos? With her guidance, they would completely fall into the trap.

However, could he say that?!

That had to be impossible!

He had to praise her for being smart and far-sighted.

Yu Youyao felt that he was not telling the truth. Seeing that he looked sincere and did not have any evidence, she pursed her lips. “I didn’t want this to happen either. Who would be willing to let someone slander themselves?! However, although it can be proved that someone was framing the princess behind her back, it’s not enough to prove that the Han Clan was behind it. Didn’t the Han Clan use Liu Dagen’s case to slander me? Then I’ll help him.”

After the matter of the Bai Residence selling inferior medicinal herbs was made public, under the instigation of someone with ulterior motives, the Bai Residence became the culprit behind Liu Dagen’s death. Such disregard for human lives caused an uproar.

However, the Bai Residence acted as if nothing had happened and even publicly donated to the You army and the government. At this juncture, anyone would have mistakenly thought that the Bai Residence was spending money to work hard and try to settle the matter.

The Bai Residence’s “fearless” actions made everyone think that Princess Shaoyi was unable to abide by the law of the Imperial Court and was disregarding the rules of the government to protect the Bai Residence.

After all, the Bai Residence’s notice of “being kind” was still posted at the entrance of all the Bai Residence’s medicinal shops.

Yin Huaixi wanted to laugh when he heard this. Didn’t she know how many of these rumors were spread by herself?

She was unwilling to let others slander her.

However, she was happy to slander herself.

However, Yin Huaixi did not dare to show it. His heart ached as he said, “I’ve let you suffer recently.”

Yu Youyao immediately smiled. “Fortunately, my arrangements are still useful. The bigger Liu Dagen’s case is, the greater the implication. When the Han Clan reacts, they won’t be able to cover it up even if they wanted to.” Yin Huaixi smiled. “When the truth is revealed, the royalists will definitely not let it go easily. Meanwhile, the Han Clan has angered everyone, and the world will

definitely condemn them. Due to the Han Clan's boldness, they framed the princess and provoked the dignity of the royal family again. The royal family won't tolerate the Han Clan either."

If they wanted to overthrow the Han Clan, they first had to completely dismantle the tolerance of the royal family towards the Han Clan and cause the Han Clan's reputation to be ruined.

Yu Youyao acutely noticed that the Han Clan was using public opinion to deal with her. She knew that the opportunity to deal with the Han Clan had arrived, so she beat them at their own game and used herself as bait to lure the Han Clan in.

Yu Youyao seemed to have thought of something and said, "Did you know long ago that a direct descendant of the Han Clan had come to Xiangping City and had yet to leave?"

If it weren't for Yin Huaixi's subtle reminder, she wouldn't have thought about it.

Yin Huaixi nodded. "The person who came is the sixth son of the direct descendant of the Han Clan. He's quite famous in the North. If the Jiazhou Residence is so-called benevolent, then He Zhixian is really a despicable person. This person is a fence sitter and is very sly. The Han Clan was worried that others wouldn't be able to control him, so they sent the sixth son of the Han Clan over.'

Back in Quanzhou, the Jiazhou Residence's actions of bringing their son to apologize seemed benevolent, but in essence, it was the same as He Zhixian's scheme. They both wanted to trap her into being heartless and unrighteous. It indeed matched the description of being "so-called benevolent".

Yu Youyao frowned. It was as she had guessed.

Yin Huaixi continued, "Sixth Young Master Han's mission was to immediately contact the spies planted in Xiangping City after Madam Zhangs complaint was successful and arrange for him to leave Xiangping immediately. Those spies will naturally deal with the subsequent matters. I didn't expect that when He Zhixian found out that you had gone to the government office to beat the drum and voice your grievances, he rebelled at the last minute and placed

Sixth Young Master Han under house arrest in a manor to prevent him from being abandoned by the Han Clan."

Ye Xiaoci was He Zhixian's superior. If he alarmed the government office, it would be equivalent to holding onto He Zhixian's lifeline. Hezhi County had no choice but to make other plans.

Yu Youyao immediately understood. "Although he's fine since the Han Clan can help him get away with it, Xiangping is under the watch of the government office and King Yue Fei. After that, the Han Clan won't dare to do anything to him. Once word gets out that he framed the princess, the Han

Clan won't be able to escape responsibility. Even if the Han Clan isn't reliable, he can still bite back."

He was indeed a despicable person. She had a way to win and a way to lose. One would rather offend a gentleman than a despicable person. The ancestors did not lie.

Yin Huaixi nodded. "Sixth Young Master Han is a direct descendant of the Han family and can order He Zhixian around. However, He Zhixian has been an official for more than ten years. The

older the wiser. How can Sixth Young Master Han be his match? I think he has secretly done a lot to frame the princess. ”

“The hunter will become the hunted.” Yu Youyao was speechless. The reason why he was so fearless was not because of the Han Clan at all, but because he had left something up his sleeve. “The Han Clan has really failed this time..”

Chapter 907 - 907: Nosebleed?

No wonder she had found it strange before.

Public opinion rose in Xiangping City. The Han Clan was far away in Xi'an, but He Zhixian was in the middle of it. He must know all of this very well. Why hadn't he done anything?

Wasn't he worried at all that if the Han Clan's ship capsized, it would implicate him?

In the end!

He Zhixian was clearly too cautious. He was not worried that the Han Clan would fall into a trap at all. He sat firmly on the fishing platform and waited for them to fall in the direction of the wind.

This was really amazing.

Yu Youyao sighed. “As expected, no one involved in politics is simple.”

She felt a little complicated. Unknowingly, she and Yin Huaixi had already said a lot before she truly realized how many undercurrents were hidden behind Liu Dagan's case.

The inner palace, the royal court, the political parties, the land-owning class, and even a seventh-grade official had their own schemes.

Yin Huaixi smiled. “The best way to deal with despicable people is not to interfere, stop, or participate in their circumstances. Let them develop and fend for themselves. As long as you firmly control the wind, the despicable people will naturally side with you and be used by you. Of course, if you don't have the confidence to control the wind, don't give them a chance to develop. Just eliminate them completely.”

The reason why despicable people were called despicable people was because they had an obvious weakness. They were small-minded. To put it bluntly, they were narrow-minded.

It was difficult for a narrow-minded person to achieve anything big in the end.

Therefore, truly despicable people were the lowest group of people in the field. This group of people was not easy to offend, but they were easy to control as long as one was strong enough.

This was compared to the Jiazhou Residence, whose despicableness had reached an advanced level, was the coldest.

The Jiazhou Residence had this reputation because they had a structure and firmly occupied the position of benevolence and morality. In contrast, they had become heartless.

Such people were often invincible and could climb to a high position.

Yu Youyao was deep in thought. “In that case, we don’t have to care about He Zhixian anymore? When the Bai Residence is exonerated, He Zhixian will automatically step forward and bite back at the Han Clan to help us deal with them.”

Yin Huaixi nodded. ‘Just wait and see!’

Yu Youyao thought about it carefully. At the very least, her goal was indeed not to do anything about the vexing He Zhixian. She did not dwell on it anymore. “Get someone to send a message to Yin Shi later and ask her to do the interrogation well. Let’s see if we can interrogate the spies planted by the aristocratic families we captured previously and find any clues related to that direct descendant. Then, get someone to go to Xi’an to investigate if any direct descendants of the Han Clan have been out recently. That should be enough.”

If the spies planted by the Han Clan wanted to send news, they would definitely have to contact the Han Clan in secret. As long as they followed the clues, they would be able to find out about the Han Clan.

She had already obtained evidence that the Han Clan had participated in framing the princess, but this evidence was not very strong.

As long as she further investigated that the direct descendant of the Han family had also participated in framing the princess, the Han family would not be able to deny it. She would have the confidence to ignore the Imperial Court and pursue this matter openly.

After the Bai couple was locked up as suspects, the People’s Relief Hall was immediately sealed. All the relevant people were brought to the government office for routine questioning.

All the items would be used as evidence in court. The government office would send someone to collect evidence and check.

After a round of evidence collection, the government office determined that Liu Dagen’s death was indeed related to the People’s Relief Hall. That night, they asked the coroner to open the coffin and perform an autopsy, confirming that Liu Dagen had indeed died because of inappropriate medicine.

After the witnesses and physical evidence were gathered, Madam Zhangs confession case was officially opened.

The case entered the public interrogation segment.

At this moment, someone suddenly realized that the notice of “being kind” that had been posted in the Bai Residence had suddenly disappeared overnight.

All of this seemed to hint at Princess Shaoyi’s “guilty conscience”. Not only did the unfavorable rumors about her not stop, but they also became more and more intense.

Someone even said, “It must be Princess Shaoyi. She can’t withstand the public opinion and its pressure. She doesn’t dare to protect the Bai Residence anymore.”

In the blink of an eye, it had been three days since Yin Huaixi returned to Xiangping.

It was also April.

The temperature in Xiangping had clearly increased. Yu Youyao took off her thick round-collared jacket dress and changed into a thin short dress.

She was wearing a long pleated dress and a thin cross-collared shirt. She also had a cardigan on the outside. The double layers of the shirt were intertwined and overlaid, revealing the layers of heavy clothes at the collar.

The blue and white flowers were elegant and bright, like the rain that had just cleared. The smoke and blue in the sky was beautiful.

Yin Huaixi's eyes lit up and he couldn't even move his eyes away.

The little girl used stone powder and casually swept it across her eyebrows. Her two curved eyebrows were as hazy as water, like smoke and fog. The pair of sleeping phoenix eyes under her eyebrows made her look dazzling.

His gaze couldn't help but descend. Her neck was like a swan's shadow. The two faintly discernible but tempting small collarbones hidden in her clothes, and...

Yin Huaixi's eyes seemed to be burned, and his mind went blank for a moment.

He suddenly looked away and suddenly felt his mouth go dry. When a person was extremely thirsty, they would involuntarily swallow non-stop, so their Adam's apple would keep moving up and down.

Yin Huaixi suddenly remembered that Yu Youyao would be 14 years old in ten

Previously, he was still feeling sorry for her. The little girl was petite and slender, as if she couldn't grow any taller. Every meal, she ate two small bowls of rice, in addition to snacks, fruits, snacks, and medicinal cuisine. He didn't know how much she had eaten.

At this moment, he suddenly understood.

A fourteen-year-old girl was at the age where she was still in full bloom. The nutrition her body had absorbed supported her body, and the shy bud had already grown.

Whether the bud grew well or not depended on how much nutrition it was fed.

It turned out that all the flesh had grown there.

The scene he had seen just now appeared in Yin Huaixi's mind again.

Under the open shirt was a small shirt with a smoky collar. It vaguely and hazily revealed her small chest underneath. Meanwhile, the pleated skirt was tied around her waist, outlining her waist.

However, the slenderness here happened to accentuate the fullness of her chest, which was bulging with her small shirt.

It was as if Yin Huaixi was possessed. His mind replayed the scene just now over and over again, and he thought of a poem. "Looking from afar, there are mountains, and the distance is different!"

"Nineteenth Brother..." Her anxious call woke Yin Huaixi up from his daze.

Before he could react, he saw Yu Youyao rushing over. "Why is there suddenly a nosebleed? Are you feeling unwell? Don't lower your head, raise it..."

“Nosebleed? Me?!” Yin Huaixi was stunned for a moment. Suddenly, he felt his nose heat up. He subconsciously reached out and touched his nose. He took it down and saw that his fingers were stained with blood..

Chapter 908 - 908: Overkill?

It was really a nosebleed!! Yin Huaixi suffocated.

One shouldn't ask. If anyone asked, he was overthinking.

Yes, to put it simply, it was an emergency.

“Why are you still standing there? Sit down quickly.” He was standing there in a daze and not moving at all. Two lines of blood flowed from his nose and onto his lips. Seeing this, Yu Youyao stomped her feet and quickly went forward to help him sit down.

Only then did Yin Huaixi realize what he was experiencing. He was so embarrassed that he suddenly had the urge to escape.

It was obvious that Yu Youyao would not give him this chance.

“Raise your head first.” She held Yin Huaixi's head up and wiped the blood off his nose with a handkerchief. Then, she pinched the flesh of his nose and continued to press his nose.

Chun Xiao, who was outside the screen, heard the commotion and quickly brought in a basin of cold water.

Ever since Yu Youyao turned twelve, she rarely stayed alone with Yin Huaixi. When they were in the same room, she would always arrange for one or two maidservants to wait outside the screen.

After leaving the capital and returning to her mother's clan, this rule became even stricter.

The Xie Residence did not restrict her from interacting and getting close to Yin Huaixi, and the higher-ups were not too strict with her. However, it was definitely impossible for a man and woman to be alone in the same room.

Eldest Aunt Wang even called her into her room from time to time to talk about private matters. She found the “fire prevention painting”<sup>O</sup> at the bottom of the carriage and pointed at the erotic painting on it. She explained to Yu Youyao about some things that men and women who had fallen in love would do and warned her that unmarried men and women could not do anything that was depicted in the painting. She even mentioned the consequences of disobedience to her.

Yu Youyao was so embarrassed that her face turned red, and she did not know where to look.

However, Madam Wang smiled and said, “I originally wanted to wait for your biological mother to close the door after your wedding date before slowly teaching you. It's just that...” She paused and skipped the rest of her sentence. “You've grown up in front of your Grandmother since you were

young. There are some private conversations between mother and daughter that no one can tell you about, so you're very ignorant."

Old Madam Yu had been chaste for half her life and had suffered from the effects of etiquette. She was indifferent to everything, and some of her teachings were not that important.

She really doted on her granddaughter, so she wouldn't criticize Yu Youyao over such trivial matters.

In addition, she was a chaste woman. As long as Yu Youyao did not make any mistakes during the grand ceremony and stood tall, no one would pick on her. Moreover, she was a widow and had lived for a long time. It wasn't appropriate for her to call her granddaughter into her room and talk to her about the private matters between men and women!

It was clearly inappropriate.

This kind of thing could only be taught by her aunt, Madam Wang.

Yu Youyao was embarrassed and her heart was beating fast. She did not dare to look at the explicit scene on the fire preventing painting at all. "Doesn't—

Doesn't this mean that we have to wait until the night before the wedding to..."

When Madam Wang heard this, she stretched out a finger and poked her forehead lightly. "Little fool, husband and wife are a family. Not only are they doing this to continue the family line, but they're also doing it for the sake of harmony. There's no doubt that they're loving. A good start is the key to getting along as husband and wife, right? How can they cram at the last minute?!"

Yu Youyao was stunned when she heard this.

"After a woman is engaged, her mother will teach her how to have some fun between husband and wife and promote their relationship." At this point, Wang blushed a little. She coughed lightly and showed her a painting on the fire prevention painting.

To put it bluntly, they were just some flirting and teasing methods.

Yu Youyao was nervous and curious. She opened one eye to take a look, but she realized that in the scene on the fire prevention painting, the women were more or less all wearing clothes. Some had small exposed shoulders, some had their clothes half-open, and some were wearing tube tops. It was the same for the men. The scene was charming, but not messy.

It simply shattered Yu Youyao's demeanor she had nurtured since elementary school. "Isn't— Isn't this only used by concubines..." Indecent methods? She vaguely said, "The 'Lessons for Women' states that women should be polite and dignified..."

She had been learning a woman's teachings since she was seven years old. Compared to her other sisters in the family, she did not learn them wholeheartedly. Her grandmother and Ms. Ye did not criticize her.

However, some concepts were still affected.

All the women in this world were like this. They wouldn't go with the flow, but they wouldn't let herself go. They were cautious, restrained, and learned everything. This was a principle she had understood since she was young.

This was because if one casually followed the flow, they would eventually become one of them.

However, if they were left to their own devices, they would eventually deviate from the norm and become intolerable by the world.

When Madam Wang heard this, her tone suddenly became stern. "Marriage is your own. It's like drinking water. You'll know whether it's cold or warm. If you abide by the etiquette of being respectful and dignified, not only will you live a tiring life, but your husband won't like it either. How can such a couple be harmonious? Couples quarrel all day long. This is a sign of chaos in the family. How can your mother-in-law tolerate you? How can she not torture you? Can you still stand tall in your husband's family? At that time, won't you be mocked, bullied, and welcomed into the house by the concubine? Your husband will only see the new person laugh, and won't see you cry. Is this the marriage you want?"

Yu Youyao subconsciously shook her head.

Fortunately, the methods of the aristocratic families were not too vicious. If she put in a little more effort, she could still change it. Madam Wang smiled. "Don't be too stupid. Don't just look at the big families shouting about rules and etiquette. However, the families who really dote on their daughters have long taught them how to control men."

Not only did she want to control a man's heart, but she also wanted to be able to stand tall at home in the future.

Yu Youyao finally understood the difference between having a mother and not having one.

Seeing that she understood, Madam Wang lowered her voice and whispered into Yu Youyao's ear, "However, you won't know about the real relationship between husband and wife until after the engagement."

"Eldest Aunt!" Yu Youyao's face turned red with anger.

Madam Wang covered her mouth and giggled. "Alright, I won't tease you anymore. When girls are 13 or 14 years old, they're at the age when love is first born. If your family doesn't guide you well, it's very easy for something to happen. Many big families have foresight. When their daughter is 13 or 14 years old, their sisters will start to use obscure methods to teach them about the matters between men and women. When they find out about this and understand the consequences, they'll weigh the consequences in their hearts.

It's better than not knowing anything and being coaxed and lied to."

Some innocent young misses who had been raised in seclusion were blinded by the love of the scholars and beauties after reading a few books. They did not know anything about men and women. When men said a few sweet words, they untied their belts.

Such things were common.

Yu Youyao was not someone who did not know the severity of the matter.

Yin Huaixi did not look like such a despicable person.



However, the two of them were too close. They were also in their prime and had feelings for others. One was ignorant and the other was fearless, so it was inevitable that people would worry.

## Chapter 909 - 909: Trial

Yu Youyao did not know what was wrong with her. She actually thought of this. For a moment, her face turned red and she did not dare to look at Yin

Huaixi directly.

She quickly chased these messy thoughts out of her mind and blamed all of this on the fact that the two of them were too close.

Her Eldest Aunt had also said that at this age, her thoughts were wandering. Even if they held hands, she would be shy. This was human nature.

There was a suffocating awkwardness in the air.

Yin Huaixi's nose was pinched, so he couldn't speak. Yu Youyao didn't know what to say for a moment.

After an unknown period of time, Yin Huaixi felt that his breathing was irregular and he was about to suffocate. Then, he said in a low voice, "It— It doesn't seem to be flowing anymore."

Yu Youyao quickly let go and took a step back. Then, she regretted letting go too quickly. She hadn't even confirmed if his nose was really not bleeding.

At the thought of this, she quickly said, "Continue to raise your head. After making sure that your nose doesn't bleed, slowly lower it."

Yin Huaixi nodded in response to Yu Youyao's anxious and concerned gaze.

After a while, Yu Youyao stepped forward to support his head and slowly straightened it. It was indeed not bleeding anymore. "Fortunately, it didn't continue to flow. Otherwise, we would have to hire a doctor."

Spring was hot, and his liver was on heat. Occasionally, he would have a nosebleed. It wasn't a big deal, but it wouldn't work if he bled too much.

As she spoke, she picked up a wet handkerchief from the copper basin and was about to help Yin Huaixi wash the blood off his nose.

As soon as she approached, Yin Huaixi's entire body stiffened. He kept feeling that his nose was about to bleed again, so he quickly looked up.

Seeing him raise his head again, Yu Youyao was shocked. "Is your nose bleeding again? You must have worked too hard recently. I'll get someone to get a doctor to take a look."

Yin Huaixi quickly lowered his head. "No, no. It's just that my nose is sticky and a little uncomfortable. Don't worry." He suddenly remembered that he had eaten sea cucumbers, medicinal cuisine, Eight Treasures Cake, Frankincense cream cake, and so on for the past few days. He had

eaten different food and found the perfect excuse for his nosebleed. “I’ve probably overnourished myself in the past two days.”

“That’s impossible.” Yu Youyao’s words were firm, but she inexplicably felt a little guilty. Her eyes wandered. In order to strengthen her persuasiveness, she said, “I’ve prepared medicinal cuisine for you to nourish your body and mind. How can it be overly nourishing?”

The more she spoke, the more guilty she felt. Towards the end, even her voice became much softer, and even her toes felt guilty.

In the past few days, the temperature had clearly increased. If he ate too much nourishing food, the effect would indeed stack up and it would be easy for his blood to suffer from excessive internal heat.

However! She would never admit that this was her fault.

Yu Youyao said self-righteously, “It must be because you’ve been overworked recently. You’re too tired and angry. You’re not allowed to do this again.” Yin Huaixi was speechless.

What bad intentions could the little girl have? The little girl was just worried about his health. He had to be obedient and not ungrateful. “Yes, you’re right.

I’ll definitely take more care of my health in the future.”

Satisfied, Yu Youyao picked up her wet handkerchief again.

“I’ll do it myself.” Yin Huaixi quickly reached out to take the wet handkerchief and covered his face. The cold handkerchief eased the heat on his face and he calmed down.

Yu Youyao turned around and poured a cup of warm water. She handed it to him. “In the past few days, your diet has been lighter. No matter how busy you are every day, you have to maintain six hours of sleep. If you really can’t leave, burn an incense pill when you’re free. Take a nap for a while. The incense pill is serene, eliminates trouble, and relieves dryness. You have to drink more water.’

Yin Huaixi noted them down one by one.

Yu Youyao paused for a moment before instructing, “The first batch of incense medicine from the Jade Fragrance Workshop has already been made. There are a total of three large boxes. Bring them over together! Currently, the operations of the incense shop have already been standardized and perfected. There are also all the medicinal herbs and spices. There will be more in the next batch.’

There was naturally no need to mention the prestige of the Yue Fei’s Residence in Liaodong.

Although she was the one who had first suggested avoiding the epidemic, after the call from Madam Huang and General Ning Yuan’s wife, the commoners were actively responding. Those who had money donated money, while those who didn’t donated medicine.

There were many effective ways to prevent and treat the epidemic, the most common and effective being sulfur and mugwort.

When bathing, one should put sulfur powder in the water to cleanse the body.

One should also burn mugwort in the house to get rid of insects and poison.

The commoners of the Great Zhou Dynasty all had the habit of cutting, drying, and saving mugwort at home. Many commoners donated the excess mugwort at home.

Yin Huaixi nodded. "When we were taking in the refugees, we had already made the corresponding preparations for the subsequent consequences. Only the medicinal herbs were a little lacking. However, if the government wants to gather medicinal herbs, they also need the support of the commoners. This matter has never been settled. Now, the donations from the Xie and Bai Residences can be considered to have resolved their worries.'

Yu Youyao felt relieved. "Be careful."

Yin Huaixi promised her, "Don't worry, I'll definitely be back before the Dragon Boat Festival at the latest."

There was still a month before the Dragon Boat Festival. Yu Youyao felt rather reluctant. "By the way, the first batch of sweet potato seedlings was very successful. I've already informed Military Advisor Huang and asked him to communicate with the government to distribute the first batch of planted sweet potato vines to the newly resettled refugees through the government. Before the refugees were resettled, they had already registered their household registration. They only need to take their household registration certificates to the government to register and reclaim the size of the fields to receive the corresponding sweet potato vines."

When Yin Huaixi heard this, he felt relieved.

The planting of vines had expanded the scale of the planting of sweet potatoes and resolved the problem of the shortage of vines. About a month after the vines were planted, the refugees had a source of food for themselves.

Yu Youyao said, "Seventy percent of the harvest will belong to the refugees. The other 30% will belong to the government, among which 10% belongs to the Yue Fei's Residence, and the other 10% belongs to me. When the refugees receive the vines, the government will ask if they agree. Their fingerprints are required to receive the vines."

Yin Huaixi immediately understood what she meant. "There's no free lunch in the world. Be it the government or the Yue Fei's Residence, they've paid a huge amount of manpower, resources, and financial resources to accommodate the refugees. Half of the sweet potatoes that grow seedlings come from you. You should indeed receive a certain amount of remuneration. If everything goes according to the refugees, it will make the refugees take it for granted."

It was as if because they were refugees, everyone should give in to them and help them for free.

If the rules were not set now, something would definitely happen after the refugees were settled.

Thirty percent of the total harvest was not much for high-yielding sweet potatoes. As long as one was diligent and planted half an acre of land, it was enough for the family to eat.

Yu Youyao had thought about this very thoroughly.

Yu Youyao indeed thought so. "Let them be reminded that it's time to live a stable life in the future.'

After sending Yin Huaixi off, Old Madam Sun returned from the government office and reported, "Tomorrow, Lord Ye is going to the government office to hold a hearing on Liu Dagen's case. Lord Ye specially asked me to ask if the princess is going to the government office to be interrogated."

#### Chapter 910 - 910: Balancing

When the case was promoted to the government office and the case was publicly tried, it meant that they had further grasped relevant people and physical evidence. There was a breakthrough in the case.

Liu Dagen's death seemed complicated, but it was actually not difficult to investigate. With Ye Xiaoci's ability, this case could be investigated in three to five days.

Any brilliant doctor could tell if the ox bezoar was real or fake.

After carefully sorting out the many things that had happened recently, Yu Youyao understood.

The vassal lords, the government, and the nobles restrained one another, forming a stable and deeply rooted balance that was not easy to break.

The first time the balance was broken was when the Di people invaded on a large scale. Whether they won or lost, it seriously threatened the interests of the nobles.

The nobles did not really have the strength to resist the vassal lords. The balance was based on the fact that the strength of the three sides was the same, and no one could shake the position of the others.

The former Marquis of Weining had discovered that Ning Yuanbo's participation had tilted the balance of power towards the nobles, preventing the government from interfering. In the end, it ended with the tragic death of King Li of Zhou's family.

The second time this balance was broken was this sudden drought.

This drought caused some subtle changes in the interests of the three sides.

Princess Shaoyi planted sweet potatoes and eased the drought in the North, allowing King Yue Fei, who had helped Princess Shaoyi promote the planting of sweet potatoes among the commoners, to gain the initiative under the balance of the three sides.

The center of gravity began to lean towards King Yue Fei.

After that, King Yue Fei's recovery caused the nobles to panic. They did not dare to sit still and wait for death. They tried to use the same trick again.

Using the method they had used to deal with King Li of Zhou back then, they would restrict the You army in terms of supplies and further achieve their goal of restraining King Yue Fei.

As a result, the checks and balances further cracked.

However, the noble still did not know it because they had a death exemption card in their hands.

The Imperial Court placed King Yue Fei in an important position and even gave him many honors because he could stabilize the situation in the North.

However, at the same time, the Imperial Court had also sent Ning Changbo, an old general who had been on the battlefield for a long time. During the rebellion in Shandong, he had fought side by side with King Yue Fei to support the battle. On the surface, it looked like it was because King Yue Fei's legs were disabled and he couldn't go to the battlefield, but in fact, it was to let Chang

Ningbo replace King Yue Fei in the future to guard the North.

In fact, they wanted to remove his governance of the North.

The imperial court was more at ease with the generals guarding the North than the vassal lords.

It had to be said that the emperor's plan was indeed brilliant.

However, King Yue Fei's sudden recovery undoubtedly foiled the emperor's plan. While the emperor valued Yue Fei, he would also be more afraid of him.

This was the result of the nobles restricting King Yue Fei.

However, in Yu Youyao's opinion, this was courting death. Once the balance was broken, there would always be people who would be sacrificed for benefits. King Li of Zhou's family was number one.

However, King Li of Zhou had died tragically previously, so Yin Huaixi would definitely not become second.

This was the best time for Yin Huaixi to deal with the nobles.

Yin Huaixi knew very well that if he wanted to defeat the "nobles", he had to obtain the support of the Imperial Court first.

It was necessary to dismantle the Imperial Court's trust in the nobles.

Yin Huaixi quietly began to make arrangements, intending to further dismantle the balance between the three sides. He deliberately accommodated refugees wantonly in the area with more resources in Liaodong and actively helped the Imperial Court relieve the disaster.

This was the outcome that the Imperial Court was willing to see.

He had let the world see that in the face of a drought, the Imperial Court was not helpless.

It further gained the trust of the Imperial Court.

However, those nobles who were indifferent in the face of the calamity naturally invited criticism from the commoners, causing the Imperial Court to be dissatisfied.

After accepting a large number of refugees, food became the biggest problem.

How to resolve this problem was even more logical for Yin Huaixi. In the name of further expanding the planting of sweet potatoes and alleviating the drought in the North, he invited Princess Shaoyi to the North to help promote the planting of sweet potatoes and obtained the support of the Xie Residence in Quanzhou.

At that time, the Empress Dowager was still in charge of the royalists. Princess Shaoyi belonged to the royalists and was impartial. She was only there to help the country. The court officials were happy to see all of this.

This move received strong support from the court officials.

Yin Huaixi had further gained the trust of the Imperial Court, and the cracks in the balance were becoming bigger and bigger.

After completely taking control of the situation, Yin Huaixi began to induce the wind in the refugee camp. The refugees had fled to Liaodong and were bound to live here in the future. However, the North lacked supplies. How were they going to settle such a huge number of refugees?

This could be done by teaching the refugees how to raise silkworms, fish, and so on. However, could refugees settle down just because they had a skill? Of course not!

In fact, the resources in the North were controlled by the nobles. Without the support of the nobles, there was no way for a large number of refugees to survive in the North.

The spearhead was directed at the nobles, further inflaming the Imperial Court's dissatisfaction with them.

Only at this moment did Yu Youyao come to a realization.

Earlier, after talking to her maternal grandfather, she had mentioned

Emperor Gaozu. Back then, the various "national policies" that he had implemented in the North had enlightened her. She suddenly thought of using the "national policies" to take in refugees wantonly and settle them down, so as to increase the population of the North and resolve the embarrassing situation of low productivity and insufficient supplies.

However, what if all of this was caused by Yin Huaixi?

Yin Huaixi had helped the Imperial Court resolve the problem of the refugees.

Taking in the refugees was in line with the interests of the Imperial Court and King Yue Fei. King Yue Fei and the Imperial Court had reached an agreement on the benefits, and the relationship was unbreakable.

However, the resettlement of the refugees required the strong cooperation of the local nobles. This seriously violated the interests of the nobles.

The series of schemes seemed complicated, but they were actually just to completely dismantle the Imperial Court's trust in the nobles step by step.

When the interests of the Imperial Court conflicted with the interests of the nobles, the nobles had unknowingly become the opposite of the Imperial Court.

More than a million refugees had gathered in the North. The nobles had only donated symbolically and did not support them strongly. This was not in the interests of the Imperial Court.

Was it because they were bold and ignored the national policy?

NO!

Were they too stupid to ignore the calamity?

Not really!

Was it that they couldn't see the situation clearly and ignored the Imperial Court?

Instead, they were already in a dilemma under King Yue Fei's meticulous plan.

On the one hand, they were worried and wouldn't dare to give King Yue Fei too much support and let him gain power, lest he arouse the emperor's suspicion. If the aristocratic families were related to the vassal lords, that would be a disaster.

On the other hand, King Li of Zhou's death had already caused most of the noble families to walk towards the opposite side of King Yue Fei. Such enemies of the country were irreconcilable. The nobles had no way out. They did not have the guts to ignore the national policy. They could only "perfect" the national policies and try to use resources to further restrict King Yue Fei.

If incidents, such as riots and epidemics, in a refugee camp were caused by a lack of supplies, this was the outcome that the nobles were willing to see..