

A PRINCE'S ENDLESS INDULGENCE

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Chapter 11: Chapter 011, Tears

"How could he possibly be angry because of her? Just look at her, with that meek and humble air, always obedient and never daring to talk back even when I bully her. Uncle would never get angry for her sake!" Xu Xinmo's voice got softer and softer.

Because she felt that Daidai might be right.

Considering how Uncle sent so many things over yesterday and even assigned a maid and an old nurse to attend to her, and grandmother didn't stop him...

"No!"

She couldn't let Yun Jinnian snatch away Uncle's favor; she had to strike first.

Cixin Academy main room

The elderly Madam was lying on the couch after bathing, with Ming Liu wringing out her hair while Ming Yang brought over the soothing soup.

"Madam, the soothing soup is ready!"

"It's still hot. Let it cool for a while before drinking!"

The soothing soup was so bitter; the Madam really didn't want to drink it.

She was bothered by Yun Chen's behavior today!

"You tell me, why did Chenchen suddenly become upset today? When he came in at first, everything seemed fine!"

Ming Liu remained silent.

Ming Yang pondered for a moment before saying, "Madam, do you think it could be related to the Fourth Miss?"

"What are you saying?" the elderly Madam exclaimed in shock.

But then, she suddenly remembered Yun Chen asking her to treat Yun Jinnian kindly and not to give anyone leverage against her.

At the time, she hadn't thought much about it, simply feeling an instinctive dislike for Yun Jinnian, which led her to refuse to let her come over.

Taking a deep breath, "Ming Yang!"

"Your servant is here!"

"Later, go to Niannian Garden and tell Jinnian that she should go to the girls' school tomorrow. She doesn't need to come here for morning greetings, just head straight to the school!"

"What about after school?"

"She needn't come either!"

Ming Yang lowered her gaze, "Your servant understands!"

When Ming Yang delivered the message to Niannian Garden, Yun Jinnian was indifferent to the news that she could go to the girls' school tomorrow, but Mrs. Yuan was very happy.

"Miss, who shall accompany you to the girls' school tomorrow?"

"Let Ru Yue go!"

Ru Yue was steady, not very talkative, but diligent and dedicated.

Better than Danxia, Dangu, or Ru Yang.

Full of joy, Mrs. Yuan went off to prepare.

Yun Jinnian really wanted to tell her that there was actually no need to prepare, for even if she went there, she might not be able to attend classes in peace, and the virtues of women taught by the female Masters at the girls' school, she could already recite them backwards and forwards.

She just wanted to use the girls' school as a qualification to attend Qingsong Academy.

Songshan Academy didn't just teach men; they also taught women calligraphy, painting, poetry, chess, horse riding, archery, and martial arts.

She no longer wanted to learn poetry, calligraphy, painting, or chess; she wanted to learn horse riding, archery, and martial arts to protect herself and her most beloved family members in times of danger.

She thought of Momo for no apparent reason.

Every time she did, her heart ached unbearably.

Yun Jinnian clutched her chest, the pain making her whole body shiver.

"Miss, what's wrong?" Mrs. Yuan asked with concern.

"It's nothing. You go rest," Yun Jinnian told Mrs. Yuan to go down, and although Mrs. Yuan looked at Yun Jinnian worriedly, she couldn't utter too many objections and quietly withdrew.

Yun Jinnian stood up, dipped her finger in the tea, and began to trace Momo's likeness on the table.

"Momo, did we meet in a dream? If so, why does it hurt so much? When I think of you, even breathing pains me!"

"I wish it were all a dream, yet I long to have been part of your life, even if the ending is a tragedy!"

Danxia stood at the door, "Miss, shall I come in to keep watch through the night?"

"There's no need. You go sleep," Yun Jinnian said.

Relishing the chance to sleep in a warm bed, Danxia said eagerly, "Then your servant will take her leave!"

"Go," Yun Jinnian said softly and continued to draw herself beside Momo, depicting her at her most radiant.

Tears fell drip by drip, landing on the figures, gradually blurring them until all that was left was a puddle of water.

In the room, the oil lamp flickered faintly, while tears fell like broken pearls.

Amidst the quiet sounds and faint smell of blood that began to permeate the room, Yun Jinnian instantly came to her senses, "Who's there? Who is it?"

A bloodstained sword rested against her neck.

"Don't move, don't scream, or I'll take your life!"

Chapter 12: Chapter 0012, King Rui

The voice was sinister and bone-chilling, causing anyone who heard it to have goosebumps and feel panicked.

Yet Yun Jinnian appeared relatively composed.

She couldn't understand why she wasn't that scared.

"Don't worry, I won't scream. Can you please move the sword away first?"

The figure remained unmoved.

Yun Jinnian took a deep breath and continued, "I can smell blood on you. You're injured, and it's serious!"

Then, slowly turning around, she was astonished to see the man in black before her.

The Prince?

He held his sword as he heavily fell backward.

"..."

Yun Jinnian stood rooted to the spot for a while.

Why is he here? These things never happened in her dreams!

But at that moment, Yun Jinnian dared not hesitate. He was the Prince; he couldn't die in her house, and especially not at the Yuan Family.

She tried to pull the Prince up a few times but couldn't move him at all.

An arrowhead was stuck in his chest, bleeding. The blood had already soaked through his cotton jacket.

It was fortunate that it was winter, as his thick cotton jacket had prevented the blood from dripping onto the ground where it might have been discovered by others.

Without any hesitation, Yun Jinnian quickly searched her sewing basket for scissors, placed the oil lamp on the ground, and cut open the Prince's clothing.

This exposed the wound.

The arrow had embedded itself deeply. After a careful examination, Yun Jinnian was relieved to find it hadn't hit any vital parts of the heart. However, if not treated promptly, he would undoubtedly die.

She had no medicine for injuries, nor things like silver needles.

What should she do now?

Yun Jinnian was getting anxious.

If she could save him, she could consider having a powerful support.

She swiftly checked all of the Prince's hidden pockets, finding a Jade Pendant, silver notes, a Token, a purse, a porcelain bottle, poison-coated silver needles, secret weapons, and daggers!

Upon opening the porcelain bottle, she discovered the best golden sore medicine.

Overjoyed, Yun Jinnian grabbed the silver needle, washed it quickly with tea water, wiped it with a handkerchief, and rinsed it again until all the poison was removed from the needle.

Kneeling beside the Prince, Yun Jinnian pulled out some cotton from his jacket for later use.

Yun Jinnian took a deep breath, continually reassuring herself, "Yun Jinnian, don't be scared. You can do this, you definitely can. After the New Year, you'll be eleven. You can definitely do this!"

She used the cotton to clean the blood around the wound, then heated the dagger over the oil lamp. She swiftly inserted needles to alleviate the Prince's pain, cut the wound open with the heated dagger, and pulled out the broken arrow.

Blood splattered all over her face in an instant.

Droplets were warm and carried a foul stench.

He wasn't just injured; he had been poisoned!

"Gasp!"

Yun Jinnian inhaled sharply.

She quickly wiped the blood clean with the cotton, poured the golden sore medicine onto the wound, and swiftly inserted a few more silver needles to stop the bleeding.

As the needle was inserted, the bleeding stopped.

Yun Jinnian turned around and used a handkerchief to wipe the blood from the edges of the wound. She found a clean white undergarment, cut it into strips with scissors, and tried to bandage him, but she was too weak to lift him up.

"..."

Yun Jinnian bit her lip.

What to do now?

Call for help? But whom?

In Niannian Garden, the only person she truly trusted was her wet nurse.

Just as Yun Jinnian was about to get up, the Prince caught her wrist, "Where are you going?"

His voice was still cold but carried a hint of weakness.

"I want to bandage you, but I don't have the strength to help you sit up. I am going to call the wet nurse for help!"

"No need, just help me a little, I can sit up," said Chu Yu, as he slowly sat up.

Because of the effort, his chest began to bleed again.

Yun Jinnian hurriedly supported him, "Slow down, take it slow!"

Chapter 13: Chapter 0013, Let's Talk

After helping him sit up, Yun Jinnian quickly bandaged his wounds.

"I didn't expect a girl cloistered away in her boudoir to have medical skills!" Chu Yu spoke coldly.

And to such a remarkable extent.

"My maternal grandfather happens to be the Divine Doctor. Is it so strange that I, as his granddaughter, know how to heal?" Yun Jinnian tried her best to stay calm, speaking lightly.

But she still felt uneasy inside.

All this, because she had learned it in her dreams; otherwise, she wouldn't know how.

"Divine Doctor? Han Xuzi?"

"Yes!"

Chu Yu said no more.

His cold gaze rested on Yun Jinnian, casual yet piercing. Earlier, he had only pretended to faint. Had Yun Jinnian dared to act recklessly, he would have been the first to kill her.

And coming here wounded was a test.

Unexpectedly, Yun Jinnian truly was Han Xuzi's granddaughter!

That obstinate old man actually had such a granddaughter; he wondered if he would feel pained for her.

Yun Jinnian's mind was in chaos, but she had to remain calm. She didn't know what Chu Yu was planning. Was his arrival an accident or intentional?

"Help me to the bed!" Chu Yu commanded in a deep voice.

"Ah, oh!" Yun Jinnian, somewhat dazed, helped Chu Yu to the bed and then came back to her senses, looking at her own hands.

In that moment just now, she acted without thinking—she didn't even know how she had moved him to the bed!

Shock and awe in her eyes, she looked at Chu Yu, "What did you just do to me?"

"Nothing much, just used the Soul Leading Technique a little," Chu Yu said carelessly, the corner of his beautiful mouth curving up, his sword-like eyebrows slanting across his temples, and his eyes bright and spirited within his finely carved handsome face.

He was extremely good-looking.

But as the room was quite dark, Yun Jinnian couldn't see clearly, "I am your savior. How can you use the Soul Leading Technique on me!"

"It's precisely because you're my savior that I used the Soul Leading Technique instead of taking your life!"

"Why?"

"Because you know too much!"

You're arguing against reason!" Yun Jinnian fumed.

She had kindly saved him, hoping to have someone to rely on, yet he didn't take it seriously at all.

"Heh heh!"

Chu Yu leaned against the bedhead, chuckling coldly.

Still so young and inexperienced, stirred up by his few words.

"I need water!"

"What?" Yun Jinnian asked in a low voice.

"I want water, hot water!"

Yun Jinnian, hearing this, gradually calmed down, went off to splash cold water on her face, and after freshening up, she changed her clothes. She stepped out of the room and began to pick up the blood-stained cotton and garments from the floor, throwing them in a basin to burn them, speaking faintly, "I'm not as favored as you might think. There's a small kitchen in the courtyard, so if you want water, you'll have to wait until daylight. In the meantime, if you don't want me to be drowned in a pig cage, sent off to a farm, or poisoned to death with a brew, it's better for you to keep quiet and not make a sound!"

Indeed, that was a complaint.

Yun Jinnian wanted to let Chu Yu know the great risk she had taken in saving him.

Chu Yu received the news that Yun Jinnian was indeed not favored.

He became silent for a moment.

Meanwhile, Yun Jinnian was not idle. After burning the discarded items, she began to wipe the floor with a rag, quietly carrying out the bloody water, fetching cold water to continue, and keeping the oil lamp burning while she cleaned, her little hands turning red from the cold.

Only after cleaning the floor did Yun Jinnian open the window to let fresh air in and lit more sandalwood to mask the blood smell in the room.

The sandalwood had been sent by Yun Chen the day before. The person who brought the sandalwood only mentioned that the good spices were gone and told her to make do with what was sent until more arrived.

Yun Jinnian didn't speak.

She had used even the best spices in her dreams.

When everything was taken care of, Yun Jinnian finally pulled up a stool and sat in front of Chu Yu, "I think we should talk!"

Chapter 14: Chapter 0014, Complaints

"Talk about what? About how you saved me?" Chu Yu asked coldly, his eyes fixed on Yun Jinnian with a piercing chill.

"No, not that. Let's talk about the poison in your body!" Yun Jinnian whispered softly.

Yet despite her quiet voice, Chu Yu couldn't ignore her words.

"What did you say?" Chu Yu exclaimed in shock.

His icy demeanor cracked instantaneously.

She actually knew he was poisoned?

So many imperial physicians, so many doctors had failed to detect it.

That's why he had gone to great lengths to find the Divine Doctor Han Xuizi. But Han Xuizi refused to treat his poison, with neither threats nor bribes working, so he had turned his attention to Yun Jinnian for aid.

"You're poisoned!" Yun Jinnian stated again.

"Can you cure it?"

Yun Jinnian shook her head, "I cannot, for now!"

First, get Chu Yu's hopes up, then tell him there's a cure.

After all, he had gone too far.

She had saved him, and yet he had the audacity to use the Soul-Leading Technique on her.

But Chu Yu was enraged, suddenly seizing Yun Jinnian's throat and lifting her up, he demanded angrily, "If you cannot cure it, why bring it up to me?"

That fierce aura, those domineering words.

It was him, it was him.

The man from her dreams who had abducted her to seek a cure, the masked figure in black was none other than King Rui, Chu Yu.

He had taken her away for half a month, and upon her return to Chu Liange's side, her nightmare had begun.

"No, no, let me go! You can't treat me this way!" Yun Jinnian struggled violently, frantically clawing at the large hand gripping her neck.

She was but a ten-year-old child, while Chu Yu was seventeen, a man by all accounts.

How could she possibly be his match?

Chu Yu threw Yun Jinnian onto the inner side of the bed, covering her lips, "Don't you scream. Scream and I will strangle you to death!"

Yun Jinnian, even if she were as passive as a clay Buddha, now erupted with fury and bit down on Chu Yu's hand.

Chu Yu, in shock, opened his mouth wide.

She dared to bite him!

She had no idea what jeopardy she was in; he was about to strike her dead with a slap when he felt a burning heat on the back of his hand.

Looking closely, Chu Yu realized that Yun Jinnian was crying fiercely, tears splashing down incessantly.

Chu Yu instantly lost his anger, letting her bite him.

It was only after a long while that Yun Jinnian released Chu Yu's hand, crying, "My life has been so difficult already, why do you insist on bullying me!"

She might handle the people in the manor slowly, but facing the overwhelmingly powerful King Rui, Chu Yu, she was utterly helpless.

"..."

Chu Yu had no words in response.

"I saved you, didn't I? You used the Soul-Leading Technique on me, and there's nothing I can do to you. Your poison is so troublesome, I, a minor girl from the inner courtyard, cannot leave the main door nor step beyond the second, how can I possibly access medical books related to this matter? How could I cure you anytime soon?" Yun Jinnian said, growing more and more aggrieved.

Sobbing, she continued, "Even if you want me to cure you, you need to give me time to study, right? I can't just concoct some random medicine. What if it doesn't cure your poison but ends up killing you?"

"Moreover, I have nothing at my disposal here. How do you expect me to cure you? At the very least, you need to find an excuse to get me out of this manor, right?"

Upon hearing this, Chu Yu realized his impatience.

As long as the poison did not flare up, it was manageable, but once it did, even he, a man, could barely endure the excruciating pain.

"Alright, I was wrong. Stop crying. I will find a way to get you out of the manor. Just wait for now!" Chu Yu said and whistled softly. Immediately, someone slipped quietly into the room.

"My lord!"

"Let's go!"

The person stepped forward and helped Chu Yu to leave...

Chapter 15: Chapter 0015, Eating

Chu Yu took a few steps, then suddenly turned back, "Little girl!"

Yun Jinnian lifted her eyes, her vision blurred with tears, and sniffled as she looked at Chu Yu.

"Thank you for saving me," Chu Yu said, pausing before adding, "I apologize for before!"

Then he quickly left.

Yun Jinnian sat on the bed.

Heh, a cold laugh escaped her. Was this a slap followed by a sweet date?

She still had to accept it, damn it.

But she was utterly helpless, without a single useful person at her disposal, without silver, and without knowledge of martial arts. She couldn't even step beyond the secondary door, let alone the main gate.

To make a change, she had to rely on Chu Yu's schemes.

Yun Jinnian clenched her fist and let it rest on the quilt.

She couldn't be like she was in her dreams; no, she absolutely could not...

It took a while before Yun Jinnian slowly got out of bed and methodically checked the room before finally letting out a soft sigh of relief.

Leaning by the window, she looked out at the night sky, sleepless.

At dawn,

Mrs. Yuan came over and saw Yun Jinnian sitting by the window, her small hand propping up her cheek as she daydreamed. She hurriedly pushed the door open and entered the room, "Miss, why are you sitting by the window? What if you catch a cold?"

"Nanny, I'm fine!" Yun Jinnian said lightly.

The nanny draped a cloak over Yun Jinnian and touched her hands, saying, "How long have you been sitting? Your hands are so cold!"

"Just a moment!"

"Ah!"

The nanny sighed, not knowing how to comfort Yun Jinnian.

A father who doesn't care, a grandmother who doesn't love, and the only one who loved her had been sent to the villa, with no telling when she might return.

"Miss, shall I go fetch water for your face?"

"Mhm!"

The nanny cheerfully went off to the main kitchen with the bucket.

Yun Jinnian watched her go and took a deep breath. Niannian Garden might lack a small kitchen to prepare her own meals, but it must have a place to boil water, so the nanny wouldn't have to totter to the main kitchen to fetch hot water early in the morning, while those maids and servant women still slept.

No, Ru Yue was already up, slowly walking over while organizing her clothes.

Ru Yue was surprised to see Yun Jinnian up so early, "Miss, you're awake already?"

Naturally, Yun Jinnian wouldn't tell Ru Yue that she had spent the night sleepless. She nodded slightly, "Mhm!"

"Then I'll fetch hot water from the main kitchen!"

"No need, the nanny has gone!"

Ru Yue blushed slightly, thinking that she had risen early enough, but the nanny had gotten up even earlier.

The nanny quickly returned with the hot water, and after Yun Jinnian washed up, breakfast was delivered from the main kitchen.

Plain porridge, two dishes of pickles, an egg, and two buns.

This was Yun Jinnian's breakfast.

Yun Jinnian didn't mind; it was already much better than the days of just a bowl of porridge and a dish of pickles.

After breakfast, Yun Jinnian went with Ru Yue to Lady He's Nuanxin Garden.

Tianmi was startled to see Yun Jinnian and quickly went in to report.

Mrs. He's hand paused while she was holding a bowl, glanced at Yun Chen who was eating breakfast, and said enthusiastically, "Please invite Lady Jinnian in!"

Yun Chen gently put down his chopsticks and watched the petite and frail figure of Yun Jinnian walk in.

She was wearing a brand new dress that made her little face look even more exquisite.

This child, once grown, would surely be a stunning beauty!

"I greet you, uncle and aunt," Yun Jinnian said.

Yun Chen nodded.

Mrs. He hurriedly got up and approached, taking Yun Jinnian's hand, "Why have you come so early? Have you had breakfast?"

"I have eaten," Yun Jinnian replied respectfully, her gaze sweeping briefly.

Bird's nest porridge, over a dozen exquisite breakfast dishes, and six or seven refreshing cold dishes—her eyes lowered momentarily.

Such was the way here, as it was at Yun Muiyou's place.

And needless to say, even more so at Cixin Academy.

Mrs. He knew full well what food was available in Niannian Garden, and her face burned with embarrassment that Yun Jinnian had come to visit.

"Do you have matters to attend to so early, Lady Jinnian?"

"Yes, something!"

Mrs. He's heart suddenly lifted, and Yun Chen also looked intently at Yun Jinnian.