

A PRINCE'S ENDLESS INDULGENCE

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Chapter 2: Chapter 002: Cheating the Master with JavaScript

"Ah..."

Yun Jinnian screamed, sitting up.

"Ah!" She gasped for air, exhaling, "Don't eat it, don't eat it, Momo, don't eat it!"

Yun Jinnian's eyes widened with sudden terror.

She, she could actually talk.

The voice was off.

Her body moved, she rolled off the bed, and a maid at the side couldn't help but burst into laughter.

Yun Jinnian looked up upon hearing the sound.

She was even more shocked.

This was...

Her boudoir, the maid in front of her, was Ru Xin, given to her by her grandmother, someone who was good at currying favor and liked to bully others with her power—a truly self-serving person.

Then who was she?

Yun Jinnian closed her eyes, memories tumbling through her mind, making it difficult for her to breathe.

"Huff, huff!"

Yun Jinnian took deep breaths, unable to make sense of what exactly was happening?

Was it a dream, or had she experienced it?

She looked at her hands, small and tender.

What in the world was going on?

Yun Jinnian sat slumped on the floor, unable to snap out of it.

And Ru Xin, she didn't even come over to help her up, letting her slump on the ground.

It wasn't until Mrs. Yuan, Yun Jinnian's wet nurse, came in with medicine and saw Ru Xin standing to the side, laughing, and Yun Jinnian slumped on the floor, that she shouted angrily, "Ru Xin, how dare you? It's so cold and you just let the young lady sit on the ground!"

Ru Xin was just about to retort when she saw that behind Mrs. Yuan followed two maids, one of whom was Ming Liu, the head maid by the old lady's side, and the other was Tianmi, the head maid by Lady's side.

Ru Xin shivered in fear, hastening to help up Yun Jinnian.

But Yun Jinnian brushed her off, "I wouldn't dare let you help me. Go kneel in the yard, kneel for two hours, then go receive twenty lashes yourself!"

Ru Xin was startled.

Mrs. Yuan was startled.

Ming Liu and Tianmi were also stunned.

Because this Fourth Miss was known for her timid nature, never speaking loudly, let alone with such sharp and stern words, directly imposing kneeling punishment and flogging.

"Miss, you mustn't treat a servant like this!" Ru Xin screamed.

Yun Jinnian sneered, letting Mrs. Yuan help her up onto the bed before she slowly said, "Since I'm punishing you, you protest!" She looked at Ming Liu and Tianmi, "Sisters Ming Liu and Tianmi, I fell from the bed earlier and was without strength, lying on the ground for at least the time it takes an incense stick to burn, while Ru Xin just stood there, looking on coldly. You saw it as you came in. Since she's a reward from my grandmother, and I can neither beat nor scold her, Sister Ming Liu, please take her back and let grandmother decide."

Ru Xin froze.

Yun Jinnian had merely given a small punishment; if Ru Xin was taken to the old lady, as a slave sold to the Yun Family, she likely faced death.

Thump! Ru Xin knelt down, "Miss, I was wrong, I realize my mistake, I'll go kneel in the yard right now!"

Having said that, Ru Xin scrambled up and ran to kneel in the courtyard.

Ming Liu didn't know what to do for a moment, but then she asked, "Is the Fourth Miss feeling better? The old lady sent me to ask; if you need anything, just have Mrs. Yuan get it from the Lady."

Really?

Of course not.

Yun Jinnian smiled faintly, "I was feeling much better, but I seem to have caught a chill lying on the floor just now!"

Ming Liu immediately understood that Ru Xin was unlikely to be spared.

"Then Miss, take some rest first. I'll report back to the old lady, and she surely won't let the Fourth Miss be wronged over how to deal with that girl Ru Xin!"

"That would trouble Sister Ming Liu!"

"I shall take my leave!" Ming Liu curtsied and left.

She didn't take Yun Jinnian seriously at all.

Tianmi was the head maid of the Lady, Yun Jinnian's eldest aunt, who held power in her hands, making Tianmi quite influential.

"Fourth Miss, rest well. I shall take my leave too!" Tianmi curtsied and left, not mentioning her purpose for being there.

Yun Jinnian leaned back on the bed and slowly closed her eyes.

She needed to sort things out, what exactly was happening...

Chapter 3: Chapter 0003, Poison

"Miss!" Mrs. Yuan called out worriedly, seeing that Yun Jinnian remained silent, she called again, "Miss, please drink your medicine first!"

Drink medicine?

Yun Jinnian suddenly opened her eyes and looked at the medicine bowl on the table not far away.

Why did she need to take medicine?

"Nurse!"

"What can I do for you, Miss?"

"Nurse, I..." Yun Jinnian didn't know how to explain.

Her mind was a mess.

But, Yun Jinnian still knew that she could trust her nurse.

After taking a few deep breaths, "Nurse, why do I need to take medicine?"

"Don't you remember, Miss? A few days ago, you and your cousin were playing by the Lotus Pond, and you accidentally fell into it!"

Fell into the Lotus Pond?

Wasn't that the incident from the winter when she was ten years old?

Ten years old? Ten years old?

Tianchu Country, the fifteenth year of Yuanhe winter!

Had those events actually happened? Did God pity her and allow her to return to her ten-year-old self? Or was it a dream, serving as a warning?

If she were again so feeble and incompetent, her own flesh and blood devouring her would be her fate?

"No, no!" Yun Jinnian suddenly felt a surge of madness.

She grabbed her hair and shook her head continuously.

No, she didn't want such a tragic life, unable to protect herself or her son.

"Miss, Miss, what's wrong? Don't scare your nurse, tell me what's happening. I will definitely help you!" Mrs. Yuan held Yun Jinnian's hand tightly.

But Yun Jinnian suddenly started crying, frightening her nurse who quickly let go of her hand and took out a handkerchief to wipe her tears. Yun Jinnian hugged her nurse's waist tightly, "Nurse, you can't help me, you can't help me!"

In that dream, the nurse had followed her to marry into the residence of the Fifth Prince and also entered the palace with her, watched her become the Empress, helped her give birth to Momo, and eventually was killed by Zhu Yan.

She was steamed alive.

When the nurse died, she was right there watching, completely powerless.

"Even if the nurse can't help Miss, the nurse will still stay by Miss's side!" Mrs. Yuan also started to cry.

The second lady of the house was hands-off, almost not caring about the Miss, and so was the second master. It was as if he didn't see the Miss at all.

Not to mention the old lady.

Despite being the legitimate eldest daughter of the house's second branch, she was treated even worse than a by-blow daughter of the main branch, let alone her cousin who was staying with the Yun Family.

Upon hearing these words, Yun Jinnian slowly raised her head, looked at Mrs. Yuan, snorted through her nose, and managed a bitter smile before taking a handkerchief to wipe her tears. After a while, she finally said, "Nurse, bring me the medicine, please!"

"Alright!"

The nurse carried the medicine over to Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian looked at the medicine bowl, sniffed the aroma from within, took a deep breath, closed her eyes, and then opened them again, her eyes turning cold.

"Nurse, quietly pour this medicine away, and make sure no one finds out!"

If everything in that dream was a part of her past life, she would have been foolish not to realize that this bowl of medicine contained poison that would make bearing children difficult.

It was also lucky that after marrying Chu Liange, he knew she had a Divine Doctor as her maternal grandfather and encouraged her to study medicine. Various Medical Books, he wanted her to memorize them, and then he painstakingly invited her grandfather to the Capital City to teach her medical skills, otherwise, she wouldn't have recognized the poison in this medicine.

Indeed, it was ruthless.

But who could be so heartless?

No matter who it was, she must uncover them!

Mrs. Yuan nodded and quietly disposed of the medicine without asking why.

Yun Jinnian slowly lay down but quickly fell into a nightmare.

In the dream, it was a bloody mess; Momo was tearing at her flesh, chewing greedily.

Then he suddenly started laughing.

"Ah..." Yun Jinnian screamed, sitting up.

Mrs. Yuan immediately approached, "Miss, Miss, did you have a nightmare?"

"Nurse, I'm thirsty, give me a glass of water and it's also very cold in the room, light some charcoal fire for me!"

Chapter 4: Chapter 0004, Planning

Yun Jinnian was speaking when suddenly she paused.

Her Niannian Garden never had anyone delivering coal for the fire. Where could the nanny fetch coal from?

Mrs. Yuan also stood frozen in place.

Yun Jinnian took a deep breath, "Nanny, pour me a glass of water, please!"

"What about the coal fire?" Mrs. Yuan tentatively asked.

"No need to light it!"

Mrs. Yuan heaved a sigh of relief, fearing that Yun Jinnian would ask her to light the coal. After pouring the water for Yun Jinnian and seeing her drink one glass and then asking for another, Mrs. Yuan relaxed.

After drinking the water, Yun Jinnian felt much better. Leaning against the bed, she looked outside.

"Nanny, where is Ru Xin?"

"The old lady sent someone to take her away, and it seems she was sold off!" Mrs. Yuan said with a guilty conscience.

Yet Yun Jinnian breathed a sigh of relief.

At least Ru Xin's being sold meant that things were different from her dream.

"Nanny, could you find out where my granduncle is staying tonight?"

Mrs. Yuan didn't understand.

"Nanny, my granduncle, being an Imperial Censor of the fourth rank, is renowned for his integrity. He would never allow anything like mistreating a legitimate daughter to spread from his backyard, lest people mock him for not managing his own household while he advises others!" Yun Jinnian spoke, her eyes gradually lighting up.

The granduncle, he was the cure for her dire situation.

Mrs. Yuan pondered for a moment, then suddenly it dawned on her, "Which dress should the young miss wear tomorrow?"

"The one my older sister gave me!"

It had been altered and fitted her well.

"Yes!"

Mrs. Yuan slipped out quietly. Having been in the manor for ten years, she had her ways and quickly returned while Yun Jinnian waited, not yet asleep.

"Miss!"

"Hmm?"

"I've found out. The great master stayed with Concubine Cui!"

Yun Jinnian nodded, "Alright, I know now. Nanny, you should go to sleep early too!"

Early the next morning

Yun Jinnian got up early from bed.

She dressed up, braided her hair into buns, wore the pearl flowers twisted by Mrs. Yuan, and, accompanied by Mrs. Yuan, left Niannian Garden.

No one would believe that she, a legitimate daughter from the second branch, had only a maid and a nanny by her side, with no coarse maidservants or old women to attend to her.

Washing clothes, serving tea, and carrying water – it all had to be done by Mrs. Yuan.

Yun Jinnian waited in the shadows for a while before she saw the great master, Yun Chen, approaching.

He was in his forties, very scholarly and serious, with an elegant face and tightly pursed thin lips.

Yun Jinnian quickly stepped forward and bowed slightly towards Yun Chen, "Jinnian pays respect to granduncle!"

Yun Chen looked at Yun Jinnian and smiled faintly, "Ah, Jinnian, where are you going so early?"

"Granduncle, I heard that the plum blossoms in the garden have bloomed. I wanted to pick a few for grandmother," replied Yun Jinnian sweetly.

Such filial piety.

Yun Chen nodded in approval but then noticed something familiar about the clothes Yun Jinnian was wearing, "Your clothes look nice, and the color suits you well!"

"They were a gift from my older sister, but they were a bit big on me, so the nanny altered them. Quite a lot of fabric was cut off; it's such a pity. However, the cotton inside is brand new and keeps me warm!" Yun Jinnian gestured, inadvertently revealing the old lining inside her garment.

Yun Chen suddenly remembered the idle chatter he had heard the previous day.

At the time, he thought it was a maid from one of the concubines or daughters speaking disrespectfully about their mistress, and he had casually remarked, "What use is retaining a servant who disrespects their master? It's best to sell them off."

Now, seeing Yun Jinnian's clothes, he began to understand.

The maid was one from Yun Jinnian's side.

Looking at the pearl flowers on Yun Jinnian's head, such ornaments wouldn't be worn by maids who had some standing in the manor, yet they adorned the head of Yun Jinnian, a legitimate daughter.

"Truly a good child. Go and pick plum blossoms!"

"Yes, granduncle!" Yun Jinnian bowed and left with Mrs. Yuan.

Yun Chen watched Yun Jinnian's retreating figure, his eyes narrowing slightly. He left the inner courtyard and went to the study in the outer courtyard.

He summoned the butler, "Come, tell me about the affairs of the backyard!"

Chapter 5: Chapter 0005, Cousin

The butler was taken aback, "Sir, what do you wish to know?"

"Tell me about Jinnian's situation, talk about the maid sold yesterday!" Yun Chen spoke indifferently.

But as an Imperial Censor known for his uncompromising integrity, his presence terrified the butler.

"Sir, the Fourth Miss is doing well!" the butler said dryly.

"Is that so? It seems that while I've been busy impeaching others, I failed to realize who should be impeached the most. Pack your things and leave; the Yun Family will not tolerate you any longer!" Yun Chen remained indifferent.

The butler, however, was so frightened that he fell to his knees, "Sir, it wasn't me, it wasn't my doing—it was the old lady's orders. She said not to supply the Fourth Miss with the finest things and also mentioned that 'To whom God assigns great tasks, he first tests their resolve, works their muscles and bones, and starves their body and skin.' And so, the Fourth Miss had only one maid and one wet nurse!"

Yun Chen trembled with anger, his voice stern, "Continue!"

"The food for Niannian Garden is always cold by the time it's sent over. No charcoal has been delivered this year, and the winter clothing are only hand-me-downs unwanted by the First Miss. A few days ago when the Fourth Miss fell into the Lotus Pond, the old lady did not send for a doctor; she merely had someone randomly gather some herbs..."

"Get out!" Yun Chen shouted in anger.

Terrified, the butler scurried away.

"Keep your mouth tightly shut. If a single word leaks out, you know the consequences!" Yun Chen added coldly.

The butler didn't dare to say a word outside.

Yun Chen took several deep breaths before walking towards the garden.

In the garden

Yun Jinnian was picking plum blossoms with great seriousness.

Mrs. Yuan looked around, somewhat anxious.

"Nurse!"

"Miss?"

"You must remain calm. The person I'm waiting for will certainly return!" Yun Jinnian said while handing over a branch of plum blossoms to Mrs. Yuan.

Suddenly she spoke, "Nurse, do you think Grandmother will reward me with some mung bean cakes if she sees these plum blossoms?"

"..."

Mrs. Yuan found herself at a loss for words.

Yun Jinnian continued, "I didn't eat lunch or dinner yesterday, and I don't even know if I'll have anything to eat this morning. I'm so hungry!"

Mrs. Yuan started to cry, "Miss, it's all this useless nurse's fault. When I went to the kitchen yesterday, there was nothing left to eat. If only I had gone earlier!"

"How can I blame you, Nurse? You also had nothing to eat. If Grandmother rewards me with some mung bean cakes, I will definitely save two pieces for you."

"No, no, no, Miss, you should eat them yourself. You're at the age when you need to grow!"

Yun Jinnian said no more, as the figure behind the rockery had disappeared.

Yun Chen returned to his study and summoned someone from a hidden spot to investigate the affairs of the inner court before he left to attend the morning court session.

Yun Chen left the house, his heart heavy with discomfort.

Yun Jinnian, having picked the plum blossoms, walked slowly with Mrs. Yuan towards the old lady's Cixin Academy.

Although named Cixin, the old lady's courtyard was anything but merciful.

At the entrance, Yun Jinnian could already hear laughter coming from inside—it was her cousin on her mother's side, nine-year-old Xu Xinmo.

Because her mother, also Yun Jinnian's aunt, passed away early and her father was assigned elsewhere, the old lady couldn't bear to see her granddaughter suffer and took

her in. Xu Xinmo had her own quarter in the Yun Family but mostly resided in the old lady's Cixin Academy.

She was the old lady's most beloved and also loved to bully her cousin Yun Jinnian.

She never held back, whether in plain sight or behind closed doors.

"Is that the Fourth Miss?" Ming Liu called out loudly, causing the laughter in the room to abruptly cease.

Then came a thumping sound as Xu Xinmo, dressed in a charming pink outfit, looked down at Yun Jinnian with arrogance and demanded sharply, "What are you here for?"