

A PRINCE'S ENDLESS INDULGENCE

Chapter 16: Chapter 0016, Anger

Mrs. He was somewhat afraid that Yun Jinnian would rashly complain about her poor diet, unable to stop him in front of Yun Chen.

"What is it? As long as the Lady has it, Jinnian just say it!" Lady Mrs. He said, her voice trembling a bit.

"Grandmother wants me to go to private school, and I would like to ask Lady for a set of the Four Treasures of the Study!"

Mrs. He breathed a sigh of relief, "It's just that, huh? Tianmi, quickly go to the storeroom and find a neat and pretty set for Jinnian!"

Yun Jinnian hurriedly performed a courtesy, "Thank you, Lady!"

Respectful and proper.

Without her own mother to teach her, she was still so well-mannered, it seems these years must have been hard, smoothing out her temperament and rough edges.

But Mrs. He was extremely surprised.

Because Yun Jinnian used to be timid and afraid of trouble, not daring to speak loudly.

"Is it Jinnian's first time going to the private school? What kind of books do you usually read? Do you know the Four Books and Five Classics?" Yun Chen spoke softly.

Yun Jinnian's face instantly turned red with shame, and she said softly, "Replying to Great Uncle, Jinnian doesn't know how to write and has never been to a private school, nor knows the Four Books and Five Classics."

For a moment, Yun Chen didn't know what he was feeling.

Very sour, very astringent.

He looked at Mrs. He with eyes full of reproach and a good deal of complaint towards the elder lady.

A family of etiquette and learning like the Yun Family, even the maids and servant boys must be literate. But for the legitimate daughter of the Yun Family not to know how to read or write was preposterous, and it would be a laughing stock if others found out.

"It doesn't matter, you are still young, and starting to learn now is just as good. Later, your Great Uncle will send a few books for you. Do you know what refined xuan paper is?"

Refined xuan paper, the best and most expensive xuan paper in Great Chu Country, Yun Jinnian did know.

And in her dreams, after marrying into the Fifth Prince's mansion, she always used refined xuan paper.

But at this moment...

Her face turned even redder, and she shook her head slightly.

"Your Great Uncle will also send you a knife!"

"Thank you, Great Uncle!" Yun Jinnian said, looking at Yun Chen with eyes filled with admiration and gratitude, then hesitated before speaking again, "Great Uncle, can Jinnian have one more request?"

"Speak!"

"Could Great Uncle also send Jinnian two medical books, just the very simple ones?"

Yun Chen was about to say that as a girl, she shouldn't be reading medical books, but then remembered that Yun Jinnian's maternal grandfather was none other than the famous Divine Doctor Han Xuzi of Great Chu Country. As the only granddaughter of Divine Doctor Han Xuzi, it wasn't inappropriate for Yun Jinnian to be interested in medical books.

"Alright!"

"Thank you, Great Uncle!"

Yun Chen nodded slightly, "Go find your second sister and head to the private school together!"

"Yes!"

Yun Muyou had already gone to Songshan Academy and wouldn't have to go anymore until she came of age and had an arranged engagement.

And coming out of Songshan Academy, whether man or woman, was a matter of great face.

"But my second sister she..."

Yun Zihan, wanting to help her, had been punished by the elder lady to copy the Classic of Filial Piety three hundred times.

"What happened to your second sister?" Yun Chen asked, puzzled.

Yun Jinnian shook her head and quickly bowed, "Then, Great Uncle, Jinnian will take her leave!"

"Go!"

After Yun Jinnian left, Yun Chen's face grew very grim, "What happened to Zihan?"

"Yesterday, Mother had Jinnian kneel down, and Zihan knelt as well. Mother then said Zihan was filial and instructed her to copy the Classic of Filial Piety three hundred times..."

Before Mrs. He could finish, Yun Chen angrily overturned the table, "What in the world does she want to do? How were you handling things, just watching blindly? She's being foolish, and you follow suit?"

Mrs. He was scared stiff.

She dared not utter a word.

"Do you all wish for the Yuan Family to end up like the former Minister of War? If so, then continue with your actions!" Having said this, Yun Chen left abruptly.

It took quite some time for Mrs. He to start trembling and cry out...

Chapter 17: Chapter 0017, Not

The maids of Nuanxin Garden did not take it lightly either.

Who would have known that Yun Chen would suddenly burst into rage!

"All of you keep your mouths shut tight. If anyone dares to leak a single word, don't blame me for turning my face against you without mercy!" Mrs. He huffed coldly, composed herself, and then proceeded to Cixin Academy.

The old lady had a very restless night, feeling as if a shadow flitted about the room, so cold that even several layers of quilts didn't help; whenever she fell asleep, she would see a man with a very malicious aura trying to strangle her.

It was truly a series of nightmares.

When Mrs. He arrived, the old lady was lying on an Arhat bed, and Xu Xinmo was coaxing her cautiously, "Grandma, I won't go to the girls' school today. I'll stay with you, is that okay?"

"Silly child, grandma is fine. You should study hard. Like your older cousin, you should go to Songshan Academy to study in the future!"

"But, I worry about Grandma!"

"Good child, Grandma knows your intentions. Hurry off to school, otherwise Master will get angry soon!"

The female master's surname was Fang; she had been very famous in earlier years, married a husband, but after his death and the decline of her husband's family, she had to start teaching to provide for her family.

A very strict woman.

Xu Xinmo was afraid of her, and so were all the young ladies of the Yun Family.

"Then I will go, Grandma, you must wait obediently for my return, okay?"

"Go on, go on!" The old lady watched Xu Xinmo leave with a joyous smile but soon composed herself.

Upon hearing of Mrs. He's arrival, she asked to see Mrs. He in the smaller hall.

"Mother!"

The old lady nodded slightly, "Have you taken care of the midday meal?"

"Not yet!" Mrs. He said sullenly, looking at the old lady, "Mother, my husband lost his temper earlier, even flipped the table over!"

Upon hearing this, the old lady frowned deeply, "What happened? Did you provoke him?"

"How dare I? When he was leaving, he only said that if we hope for the Yuan Family to end up like the former Minister of War, if so, then continue as we please!" Mrs. He finished her words and quickly lowered her head.

The old lady's face turned iron blue at once.

She had already sent Yun Jinnian to school, so what was Yun Chen discontented with?

"Mother, we can no longer treat Jinnian as we did before!"

Before, Yun Chen did not know and had not interfered; now that he knew and had intervened, continuing as before would be a slap in Yun Chen's face.

"What exactly is going on?"

"Jinnian went to Nuanxin Garden this morning and mentioned going to school; my husband told her to find Hanjie, but Hanjie... That's when he erupted!"

There was no need to spell it out fully; the old lady understood.

After a long while, the old lady finally took a deep breath, closed her eyes, and waved her hand away, "Send someone to check on Niannian Garden for anything that might be missing and add it; no matter what, she is still the legitimate firstborn daughter of the Yun Family!"

"Yes!"

Mrs. He left Cixin Academy.

She went to Niannian Garden personally, asked around, and immediately had a small kitchen built within the garden. She sent over some items too, so that Niannian Garden could not only boil water but also be equipped to cook if necessary.

Mrs. Yuan was the most excited.

When Yun Jinnian left, she had told her not to go out, as people were coming to build a small kitchen; she hadn't believed it at first, but now she did.

Yun Jinnian strolled around the garden before heading to school. The Yun Family school was located in a bright courtyard in the back, where all the Yun girls could come to take lessons and study. When Jinnian arrived, the sound of giggling could be heard from inside.

Jinnian knew that these were her cousins or sisters, but these people had never treated her as family, nor as a person.

They only treated her as their plaything, to be trampled upon, mocked, and laughed at as they pleased.

Chapter 18: Chapter 18, Argument

"Fourth Sister!"

Yun Jinnian turned her head and saw the second young lady, Yun Zihan, "Second Sister!"

Yun Zihan smiled at Yun Jinnian and stepped forward to take her hand, "Why are your hands so cold? Didn't you bring a handwarmer when you came out?"

A handwarmer?

Niannian Garden, however, didn't have any.

"I'm used to it, I'm not cold!" Yun Jinnian said, attempting to pull her hand away.

Yun Zihan, however, stuffed her own warm flask into Yun Jinnian's hands, "Use mine to warm up for now!"

"No..." Yun Jinnian was about to refuse.

Yun Zihan laughed, "Let's go in quickly, otherwise the Master will get angry soon!" She pulled Yun Jinnian towards the inside.

Yun Jinnian's body stiffened, not quite accustomed to such close contact with others.

Once inside the courtyard, the playful crowd suddenly all looked over, with Xu Xinmo taking the lead, looking particularly hostile.

"What are you doing here?" Xu Xinmo asked coldly, full of arrogance.

She had completely forgotten that this was Yun Jinnian's home; she was just a cousin, in plain terms, a guest.

"Grandmother asked me to come here to study!" Yun Jinnian stood tall, neither humble nor arrogant.

Her eyes were calm, like deep pools, gazing at Xu Xinmo.

Xu Xinmo grew increasingly envious.

Envious of how Yun Jinnian's every gesture exuded beauty, elegance, and nobility, as if it came naturally to her.

"Hmph, do you even know how to read?"

"I do not!"

"Ahahaha, you actually can't read? If you can't read, what are you doing here?"

Their laughter was mocking and unrestrained.

Yun Jinnian looked up to see the two legitimate younger sisters born to the wife of the first house.

Eight-year-old Yun Musi, and six-year-old Yun Mulan.

Being the legitimate daughters born to the first house, their mother was in charge of household provisions and was the Lady of the house. Their father was a third-rank official. No wonder they dared to openly mock their legitimate sister.

Other half-sisters all kept their heads lowered, trying to minimize their presence as much as possible.

"I cannot recognize characters because I have never had the opportunity to enter the private school. No one is born able to read, you are only laughing at me because you started learning earlier than I did. Whose rule is it to ridicule me for this— your family's or someone else's? Grandmother's or the Lady's?" Yun Jinnian's words were like pearls dropping onto a jade plate.

This made Yun Musi and Yun Mulan swallow hard.

Because at this moment, Yun Jinnian frightened them.

If a real commotion broke out, or if the news spread that they mocked their legitimate sister and tarnished her reputation, that would be enough to deal with them.

"Isn't it just being able to come to the private girls' school—what's there to be so arrogant about!" Xu Xinmo, seeing Yun Musi and Yun Mulan defeated, chimed in to take their side.

"I have never been arrogant; on the contrary, I cherish the opportunity to study here at the academy!"

Having said that, Yun Jinnian stepped inside the house.

And sat in the foremost position.

That used to be Yun Muyou's exclusive seat, but now that Yun Mulan had gone to Songshan Academy, that seat had become vacant.

Yun Musi, Yun Mulan, and Xu Xinmo looked at each other outside, shocked at how Yun Jinnian dared to sit in that spot.

Xu Xinmo, however, emboldened by a habit of bullying Yun Jinnian, furiously stepped forward and grabbed Yun Jinnian's arm, "What gives you the right to sit here!"

Yun Jinnian looked up, her gaze cool as she looked at Xu Xinmo, "Is this your seat?"

"It is not!" Xu Xinmo said sternly.

"Then is there someone sitting here?" Yun Jinnian asked again.

"This is the seat of the eldest cousin, by what right..."

"By the right that I am the legitimate daughter of the Yun Family, by the right that my father is the Second Master of this house, I am the legitimate granddaughter of Grandmother, and since the eldest sister has gone to Songshan Academy and this seat has been freed up, and there are no spare seats for me in this room, what is wrong with me sitting here?"

Chapter 19: Chapter 19, Filing a Complaint

Each word, every sentence, full of gravity and clarity, resounded as it hit the ground.

She, Yun Jinnian, was the legitimate eldest daughter of this residence; what seat was she not entitled to sit in?

If things really stirred up, the grievances she bore over the years would be more than enough for the Imperial Censor to impeach her eldest uncle ten times.

If she truly disregarded all consequences and proved that she had been maltreated and oppressed, who in the Yun Family would end up well?

Yun Jinnian flung off Xu Xinmo and sat down properly once again.

Taking several steps back, Xu Xinmo stared at Yun Jinnian in shock and disbelief.

How dare she? How dare she talk back to her like this?

Who gave her such courage?

Xu Xinmo could hardly believe that Yun Jinnian had suddenly become so fierce.

Even the others were taken aback.

Was this really the previously hesitant and meek Yun Jinnian who hardly dared to speak loudly?

Feeling bullied by Yun Jinnian and having lost face, she turned and ran out.

Yun Musi and Yun Mulan immediately called out, "Cousin!" and glared hatefully at Yun Jinnian. "Grandmother will punish you!" They both chased after Xu Xinmo.

The half-sisters all bore a look of schadenfreude, only Yun Zihan worriedly gazed at Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian, however, was very composed.

She knew that she wouldn't be able to attend class peacefully that day.

And no one noticed that around the corner, Master Fangyao saw everything.

He shook his head and sighed softly.

"Lady!"

Fangyao's personal maid called her quietly.

"Go pack our things. This Yun Family lacks discipline; it's not worth staying any longer!"

"Yes," Fangyao nodded, "It's just a pity for that new girl!"

"What, you sympathize with her?" Master Fangyao raised an eyebrow.

Fangyao, thirty this year, had been with Master Fangyao for twenty years. She had lived in the clouds and had fallen from grace but still retained her unyielding spirit.

"That young lady will certainly soar to great heights given time," Fangyao stated.

Master Fangyao laughed, "Why not I send you to her side to teach her over time?"

"What do you mean, Lady? When others speak of her brilliant talent in the future, will they say she was only taught by a maid?"

"..."

Master Fangyao had no retort.

Fangyao continued, "If she brought silver to invite you herself, Lady, would you go and teach her?"

"No!"

"Why not?"

"The water in the Yun Family is too muddied, and their family etiquette is crooked; it's not worth it!"

Lacking respect for an elder sister, reversing right and wrong, sycophantically vying for favor, at such a young age yet having mastered these skills too well—I really didn't see it coming.

"Go pack. I will go and bid farewell to the Lady shortly. It's also almost New Year; I shall return home and spend it with mother!"

"Yes!"

Crying, Xu Xinmo arrived at Cixin Academy, "Grandmother!"

The old lady was startled to see Xu Xinmo rush in, feeling terrible for her, "My dear, what's wrong? Don't cry, don't cry. Tell Grandmother all about it, I'll decide for you!"

"Why did Yun Jinnian push me?"

She skipped calling her 'cousin' and directly used her name.

Where were her manners? Her decorum?

"What?" the old lady bellowed in anger.

Yun Musi and Yun Mulan also entered Cixin Academy, "Grandmother, you must decide for us; fourth sister has gone too far in bullying!"

"What exactly happened?" the old lady asked furiously, already convinced Yun Jinnian was at fault.

"Fourth sister mocked cousin and pushed her; she even took eldest sister's seat!" Yun Musi choked up.

Adding embellishments, Xu Xinmo gave her a grateful smile.

Yun Musi started to increasingly spout nonsense.

"Summon the guards, the guards! Bring that rebellious child to me! I want to ask her where she found the audacity to bully her sisters!"

Ming Liu immediately went to fetch her, while Ming Yang shook his head, feeling that this situation would not end well...

Chapter 20: Chapter 0020, Kneeling as Punishment

Seeing Ming Liu arrive with four rough maids, Yun Jinnian stood up with composure.

As two of the rough maids moved to grab Yun Jinnian, her face immediately turned cold, and she said in a stern voice, "I can walk myself. Whoever dares to touch me, I will ensure they have no peaceful resting place after death!"

She was the legitimate daughter of the Yun Family, and even in her downfall, she maintained her dignity.

The two maids were so frightened that they stepped back a few paces.

Ming Liu was also taken aback.

Yet, Yun Jinnian walked step by step toward Cixin Academy, with her maid Ru Yue following. Ru Yue still kept her eyes low, not daring to breathe too loudly.

Ming Liu immediately followed.

When Yun Jinnian arrived at Cixin Academy with Ru Yue, Ru Yue was stopped and not allowed to enter. "Miss!" Ru Yue called out softly.

Yun Jinnian paused and looked at Ru Yue.

Having only served for a few days, there was hardly any emotional bond, and Ru Yue had not attended her closely, so they did not understand each other well.

"Ru Yue, if I don't come back, go to the villa and find my nurse to see my mother," Yun Jinnian said and then determinedly stepped into Cixin Academy.

Ru Yue thought carefully and immediately understood. She quickly ran toward the outer courtyard.

She hoped to find the butler and ask him to invite Second Master home!

Before she could enter the room, a teacup was thrown her way. Yun Jinnian could have dodged it, but she endured it, letting the teacup hit her forehead. The scalding tea trickled down along the corner of her eyes. As the teacup shattered on the floor, blood began to stream out. Yun Jinnian's heart grew cold, but she still walked into the parlour with an upright posture.

The old lady sat in the main seat, with Xu Xinmo crying beside her, while Yun Musi and Yun Mulan looked on with schadenfreude.

"Kneel!" the old lady bellowed.

Yun Jinnian looked up and stared straight at the old lady. "I don't know what Jinnian has done wrong for Grandmother to punish me without a word!"

"How dare you talk back!" the old lady shouted angrily and picked up another teacup to throw at Yun Jinnian.

This time it did not hit Yun Jinnian's forehead, but her shoulder.

Yun Jinnian grunted softly but continued to stand upright.

"Someone!" the old lady called out in a low voice.

Ming Yang and Ming Liu immediately entered the parlour.

"Drag her out to the courtyard to kneel until nightfall!" the old lady said, then immediately regretted it.

If Yun Chen found out about this, it would probably cause another conflict between mother and son.

Ming Yang and Ming Liu hesitated.

But Yun Jinnian spoke calmly, "Grandmother, we are all your descendants, with your blood flowing in our veins. Why do you favor some so blatantly? Why do you judge my guilt without letting Jinnian defend herself?"

From then on, the term "grandmother" in her heart was nothing more than a mere word.

The old lady opened her mouth but could not utter a word.

Fearing the old lady might soften, Xu Xinmo immediately burst into loud sobs, "So, I deserve to be bullied by my cousin, do I?"

Upon hearing this, Yun Jinnian looked at Xu Xinmo with eyes full of mockery. "Hah, hah!"

She turned and left the parlour to kneel in the courtyard.

The old lady wanted to say something but was already too late.

Ming Liu and Ming Yang chased out of the parlour only to see Yun Jinnian kneeling in the courtyard, her body straight as a rod, her small face deathly pale, and her pitch-black eyes filled with sorrow and grievance, striking a chord of pity in anyone who saw her.

Ming Yang covered his mouth, turning his head away with reddened eyes.

The legitimate daughter of the Yun Family, living a life worse than the head maid by the old lady's side, who would believe it?

Yet, it was indeed the truth.

"Ming Liu, please beg the old lady," said Ming Yang. "It's so cold, and if Fourth Miss continues to kneel like this, she might hurt herself!"