

All Hail 961

Chapter 961 - 961: Damn!!!

Yu Youyao was embarrassed and afraid. She subconsciously lowered her head. “My Eldest Aunt had instructed me before we left that even if we’re engaged, we have to maintain some distance.”

Her Eldest Aunt had repeatedly instructed her that it was fine to travel hand in hand, but she could not try to have a physical relationship.

It had to be known that food and sex were the same. Once a man understood taste, he would push his luck and try all kinds of ways to coax women to make mistakes. Most women had received some upbringing in this aspect, but they were also veiled. They would only truly understand it after they got married.

Instead, they became even more curious.

As a result, women were not as knowledgeable as men.

Lack of cognition and great curiosity made it difficult to truly understand the implications and consequences behind it. It was difficult to resist a man’s deep love.

At this moment, Yin Huaixi couldn’t listen to anything.

After kissing her, he felt that his entire body was uncomfortable, as if he had been bitten by an ant. There was an itch between his bones. A wave of heat rushed to his head and poured back from his forehead, entrenching his lower abdomen and making his body tense to the extreme.

At this moment, it was as if a new door had opened. He felt that he had lived for nothing for the past 19 years. He couldn’t wait to taste the phoenix meat in front of him again.

“Be good.” He simply reached out and lifted her chin. He lowered his head and was about to kiss her.

At this moment, a bolt of lightning pounced above them. Then, there was a thunderclap, as if it was a sharp warning.

Yu Youyao was shocked and couldn’t help but tremble slightly. “It’s going to rain.”

F*ck!!

Yin Huaixi pulled Yu Youyao, who was leaning against the tree, into his arms.

“Don’t be afraid. There’s a pavilion in front. Let’s go get out of the rain.”

The Dragon Boat Festival was held during the period between spring and summer. The weather was unpredictable, and thunderstorms were common.

Yu Youyao was so embarrassed that she did not dare to look up at anyone. She kept staring at the ground, not daring to look at Yin Huaixi.

The black clouds covered the sky and rolled down. The sky seemed to be unable to withstand the weight of the black clouds and was about to collapse. It was so oppressive that it felt suffocating.

The lush forest was covered in a haze.

“The pavilion isn’t far ahead.” Yin Huaixi held Yu Youyao’s hand, picked up the herb-picking basket on the ground, and quickly led her out of the forest.

The vegetation in the mountains was sumptuous. Yu Youyao was wearing small boots, and she lifted her skirt a few inches above the ground. However, as she was walking in a hurry, even though she was holding her skirt, her skirt would be hooked by the vegetation from time to time, so it was very difficult for her to walk.

Not long after, they saw an octagonal pavilion on the mountain peak. The pavilion was built of mountain rocks and wood, looking ancient. It must have been there for many years. There were strange rocks nearby.

Yu Youyao was so focused on looking at the pavilion that she did not look at the road under her feet for a moment. Her dress was caught by a small branch at her feet, and she staggered, about to fall.

“Ah—” She couldn’t help but exclaim.

“Be careful.” Yin Huaixi turned around to help her. He quickly bent down and pulled away the branch that was caught in her dress. At this moment, heavy rain fell.

The big tree above their heads blocked the rain, but there was still rain falling through the gaps.

“Run!” Yin Huaixi reacted quickly. He took off his cape and covered Yu Youyao’s head.

Yu Youyao couldn’t care less about her manners. She lifted her skirt and the two of them ran all the way into the pavilion under the cover of the cape.

As soon as she entered the pavilion, Yu Youyao felt as if she had run five kilometers. For a moment, she was dizzy, her chest felt tight, and she was short of breath. Her fair face was red, and she panted as she held onto the stone table.

Yin Huaixi lowered the bamboo curtain around them to block the wind and rain that hit the pavilion. He quickly took out a towel and handed it to Yu Youyao. “Hurry up and wipe the rain off your body, lest you catch a cold.”

The trees in the mountain blocked the rain and he had covered her with a cape along the way. Thus, Yu Youyao was not drenched by the rain. However, the wind and rain in the mountain still hit her. The stray hairs on her forehead and temples stuck to her face, making her look a little disheveled.

He was worried that Yu Youyao would fall sick.

Yu Youyao’s clothes were light and wet after being hit by the rain. They felt cold on her body. She quickly took the towel. “Where did this towel come from?!”

Yin Huaixi replied, “I originally planned to go to the pavilion to rest for a while when you were tired from playing in the mountains. I also wanted to eat some snacks and food, so I made preparations in advance.”

The things in the carriage were complete. He only prepared some food, utensils, and towels here.

Only then did Yu Youyao see two bamboo baskets near the fence.

The towel was soft and absorbed water. Yu Youyao lowered her head and wiped her wet clothes. Just as she was about to dry her hair, she suddenly saw that Yin Huaixi was drenched from head to toe. He must have only cared about not letting her get wet and covered her head with his cape, causing him to be drenched.

She quickly handed the towel back. "Wipe yourself first. You're drenched." "Wipe yourself first." Yin Huaixi pushed the large towel over. "I'm a man and a martial artist. I'm strong. It's nothing to be drenched in the rain for a while."

"You should yourself first." Yu Youyao blocked the towel with a stubborn expression. "I wasn't drenched in the rain much just now. The handkerchief on my body is still dry. It's fine to wipe myself with a handkerchief. Humans eat all kinds of food. It's not like the cold won't look for you just because you're a man and your body is strong. You have to be more careful."

The corners of Yin Huaixi's mouth twitched. "If we continue to push and block the towel like this, when the cold enters our bodies, we might as well fall sick together. We'll suffer together."

Yu Youyao couldn't help but laugh.

Yin Huaixi took the towel from her hand and pressed her, making her sit on the stone stool. He stood behind her and took off her jewelry one by one, putting down her shiny black hair.

Her hair was wet from the rain and wasn't drenched yet, but if she didn't dry it quickly, she would definitely fall sick. Yin Huaixi lifted a strand of wet hair and carefully dried it for her.

Yu Youyao sat quietly. Yin Huaixi's movements were light, gentle and patient, as if this was an extremely important and serious matter.

She couldn't help but smile.

She suddenly remembered that in the past, when she was in the Yu Residence, she often helped her "cousin" dry his hair.

She knew very well that this was inappropriate, but she relied on the fact that she was still young. She relied on the fact that her grandmother indulged her in getting close to her "cousin". She relied on the fact that The Green House was filled with her cousin's own people. She relied on the fact that no one knew about it and did not care about anything at all. At that time, she really treated her "cousin" as her brother.

She naturally thought that it was only right for siblings to be closer.

Later on, as she grew older and recalled their past closeness, she gradually changed. She had once said to Yin Huaixi, "I'll treat you well for the rest of my life.."

Chapter 962 - 962: Four Seas Calming Dragon Armor

However, when she grew up, she realized that she had to fulfill this promise with her entire life. When she was young and ignorant, she had made a lifelong promise to Yin Huaixi.

Fortunately, they had been connected in the past. Yin Huaixi also said to her,

“I’ll protect you for the rest of your life.”

Her life was so long, and not every promise could be fulfilled.

She was so lucky to have met someone who had accompanied her as a “cousin” when she was young. When they grew up, he would continue to fulfill the promise he had made in the name of her fiancée. In the future, he would still protect her as a “husband” and gradually grow old.

“That’s great.” Yu Youyao smiled softly, her dimples appearing. Yin Huaixi looked down at her with curved eyes. “What’s wrong?”

Yu Youyao shook her head. “I just feel very happy.”

After a while, Yu Youyao felt that the coldness on her scalp had dissipated a lot. However, her thin clothes could not withstand the humidity and coldness of the wind and rain, and her entire body was cold.

If she had known earlier, she would have brought a cloak when she went out in the morning.

However, on second thought, it was inconvenient to wear a cloak when climbing the mountain. Even if she wore a cloak, it would most likely stay in the carriage at the foot of the mountain. She still wouldn’t be able to wear it now.

After all, there would be unpredictable storms.

Her shoulders sank slightly. She looked down and saw a man’s cloak draped over her shoulders. The coldness of her body immediately dissipated.

Yu Youyao looked at him in disbelief, her eyes sparkling. “Why do you have a cloak?”

This was a treasure boy!

Yin Huaixi smiled and said, “I’m a general, so I’m used to wearing a cloak all the time. Sometimes, when I camp at night, I’ll just put on a cloak and wrap it around my body for the entire night. It can protect me from the cold. When I eat in the wilderness and spread it on the ground, the food in my mouth will be cleaner and I won’t fall sick…” At this point, he changed the topic. “It’s fine to wear a cloak when I’m out.”

When he wore it, he thought that he might be able to pick a mountain. Then, he would place the cloak on the ground. The two of them would lean against each other’s shoulders to look at the stars and the moon. The clouds were rolling and the mountains were covered in mist. It was also a different scene.

However, Yu Youyao knew that in addition to warding off the cold and dirt, materials could be taken from the cloak on a general’s body if he was injured in battle. It could be used to bandage his wound. During the battle, the cloak would blow in the wind, and it could confuse people. There was a saying that went, “Wrapping the corpse with horse leather.” The corpse in this saying was wrapped in a cloak.

Niost generals would always wear a cloak when they were outside, even in the royal court.

This cloak was a symbol of status. At the same time, it was a heavy burden. It was also a symbol of being prepared to fight and kill at any time.

Generals would only take off their cloaks temporarily when they were at home.

Yu Youyao had seen this cloak before.

Just as Yin Huaixi was conferred the title of King of the North, the Imperial Court gave him a set of armor.

It was said that this armor had a powerful background. After the previous emperor ascended the throne, he had specially found the most exquisite craftsmen in the world. It had taken three years to forge it with meteoric iron, fine iron, gold, natural silk, and so on. It was modeled after the armor of Emperor Gaozu during the war.

After the armor was successfully forged, the previous emperor personally held the armor and brought the ministers into the Imperial Temple to pay respects to Emperor Gaozu and the previous emperors of the Great Zhou Dynasty.

In front of the ministers, he put the armor into a treasure box and sealed it forever.

This was the same principle as dismissing military hierarchy using wine cups. The ministers also knew that by putting the treasure armor into a box, the previous emperor was warning the generals and nobles.

From then on, the swords of the generals were kept in boxes.

Meanwhile, the previous emperor valued literature over martial arts. Under benevolence, he vigorously developed agriculture and commerce, suppressing the four seas. Under the previous emperor's governance, the Great Zhou Dynasty reached its peak.

It was said that during the previous emperor's era, the treasury was extremely abundant. A lot of money was invested in the army to forge weapons, armor, and so on. The Great Zhou Dynasty's industrial technology had also reached an unbelievable level.

The excellent weapons and equipment also intimidated the external enemies.

Old nobles like the Ning Residence and the Zhenguo Marquis Residence gradually fell.

However, since ancient times, when one was at their peak, they would definitely decline. The previous emperor had never dreamed that most of the large foundation he had painstakingly built for the Great Zhou Dynasty would be destroyed by the current emperor.

Back to the topic.

After this set of armor was sealed, it had been offered to the Imperial Ancestral Temple. It wasn't until the Imperial Court conferred the title of King of the North to Yin Huaixi that the current emperor suddenly thought of the treasure armor in the Imperial Temple.

Hence, he imitated the previous emperor back then and brought a group of ministers to pay their respects to the Imperial Temple. He reported to the spirit of the previous emperor and explained that the current situation of the Great Zhou was troubled internally and externally. The treasure armor was out to stabilize the world.

Therefore, he personally took out the treasure box and gave it the name “Four Seas Calming Dragon Armor” on the spot. In front of his ancestors in the Imperial Temple, he gave it to King Yue Fei.

King Yue Fei knelt down and bowed. He thanked his master and said, “My ancestors have contributed. I will definitely not let down the merit and foundation of my ancestors.”

This move of kindness and authority was really smooth.

Some people would feel that the Four Seas Calming Dragon Armor was a little familiar. Then, they would think of the dagger that King Dongning had given to the current emperor a few years ago. He had named it the Four Seas Dragon Dagger and gave it to King Li of Zhou.

Many years ago, due to King Li of Zhou’s grievances, this dagger returned to the emperor’s hands. Then, as King Li of Zhou’s grievances were cleared, it was given to Yin Huaixi, the son of King Li of Zhou.

The Dragon Armor and the Dragon Dagger were only a word apart, but they were exactly the same.

The Four Seas Dragon Dagger carried the loyalty and benevolence of the King of Zhou to the Great Zhou and the current emperor. It had witnessed King Li of Zhou’s sincerity in this life. He had risked his life for the Great Zhou Dynasty and the current emperor.

The current emperor had given the Four Seas Dragon Dagger to Yin Huaixi as a warning and a favor from the emperor.

Meanwhile, the Four Seas Calming Dragon Armor was mixed with the current emperor’s expectations for King Yue Fei. He hoped that Yue Fei could be like his father, King Li of Zhou, and sweep away the disloyalty of the four seas for him. He hoped that the nine states would be vast. He also hoped that the country would be stabilized and that the four seas would be suppressed.

It had to be said that the dog emperor’s character was not good.

However, he still had good taste in people and was quite good at using people. There was no need to mention how the Weining Marquis Residence back then had become the number one noble of the Great Zhou Dynasty in such a short period of time, let alone how much Yu Zongshen had earned for the Great Zhou Dynasty after entering the Ministry of Revenue. Just based on Yin Huaixi’s determination, it was naturally not a problem for him to descend to the four seas and stabilize the nine states.

Unfortunately, he had still lost his magnanimity as a ruler in the end. He played with power and was not worthy of being served.

Back then, the previous emperor had forged the Four Seas Calming Dragon Armor to intimidate generals. The better the quality of the treasure armor was, the better. Therefore, the color of the treasured armor was dark. There was red among the black..

Chapter 963 - 963: Conviction

This color was especially noble among all colors and was a solitary existence.

The cloak did not use the red and blue colors that were more common in the army. Instead, it used a thicker black- gold color, which had black among gold.

At this moment, the cloak on her shoulders was the Four Seas Calming Dragon Cloak.

The black- gold cloak exuded a strong sense of sharp gold. Perhaps even he did not realize that the cloak that he brought along was a cloak that was worn on the body.

Yin Huaixi took off his heavy armor but brought a cloak.

He removed his guard against her, and brought with him the conviction to fight for her at any time.

The cloak on her shoulders suddenly felt a little heavy and airtight. Yu Youyao felt uncomfortable, but she couldn't bear to take it off.

She lowered her head and stroked her fingers over the golden patterns of the cloak, inch by inch.

The pavilion fell silent.

The heavy rain that was blocked by the bamboo curtain outside the pavilion made a loud sound, vowing to wash away the world.

Yin Huaixi frowned and said, "I wonder when the rain will stop. It's humid on the mountain, and your clothes are wet. You won't be warm if you wear them.

I'll go into the mountains to find some withered branches to make a fire." Yu Youyao did feel that there was always a lingering coldness on her body, but she did not agree with him going out in the rain. "It's raining so hard. It's better not to...

Yin Huaixi shook his head. "The rain isn't stopping. You'll fall sick wearing wet clothes. When a fire is started and your clothes are dry, you'll be fine. Don't worry about me. Take care of yourself. I'm a martial arts practitioner. Even if I'm drenched in the rain for a while, I won't be affected.'

Yu Youyao also knew that he made sense. She just looked at the heavy rain outside the pavilion. "It's difficult to walk on the wet and slippery mountain.

You have to be careful.'

Yin Huaixi nodded and strode out of the pavilion.

When Yu Youyao caught up to the door of the pavilion, she saw Yin Huaixi use his feet to propel himself hundreds of feet away.

The smog-blue figure quickly disappeared into the misty rain.

Yu Youyao was very worried, but she also knew that Yin Huaixi would be fine.

She took out a small oil-paper bag from her pouch and placed three brownish-black incense pills inside.

This incense was called "Orchid Fragrance". When one looked at the name of the incense, one would know its meaning. It was fragrant like an orchid and refreshed the heart. It adjusted the five internal organs, nourished the six internal organs, and strengthened the muscles and bones. It also had the effect of dispelling the wind and evil. The fragrance also had the effect of moistening the spleen.

It was just right for now.

Yu Youyao checked the two bamboo baskets. In one of them, there were some snacks and food. In the other, there were some tools.

There was a small clay stove, a tea set, an incense burner, and so on.

Yu Youyao lit the charcoal for burning incense and crushed it into small pieces. She took out an incense burner and placed it in the incense pot. She picked up an orchid fragrance and placed it on the incense pot. Then, she burned it with the charcoal under it, and the incense burner gradually emitted a wisp of fragrance.

The fragrance gradually dissipated.

It was not easy to make this incense. After successfully making it, it still had to be placed in the soil. After 49 days, the medicinal properties of the incense medicine would reach a perfect harmony. It was not inferior to the Musk Medicinal Fragrance Pill.

This incense nourished the internal organs. Using it for a long time had the miraculous effect of strengthening the foundation and nurturing the essence.

It was most suitable for a general like Yin Huaixi.

Yu Youyao took a pot of rainwater and settled the impurities. She set up a small clay stove and began to boil water and tea.

The rain during the Dragon Boat Festival was also called “rootless water”. It was the purest of the world.

It was said that during the Dragon Boat Festival, there were many activities among the commoners to offer sacrifices to the Dragon God. The Dragon God would send clouds and rain to the world.

The rain during the Dragon Boat Festival was extraordinary. It was said that being drenched in the rain could also expel the turbidity, filth, illnesses, and humidity in the body.

It was impossible to determine if it was true.

However, Yu Youyao had great respect for such customs. On careful thought, there were actually traces of these suspicious customs.

The Dragon Boat Festival was the season when spring became summer. It was already the start of summer, when there were more thunderstorms. It was indeed most common for it to rain during the Dragon Boat Festival. The so-called Dragon God Buddha was created to deify and beautify this natural phenomenon. It was not a superstition, but it carried the love and yearning of the world for a good life.

After the start of summer, even if one was drenched in the rain for a while and changed into dry clothes in time, they wouldn't fall sick easily. Being drenched in the rain could cleanse their body. To a certain extent, it could prevent germs and reduce the chance of illness.

In addition, during the period when spring became summer, the heat and evilness of the human body gradually increased. After being drenched in the rain, less cold air entered the body, and it indeed had a slight effect of suppressing the heat and evilness.

In theory, there was no problem.

However, the exact situation still depended on one's physique.

People deified and beautified these customs that were beneficial to them. These customs represented their reverence and love for the world, their expectations and aspirations for a good life. It could not be described as superstition. It was a very precious spiritual civilization.

Superstition and truth depended on what was behind it.

If it carried the evil of harming others, its existence was superstition.

If it carried beautiful kindness, its existence was the truth.

At this moment, Yin Huaixi entered the pavilion with a bundle of wet firewood. His body was wet, so he was not in a hurry to come over. Instead, he stood at the entrance of the pavilion and wrung out the bottom of his clothes.

Yu Youyao quickly handed over the towel she had used previously. "Hurry up and wipe your hair."

Yin Huaixi wiped the water off his hands and held hers. His palms were cold. "Light the fire first."

With that, he let go of her hand and found a few stones nearby to form a circle. He also built a fire pit. There was a soft blanket in the bamboo basket to prevent the tools from shattering. There was cotton wool stuffed inside, which was just right to start a fire.

Outside, the rain kept falling, showing no signs of stopping. The bamboo curtains around the octagonal pavilion clanged as the cold wind mixed with the humid rain air seeped in through the gaps around it.

It was not easy to burn wet firewood, and there was thick smoke. When the firewood near the fire was dry, the smoke would not be so thick.

Yu Youyao stood in an area away from the wind. The smoke couldn't reach her body. She saw that Yin Huaixi was drenched. Water droplets flowed along the hem of his clothes and dripped to the ground. After a while, a pool of water formed where he was standing.

She pursed her lips slightly and hesitated for a moment before saying, "The fire has already been built. You, you should..." The words were about to come out of her mouth, but she felt a little embarrassed. She couldn't help but lower her head and look at her toes. Even her voice became much softer. "Your clothes are drenched. If you keep wearing wet clothes, your body will catch a cold even if it's made of iron. Why don't you take off your outerwear and dry it on the fire first?"

With fewer clothes on, he would be able to dry more quickly if he sat by the fire.

However, it was a huge taboo for a man and a woman to be alone while their clothes were disheveled.

It had nothing to do with rules. It was just that a woman's reservedness was causing trouble, so she said these words with great difficulty and hesitation..

Chapter 964 - 964: A Golden Hair Clasp

The little girl was sitting at the stone table, staring at her toes with her head lowered. She had tied her hair into a simple bun on the top of her head, pinning her loose hair behind her head. The hair at the back of her head was draped over her chest like a waterfall, revealing a softness like water. He could only look at her. Her white jade-like side profile was dyed with a thin wisp of smoke.

Yin Huaixi suddenly remembered that when Uncle Sun treated his leg, Yu Youyao was always worried because the process was very painful. Every time he was given an acupuncture treatment, she had to stay by his side.

At that time, he was only wearing a single shirt and looked disheveled. The little girl had never avoided him.

It wasn't that she didn't know the rules, nor did she treat etiquette as nothing. It was just that her worry for him made her subconsciously ignore these things.

"Okay!" Yin Huaixi immediately took off his outerwear, picked two branches, and built a rack. He hung his outerwear beside the branches to dry.

Hearing the rustling sound, Yu Youyao quickly poured a cup of hot tea and handed it to him. "Have a cup of hot tea to warm your body and ward off the cold."

Yin Huaixi took the teacup. As soon as the tea entered his mouth, it was a little hot. After swallowing it, he felt a heat flow from his throat to his stomach, and his body couldn't help but feel warm.

After burning the wet firewood for a while, the smoke gradually subsided.

The two of them sat by the fire at a distance, warming their damp clothes.

The fire was burning, and from time to time, there would be a puffing sound from the fire, causing sparks to fly. Although there was a fire pit, Yin Huaixi would subconsciously reach out to block it for Yu Youyao every time.

The rain outside the pavilion was loud, but the atmosphere in the pavilion was a little strange.

In the incense burner, wisps of the orchid fragrance rose in spirals. The smoke gathered and did not dissipate. After staying for a moment, the smoke twisted slightly and dissipated.

Yin Huaixi was only wearing a white shirt. Yu Youyao felt a little uncomfortable and did not dare to look at him. She lowered her head to look at her fingers for a while, then stared at the fire for a long time.

The fire danced and swayed. After staring at it for a while, Yu Youyao was dizzy. She held the pouch in her hand and looked down at the patterns on it.

She suddenly remembered that she had yet to give Yin Huaixi the gift she had specially prepared for him.

Yu Youyao quickly took out a black pouch with golden patterns from her sleeve. She turned to look at Yin Huaixi beside her and was about to give him a gift.

At this moment, Yin Huaixi was also holding a long jade box in his hand. He tilted his head to look at Yu Youyao.

“Nineteenth Brother, I...”

“Yao Yao, I...”

The two of them looked at the gift in each other’s hands in unison and understood each other’s intentions. The little awkwardness in their hearts immediately disappeared.

“You first...”

“Why don’t you say it first...”

The two of them, who had spoken at the same time, couldn’t help but laugh. Then, they closed their mouths at the same time. For a moment, neither of them spoke first, waiting for the other to speak first.

The two of them looked at each other. At this moment, silence was better than speaking.

For some reason, there was silence.

Yu Youyao couldn’t help but burst out laughing. Her clear laughter was like a bird flapping its wings and about to take off. It was light and pleasant to the ears, breaking the silent atmosphere.

Yin Huaixi felt relieved and couldn’t help but chuckle. He handed the box to Yu

Youyao. “This is a gift specially prepared for you.”

Yu Youyao smiled and quickly took the jade box. She carefully opened it and saw an exquisite flower hairpin in the long jade box.

She quickly picked it up and looked at it.

The entire body of the hairpin was jade-white, like suet. The body of the hairpin was carved into flowers, and there was a cluster of apricot flowers blooming on the head of the hairpin. There were about seven or eight of them. On the whole, it looked like an apricot branch that had just broken off from a tree.

The buds that were about to bloom were as red as blood and as hot as fire, as if they had been completely dyed red. The flowers that had completely bloomed were as white as jade and flawless. In addition, there were one or two light green and creamy yellow flowers mixed in. At a glance, they looked extremely dazzling and beautiful.

When apricot flowers first bloomed, they were red. Once they bloomed completely, they were white.

In the middle of the flowers, there were golden threads as stamens. Long stamens fell in an orderly manner. Red, white, green, and yellow jade beads were made into stamens that swayed and jumped lightly.

Yu Youyao’s eyes widened in surprise. “What a beautiful hairpin.”

In the past few years, Yin Huaixi had given her many gifts. He knew that she liked some exquisite things, so he often gave her carvings, but he had only given her a hairpin once.

Therefore, when she received the hairpin, she was especially surprised.

The little girl looked at the hairpin in surprise and stroked it lovingly. The carved flowers on the head of the hairpin were sparkling with joy.

Yin Huaixi subconsciously looked up and glanced at the silver hairpin on her head. For some reason, he felt a little annoyed.

Her fingers gently stroked the body of the hairpin, but she felt the uneven texture. She lowered her head and leaned closer to take a closer look. She saw a small line of words carved on it.

“Since I’ve favored someone, we will grow old with deep love.”

Yu Youyao suddenly looked up.

Yin Huaixi was looking down at her. His deep eyes reflected her red face. This charm was beautiful and faint, making her eyes move and look around gently.

“What represents our relationship? A golden hair clasp.” Yin Huaixi rubbed her pink lips gently and said in a low voice, “My feelings are sincere, and we schedule our lovers’ rendezvous.”

His voice was hoarse, low, and a little rough. It rubbed against her heart, making her soft and delicate heart tremble uncontrollably. What represents our relationship? A golden hair clasp!

It was from “Poem to Declare my Love” by Fan Qin.

The hair clasp here referred to a hairpin. The general idea was: How can one express their eternal friendship? There was only a hairpin decorated with gold leaf.

My feelings are sincere, and we schedule our lovers’ rendezvous!

The word “feelings” focused on one’s feelings. Meanwhile, the word “sincere” was on the basis of one’s “feelings” and emphasized one’s faithfulness.

The gist of it was that in one’s life, they had found someone who they had a special interest in. They wanted to make a promise with this person that they would be loyal to them for the rest of their life.

The entire poem was lingering and graceful, revealing deep love.

As if sensing something, Yu Youyao couldn’t help but hold her breath.

Indeed!

“Yu Youyao,” Yin Huaixi called out to her in a low voice. “I like you.”

His low and hoarse voice seemed to have a shocking force as it suddenly smashed into Yu Youyao’s ears, causing her mind to go blank.

She looked at Yin Huaixi in a daze.

Yin Huaixi took the jade hairpin from Yu Youyao’s hand. “I’ll help you put it on.”

Without waiting for Yu Youyao to react, he had already stood up and walked behind her. He bent down behind her and carefully inserted the jade hairpin into her hair. Then, he pulled out the silver hairpin from her hair.

Yin Huaixi fiddled with it gently twice. The stamens on the hairpin swayed lightly by her temples, making her look gentle..

Yu Youyao seemed to have woken up from a dream. She pursed her lips slightly and subconsciously touched the hairpin on her head. “You— You never gave me hairpins in the past.”

Her dry voice sounded panicked.

“The hairpin represents love. I want to give it to you as a token of love.” Among the many kinds of jewelry, the meaning of the hairpin was the most unique. It also symbolized dignity and respect.

There was a good story of “removing the hairpin to persuade politics” that involved Empress Jiang, King Xuan of Zhou’s wife.

King Xuan of Zhou had neglected political affairs for a period of time. Empress Jiang understood righteousness and advised King Xuan of Zhou to work hard. She removed her hairpin and earrings. Then, she knelt in Yong Alley for a long time to show that she was guilty.

When King Xuan of Zhou found out about Empress Jiangs intentions, he was touched and ashamed. Hence, he worked hard to establish the revival of the Zhou royal family.

King Xuan of Zhou had come to his senses because of Empress Jiangs persuasion. At the same time, there was also King Xuan of Zhou’s trust and love for Empress Jiang. It represented the fact that they were of one heart and mind.

The meaning of using a hairpin to pledge their love was naturally not just to pledge their love.

It also showed their camaraderie from being dedicated to the same cause.

“When you gave it to me, I didn’t say that this was a love hairpin.” Thinking that it was just a gift for the Dragon Boat Festival, Yu Youyao pursed her lips and smiled. Her red cheeks looked even more delicate and beautiful against the hairpin in her hair. She pretended to be angry. “When I accepted it, you said it was a love hairpin. How did I not know that you were such a scoundrel?!”

“I’m not.” Yin Huaixi panicked and quickly explained, “I’m not. You...”

“You’re still fooling me.” Yu Youyao glared at him and glared back at him. “It’s already written in the book that love tokens have to be exchanged.”

Those eyes seemed to be able to steal one’s soul. When she glared at him, her clear eyes immediately sparkled, and Yin Huaixi’s mind went blank.

“Why didn’t you tell me in advance?” Yu Youyao changed the topic and stuffed the gift she had prepared into his hand. “I didn’t deliberately prepare a love token as a return gift. It took me a lot of effort to prepare this gift. I started preparing it in February. It took me more than three months to make it. It’s still decent.”

Although that was the case, if she really had to carefully prepare a love token, she would most likely give this too.

It wasn't that there weren't more expensive things than this.

However, how could it be as sincere as making it personally?

Didn't Yin Huaixi also give her a hairpin that he had carved himself?

It was obvious that their intentions were the same.

The surprise came too suddenly. Yin Huaixi held the box and forgot to react for a moment.

She treated the Dragon Boat Festival gift as a love token and gave it to him. Yu Youyao was both embarrassed and happy, looking forward to Yin Huaixi's reaction when he received the gift.

The only thing she did not expect was that Yin Huaixi did not react?!

"Do you not want it?" Yu Youyao was a little embarrassed. She pretended to take back the box that had been stuffed into his hand. "If you don't want it, give it back to me."

As she spoke, she suddenly felt a little aggrieved.

Yin Huaixi snapped out of his daze and quickly held her outstretched hand.

Yu Youyao struggled angrily twice but did not break free. She glared at him angrily, and even her eyes widened. "You, what are you doing..."

Yin Huaixi smiled. "Yao Yao!"

Yu Youyao did not want to bother with him, but she still replied with a soft

"Mm."

"Are you..." Yin Huaixi paused for a moment and looked at her floating around, but he did not dare to look at her eyes. He understood. "Are you shy?!"

After giving her the hairpin, Yu Youyao looked around and chattered non-stop, as if she was hiding something.

"Who— Who's shy?" Yu Youyao acted as if someone had stepped on her fox tail. She subconsciously retorted loudly, "I'm not, I'm not shy. Don't spout nonsense."

Yin Huaixi looked at her evasive gaze. "Why don't you dare to look at me?!"

"I'm not afraid to look at you." Yu Youyao suddenly looked up and her eyes widened. She looked at the person close to her and couldn't help but jump in shock. She quickly leaned back.

However, before she could react, a large palm had already circled behind her head and held the back of her head. Her lips couldn't help but soften, and her eyes trembled.

At this moment, she suddenly heard a sigh. "Be good and close your eyes."

Yu Youyao was like a child who had done something wrong and quickly closed her eyes.

After closing her eyes, she felt that something was amiss.

Why did she have to be so obedient? She closed her eyes just like that, as if she was looking forward to him... him...

Yu Youyao's mind went blank.

"There's nothing I don't want." After an unknown period of time, a low and hoarse voice sounded in her ear. "The grass from the wilderness is beautiful and unique. It's not that you're pretty. Instead, a beautiful woman gave me a gift."

Yu Youyao was stunned for a moment. This poem was "Quiet Maiden", which came from the Classic of Poetry. A woman picked the grass that could be seen everywhere in the wilderness and gave it to a man she loved. The man praised sincerely, "It's beautiful and unique."

He felt that the grass was beautiful and precious.

This was because the grass had been personally picked by a woman after traveling to the distant suburbs. It was small but meaningful. What was beautiful and precious was the deep affection given by a beautiful woman.

Yu Youyao couldn't help but chuckle. Yin Huaixi had a bad habit. The more nervous he was, the more he liked to quote classics, as if this was more convincing and solemn.

In a short period of time, from the time Yin Huaixi had given her the hairpin, he had used the "Poem to Declare my Love" to express his affection through giving the hairpin. He had also used the "Quiet Maiden" to express how much he valued her gift when he received it.

It seemed that he wasn't as calm as he looked.

"Yu Youyao." Yin Huaixi called out to her softly. He also felt that it seemed a little inappropriate for him to pick up someone else's wisdom to express his affection for Yu Youyao. "I've taken every step and painstakingly sought this marriage. So far, all my plans revolve around you. You're the first. Be it benefits or intentions, we'll be inseparable."

He had taken every step and put shackles on their relationship, cutting off any chance for Yu Youyao to escape.

The entanglement between them was more than just the friendship of childhood sweethearts.

It wasn't just love between a man and a woman.

It also involved the entire Yu Clan, the entire royal court, and even the entire Great Zhou Dynasty.

Love wasn't the only thing that tied them down.

There were also endless benefits involved!

Yu Youyao couldn't help but be stunned. Only then did she realize that unknowingly, she had already participated in Yin Huaixi's entire life, including his hatred, ambition, and aspirations.

“Yu Youyao.” Yin Huaixi looked down at her, his eyes deep. “I’ve waited for you for four years to receive your sincere entrustment. Do you think I don’t want it?!”

He wanted it even in his dreams.

In the past, they were clearly so close in the Yu Residence.

However, when he really wanted this person, he suddenly felt afraid. However, when he was close to her, it was as if the entire world was stopping him.

He could hold a knife in his hand and overcome all difficulties to push her to his side.

However, there was nothing he could do to her..

Chapter 966 - 966: Unbreakable Fate

She had only known Yin Huaixi for a little more than four years. Didn’t that mean that he had treated her, her...

At the thought of this, Yu Youyao’s face couldn’t help but burn.

Under Yin Huaixi’s increasingly deep gaze, her heart couldn’t help but tremble. She couldn’t help but panic. “You... Don’t you plan to open the gift I gave you?”

The little girl looked at him eagerly, her eyes filled with panic. Yin Huaixi looked down at the pouch in his hand and suddenly smiled.

On the black pouch, between the emerald green loquat leaves hung a few golden loquats.

Sichuan embroidery was bright and beautiful. It emphasized texture. Those who did Sichuan embroidery were good at changing the needle, which reflected the light, color, and shape of the embroidery. The embroidery was often three-dimensional and realistic.

At a glance, it was as if the golden loquats were completely ripe. When he leaned closer, he could almost smell the sweet and sour fruit fragrance of the loquats.

Yin Huaixi carefully opened the palm-sized pouch and took out the item inside. It was actually a long and purple wooden token. The purple color of the token was thick and heavy.

Yin Huaixi subconsciously looked at Yu Youyao. “This is...”

Yu Youyao quickly said, “This is an incense token. It’s made to look like a peace token. There’s a dragon pattern carved on it. It has the meaning of exorcism and safety.”

The peace token was also called an undecorated token. Usually, it wouldn’t be carved with decorative motifs, but it wasn’t completely unadorned. For the sake of beauty, some auspicious patterns would also be carved on it.

The Great Zhou Dynasty was about to be in trouble. She only hoped that this peace incense token could expel evil and protect him.

Rubbing it gently, Yin Huaixi couldn’t bear to part with the peace token in his hand. “It’s firm but not brittle. The quality is deep and firm, and it’s moist and gentle to the touch. It looks elegant and

thick, and it feels warm in winter and cool in summer. It already has jade spirituality.” He looked at Yu Youyao brightly, his eyes filled with joy. “You must have put in a lot of effort.”

The incense token had just been made. It was fine and heavy, and its appearance was a little dark. It needed to be worn often to be nourished and played with to make it as warm and shiny as jade.

The osmanthus incense beads and cooling beads that Yu Youyao had given him previously took three to four years to grow jade spirituality.

From the beginning, the peace incense token already had jade spirituality.

It was obvious that she had improved a lot in the field of incense medicine. “No, I spent a lot of effort, but it took a little time...” Yu Youyao was a little embarrassed by his gaze. She subconsciously raised her hand to brush the loose hair by her cheek behind her ear.

Her slender hair slid across her slender fingers. Little did she know that her inadvertent brushing of her hair had also tugged at Yin Huaixi’s heartstrings. A poem suddenly appeared in his mind.

When she flicked her sleeves, her fair hands could be seen, and she had a golden bracelet on her bright wrist.

Her slender steps were exquisite.

He suddenly had the urge to play with it in his hand.

Sensing his strange gaze, Yu Youyao felt as if she had been scalded. She quickly put down her hand, pulled down the sleeve on her wrist, and placed her hand obediently on her dress.

The atmosphere was a little strange.

Yin Huaixi also felt a little uncomfortable. He coughed lightly and cleared his throat. “It’s... It’s been hard on you.”

With that, he lowered his head to look at the incense token again and realized that there were patterns engraved on it. On closer inspection, the leaves were round in shape, and the roots of the leaves were slightly dented. On the whole, they looked a little like hearts.

Yin Huaixi’s eyes lit up. “The branches on it form a joint pattern, right? The leaves of the connected trees are round. Birds fly together in the sky, and trees connect with each other on the ground. It represents a couple who is deeply in love with each other.

Yu Youyao’s lips moved, wanting to say, “This is a hollyhock pattern, not a joint pattern.”

It was originally prepared as a gift for him during the Dragon Boat Festival, so the leaf patterns on it were like hollyhocks. They could also reflect the scene of the Dragon Boat Festival. The leaves of the hollyhocks were round and slightly long, very similar to the branches and leaves of connected trees. But just as the words were about to come out—

Forget it, so be it. Yu Youyao’s lips moved. “As long as you’re happy.”

After flipping through it again, he saw a Chinese knot made of a five-colored string. Yin Huaixi’s eyes burned. “In ancient times, knots were used to keep records and govern. Later generations of sages easily made book contracts, so knots were used as contracts. That’s why there’s a saying that

a knot is a contract. When a man and woman get married, it's also called a knot. It means long-lasting longing and unbreakable fate."

Yu Youyao thought to herself, "I didn't think too much about it when I was tying the Chinese knot. I just thought it looked good and wanted Yin Huaixi to be safe."

It meant long-lasting longing and unbreakable fate.

After hearing his words, it seemed to make sense. However, who kept talking about marriage in front of a woman? Weren't they ashamed?!

It was clearly just an exchange of love tokens. It was still too early to get married.

Why was he so talkative?!

How annoying.

Yin Huaixi looked at her with a burning gaze. "I understand Yao Yao's kind intentions."

Yu Youyao pouted and thought to herself, "It's not easy to make the orchid fragrance, so I made more. In addition to the incense token that I gave Yin Huaixi, the relatives of the Xie family also received one to three orchid fragrance beads each. He wasn't the only one who received the Five Blessings

Knot with a five-colored string."

However, seeing how Yin Huaixi seemed to have obtained a treasure and couldn't bear to part with it, her lips moved. "This is the orchid fragrance token. It's paired with more than two hundred medicinal herbs and spices, such as *Dendrobium catenatum*, sandalwood, agarwood, snow lotus, lingzhi, ginseng, knotweed, and so on. Many of the medicinal herbs are more than a hundred years old. It strictly follows the arrangement of recipes and maximizes the effects of the medicinal herbs. Wearing it for a long time has the effect of adjusting the five internal organs, uniting the six internal organs, expelling turbidity, and clearing the meridians..."

Yes, that was right.

She had spent a lot of effort to make the orchid fragrance.

Yin Huaixi was a little surprised. Such a small incense token actually used more than 200 medicinal herbs and spices.

According to the Daoist Canon, *Dendrobium catenatum*, snow lotus, lingzhi, ginseng, knotweed, and so on were called the nine immortal herbs. They were very rare medicinal herbs to begin with. With the addition of spiritual dewdrop, the effect would be even better.

Yu Youyao said, "The recipe for the orchid fragrance was obtained from a book of Daoist medicine in Uncle Sun's collection. The combination of medicinal herbs and spices emphasizes the right time, place, and people. It also emphasizes the five elements, Yin and Yang, and the miscellaneous study of feng shui. One has to use the rain during the solar term called Yushui. This is because the rain on this day represents the rising of spring and the revival of all things. This year, on the day of Yushui, I was lucky to collect some, so I had the idea of making the orchid fragrance."

She had not agreed to learn medicine with Uncle Sun.

However, incense and medicine were not separated. Uncle Sun did not want to waste her talent. From time to time, he would send a few good medicinal

books over. After all, it was a token of his appreciation. In her free time, she would also flip through them.

Incense and medicine came from the same source. After seeing it for a long time, she could tell something.

At the mention of incense medicine, Yu Youyao had a lot to say. “It’s originally a prescription for extending one’s lifespan. However, there are huge restrictions on making this medicine. It involves some Daoism fields. I was inspired by it and changed the prescription to incense. This orchid fragrance is also the first time I’ve combined Daoist medicine with incense medicine. It’s also a breakthrough..”

Chapter 967 - 967: Waste of Treasures

He listened to her ramble on about what difficulties she had encountered in the process of making the incense token and how she had resolved them in the end.

Some medicinal herbs were very particular about the five elements, and the Yin and Yang. One had to figure out the attributes of every medicinal herb, spice, and ores before they could be matched.

The processing of some medicinal herbs also involved feng shui...

She spoke with relish. She had gained new comprehension and learning in incense making.

However, Yin Huaixi could hear the difficulties she faced.

Rubbing the incense token in his hand, his heart couldn’t help but tremble.

After a while, Yu Youyao’s mouth felt a little dry. When she reacted, she realized that she had said a lot of things, and her ears couldn’t help but heat up.

Yin Huaixi handed her a cup of warm water.

Yu Youyao quickly took it and lowered her head to drink some water.

At this moment, Yin Huaixi suddenly asked, “Why do you want to name it the orchid fragrance? Is it because of the incense token that has a fragrance like an orchid?”

It was obvious that he had been listening seriously just now.

Yu Youyao smiled. “The original prescription was called the Rejuvenation Pill, but the incense medicine I made was very different from before, so I changed the name. The main ingredient for the orchid fragrance is a token made of

Dendrobium catenatum. It has a fragrance like orchids, and it’s also purple, so I directly changed its name and called it the orchid fragrance.”

Dendrobium catenatum was precious and rare, and some aristocratic families with deep foundations might not have it.

However, Yu Youyao had five stalks of *Dendrobium catenatum*.

Back then, when she was treating Song Mingzhao, the Zhenguo Marquis

Residence had given her a lot of rare medicinal herbs, including a stalk of *Dendrobium catenatum*. At that time, she seemed to have obtained a treasure and even showed it off to her “cousin.” In the end, a few days later, her “cousin” gave her a stalk that looked better.

After her grandmother passed away, she was seriously ill from overwork. Auntie Shen was ordered to bring the Empress Dowager’s reward over to visit her. Among them was a stalk of *Dendrobium catenatum*.

Previously, the Empress had rewarded her heavily. She also received a stalk of *Dendrobium catenatum*.

Yin Huaixi also sighed. “Only you can make this orchid fragrance. No one else can.”

Just the nine immortal herbs alone were not something ordinary people could gather.

This was also thanks to the fact that Yu Youyao was good at incense medicine. There were always many expensive spices and medicinal herbs rewarded by the palace, such as *Dendrobium catenatum* and the snow lotus. Although there were not many of such things in the palace, there were often not many occasions where they were really needed. In order to win people’s hearts, the nobles would occasionally give them to her.

However, not everyone was qualified to reward these expensive medicinal herbs.

Yu Youyao agreed deeply. “That’s right. The prescription also requires an

Amethyst Jade Coral. Previously, the Zhenguo Marquis Residence gave me an Amethyst Jade Coral. Otherwise, I wouldn’t have been able to make the orchid fragrance. ”

The reason why the prescription for extending one’s lifespan had become a legend was that other than the fact that only the few people in this world who were proficient in Daoist medicine could make it, almost all the nine immortal herbs that were needed were in the palace. There was only one piece of

Amethyst Jade Coral. It was put aside by the Zhenguo Marquis Residence. Then, the favor was returned, benefiting her.

Incense medicine was not only made using spices and medicinal herbs. Ores were also used.

At the mention of the Zhenguo Marquis Residence, Yin Huaixi frowned slightly. “No wonder the incense token is purple and the color is so pure.” Yu Youyao said, “Each of the nine immortal herbs is a good medicine for life-saving. When the nine herbs are combined, the orchid fragrance made will not have the legendary magical effect, but Uncle Sun has verified that wearing it for a long time indeed has the effect of nourishing the human body’s essence, mind, and Qi to extend one’s life.”

As soon as the incense token was made, it already had jade spirituality. It was completely different from the incense medicine she had made in the past. It was the best incense medicine she had made so far.

She was quite satisfied.

However, Uncle Sun did not think much of it and said bluntly, “You’re wasting a treasure. If you give me any of these nine immortal herbs, I can pull someone back from the gates of hell.”

Yin Huaixi suddenly held it. The hand that he had been thinking about for a long time was wrapped in his palm. Her soft hand was like a ball of cream that melted in his palm, making his heart tremble.

He opened his mouth to say something, but his voice was on the tip of his tongue. Suddenly, he didn’t know what to say.

His gaze was deep as he stared at her beautiful face. His throat felt dry. “It’s been hard on you.”

She had only said it casually, but Yin Huaixi could tell that she had put in a lot of effort into this incense token.

The making of incense tokens was similar to incense pills.

After the spices and medicinal herbs were made, they were blending. After making it into incense mud, it had to be hammered repeatedly until the texture of the incense mud was even more exquisite and strong than dough. Then, they would be made into incense token and placed in a cool and ventilated place to dry.

After drying, the incense token was not considered done. It had to be placed in a sealed clay jar and buried in the cellar.

After the spices and medicinal herbs were fermented in a sealed environment, be it the fragrance or the effect, they would be evaporated to the extreme.

It was easier said than done.

Every medicinal herb had a unique method of processing. Sometimes, a single medicinal herb required dozens of processes to maximize the medicinal effect.

Some medicinal herbs took a long time to brew. It would take days or even more than ten days to finish.

Moreover, Yu Youyao did not know much about Daoist medicine and feng shui.

She must have asked Auntie Xu and Uncle Sun for a lot of guidance.

She said that she had started preparing the incense token from February, but

he did not believe it. Just the processing of more than 200 medicinal herbs would take two to three months.

“It’s-it’s not too difficult.” Yu Youyao shook her head and quickly changed the topic. “You’re a general. Usually, it’s not suitable for you to wear jade when riding a horse and shooting a bow. The incense token is light and not easily damaged. It’s most suitable to wear it close to your body. It’s good to wear a peace token. Wearing it close to your body can also reassure you.”

In the past, Yin Huaixi would always wear the beautiful jade and stones she had given him. However, ever since he returned to the North, those things had gradually become suppressed. Only when he was free would he take them out to wash, wax, and maintain them. It wasn’t that he didn’t

want to wear them, but the generals often used violence. Thus, he was preventing them from being damaged.

Yin Huaixi was a general. If he didn't wear something to ensure his safety, she would always feel uneasy. She had long planned to make an incense token that could nourish his essence, vitality, and qi for him.

Such spices and medicinal herbs were usually more expensive and rare. When she was in Quanzhou, she had been collecting and preparing them.

Yin Huaixi placed the incense token in her tender palm. "Can you help me put it on?"

Yu Youyao nodded slightly. "Okay!"

She stood up and walked behind Yin Huaixi. She wrapped the incense token around his neck. She originally wanted to tie a "gift" knot, but her fingers couldn't control themselves. Thus, she tied a true love knot.

After tying the knot, she put away the rope. When she felt that the length of the incense token was suitable, she asked him, "Is this okay? If it's a little longer, it might not be so fitting. It won't look good if it's short."

Yin Huaixi lowered his head, and the incense token landed squarely in the middle of his heart. "This is good.."

Chapter 968 - 968: Unhappiness

Yu Youyao tied the rope and fixed it in place. "The colored rope of the incense token is woven using silk. A hundred strands of silk that are as thin as a hair are twisted together to form a thin thread. Then, five identical thin threads are used to weave a five-colored string. It's tenacious and doesn't break easily.

You just have to change the colored rope every 1.5 years."

Yin Huaixi carefully placed the incense token into his shirt. The incense token was pressed against the skin on his chest, and it was light and textured, as if it had the power to calm his mind.

The heavy rain finally stopped after about an hour.

His drenched outer robe was finally dry. Yin Huaixi quickly put on his clothes and rolled up the bamboo curtain around the pavilion.

The dark clouds had already spread out. Wisps of brilliant skylight seeped out of the thick clouds. Immediately, the skylight broke and sunlight shone through. The world was clear, as if it had been baptized.

The air after the rain was especially fresh. Yu Youyao stood at the railing and looked at the mountains in the distance. Surrounded by smoke and water, it was like a paradise on earth.

Above the immortal realm, there was a seven-colored glow.

Gradually, the faint seven-colored light became clearer and clearer. Yu Youyao's eyes widened. "Nineteenth Brother, Nineteenth Brother, look, that's a rainbow. It's really beautiful!" She looked at the rainbow between the mountains without blinking and exclaimed, "According to the 'Dream

Pool Essays', Sun Yan, a scholar of the Tang Dynasty, who was proficient in astronomy and arithmetic, had said that the rainbow was like the shadow of the sun in the rain. It's really like that."

Rainbows were commonly known as "dragons sucking water" among the commoners. They believed a rainbow could suck dry the water in a certain area, making them inauspicious. Later, Sun Yan first proved that rainbows were a phenomenon after rain, and the shadows of rainbows gradually appeared. In the poems of scholars, Shen Kuo further proved this theory in the "Dream Pool Essays".

She had always liked to read prompt books and books that were not directly related to the imperial examination, such as travelogs and pen conversations. There were often many magical natural phenomena and stories recorded in them.

Every time, she yearned for it.

Yin Huaixi came to her side. The rainbow shadow in the distance was like a rainbow bridge. It only took a moment for it to become clear, blurry, and disappear.

Yu Youyao felt a little lost. She couldn't help but say in disappointment, "It disappeared so quickly. I wonder if I'll have a chance to see it again in the future.'

Yin Huaixi smiled and said, "I'll draw you a painting of 'Looking at the Rainbow After the Rain in the Mountain Pavilion'."

"Really?" Yu Youyao was pleasantly surprised. She looked up at Yin Huaixi eagerly. "It's been a long time since you've given me a painting. During the Dragon Boat Festival this year, the portrait of Zhong Kui in the Yu Garden was drawn by my Third Cousin."

In the past, during the Dragon Boat Festival, Yin Huaixi had personally drawn the portrait of Zhong Kui at home.

Yin Huaixi felt guilty. "I've been busy recently and haven't had time to accompany you. Fortunately, the situation in the North has been settled. I'll take more time to accompany you in the future."

Yu Youyao's eyes lit up and she smiled. "I've been reading the Daoist Canon recently and plan to learn some feng shui. There are many things I don't understand. Please guide me, Cousin."

Feng Shui seemed mysterious, but when it was applied to making incense medicine, there was a set of arguments that could complement it.

She did not plan to study it deeply. Just learning some basic things was enough for her to benefit endlessly.

The term "cousin" evoked a lot of memories. In the past, when the two of them were called "cousins" in the Yu Residence, they were very close.

Yin Huaixi's smile deepened. "Since it's my Cousin's wish, there's naturally no wish I won't fulfill.'

After the heavy rain, the mountains were muddy and difficult to walk through. Yu Youyao had no choice but to regretfully give up on the idea of playing Hundred Herbs.

At 1pm, the Dragon Boat Competition was held at the Crown Prince River. Yin Huaixi had promised to watch it with her. Seeing that it was getting late, Yu Youyao could only follow Yin Huaixi down the mountain.

The path down the mountain was especially difficult. The heavy rain drenched the moss on the stone path.

Yin Huaixi held her hand and took a few steps. Seeing that she was staring at her feet and walking carefully and with difficulty, he simply squatted on the ground. "Come up. I'll carry you down."

Yu Youyao stood behind him and watched as he lowered his shoulders and squatted on the ground. The bones on his back naturally widened, and his firm back looked especially broad.

Martial arts practitioners did not train their muscles, only their physique. Therefore, their muscles were smooth and firm, and they did not stand out. Their entire bodies were craggy, tall, and slender, and they naturally had a clear and divine aura. They did not look strong and burly at all, but as soon as they stretched their bones and muscles, they revealed a majestic side.

Yin Huaixi squatted for a while, but when she did not move, he turned to look at her. "What's wrong?"

"N— Nothing!" Yu Youyao blushed and subconsciously shook her head. She quickly went forward and lay on his back, her arms around his shoulders.

Yin Huaixi's body trembled and he suddenly froze.

Her movements were a little big and anxious, and her body suddenly pressed against his back. The summer weather was already very hot, and the two of them were wearing thin clothes. Yin Huaixi could clearly feel the unbelievable softness pressed against his back. His mind immediately went blank, and he felt that the person on his back was unbelievably soft.

Seeing that his ears were completely red, Yu Youyao couldn't help but reach out and touch them gently. Immediately, her fingers seemed to be burned and she retracted them as if she had been electrocuted.

Sensing her actions, Yin Huaixi's ears couldn't help but twitch. He said in a low and hoarse voice, "Uh, the weather is a little hot..."

"Yes." It would have been fine if he hadn't mentioned it. The moment he did,

Yu Youyao felt that Yin Huaixi's body was like a big furnace. It was a little hot. It was indeed a little hot when she climbed onto his back. "The sun is a little hot. I— I also feel a little hot."

It was noon. After the rain, the sun was shining brightly in the sky, and the temperature was gradually rising.

"Let's go down the mountain quickly." When Yin Huaixi heard her say that the sun was a little hot, he was worried that he would hurt her. He couldn't be

bothered to let his imagination run wild. He quickly got up with her on his back and slowly descended the mountain along the stone path.

The mountain path was rugged and difficult to walk on, but Yin Huaixi seemed as if he was walking on flat ground.

When they finally got down the mountain, Chun Xiao was already waiting anxiously at her feet.

Previously, after going up the mountain, these servants had accompanied Auntie Xu and followed behind Young Miss from afar. Later on, Young Miss suggested playing Hundred Herbs, and everyone agreed.

In the past, Young Miss was detained in the residence. Thus, this was also the first time she had played Hundred Herbs seriously. Everyone wanted Young Miss to have fun, so they did not specially detain her. They all tried their best to gather flowers, trees, and medicinal herbs in the mountains and were separated from her. Since His Highness was accompanying Young Miss, they were not worried.

Unexpectedly, the rain fell immediately.

They hurriedly went down the mountain and changed into dry clothes, but they did not see Young Miss go down the mountain. They were very worried. If it weren't for Auntie Xu stopping them, they would have long braved the rain to go up the mountain to look for her.

After waiting for a long time, she finally saw His Highness carrying Young Miss down the mountain. Chun Xiao heaved a sigh of relief and quickly went up to him. "Young Miss, are you alright? The rain was sudden and heavy just

now.. Were you drenched?"

Chapter 969 - 969: Putting on Makeup for the Person One Likes

Yu Youyao shook her head. "I'm fine. There's a pavilion on the mountain. His Highness and I were sheltering from the rain. What about you?"

Chun Xiao was finally relieved. "We were close to the foot of the mountain, so we rushed down. Although we were all drenched in the rain, we changed into dry clothes in time and drank some ginger soup to ward off the cold. We're fine.'

The ground was muddy. Yin Huaixi carried Yu Youyao on his back until they reached where the carriages were parked. Then, he put her down.

Looking at the black-gold cloak on Young Miss, Chun Xiao suddenly understood.

It was no wonder that in the morning, when Dong Mei wanted to bring a cloak for Young Miss, Auntie Xu said, "Don't worry, your Young Miss won't be cold!"

With His Highness around, how could he let Young Miss freeze?!

Chun Xiao helped Yu Youyao into the carriage.

Xia Tao quickly handed her a bowl of ginger soup. "The mountain is humid. Young Miss has been on the mountain for a long time. Hurry up and drink a bowl of ginger soup to ward off the cold."

Yu Youyao looked disgusted. She pinched her nose and forced a bowl of ginger soup into her stomach. Her mouth was filled with a spicy taste. Even pastries couldn't suppress the taste.

Her eyes darted around with a hint of slyness. "By the way, His Highness was drenched in the rain on the mountain previously. Hurry up and send a bowl of ginger soup over to him to ward off the cold." With that, she emphasized, "He needs a big bowl."

Xia Tao burst out laughing. "Your Highness isn't afraid of spicy food. Not to mention a mere bowl of ginger soup, even if it's a bowl of Chinese goldthread soup, as long as it's sent over by Young Miss, it's still very sweet. Your Highness will drink it too."

Yu Youyao blushed at these words. She immediately felt that it was boring and glared at Xia Tao angrily. "I'll make a bowl of Chinese goldthread soup later."

Let's see if it's sweet.'

"Young Miss." Xia Tao was shocked, and her face immediately turned bitter. She quickly begged for mercy from her Young Miss. "I was wrong, alright? The Chinese goldthread soup is so bitter. How can Young Miss bear to let His Highness drink it?!"

Yu Youyao felt embarrassed and angry again. "If you spout nonsense again, I'll punish you by making you drink eight to ten bowls of Chinese goldthread soup."

Xia Tao's eyes widened and she quickly shut her mouth. How could she have forgotten? Young Miss couldn't bear to let His Highness drink the Chinese goldthread soup, but she was fine if it was Xia Tao!

Chun Xiao couldn't help but laugh. "Chinese goldthread soup is good! During the period when spring becomes summer, the weather is hot and humid, so it's easy to suffer from excessive internal heat. If you drink Chinese goldthread soup, you can also cool down. I think Young Miss's idea is not bad."

Xia Tao looked at Chun Xiao in disbelief with an expression that said, "I treat you as a friend, but you hit me when I'm down." Yu Youyao laughed.

The three of them laughed for a while.

Chun Xiao helped Yu Youyao wash up briefly, changed into clean clothes, and combed her hair into a Feitian bun.

Yu Youyao carefully looked at the smooth muscles and delicate face in the bronze mirror. She twirled the love hairpin with her fingers and touched her hair.

Her slender fingers fiddled with the hairpin. Her slim fingers were like hooks.

At the side, Chun Xiao felt that Young Miss's long fingers were curled like orchids. When her long fingers hooked and curved, they were soft, white, slender, and thin, making them seem like full moons. They were soft and flexible. They were really pleasing to the eye and graceful.

“How about putting the hairpin here?” Yu Youyao looked at herself in the mirror as she tilted her head and moved the love hairpin. For a moment, she couldn’t make up her mind. “Isn’t it a little too high?”

Xia Tao looked at the hairpin that she had taken off Young Miss’s head just now. It was not the one that she had inserted in the morning, so she knew that His Highness had given it to her today.

The jewelry made by His Highness was better than anything else. Even the Internal Affairs Department couldn’t make jewelry that was as exquisite and vivid as this.

No wonder Young Miss liked it so much.

Xia Tao leaned closer to the mirror. “It’s quite good. It’s neither high nor low.”

Yu Youyao gestured a few more times, feeling a little dissatisfied. She lowered the love hairpin a little more. “Would it look better if it was a little lower? Isn’t there a poem that goes, ‘The pearls reflect your two dimples, and you look dazzling.’ It means pearl and jade jewelry complement good looks.”

Chun Xiao also leaned over to take a closer look. “Lower. It looks more agile,”

Yu Youyao immediately felt a sense of joy at being acknowledged. She couldn’t help but smile. “I think this looks better too. Let’s use this hairpin.”

As she spoke, she couldn’t wait anymore. She slowly inserted the love hairpin into her bun.

At first glance, it was like a branch that was lowered. The apricot flowers seemed to be blooming in her black hair. They were beautiful. Beads of different lengths fell to her ears and temples. The longest red beads gently brushed her cheeks, making her face look beautiful.

Yu Youyao gently fiddled with the bead in her ear. “It’s really beautiful.”

Xia Tao spoke quickly and praised, “This is a hairpin that His Highness personally made for Young Miss. From what I see, it’s just like a real flower that was plucked from a tree. It’s fresh and beautiful.” She looked surprised and moved closer to the mirror, saying pleasant words as if they were free. “Look, every apricot flower on the hairpin has a different shape, Every petal has a subtle change in shape. The petals are as thin as paper. I wonder how they were carved...”

As she spoke, she exclaimed repeatedly. Even Chun Xiao leaned over. “It’s true. There are actually patterns and creases on the petals. Look at the protruding point on the petals. Doesn’t it look like a sparkling dewdrop? If I hadn’t taken a closer look, I would have thought it was real...”

The two maidservants were so shocked, as if they had never seen the world. This made Yu Youyao have the urge to take off the love hairpin and take a closer look.

She had never seen it so carefully before.

Yu Youyao opened the makeup box and picked out some purple brow powder.

Her orchid fingers gently twirled the eyebrow pen and drew carefully between her eyebrows. At the end, her thin eyebrows suddenly raised a little.

Immediately, her clear eyes became more mellow.

This brow powder was made from a type of purple shell that was only produced in the Western Region. After grinding it into powder and modifying it, the color was like violet. When it was lightly used between her eyebrows, it made her thin eyebrows look even more gentle, like a misty cloud. They were light and soft, revealing a hazy state. This revealed the gentle side of a woman.

As it was too rare, she usually couldn't bear to use it.

Yu Youyao looked left and right in detail. She smiled and asked, "Does it look good?"

Seeing that it was rare for Young Miss to act like a girl, Chun Xiao and Xia Tao covered their mouths and laughed. "You should ask His Highness about this. How can we guess what he's thinking?"

Yu Youyao's face was slightly red, but she did not lose. "Who's going to ask him? I didn't dress up specially for him. This is called taking a look at myself and admiring myself. Do you understand?!"

Xia Tao couldn't help but laugh. "Yes, yes, yes. You can dress up however you want. Even if you don't ask His Highness, you're still the most beautiful in his heart."

Chun Xiao chimed in, "Young Miss is usually as beautiful as a little fairy. Now that she's dressed up meticulously, she's very beautiful. If His Highness sees her, he'll definitely be stunned."

Chapter 970 - 970: Dragon Boat Race

The two maidservants chimed in, making Yu Youyao feel embarrassed. She glared at them. "If you spout nonsense again, I'll punish each of you with a bowl of Chinese goldthread soup."

At this moment, someone knocked on the carriage, making a knocking sound.

Yu Youyao hurriedly stepped forward, pulled open the door of the carriage, lifted the curtain, and bent out of the carriage. She saw Yin Huaixi standing beside the carriage.

He had changed into a mountain-colored outfit again, making his figure look even more slender and rugged.

Yin Huaixi was also stunned. He did not expect her to get out of the car.

She was wearing a moon-white dress. It was between light blue and white, and its texture was as light as water, as if it was enveloped by the moonlight. It was neither dull nor bright, but it had a high and clear color, making her face look like water and extremely pure.

Yin Huaixi's eyes flashed with amazement. When he looked up, he saw an apricot flower blooming in her beautiful hair. Light pearls trembled lightly by her cheek, making her skin look as fair as snow and as bright as jade.

It was the love hairpin he had given her.

Yin Huaixi thought of the ginger soup he had drunk just now and quickly said, "Did you add too much sugar to the ginger soup? It doesn't taste as spicy as before."

Thinking of what Xia Tao had said just now, Yu Youyao burst out laughing. The beads on her cheeks couldn't help but tremble slightly. "I really should make a bowl of Chinese goldthread soup and let you try it. Will it be sweet or bitter?"

Yin Huaixi was a little confused by her smile, so he could only go along with her words. “During this period of time, I’ve eaten a lot of medicine and food to nourish myself. Coincidentally, I’m a little heaty. It’s not impossible to drink Chinese goldthread soup to get rid of internal heat.”

Yu Youyao couldn’t take it anymore. She giggled and laughed until her head was trembling. “You’ll suffer!”

Her voice was clear and melodious, and her cries were intermittent.

Yin Huaixi’s ears were a little numb and soft. He couldn’t help but lower his voice. “As long as it’s something you want me to drink, even if it’s a bowl of Chinese goldthread soup, even if it’s bitter, it’s sweet.”

Yu Youyao’s face turned red. She wanted to laugh, but she couldn’t. She glared at him and spat, “Why— Why are you talking like your mouth has been smeared with honey? You only know how to coax people. I’m not telling you.” After all, they were in a relationship. Even if she was a little girl, she wouldn’t be pretentious. “Hurry up and tell me what it is.”

Her coquettish expression made Yin Huaixi’s heart feel like it was being scratched by a cat. He quickly said, “If you’re ready, we’ll set off for the Crown Prince River now. It’ll take about an hour to travel there.” At this point, he paused for a moment before continuing, “Eat some snacks first in the carriage. When we reach the Crown Prince River, can we have lunch?”

Yu Youyao nodded. “Okay.”

Due to the heavy rain, the road was filled with depressions and mud. The carriage jolted all the way until they finally arrived at the Crown Prince River.

At this moment, there was already a sea of people near the Crown Prince River.

On both sides of the riverbank, streamers were drawn with simple wooden stakes to block the enthusiastic commoners outside. This was to prevent the crowd from overcrowding and causing them to fall into the river. It was safer.

There was a sentry post every five steps. The You soldiers with breastplates stood there, and there were also government officials with knives patrolling non-stop.

The dragon boats of the various families were already in position. Yu Youyao counted and there were a total of nine teams, divided into nine colors, namely red, orange, yellow, green, cyan, blue, purple, black, and silver.

There were many colorful flags hanging on the high platform beside the river. On it, there were phrases like “favorable weather”, “peace and prosperity”, and so on. There was an incense burner and three wine offerings on the altar table. There were Daoists in Daoist robes standing on the altar to preside over the sacrificial ceremony for the Dragon God.

It was expressed that while the commoners prayed for a good life with favorable weather, they also had a sense of reverence for nature.

However, Yu Youyao arrived a little late. The water god sacrifice had already ended, and the teams participating in the dragon boat race were already making final preparations.

Yin Huaixi set up a tent at the bank of the river.

“The dragon boat race is about to start in an hour. I ordered someone to buy lunch from a restaurant in the city. It’s not as exquisite as the one made by the Yu Garden, but it’s novel. It’s not bad to try something fresh and change the taste. ”

As Yin Huaixi spoke, he took the food box from the table and took out the food that had been prepared one by one. There were four dishes and a soup.

There was red mushroom soup with fresh bamboo shoots, vegetarian red braised pork, stir fried corn with pine nuts, jade vegetables, and a large urn. Yin Huaixi opened the lid of the urn. Immediately, a mellow wine fragrance, accompanied by the thick fragrance of food, assailed Yu Youyao’s nose.

Yu Youyao couldn’t help but ask, “What is this? It smells a little like Buddha Jumps over the Wall.”

“It’s a vegetarian mushroom Buddha Jumps Over the Wall. It rains heavily in the Liaodong area, and it produces more than 30 types of mushrooms.

Someone used the mushrooms to make a vegetarian Buddha Jumps Over the Wall using mushrooms. There are 37 types of mushrooms, plus more than 20 medicinal herbs, and incense materials, including angelica, the twig of the cinnamon tree, Mongolian milkvetch, and so on. There are also more than ten types of dried fruits, such as yams, chestnuts, red dates, hazelnuts, and peanuts. Coupled with yellow wine, they’re simmered for 12 hours. More than

30 types of mushrooms are mixed together, but they all have their own flavors. They taste strange and fresh, but they’re also very nourishing. They’re already comparable to Buddha Jumps Over the Wall.”

Yin Huaixi scooped a small bowl and placed it in front of Yu Youyao. Yellow wine was also a type of seasoning that was absolutely necessary. There was the fragrance of wine, but it tasted fresh and mellow without the taste of wine.

The golden soup was bright and refreshing. There were a few wisps of oil floating on it, and it was not greasy at all. The thick mellow fragrance of the wine turned faint after overstepping the main dish. The rich fragrance of the mushrooms rushed out, increasing one’s appetite.

“It smells so good!” Yu Youyao picked up the small bowl and took a sip of the soup. Her eyes couldn’t help but light up. “The soup is fragrant and refreshing. It’s salty and fragrant when it enters your mouth. It’s condensed with the essence of mushrooms. It tastes fresh and refreshing. It’s delicious!”

She couldn’t wait to eat a piece of red mushroom. Even her eyes widened. “It’s soft and moist. It’s rich in meat fragrance, but it’s not greasy. There’s a taste in it. Why do the mushrooms taste like abalone? I almost thought I had just eaten a mouthful of abalone.

Yin Huaixi smiled. “The unique thing about this vegetarian mushroom Buddha Jumps over the Wall is that it’s vegetarian yet meaty. Every mushroom has the texture of a meat dish and full-bodied taste.’

Then, Yu Youyao tasted them one by one. There was matsutake with the taste of sea cucumbers, honey fungus with the taste of shark fins... The tastes were varied. To summarize the dish in one word, it was “fresh”. To summarize the dish in two words, it was “extremely fresh”.

It had been more than half a year since Yu Youyao had had any meat. She liked seafood to begin with, so after eating three bowls in a row, she still felt a little unsatisfied.

Yu Youyao, who insisted on taking care of her health from a young age and only ate 70% of her food every meal, was accidentally overeating!

She couldn't help but burp in front of Yin Huaixi.

Yu Youyao's eyes widened in shock. She quickly reached out to cover her mouth, feeling so awkward that her toes hurt. As a well-mannered young lady, she had been strictly trained. How could she be so rude?!

This time, she had embarrassed herself greatly!