

All Hail 811

Chapter 811 - 811: Riding Together

As soon as Yu Youyao finished breakfast, Yin Huaixi came over to pick her up.

Old Madam Xie had to give him a few words of warning.

Yin Huaixi also felt very obedient and promised her, “Old Madam, don’t worry. I’ll definitely send your granddaughter back to you before it gets dark.”

Old Madam Xie finally understood.

Yin Huaixi was used to taking advantage of others. He clearly had a vicious and cunning personality, but he was used to seeking favor and pretending to be obedient in front of his elders. He was really shameless.

She suddenly felt that it was funny. She suddenly remembered that Yin Huaixi seemed to be born in January. He was only five years older than Yu Youyao and had just turned 19 this year. He had yet to take the crown.

Tai Mo Shan was rather steep. The carriage had traveled for a while, but it was too bumpy. Yin Huaixi directly ordered someone to stop the carriage and lift the curtain. Indeed, he saw Yu Youyao frowning slightly and not looking too good.

He held out his hand directly. “The back roads aren’t easy. I’ll ride a horse with you.”

Yu Youyao suddenly recalled the scene of Yin Shi leading her on a horse the night they left Quanzhou. At that time, she was sitting in the front, and the cold wind pierced her face. Her vision was blurry, and her ears were filled with the whistling cold wind. As she breathed, there was a chill that poured into her mouth and nose. The sound of the horse’s hooves smashing down seemed to hit her heart heavily, making her heart skip a beat.

She was a little afraid, but she still handed her hand to Yin Huaixi.

Yin Huaixi pulled her out of the carriage.

When her feet landed on the ground, Yu Youyao felt much more relaxed. Her eyes were filled with greenery, making her feel refreshed. She couldn’t help but smile.

In order to make it easier to go out, Yu Youyao was wearing a dress with a hint of the style found in Hu clothes and a short shirt with narrow sleeves. Considering that it was early spring and the wind was strong on the mountain, she had put on an apricot-colored top with half-arm sleeves and a wide green pleated skirt. There were splits in the front, back and the sides of the skirt, revealing a pair of short sheep felt boots with silk pants.

Hu clothes was not allowed in the Great Zhou Dynasty, but no matter which dynasty it was, women’s pursuit of beauty had never stopped.

When the Hu clothes were combined with the Han clothes, they mixed and produced another kind of generous and handsome beauty. It perfectly fused with the tenacity and beauty of a Han woman.

Yin Huaixi suddenly picked her up. Yu Youyao was shocked. Before she could react, she was already sitting on the horse.

The horse snorted and circled on the spot, scaring Yu Youyao so much that she hurriedly tightened her grip on the saddle and said in a trembling voice, "Nineteenth Brother, I'm afraid..."

Yin Huaixi squatted down, raised Yu Youyao's feet, and placed them into the horse pedal. "If you step hard on the pedal, you'll be able to stabilize yourself and won't fall off the horse."

Yu Youyao quickly did as she was told. When her feet stepped on something, she immediately felt like her feet were on solid ground. Her body was still swaying, but she felt much more at ease.

Yin Huaixi got on the horse and sat at the back. He held the reins in one hand and wrapped his arms around Yu Youyao's small waist. Naturally, he wrapped her in his arms. "Relax a little. Don't straighten your back so much. Lean forward a little and put pressure in your legs."

The man's smiling voice was right beside her ear. It was not as cold as before, but there was a hint of clarity, like the warmth of a spring river.

She wasn't sure if it was an illusion, but his breath was right by her ear. When he spoke, his voice was accompanied by a faint moist warmth, stirring the loose hair by her ear. There was a faint itch and a slight numbness, making her tremble and panic

Yu Youyao subconsciously obeyed Yin Huaixi's words. She leaned forward slightly to avoid the flustered intimacy.

However, before she could heave a sigh of relief!

Immediately, Yin Huaixi's broad chest caught up. It was as firm and strict as a barrier. He pressed against her thin back and the arm around her waist suddenly tightened, pulling her thin body into his arms.

Yu Youyao felt a little uncomfortable.

Yin Huaixi's voice immediately sounded in her ears. "Don't move."

His voice revealed a rare hint of toughness. Yu Youyao panicked and did not dare to move anymore. Yin Huaixi stepped on the horse's pedal hard. The horse raised its head and neighed as it followed the mountain path up the mountain.

Chun Xiao planned to follow.

However, Yin Shi took a step forward and reached out to block her. "The mountain in front is steep. The carriage won't be able to go far. There's a canyon to the west of Tai Mo Shan. Miss Chun Xiao will take a detour to the canyon from the south and settle down first. At that time, His Highness will bring the princess there to take a nap."

Chun Xiao was in a difficult position. "Young Miss..."

Yin Shi said, "His Highness will take care of the princess."

Chun Xiao was speechless. Of course, she knew that His Highness would take good care of Young Miss, but it was inevitable that it would be a little inappropriate for a man and woman to be alone. When they went out, the Old Madam specially asked Young Miss to bring more people along.

Before they left, the Old Madam even called her to her side. She repeatedly instructed her to follow Young Miss at all times and not leave too far.

However, before they could even go up the mountain, His Highness had already “abducted” Young Miss onto a horse and ran away first. The maidservants, mothers, and old maids could only stare.

Chun Xiao waited for a while. Seeing that the horse on the mountain was getting further and further away and that Young Miss did not have any other instructions, she could only listen to Yin Shi’s arrangements.

The horse moved slowly, picking its way up the steps along a natural path of flagstones and spars.

Yu Youyao quickly adapted to the bumpy ride on the horse and relaxed. She admired the surrounding scenery, including strange stones of all shapes and sizes, a cluster of flowers, or an old tree...

Her thin clothes could not block the chill of early spring. The higher they went, the stronger the chill became. Yu Youyao subconsciously leaned into Yin Huaixi’s arms. The firm and warm chest on her back even dissipated the chill on her body.

After traveling for a while, they finally arrived at a flat and open area. Yu Youyao felt like she was walking on clouds. Looking into the distance, she saw the mountains that were far away. There were springs and waterfalls, and they were majestic. There was a river that was like a silver belt that circled the mountains and valleys. It fell to the west, and there was a kind of galaxy reflected in it.

Yin Huaixi said, “That’s the Fuzhou River. A portion of the farmland that’s suitable for farming in Liancheng is gathered in that area. Most of the commoners use farming as their base. There’s a large area of trees naturally growing around it. The million acres of forest under your name is in that area, including Lianzhen and Fuzhen. There are more than ten towns nearby that can accommodate the refugees.”

Lianzhen and Fuzhen were considered relatively big. A town was comparable to an ordinary small county.

Yu Youyao frowned. “How many people are there in the city?”

Yin Huaixi said, “There are many wars in the Liaodong area. Since ancient times, there have been few people there. Even the cities have little farmland and insufficient food production, and there are even fewer people living there. There are about two million people.”

It was indeed sparsely populated. Yu Youyao asked again, “How many people are there in the more than ten towns along the Fuzhou River? Will accepting so many refugees at once cause a certain burden to the local area?”

Chapter 812 - 812: Holding Hands

It wasn’t that Yu Youyao hadn’t considered this question before.

However, during this period of time, many more refugees rushed to Liancheng. After the Imperial Court issued the national policy, the number of refugees would increase even more.

Liancheng did not have much farmland, and the production of food was limited. They could raise silkworms and exchange them for food and money, but they also had to ensure that the local

production could support so many people. Food was in short supply everywhere, and the key was to be self-sufficient.

Yin Huaixi said, “There are three county-level towns under Liancheng’s jurisdiction — Zhuanghe, Fuzhen, and Lianzhen. Even the silkworm industry in Liancheng is concentrated in Zhuanghe. Fuzhen and Lianzhen mainly engage in farming. There’s also an island county. The residents of the island make a living from fishing. A large portion of the seafood in Liancheng comes from there. Just based on the size of the area and the division of local supplies, the development of farming is more than enough to accommodate 200,000 refugees.”

From the looks of it, Liancheng’s development potential was indeed very great. Yu Youyao heaved a sigh of relief. “Liancheng doesn’t have much farmland, and agriculture is limited by territory and can’t develop vigorously. We have to prioritize the silkworm industry and seafood. However, food is the most important thing for the people. At the very least, we have to ensure that the local food production is self-sufficient.”

Yin Huaixi also knew her concerns and explained, “Raising silkworms is a delicate and cumbersome job. Not everyone is good at it. When the time comes, we’ll also arrange for some people to explore and plant sweet potatoes. We’ll also arrange for some strong people to go to the island county to fish for a living. Even so, most people will still raise silkworms. Raising too many silkworms will damage the forest environment. You have to pay more attention in the future and plan to maintain the forest.”

Yin Huaixi had a plan in mind, so Yu Youyao did not ask further. “Perhaps in the first two years, because there’s no farmland and they had left their hometown, there’s no other way out. Thus, there will be a large number of people raising silkworms to live.”

“In at most a year or two, when the refugees take root in Liancheng, they can try to find other ways to live. Some people who have really mastered the silkworm raising technique and benefited from it will continue to raise them. Some people who can only rely on raising silkworms to barely support their families and fill their stomachs will give up on raising silkworms and find another way out.”

Moreover, in the farmsteads of wealthy families, there were forest rangers who specially made plans to maintain the forest. They would patrol the mountains regularly, cut wood, plant trees, raise trees, and build forests to ensure that the trees in the farmstead could be sustainable. Good wood had always been in short supply. This way, they could prevent the main family from suffering losses.

Yin Huaixi nodded. “That’s good. Farming and producing food is the most important thing. With one more person to explore, there will be one more person to produce food. Growing sweet potatoes is cheap work. They can even be planted in the wasteland. If they grow more sweet potatoes for a few years, the reclaimed land can be raised.”

He had decided to accept more refugees, not because of the money and food from the nobles, but because of sweet potatoes.

Sweet potatoes could allow people to live and nurture wasteland.

In two to three years, agriculture in the Liaodong area would develop.

Yu Youyao recalled that there were still more than ten counties in the Liaodong area that were going to open silkworm farms. Although there was the precedent of Liancheng, and the subsequent matters were easy to handle, she still asked about the situation with concern.

Yin Huaixi took off his outer robe and spread it on the flat ground. He pulled Yu Youyao to sit down. "I've already sent people to silkworm farms everywhere. Among them, Dandong is the largest. I'll leave the bulk to you, as well as the soldiers of Dandong in the army, the local retail investors, and foreign merchants. Only then will the nobles be allowed to touch the rest."

The individual investors were weak and could not win against the nobles.

Outside merchants had deep financial resources, but as they were outsiders and unfamiliar with the place, they would be ostracized and restricted by the local nobles.

The goal of bringing in foreign merchants was to divide the interests of the nobles. The retail and foreign merchants would each benefit, and together, they could keep the local nobles in check.

The two sides restrained each other.

Yu Youyao became the key to check and balance. Once one side harmed the local interests, Yu Youyao could join forces with another side and easily deal with the other.

Yu Youyao immediately understood the crux of the matter. "As the drought affected many areas of the Great Zhou Dynasty, there were riots and merchants suffered losses. Ever since the Imperial Court issued the national policy, many merchants have poured into Liaodong. It will definitely cause a certain impact on the local nobles. The interests of the nobles will inevitably be divided, weakening the influence of the nobles on the local area and further weakening their power."

The Imperial Court's national policy was clearly targeting the nobles, causing the merchants everywhere to acutely sense a business opportunity.

In addition, under Yin Huaixi's protection, the North still maintained a peaceful scene, creating good development conditions for the merchants.

The North accepted refugees wantonly. More people also represented productivity and was beneficial to business development.

Only then did she realize the meaning behind the national policy.

She also understood why her maternal grandfather had deliberately reminded her of this. It was because the shrewd businessman had already predicted that this national policy would have a huge impact on the entire North. He also knew that a national policy could easily resolve all the problems Yin Huaixi faced in the North.

It went straight to the point.

At the same time!

Yu Youyao said excitedly, "The background of foreign businessmen represents a wider network, channels, and resources. It's equivalent to importing external resources into Liaodong. The

Liaodong area won't enter a situation of internal strife under the control of the nobles and develop into exploitation of the commoners. This is very beneficial to the development of the North."

While solving the problem, it would also create a good development advantage for the North.

Yin Huaixi smiled. "That's right."

Yu Youyao sighed softly. "Grandfather is really amazing!"

Indeed, having an elder in the family was like having a treasure.

Her maternal grandfather did not mention this because he had the intention to train her. When the matter of waiting for the country was settled, she would understand the series of benefits behind one thing, broadening her horizons and breadth of mind.

Yin Huaixi agreed deeply.

As a businessman, Old Master Xie knew better than anyone else how deep the water was among the nobles of the North. He knew very well about the matters between the nobles.

He also knew that dealing with the nobles was useless, be it through bribery or coercion.

Officials had their own paths, and business had its own trade routes. Thieves also had their own ways. What was related to the nobles was ultimately profits. There was only the word "business" left.

He that hides can find!

Business matters should still be resolved by business.

The Imperial Court had issued a national policy. Although it could temporarily suppress the nobles, it only dealt with the symptoms and not the root cause. The meaning of the national policy was that it gave other merchants a chance to take advantage of the situation.

The path down the mountain was too steep, so Yu Youyao did not dare to sit on a horse.

"The mountain path isn't easy to walk on. I'll hold your hand." Yin Huaixi hooked her finger gently with his little finger. Seeing that Yu Youyao didn't dodge, he immediately became bolder and quickly held Yu Youyao's hand.

Yu Youyao blushed and couldn't help but lower her head to take a few glances. The two of them intertwined their hands and whispered, "Okay."

He had held her hand many times, but he had never held it so openly. It felt completely different. Yin Huaixi's ears were a little red, but he pretended to be calm and said, "It's easy to go up the mountain, but difficult to go down. I'm just worried that you'll accidentally fall."

Chapter 813 - 813: I'll Carry You

As he spoke, Yin Huaixi secretly tightened his grip on her hand. It was as soft as cream, and he was worried that if he didn't hold it tightly, it would slide away.

Frowning, he slipped his fingers between hers and intertwined them.

Yu Youyao lowered her head, her eyelashes trembling uncontrollably. It was the shyness when the flowers bloomed but the branches were low.

It was unknown if it was because Yu Youyao's hand was too soft that he couldn't hold it tightly. If he let go, it wouldn't do. If his grip was too light, it wouldn't do. If it was too heavy, it wouldn't do either. It made Yin Huaixi's heart follow suit. Her hand was so soft that he was a little nervous. He subconsciously straightened his back and cleared his throat. "Your hand is too soft and smooth. If I don't hold it tightly, you'll..."

It was as if someone was strangling his neck. His voice suddenly stopped, and he twitched like white jade before suddenly turning red.

The mountain wind blew through the forest, and the treetops raised fine green waves, making a rustling sound.

Yin Huaixi subconsciously looked at Yu Youyao.

She lowered her head and looked from the side. Her eyelashes were long and curly, and they fluttered wildly, as if a butterfly had stopped in front of her eyes.

Only then did Yin Huaixi notice that her ears were so red that they were about to bleed.

"Cough!" He coughed hard. His eyes were a little innocent, but his gaze was a little distant. He probably hadn't expected that explanations would become frivolous and rash when they came out of his mouth.

It was as if he was taking advantage of her. It was too undignified.

His eyes darted around guiltily as he explained softly, "Uh, it's actually not that soft and smooth." His tiger-like body trembled. He felt that what he just said was wrong, but he didn't know what was wrong. He added, "No, don't misunderstand. I didn't say that your hands aren't soft and smooth. It's just that..." His tongue was even knotted, and he jumped repeatedly between soft and smooth. "It's just that your hands were originally quite soft and smooth. I shouldn't have said that your hands were too soft and smooth. No, that's not what I meant..."

Yin Huaixi stammered with a broken expression, feeling a little hopeless.

This was the first time Yu Youyao had seen him stutter and not speak properly.

She pursed her lips desperately and held back her laughter. It was unknown if she was holding it in or if she was embarrassed, but her pink and white face was like a budding spring apricot, greasy and beautiful.

"That's not right either. Then what exactly do you mean?" Yu Youyao asked him deliberately.

The air was silent for a few seconds.

Without hearing him speak, Yu Youyao looked up at him.

Yin Huaixi regained his noble and graceful expression and looked calm. There was a meaningful smile on his lips. "I just feel that your hand is soft and your skin is smooth." Seeing that Yu

Youyao's face was red, his raised eyes trembled slightly before he lowered them again. He suddenly became self-righteous. "It's boneless and soft in my hand. I'm always worried that if I'm not careful, you'll secretly slip away from my hand. So..." He tightened his grip on the softness in his hand. "I wanted to hold your hand more tightly so that you won't be able to escape."

Why should he feel guilty praising his future wife?!

She had to be praised vigorously.

Yu Youyao felt that these words meant something, so she glared at him and muttered softly, "Who's escaping?"

Yin Huaixi cleared his throat. "In any case, it's definitely not wrong to hold it tightly."

Yu Youyao blushed and lowered her head.

Yin Huaixi felt that he was in the right, and his eyes stopped wandering. From his angle, her black hair was like a cloud, and the single conch on her head rose like a peak. At a glance, it was suddenly like a cloud. She was extremely beautiful, and her hair complemented her delicate head and eyebrows. The collar of her shirt was like a cloud, and her long neck, which was as thin as jade, was bent a little. It was tactful and moving.

Yin Huaixi's eyes widened, but he tried his best to restrain himself. He looked away. For the first time in his life, he had doubts about his self-control. His throat rolled, and his voice was a little hoarse. "Let's go down the mountain!"

The way down the mountain was not the same as going up the mountain. It was a little steeper. Yu Youyao held her skirt in one hand and lowered her head to look at the road. Yin Huaixi walked half a step in front of her and led the way. From time to time, he would remind her to be careful and pay attention to her feet. He also told her to slow down...

The horse followed behind, clattering. From time to time, it would stop and take a bite of the wild grass by the road.

After walking for a while, Yu Youyao's forehead and the tip of her nose were covered in sweat. She panted lightly, and her face was a little red. "How long will it take for us to reach the foot of the mountain?"

Although she was wearing small boots and it was very convenient for her to travel, for the sake of comfort, the small boots were soft-soled shoes made of cow tendon. The soles of the shoes were also a little thin and soft. It was not a problem for her to walk normally, but the mountain path was uneven and the stone slabs were abnormally cold. It was a little uncomfortable to walk on them. Not long after, she felt that the soles of her feet were a little sore and numb.

However, compared to riding on the horse, she would rather suffer.

"We still have to walk for a while. We can ride the horse if the mountain is a little flat. Are you tired?" Yin Huaixi was paying attention to her at all times. He had long realized that she was panting and was already having a hard time.

However, Yu Youyao did not mention it, so he pretended not to know and quietly slowed down the descent.

“A little.” From what he said, they wouldn’t reach the bottom of the mountain so quickly. Yu Youyao hesitated. Should she insist on continuing, or should she endure the steep mountain path and feel the excitement of riding down the mountain?

“This path is a little steep, and it’s more difficult to walk. You haven’t learned how to ride a horse, so it’s not safe to ride down the mountain.” Yin Huaixi could tell that she was in a difficult position. A deep smile appeared in his eyes. He let go of his tightly clenched hand and squatted in front of her. “Come up. I’ll carry you down.”

His tone was filled with unyieldingness that allowed for no intervention.

However, he was a general who had fought on the battlefield after all, and he was a superior with great power. He already had a thunderous and intimidating aura.

People would not think of resisting.

Usually, in front of her, Yin Huaixi deliberately restrained his aura and rarely revealed this side of him.

Therefore, Yu Youyao fell for it. After hesitating for a moment, she took the initiative to climb onto Yin Huaixi’s back and wrapped her arms around his neck.

Yin Huaixi placed his arm under her legs, raised her legs, and slowly stood up.

Yu Youyao saw the steep mountain path from Yin Huaixi’s arm and panicked. “Why don’t I come down and walk by myself? The mountain path isn’t easy to walk in the first place. It seems quite dangerous to carry another person. Anyway, we’re not in a hurry. The scenery in the mountain is good. It’s good to walk for a while and rest all the way down.”

“There’s no need.” Yin Huaixi steadily walked down the mountain. He walked very slowly. “The mountain path isn’t easy to walk on for you. I’m a martial artist. Ever since I was seven years old, I’ve tied a sandbag to my leg and went up and down the mountain every day to train my legs. I didn’t stop for a moment. There’s no need to mention carrying you. Even if I carry—” He consciously swallowed the words that were about to come out of his mouth. “Two of you, there’s no problem.”

In the past, when his father had brought their family out to play in Youzhou, he had often done this. Otherwise, why would he have chosen a steeper mountain path on the way back?

Chapter 814 - 814: Misunderstanding

Yu Youyao did not notice that there was a moment of strangeness in his words.

It was not uncomfortable to carry someone or be carried.

If the person carrying her did not have enough strength and waist strength, her legs would easily go limp. After walking for a while, her waist would collapse and her back would slip.

Yin Huaixi supported her legs steadily and bent his back, making her lie down more comfortably. However, he did not bend down. Even though his back was carrying a weight, he straightened it, preventing her body from sliding down.

Yu Youyao would not feel uncomfortable because her body was sliding.

It was also because he was carrying her steadily that Yu Youyao was less nervous. She let go of the arm that was wrapped around his neck and placed it casually on his shoulder.

She casually praised him, “Your waist is quite good!”

These unexpected words made Yin Huaixi fall strangely silent for a moment. Then, as if he had choked on something, he coughed a few times.

“What’s wrong?” Why was he suddenly coughing?

He suspected that she was taking advantage of me, but he didn’t have evidence. Yin Huaixi couldn’t help but feel the discomfort in his throat. With a wooden expression, he said, “It’s nothing. I just opened my mouth too quickly and choked on the wind.”

Most of the soldiers in the army were not particular. They said all kinds of dirty words. There were simply no restrictions.

Yin Huaixi had been in the military camp since he was young. He had listened to dirty talk and read all kinds of books. Thus, he was not an ignorant little chick.

He knew that Yu Youyao’s words, “Your waist is quite good,” were no different from her words, “You’re really amazing.” She was purely praising him.

But!

How could a man’s waist be praised so easily?

Was that something that anyone could praise?

All men had to think crookedly!

“Then be careful. Your ears are red from coughing. It must be very uncomfortable!” Yu Youyao saw his ears. They were so close that they were so red that they were about to bleed. The redness was still spreading behind his ears and his face. She thought that he had choked badly to become like this.

Was he coughing like that?! Yin Huaixi felt an itch in his throat again. He endured it again and again before swallowing the cough that rose to his throat.

He kept feeling that this topic was too dangerous. He couldn’t talk about it anymore.

Hence, he changed the topic. “There’s a very secret hot spring in the west canyon. The hot spring is filled with live water and it’s very clean. I sent someone to clean it up and even sprinkled some medicinal powder. You walked a lot just now and sweated a lot. You’re also a little tired. When you reach the canyon, you can go over and soak in it to relieve yourself...”

His voice stopped abruptly, and the redness that had just faded from Yin Huaixi’s ears spread again.

Just change the topic. Why did it have to be about this? As an outsider, how could he care about a woman's bath?

It was too rude, too rash, and too frivolous!!

Yu Youyao's face was also a little red, but Yin Huaixi was also concerned about her, so she couldn't not appreciate it. She nodded very softly.

The mountain wind blew, and an unknown fragrance lingered in his nose. It was clear and soft, and Yin Huaixi did not dare to speak nonsense anymore.

As Yu Youyao grew older, it was inevitable that he would have fantasies. However, such fantasies were just like the "Ode to the Goddess of Luo". He liked women's admiration, praise, and love.

However, ever since Yu Youyao praised him for having a good waist, he felt that something was amiss. He couldn't help but think of the dirty jokes he had heard in the past.

It was as if he had opened a novel door, and it was inevitable that he would have some restless thoughts.

Unknowingly, he thought of the wet fur coat he had dreamed of at midnight.

Yin Huaixi cursed inwardly.

What a beast!

Yu Youyao was only 13 or 14 years old and had yet to reach adulthood. What was he thinking?!

However, there was a demonic voice in his heart that said bewitchingly, "So what if she's 13 or 14 years old? She can get married at 13 or 14 years old. Empress Zhangsun married Emperor Taizong of Tang at the age of 13."

Another calm and rational voice retorted, "So, it was difficult for Empress Zhangsun to inherit the emperor's favor. She died young in her thirties."

Now, the bewitching voice in his mind stopped.

Emperor Taizong of Tang had countless harems, and they had also left behind many romantic deeds for later generations. However, the woman he loved and doted on the most in his life was still Empress Zhangsun.

After Empress Zhangsun passed away, the flirtatious emperor no longer worked hard in the harem. Every day, he thought about his loving relationship with his first wife and became even more diligent in governance.

A woman's bones would be damaged if she experienced human affairs early.

It would be best if she turned sixteen.

Yu Youyao did not know that her casual praise had triggered a certain someone's mind.

Yin Huaixi's back was very broad. When his arms supported her, it implicated the broad muscles on his back, causing them to gather together. There was a layer of hard muscles on it, causing his spine muscles to deepen, as if they were wrapping around her. His footsteps were stable. He was probably worried that she would feel uncomfortable, so he pushed her up from time to time.

She obediently lay on Yin Huaixi's back and looked at the endless mountain path. Suddenly, she did not mind that the mountain path was too long and steep.

She even hoped that Yin Huaixi could walk more slowly...

In fact, Yin Huaixi was indeed walking very slowly. It was as if he wanted to walk a hundred miles on the mountain path.

After a while, Yin Huaixi calmed down. "Do you want to learn how to ride a horse?"

"Yes." After riding with Yin Huaixi for a while just now, Yu Youyao was not so afraid of riding horses anymore. She felt that it was actually quite necessary to learn how to ride a horse.

Yin Huaixi smiled. "I'll teach you later."

After walking for about half an hour, the mountain became much flatter. She could go down the mountain on horseback. Yin Huaixi did not take the initiative to let her down. When Yu Youyao saw Yin Huaixi walking steadily without bending his back or panting, she did not take the initiative to ask him to let her down.

Yu Youyao looked at the mountain path. Although the stones were different and not orderly, they were well-arranged. They were arranged into a winding path. She asked curiously, "Are the stone paths on the mountain all naturally formed?"

Yin Huaixi said, "Not entirely. As the old saying goes, those living on a mountain live off the mountain, while those living near the water rely on the water. Tai Mo Shan is very rich in resources, and more than a hundred types of medicinal herbs have grown here. Among them, ginseng, elevated gastrodia, lingzhi, Japanese gentian, and fine spices are expensive. In addition, it also produces walnuts, hazelnuts, and other dried fruits, as well as some wild animals. The commoners at the foot of the mountain often go up the mountain to get some mountain goods. The medicinal herbs will improve their lives. When the road is uneven, they will chisel it flat. When the road is blocked, they will open a path. For generations, over time, they will form a natural mountain path."

Yu Youyao suddenly understood. Most commoners liked to live beside mountains and rivers. As long as it wasn't an extreme disaster, they could live well. "It's a pity that we came a little early. Many of the wild flowers on the mountain haven't bloomed. Otherwise, we could have picked some mountain flowers and made some incense medicine later. The fragrance of cosmetics, incense dew, and wild flowers would be more fragrant than the dried flowers at home."

The best time to hike was during the Double Third Festival, and before and after the Qingming Festival.

Chapter 815 - 815: Muscle Cleansing

Indeed!

Women were still more interested in flowers and plants.

Yin Huaixi was deep in thought. "When we return to Xiangping City, I'll bring you to tour West Anshan. At that time, the mountains will be filled with flowers. You can pick as many as you want."

West Anshan was located between Liancheng and Xiangping. As it was located in the west of the mountain, its shape was very similar to a saddle, so it was called West Anshan. The name of the ancient mountain city originated from this mountain.

The iron ore in West Anshan was very abundant. Since ancient times, it had been an important place to smelt iron.

The mountain was also rich in beautiful jade, strange stones, medicinal herbs, and so on.

One of the four famous jade pieces of the Great Zhou Dynasty was produced here. In addition, it also produced more than 700 medicinal herbs. Almost all the common medicinal herbs could be picked from West Anshan.

The two of them chatted for a while. After about half an hour, Yu Youyao finally saw it. It was as if a silver Fuzhou River was wrapped around a canyon. There were waterfalls and springs in the canyon. It was very shocking.

Yu Youyao was very excited. She held Yin Huaixi's shoulder with one hand and pointed at the canyon with the other. "That's the canyon you mentioned, right?"

Yin Huaixi had been paying attention to the road under his feet and trying his best to walk on ground that was as flat as possible. He wasn't worried about falling, but he didn't want the road to be bumpy and make Yu Youyao uncomfortable on his back. When he heard Yu Youyao's voice, he looked up. "Yes, it's there."

Yu Youyao exclaimed, "It's so beautiful!"

"As long as you like it." When Yin Huaixi was patrolling the mountain previously, he would deliberately remember places with good scenery. Today, he had brought Yu Youyao into the mountain because he had chosen a place he felt was not bad.

Along the way, Yu Youyao was very relaxed and clearly very satisfied.

After walking for a while, they finally arrived at the canyon.

Yin Huaixi finally let go of Yu Youyao.

After being carried by Yin Huaixi all the way, Yu Youyao suddenly felt her feet go numb, and even her legs go limp.

Yin Huaixi helped her up, feeling a little vexed. "It's my oversight. I forgot to remind you to change to a pair of thick-soled shoes. You've never walked on the mountain path in the past, so your legs will definitely suffer after walking for so long."

She was wearing soft-soled shoes made of cow tendon. They were comfortable, light, and agile, making it convenient for her to walk. However, the mountain path was uneven, so it was inevitable that she would trip a little. The young miss who had been raised in her room had hands that were as bright as jade and flawless. Her slender feet were probably as smooth as her hands. How could she stand the rugged mountain path?

When her feet felt tired, even her waist and legs felt uncomfortable.

He had only thought that Yu Youyao had learned the Flexible Body Technique from Nanny Xu since she was young to stimulate the circulation of her blood and cause her muscles and joints to relax. Thus, her body should have been strengthened and she should have a good physique. He did not expect this.

Yu Youyao shook her head. "It's not too uncomfortable. I'll get Liu'er to massage me for a while later and I'll be fine."

Liu'er's skills were deeply inherited from Nanny Xu.

Yin Shi and Chun Xiao and a few accompanying guards set up a few tents in the canyon.

Yu Youyao was indeed a little tired. She was so tired that she was sweating and feeling a little uncomfortable. She thought of the hot spring that Yin Huaixi had mentioned and wanted to soak in it excitedly.

Chun Xiao had prepared clothes, incense, snacks, fruits, dried goods, tea, and so on. She brought Yu Youyao to the hot spring with Yin Shi.

Around the canyon stood small peaks of strange-looking huge rocks. They followed a narrow path between the huge rocks and arrived at a small col in less than 15 minutes.

There were rocks around the col, and the rocks were filled with thorny roses. Perhaps because they were close to the hot spring, the temperature in the col was suitable. The roses that had originally bloomed in March and April were surrounded by vines of all colors. They were beautiful. The air was filled with the fragrance of roses. The rocks and roses formed a solitary mountain and a secret environment. There was a green spring, as if jade stones were embedded in the col.

At a glance, the spring water was green, and the sand was clear. It was so clear that one could see the bottom. There were pebbles at the bottom of the pool, and the green stones were like jade in water. They were like pearls in amber, but they were beautiful.

It was beautiful, simply too beautiful!

No wonder Yin Huaixi had mentioned this hot spring.

Yu Youyao quickly walked over and squatted down. She scooped up a handful of water and smelled it gently. It was neither warm nor hot, and she could not smell any sulfur or strange smell. She lowered her head and took a small sip. There was no bitterness. Instead, there was the unique sweetness of spring water. It was a good pool. Its water was suitable for bathing and drinking. It was very rare.

Yu Youyao took a deep breath. "This place is really beautiful."

Yin Shi had already set up a tent in the col.

Yu Youyao went to the tent to change into a tube dress made of gauze. She also wore a cloak that reached her calves. She stepped on the round pebbles on the ground to the side of the pool.

Chun Xiao took the cloak.

The tube dress revealed her arms, neck, and a large area of snow-jade skin on her chest. The gauze dress made of snow silk covered her body lightly. There was a light bundle at her waist,

complementing her small and delicate waist. It also made her chest look even more exquisite and beautiful. It was as if a jade peak was covered by fog. She was extremely beautiful.

Yu Youyao slowly entered the water.

The snow silk robe suddenly spread out on the surface of the water, and the hem of the dress suddenly bloomed at her waist like a water lotus.

Yu Youyao's body felt cold and warm at the same time. For a moment, she couldn't take it anymore. After a while, she adapted to the temperature and felt the hot spring water drilling into her flesh all the time. It was slightly numb and hot, making her entire body feel comfortable.

Liu'er squatted behind Yu Youyao and scooped some spring water to wash her hair.

Chun Xiao burned the calming incense and spread a mat on the ground. It was filled with food, tea, and so on. From time to time, she would feed Yu Youyao.

Yin Shi found a tall rock and squatted on it, vigilant of his surroundings.

Yu Youyao swallowed a piece of pickled apricots and admired the thorny roses climbing up the mountain wall. She sighed. "What a godly life."

After soaking in the hot spring for a long time, one would feel dizzy and their chest would feel tight, but Yu Youyao did not experience this. Perhaps it was because it was too comfortable to soak in the hot spring, but she refused to get up. As a result, Chun Xiao urged her repeatedly. She dawdled for 35 minutes before she was willing to let Liu'er and Chun Xiao help her up. After soaking in the hot spring, Yu Youyao's muscles and bones went limp, and she felt weak.

Liu'er took out the rose dew and helped Yu Youyao massage her bones to nourish her muscles and meridians. Then, she applied a layer of balm to nourish her skin.

After dressing up and putting on her makeup, Yu Youyao felt refreshed, and the remaining soreness in her body was swept away.

She carried the empty food basket excitedly. "Let's pick some roses. We'll make some dew, balm, makeup, and floral cakes later."

When making dew, one had to pick roses with buds that were about to bloom. The fragrance would be contained and not revealed. Only then would the fragrance be purer.

When making incense and makeup, one had to pick bright flowers to have the brightest and purest colors.

As for floral cakes and food, one did not need to be picky.

Yu Youyao picked a lot of roses. Then, she picked a handful of colorful roses and returned to the canyon.

Chapter 816 - 816: Secret

The old maids had built a simple stove and were preparing for lunch.

Yu Youyao did not see Yin Huaixi. Just as she was about to ask the accompanying guards, she heard the sound of hooves outside the canyon. Soon, Yin Huaixi rode into the canyon.

He got off the horse and saw Yu Youyao standing not far away. She had changed into a jade-colored narrow-sleeved top and a green dress. There were small pine leaf patterns embroidered on the dress, and the skirt covered her thin feet as they piled up at her feet. As she walked lightly, the hem of her dress was like a flower. The pleated cornflowers fluttered gently at her feet.

It was like the frost of late autumn thinly covering the pine needles. There was green among white. It was elegant and firm.

Yu Youyao noticed that he had been holding the reins of the horse with one hand and something in the other. She couldn't help but take a closer look.

Noticing her gaze, Yin Huaixi strode over. "I went to the mountain to find a twisted sepal cymbidium just now. It's a relatively rare cinnabar spring orchid." He handed the cinnabar orchid that he had been protecting to Yu Youyao. "Although the wild flowers in the mountain haven't bloomed yet, the orchids are already budding. They'll bloom in about half a month."

Only then did Yu Youyao notice that Yin Huaixi had dug it back with the soil. He had wrapped the root of the cinnabar orchid with paper. The green arrow leaves were well protected and were not damaged at all.

In the middle of the cinnabar orchid, three long flower stems had already appeared. There were already eight or nine buds on them. The color of the buds was like cinnabar.

She could almost imagine how beautiful and noble the flower buds would be when they bloomed.

Seeing that she did not take it for a long time, Yin Huaixi thought that she did not like it. He quickly said, "There are more common four-season orchids and Faber's cymbidium in the mountains. If you don't like the cinnabar orchids, I'll help you find a few other species."

The climate in Liancheng was good, and there were many wild orchids in the mountains, mostly spring orchids.

Yu Youyao smiled and took it. "Who said that I didn't like it? The cinnabar orchid is a relatively rare breed. It usually grows in the south and is rarely seen in the north. It's only because I'm lucky that you can find one." She held the cinnabar orchid and lowered her head to smell it. Even before the bud on the stem bloomed, a dark fragrance was already wafting through the air. She couldn't help but smile. "I like it very much."

She just did not expect that he would specially find an orchid for her when she had only said it casually and did not see the wild flowers in the mountains bloom.

Yin Huaixi heaved a sigh of relief. "As long as you like it."

Yu Youyao was a little curious. "Orchids grow in the mountains and wilderness. They're not easy to find. How did you find this?"

In such a short period of time, he had already found a famous item. If orchids were really so easy to obtain, many people who loved orchids would not be so eager to obtain them.

Yin Huaixi's expression became complicated. "My mother likes orchids, but it's not easy for the orchids in the south to survive in the North. It's very difficult to raise them. In order to please my mother, my father found many books about orchids and understood the varieties, habits, and

growing environment of the orchids. He often went into the mountains to look for all kinds of orchids.”

He had also heard that his father had also been talented and smart since he was young. He was very liked and valued by the previous emperor. Later on, for some reason, his head hurt when he read books, and he learned how to be an ignorant and incompetent playboy.

At the thought of this, Yin Huaixi couldn't help but smile. “My father has a problem. His head hurts when he reads. He doesn't even know how to read military books in his life. How can he read those books? So in the beginning, when he talked to me about this, I treated it as a joke.”

Yu Youyao looked incredulous. “King Li of Zhou is so good at war. How can he not know how to read war books?”

Yin Huaixi laughed. “I'm not lying to you. He really hasn't even finished reading a military book. At first, my mother forced him to learn the Theory of War, so he asked his aides to read the military book to him. He found it boring and couldn't learn it, so his aides couldn't control him. My mother had no choice but to do it personally. Every day, she read and explained the military book to him. In front of my mother, he didn't dare to be rash. Speaking of which, it's strange that my blockhead father has become smarter in front of my mother.”

Yu Youyao was a little speechless. How could Yin Huaixi be King Li of Zhou's son? Yin Huaixi said that his father was stupid and did not look respectful at all when talking about him. His tone was filled with gloating.

Every time his parents were mentioned, Yin Huaixi would say a lot. “At one point, I even suspected that my father was pretending that his head hurt every time he reads.”

Yu Youyao's eyes widened slightly. “What happened after that?”

Yin Huaixi revealed a nostalgic expression. “I asked my father. He said that when he was young, he was playful and accidentally fell from the rockery. His head bled and he almost lost his life. After he was lucky to survive, his foundation was injured and he became weak and sickly. He would feel dizzy and nauseous every time he read. It took him many years to gradually recover.”

However, Yu Youyao felt that this “playfulness” might not necessarily be true.

Not only did the favored prince in the palace have a group of companions by his side, but they were also constantly restraining the prince's words and actions. Among them, there were those who were proficient in martial arts. It was too negligent of him to almost lose his lives after falling from the rockery.

However, what if this wasn't an accident?

This meant that King Li of Zhou, who was still young and a prince at that time, was already in the way of some people.

Then, King Li of Zhou should have been talented since he was young.

From the looks of it, there was a reason why King Li of Zhou had invited himself to guard the North. He had quickly grown from a playboy to a famous war god of the Great Zhou Dynasty.

Even though it had been abandoned for many years, his talented roots were still there.

In that case, there was a reason why the dog emperor would be suspicious of King Li of Zhou.

His fear of King Li of Zhou was not groundless.

In the end, the root of the problem was buried.

Then, she deduced further.

King Li of Zhou's mother, Concubine Hui, was recorded in the palace's secret history to be from the commoners.

However, she had heard from her grandmother. Saying that Concubine Hui was from the commoners was just a nice way of saying it. Concubine Hui was actually an ordinary farm girl. As she was beautiful, mellow, and simple, she was very compatible with the previous emperor's personality, so she was extremely doted on by him.

It should be very difficult for a concubine like her to survive in the palace.

However, the Empress at that time and the current Empress Dowager had not given birth for many years because of her injuries. How big of a matter was it? In order to protect her status, she needed to rope in the emperor.

Then, not only was Concubine Hui, who was from among the commoner, illiterate, but she also did not know anything about the zither, chess, calligraphy, and painting. She was a natural ally of the Empress.

The Empress should protect Concubine Hui.

However, on deeper thought, even the records of Concubine Hui in the palace's secret history said that she came from the commoners. The rest was unknown.

It was obvious that no matter how much Concubine Hui was doted on, she was still not presentable in everyone's eyes.

Chapter 817: Don't Dismantle a Difficult Life

The harem emphasized that a son's status depended on his mother. Concubine Hui came from a lowly background and did not have a prominent family background or outstanding talent. She also did not have any connections in the court. Her son should not be a threat to the other concubines with outstanding family backgrounds in the palace.

However, what if the previous emperor valued his son extremely much? He even ignored the fact that he had a disgraceful and sickly mother, wanting to nurture him as the heir.

There were no children in the Central Palace. As long as there were concubines in the harem, everyone could fight for that position.

So what if the previous emperor wanted to pursue the matter?

That also depended on whether the court officials were willing to let the emperor cause trouble for an insignificant but favored concubine.

If the emperor really doted on his son, he would endure it to prevent himself from offending the court officials because of this. In the future, King Li of Zhou's situation would be even more difficult.

Yu Youyao's heart skipped a beat. She felt that she had seen something extraordinary.

She couldn't think about such things.

Yu Youyao quickly chased away the messy thoughts in her mind. "Was King Li of Zhou's illness caused by a head injury that caused the blood in his head to not dissipate?"

She also knew a little about pathology.

It was very dangerous for the blood to accumulate in the skull. The patient had to recuperate well. As time passed, the blood might gradually dissipate and the symptoms would decrease, but there was also a risk of worsening and losing one's life.

Yin Huaixi did not know what she was thinking, and a trace of coldness appeared in his eyes. "That's indeed the case. There's blood in his head. It's difficult for ordinary medicinal soup to dissolve it completely, so it can only be supplemented with acupuncture. It's just that my father's situation was more dangerous at that time. Even the imperial physicians with the best medical skills in the Imperial Academy of Medicine were not completely confident. Furthermore, the imperial physicians were used to protecting the bodies of patients, so they could only use a stable method of supplementing his body with medicinal soup."

The previous emperor had almost lost his beloved son, so he did not dare to take the risk easily.

It was also because of this that the previous emperor had indulged his beloved son a little more, so it was inevitable that he would develop the habit of being a good-for-nothing.

Yu Youyao guessed that there should be other inside information, but she also knew that there were some things that were best not to ask too clearly. "Then, was King Zhou Li's illness cured later?"

Yin Huaixi nodded. "He's cured."

Yu Youyao vaguely guessed something.

Indeed!

Yin Huaixi changed the topic and said, "Men always have ridiculous and humble pride when facing the woman they like. In my father's words, my mother is the number one talent in the capital. How can he embarrass her? She taught him personally. He has to do it. Even if he can't, he has to do it."

"Your mother, I mean the Princess Consort..." Yu Youyao was a little nervous. The blood in his head had not dissolved at first. It had been in his head for many years. If it was treated with acupuncture, the danger would be even greater.

Yin Huaixi smiled. "My mother doesn't know about this at all. My father was afraid that she would be worried, so he didn't dare to tell her, nor did he allow me to tell her. He secretly ordered someone to find a famous doctor who was proficient in acupuncture. I don't know if he's stupid or too blindly confident. As soon as he heard that the other party's ancestor was a King of Medicine,

he didn't figure out the other party's background. Regardless of whether their medical skills were really brilliant, he got someone to insert needles into his head."

Yu Youyao's lips curled up. Back then, she had accidentally obtained an incomplete recipe from overseas and had a glimpse of the recipe to make an ointment. However, because the recipe was incomplete, she did not know much about the method of making it. Later on, after it was made, she had only tried it on an old woman before giving it to Yin Huaixi.

Yin Huaixi really dared to use it.

He did not doubt the origins of this incomplete recipe, nor did he doubt if the ointment was made correctly. Could there be a problem?

He trusted a ten-year-old girl who had been learning about incense medicine for less than a year.

In Yin Huaixi's own words, he didn't know if he was stupid or too blindly confident.

As expected of father and son!

Yin Huaixi felt that her smile was a little strange, but he did not think too much about it. "It's probably because a fool is lucky that he met Uncle Sun."

In terms of medical skills, Uncle Sun was still inferior to Imperial Physician Shi, and was on par with Imperial Physician Hu. However, in terms of acupuncture skills, Uncle Sun claimed to be second, and no one dared to claim to be first.

Yu Youyao pursed her lips and smiled. "Then you're quite lucky."

Yin Huaixi actually felt that Yu Youyao was beating around the bush to say that he was stupid. He remained calm. "It's indeed my blessing to meet you."

His leg had been cured by Uncle Sun.

However, if it weren't for the spiritual dewdrop that had nourished his severely damaged body foundation, the Essence Protection Pill that had nourished his vitality, and the ointment that had nourished his broken leg for five to six years, it would have gradually withered. Even if Uncle Sun had superb divine acupuncture skills, he wouldn't be able to treat him.

Yu Youyao held the cinnabar orchid and laughed so hard that it trembled. "Did you also learn your ability to find orchids from King Li of Zhou?"

Yin Huaixi kept saying that he despised his father, but he had also learned a lot from him.

The best father-son pair in the world were like friends.

Yin Huaixi coughed and denied, "I'm not interested in these flowers and plants. It's just that I've heard him mutter too much, so I inevitably understand a little, and I didn't deliberately learn about them." He quickly changed the topic. "Previously, when I was patrolling the mountain, I looked at the terrain and environment of Tai Mo Shan and guessed that there would be orchids. According to the growth habits of the orchids, I found this cinnabar orchid."

Previously, he had also found other varieties, but wild orchids were not as good as domestic ones. This one was the best-looking one he had chosen.

He was just like him.

Yes, it was difficult to tear down a person.

A hint of slyness appeared in Yu Youyao's eyes. "I've never raised flowers and plants in the past. The flowers and trees in the courtyard are all taken care of by special servants. I heard that orchids are delicate and difficult to raise. In the future, I'll have to trouble Nineteenth Brother to help me raise this cinnabar orchid."

"Okay!" Yin Huaixi nodded subconsciously.

Then, he reacted.

Nurturing orchids was a delicate job. It could be said that he was lucky to find a high-grade cinnabar orchid. However, if he even knew how to raise orchids, it wouldn't be because he hadn't deliberately learned it, but because he knew it well.

Yin Huaixi twirled his fingers and felt his hands itch. He subconsciously wanted to knock her forehead, but when he saw her smiling innocently, he couldn't do it.

The jade-colored top made her look like a cardamom flower on a branch, slender and elegant.

The milky-white flower bud was as soft as cream, crystal clear, and as warm as jade. There was a hint of rouge at the top of the flower bud. It was delicate and beautiful. Before it bloomed, it was already so beautiful that it was suffocating.

The closed buds couldn't help but let one's imagination run wild. When the buds first bloomed, the dark red color bloomed slightly, and the flower crown appeared. How stunning would that be?

Yin Huaixi sighed softly and couldn't help but tremble his fingertips. He raised his hand and gently brushed a strand of hair by her cheek behind her ear. "Little mischievous girl!"

His fingers, which often held a brush and practiced the knife, were covered with a thin layer of calluses. They were a little rough and gently scraped past her ears with a tremble. Yu Youyao's fair face was stained with a trace of rouge, so it was naturally rubbed away. She couldn't help but lower her head and call out softly, "Nineteenth Brother."

Chapter 818: Vicious

Every time Yin Huaixi mentioned his father, he was always proud and smug. He said that he despised his father, but his eyes were filled with admiration.

Under his father's influence, Yin Huaixi also grew into a person who stood tall.

He was willing to defend the border for the commoners.

He was willing to plan for the refugees.

Yin Huaixi asked her, "What's wrong?"

Yu Youyao shook her head. "I just envy you for having a good father."

Seeing that there seemed to be a hint of sadness in her eyes, Yin Huaixi suddenly said, "You don't have to envy me. In the future... you have to change your words. What's mine is also yours."

Yu Youyao's eyes widened in shock. Only then did she realize what he meant. Her face immediately turned red. She turned around with the cinnabar orchid in her hand. "I— I'll go back to the tent first and settle the cinnabar orchid."

With that, without waiting for Yin Huaixi to answer, she had already left in small steps. Her slender back was beautiful and thin, and she looked like she was fleeing.

Yin Huaixi was a little vexed. Although this was all going to happen sooner or later, it was too abrupt to say it out loud.

The old maids prepared a light and appetizing lunch.

Yin Huaixi accompanied Yu Youyao for lunch, and the two of them strolled in the canyon to digest their food.

Yu Youyao looked at the waterfall and spring not far away. The broken jade and flying flowers made it as beautiful as a paradise on earth.

She looked up at the sky. Finally, what she saw was no longer the deep residence of the inner courtyard that imprisoned her. Instead, it was a vast and boundless world.

Yu Youyao took a deep breath. "Now that I think about it, my days in the capital in the past were really like a lifetime ago."

Yin Huaixi asked her, "Do you like your current life?"

Yu Youyao nodded and turned to look at Yin Huaixi. "I don't think I've told you about what happened to me in the Yu Residence before you came." At this point, she paused and thought for a moment before saying, "When I was five years old, I accompanied my Grandmother to the Precious Peace Temple to offer incense..."

Yin Huaixi had heard Yu Youyao mention this before. It was at that time that she had accidentally saved Song Mingzhao, who was being held hostage by someone else, but she had knocked her head, causing her head to bleed. Then, she fainted.

However, she did not mention anything else after that.

However, it was impossible for the residence to not react to such a big matter.

Yu Youyao said softly, "My Grandmother couldn't find me anywhere. She scolded Madam Yang in exasperation and even reprimanded Yu Jianjia." At this point, she didn't continue. She changed the topic and said, "After returning to the residence, I had a high fever for the entire night. My Grandmother was worried about me and stayed by my side for the entire night. She only returned to the house to rest after my fever subsided."

Yin Huaixi had roughly guessed it.

After being scolded by Old Madam Yu, Madam Yang would definitely bear a grudge. Due to filial piety, she did not dare to be disrespectful to Old Madam Yu. However, it was easy to control a bereaved eldest daughter.

Yu Youyao looked a little dazed and said calmly, "After I woke up, a maidservant came over to report that Master had come to visit me. I was very happy at that time."

However, Yin Huaixi's heart ached.

In those few years, Old Madam Yu was bedridden and had almost endlessly drunk medicinal soup. Madam Yang was in charge of the family and had given birth to a legitimate son. She had a strong relationship with Yu Zongzheng and was at the peak of her success.

No matter how much Old Madam Yu doted on her granddaughter, she was still powerless.

She didn't dare to treat her stepdaughter harshly openly and sow discord in front of Yu Zongzheng, lest Yu Zongzheng, who already did not like the eldest daughter of the first wife, felt that she was arrogant and domineering. Other than that, it was easy for her to teach Yu Youyao a lesson.

Even as her father, he felt that Eldest Miss was arrogant and mischievous. The servants in the residence acted according to the situation, so Yu Youyao's infamy naturally spread throughout the residence.

Indeed!

Yu Youyao smiled mockingly. "Yu Zongzheng doesn't care at all that I knocked my head and had a high fever for the entire night. Instead, he reprimanded me in exasperation."

At the mention of this, the situation at that time appeared in her mind.

Knowing that her "father" was here, Little Youyao was very happy. She was wearing a single shirt, so she quickly asked the servants to help her to the outer room.

As soon as Yu Zongzheng saw her, he reprimanded her angrily, "Your grandmother pitied your mother for dying early, so she brought you in to raise you. I didn't expect you to be so arrogant and bully your sickly sister, even pushing her to the ground, causing her to be shocked."

Little Youyao's forehead was wrapped in a white gauze that had blood seeping out. As she had lost too much blood, her face was pale as she looked at her "father" in shock.

Her mouth pouted, and her eyes were filled with tears. Her eyes sparkled, but she stubbornly held back her tears and straightened her neck. "I didn't bully her, let alone push her. I stopped in my tracks. She didn't fall. I fell myself..."

Seeing that she was unrepentant, Yu Zongzheng was furious. "You're still quibbling. Didn't you say that your Third Sister was putting on an act and looking sick all day? You said that you didn't know who she's putting on a show for. You're as bad as your mother. I hate you. Did you say that too?"

Little Yao'er couldn't defend herself. She opened her mouth, wanting to speak.

It was clearly Yu Jianjia's maidservant who had disrespected her superior and criticized Little Yao'er sarcastically. That was why she couldn't help but retort a little, and that was why she had an argument with Yu Jianjia.

However, immediately after, Yu Zongzheng said angrily, "You relied on Grandmother's love to bully your legitimate sister and disrespect your stepmother. Do you still care about me as your father?"

Little Yao'er was in a daze. Yu Zongzheng's eyes were filled with anger towards her, and he ignored the injury on her head.

Yu Zongzheng slammed his palm on the table. “Look at you. What have you become? Your Grandmother dotes on you, but you’re actually so insensible. You clearly know that your Grandmother is seriously ill and forced herself to stay awake when you went to the Precious Peace Temple, but you still ran around everywhere, making your Grandmother worried and even worsening her condition.”

Little Youyao was helpless to refute this matter. She slowly lowered her head, and tears the size of beans fell onto the tips of her shoes like pearls on a broken string.

Silently!

In Yu Zongzheng’s eyes, her lowered head had suddenly become a sign of her guilty conscience. For a moment, he was even angrier. “It’s obvious that you’re the one who’s insensible and ran around. That’s why you injured your head, but you’re pushing the blame to your stepmother and clueless sister. It’s so tiring for your stepmother and sister to be scolded by their elders. You’re already so vicious at such a young age...”

His roar was like a chisel, piercing into Little Yao’er’s ears word by word.

Little Youyao had hurt her head, and it hurt so much that she felt dizzy. More and more blood seeped out of the gauze. She lowered her head, and sweat appeared on her forehead and the tip of her nose. Her small body was also trembling.

However, Yu Zongzheng did not see it. Perhaps he did see it and did not care. Or perhaps, in Yu Zongzheng’s eyes, Little Youyao’s painful expression became evidence of her guilt and fear.

Little Youyao also lasted until Yu Zongzheng finished scolding her and left before fainting.

Little Youyao woke up not long after.

After all, she was still young. After being scolded by her father, she felt terrible and a little indignant.

Chapter 819: Comparison

Little Youyao wanted to ask Yu Jianjia why her father thought that she was the one who had pushed Yu Jianjia.

She knew that there would be no outcome and she would even continue to anger her father.

However, Little Youyao did not want to be wronged. She did not want everyone to think that she was a vicious person. She did not give up. Even if she bumped into the south wall and bled, she had to ask for an explanation.

Even though this was actually meaningless.

However, she had been a stubborn child since she was young. Other than wheedling and pretending to be obedient to her grandmother, who doted on her, she had never yielded to Yu Zongzheng.

A child who was not favored would stand up for themselves and hit their head until it bled. At the very least, others would not look down on them.

Alternatively, they would suffer grievances and endure them, becoming so humble that they would be trampled on.

Her mother was the first wife's daughter, and she was the eldest daughter of the first wife in the residence. Why should she be humble, weak, and trampled on?

Little Youyao ran to the main courtyard alone.

However, outside a small courtyard in the main courtyard, she heard Madam Yang talking to Nanny Li. "Has the Master come out of An Shou Hall?"

Nanny Li hurriedly said, "He just came out not long ago. Now, he's back in the study to deal with official matters. I heard from the servants of An Shou Hall that the Eldest Master reprimanded Eldest Miss fiercely. His voice could be heard clearly from afar. Fortunately, Old Madam Yu is still unconscious. Otherwise, she wouldn't be willing."

She imitated the Eldest Master's tone and repeated what Yu Zongzheng had said about Yu Youyao.

Yang Shuwan was amused by her strange tone. She covered her mouth with her handkerchief and giggled, gloating. "Is there really nothing I can do about her with Old Madam Yu's protection? She's just a bereaved eldest daughter. There are many ways to deal with her, but she's still a little useful. Let Yu Qingning cause trouble with her. The two of them fight and cause trouble all day, making our Jia Jia look like she's obedient, sensible, smart, and pleasant. Now that she's the most outstanding sister in the family, it's inevitable that Master will dote on her more."

There were many young misses in wealthy families. Who was good and who was bad were all compared.

Nanny Li agreed deeply. "Madam is still the smartest."

Yang Shuwan sighed slightly. "Jia Jia is a good child. It's a pity that she's burdened by me, her mother. I have to plan more for her in case her reputation and future are implicated by her body in the future."

It was also because she had gotten pregnant before marriage that Jia Jia had developed a weak illness. In order to delay the delivery, she had drunk too much pregnancy-preserving medicine.

Who would like a sickly child who was weak as a fetus?

This sick child still needed a lot of expensive medicinal herbs to recuperate. As time passed, it was inevitable that she would be despised, and the servants would inevitably gossip.

There were too many people in the residence, so it was inevitable that there would be gossip. The reputation of the young misses first spread from the residence.

Nanny Li smiled and said, "Now that Master dotes on Third Miss and dislikes Eldest Miss. The people the servants gossip about have also changed to Eldest Miss. Outsiders only know that Third Miss's body is a little weak. In a few more years, Third Miss's health will be better and better. She will definitely have a good future."

Although Old Madam Yu was an elder, the Eldest Master was the head of the family. The servants were used to going with the flow. Third Miss was doted on, so naturally, no one dared to gossip about her. With Eldest Miss as a foil, her good reputation would belong to Third Miss.

Yang Shuwan seemed to have thought of something and frowned again. "By the way, I heard that the female teacher who taught the sisters often praised Yu Youyao."

At the age of three, the young misses had to learn the rules and learn how to read characters. At the age of five, they had to learn how to read passages and write. At the age of seven, they had to learn how to behave.

Nanny Li nodded. "She did praise her a few times."

She did not dare to say anything else.

Yang Shuwan sneered. "What do you mean by having a mother and being raised by no mother? How dare you compete with my Jia Jia for the limelight in every way? Don't you know whose hands your life is in? Tomorrow, go and teach the female teacher a lesson. Tell her that our Eldest Miss is used to being pampered by Old Madam Yu and has a spoiled, domineering, and mischievous temper. Tell the female teacher to take more care of her. Don't alarm Old Madam Yu and make her worry."

She deliberately emphasized the word "take care", her tone revealing a terrifying coldness.

Little Youyao, who was hiding behind the archway, shivered and suddenly covered her mouth, her eyes widening in shock.

Little Youyao understood.

She was arrogant, mischievous, stupid, and uneducated. Little Youyao, who could complement Yu Jianjia, was what Madam Yang wanted to see. Otherwise, she wouldn't have let her off.

Little Youyao did not even dare to breathe loudly. She did not know how long she had waited, but there was completely no sound in the small courtyard. Only then did Little Youyao run back to An Shou Hall in a panic and rush into her grandmother's house to look for her.

However, she saw her grandmother lying on the bed with a pale face. The room was filled with the bitter smell of medicine.

Little Youyao was stunned.

Her grandmother had always been smart. How could she not know that Madam Yang had ill intentions towards her?

But so what if she knew?

Her grandmother was sick in bed, and Madam Yang was in charge of the family. Her father was biased towards Madam Yang, and even the commotion in An Shou Hall could be heard by Madam Yang word for word. It was obvious that Madam Yang was also in An Shou Hall.

Madam Yang had given birth to a legitimate son. As long as there was nothing wrong on the surface, her father would protect Madam Yang, and her grandmother could not do anything to Madam Yang.

Just like today, when her grandmother was unconscious, Yu Zongzheng dared to brazenly enter An Shou Hall and scold her.

There was always something her grandmother couldn't protect her from.

Furthermore!

Her grandmother was already so sick. She couldn't let her grandmother worry anymore.

Only when her grandmother's health recovered would she have something to rely on.

She had to learn to protect herself.

Little Youyao clenched her fists and thought to herself, "Little Youyao, Little Youyao, don't even think about using your studies to please your father in the future. It's useless. Only by doing as Madam Yang wants and complementing Yu Jianjia will she not take you seriously."

She lowered her head, and large tears fell to the ground.

Little Youyao had learned to pretend to be crazy.

She did not dare to work hard in class because she knew that Madam Yang had bribed the female teacher. Once she showed any signs of working hard, the female teacher would definitely think of ways to torture her.

Madam Yang would also instigate her father to cause trouble for her.

However, she did not study hard all day and was worried that she would anger her grandmother, so she studied again and deliberately tried to please her grandmother.

Her grandmother liked her chubby appearance, so she tried her best to eat half a bowl of rice.

Her grandmother liked it when she pretended to be obedient, so she tried her best to do it.

She pretended to be ignorant, so that her grandmother wouldn't think that she was insensible and stupid. Instead, she would start learning later than others.

In this world, there was a saying that nobles matured late. Many elders felt that it was not a big deal for children to develop their knowledge late.

Once they got the hang of it, they would be smarter than anyone else.

Chapter 820 - 820: Friends Forever

Occasionally, she would show a little intelligence in front of her grandmother, so her grandmother had always firmly believed in this and doted on her.

However, she was just not working hard. She was not really stupid.

Although that nightmare had a huge impact on her, "Zhou Linghuai" and Nanny Xu had entered the residence one after another. This was the opportunity for her to change her situation.

She was no longer alone and helpless in the residence. She had someone by her side who had nothing to do with Madam Yang, Yu Zongzheng, and the others. They would only take care of her.

This person had come from the palace and had the ability to really make her stand tall in the backyard, which was a ruthless place.

Everyone felt that she was talented and had a photographic memory. She learned faster than others.

However, no one knew that she had not worked hard in the past, but she was not really stupid. She had secretly learned a little.

She and Yu Jianjia had a high fever at the same time. Yu Jianjia was weak and had gone to school. Why was she not going to school?

Didn't she know that she would be scolded by her father?

She had experienced such things many times in the past!

This was because she was waiting for an opportunity!

However, she did not expect that this opportunity would exhaust the remaining father-daughter affection between her and Yu Zongzheng. However, in the end, she still achieved her goal.

She worked hard openly.

With a dignified person like Nanny Xu by her side, Madam Yang did not dare to use her dirty methods. Yu Youyao was no longer the little Youyao who was in danger and could only rely on pretending to be crazy to protect herself.

The better her studies were, the more satisfied Yu Zongzheng would be with her.

Madam Yang could not easily instigate Yu Zongzheng anymore.

Therefore, she absorbed it hungrily. She had never learned anything through hard work in the past, so she let Nanny Xu arrange her time every day. Although she grumbled, she did not complain. Although it was difficult, she did not retreat. Therefore, she learned faster, more, and better than others.

At the mention of the past, Yu Youyao's tone was very complicated. "When you first entered the residence, I was deliberately getting close to you." She lowered her head and said in a slightly bitter voice, "I didn't mean to lie to you. I want to live well. I don't want to be manipulated by anyone, let alone controlled by anyone."

On the first day Yin Huaixi entered the residence, he sensed the subtlety of the residence.

Many things could not withstand scrutiny.

Just from the moment Chang An entered the residence, he had heard that Eldest Miss Yu was arrogant and domineering. He knew that as the eldest daughter of a bereaved wife, Yu Youyao seemed to have received Old Madam Yu's favor, but she was far from as glorious as she looked.

Yu Youyao's voice was muffled. "Do you think..." She couldn't continue, but she still asked stubbornly, "Do you think that I'm deliberately using you?"

Yin Huaixi took a step forward and pulled her into his arms.

Her slender figure trembled slightly in his arms, and his heart tightened. "Then did you treat me sincerely in the past?"

"Of course I was sincere." As if afraid that he would misunderstand, Yu Youyao looked up at him, her eyes instantly covered in a layer of mist. She said anxiously, "Although I have my own thoughts, this has nothing to do with me treating you well. In my heart, you're my cousin, an older brother who's closer to me than my Big Brother."

Seeing that her face was a little pale, Yin Huaixi's heart ached. "Why do you think I'm teaching you carefully? Do I have nothing better to do? Do I look like the kind of person who likes to cause trouble and meddle in other people's business?"

Yu Youyao looked at him in a daze. The tears in her eyes were wet, and she was about to cry, but she stubbornly held back her tears.

Yin Huaixi chuckled. "Give me a papaya and I'll repay you with a beautiful jade. It's not just to repay you. We'll be friends forever."

Sincerity was exchanged for sincerity. How could it be used?

Yu Youyao was stunned for a moment before she understood. He gave her a papaya, and she repaid him with a beautiful jade. It was not just to thank him, but to represent that she treasured his feelings and that they would be friends forever!

Since he treated her sincerely, she would return the favor with double her sincerity.

Yin Huaixi laughed again. "Do you understand?"

Yu Youyao threw herself into his arms and whispered, "I understand."

Yin Huaixi took a white handkerchief from her waist and gently wiped away the tears on her eyelashes. He saw that her eyes were red, her eyes were dizzy, and the corners of her eyes were delicate. She clearly looked delicate and pitiful.

He suppressed the abrupt thought in his heart. "Don't let your imagination run wild again, okay?"

Yu Youyao nodded softly.

It wasn't that she was letting her imagination run wild, but when she thought about how she couldn't even go out as she pleased for many reasons in the Yu Residence in the past, she suddenly felt dazed.

Yin Huaixi held her hand and stuffed the handkerchief into it. "Didn't you want to learn how to ride a horse? I'll teach you now."

Yu Youyao finally smiled through her tears. "Okay!"

Yin Huaixi finally heaved a sigh of relief. He secretly wiped the sweat that did not exist on his forehead, but seemed to exist nervously.

The terrain of the canyon was relatively flat, and it occupied a lot of land. It was suitable for learning how to ride a horse. Yin Huaixi had specially prepared a more docile pony for Yu Youyao.

The horse was completely snow-white and extraordinary.

Yin Huaixi introduced it to her. "This is a snow mountain horse of the Northern Barbarians. It's as white as snow and lives in a relatively cold highland area, so it's called this. There are three types of pure-blooded horses with the noblest bloodlines in the Northern Barbarians, and they're very precious. The snow mountain horse is one of them. Not only is it handsome and beautiful, but it's also strong and agile. It runs quickly, has strong stamina, and has a strong explosive power. Most importantly, it's very docile."

At this point, he paused.

Then, she said, "I heard that only the most outstanding and beautiful woman in the Northern Barbarians can have the noblest and most beautiful snow mountain horse."

The Northern Barbarians were a tribe that respected the strong and advocated strength. It was not easy to nurture the most nobles and pure-blooded horses. Only the most powerful warriors and the most beautiful women of the grassland could obtain them.

This was a symbol of status and strength.

It seemed that it was not easy to obtain this horse, and Yin Huaixi had spent a lot of effort on it.

Did Yin Huaixi giving her this snow mountain horse also mean that in his heart, she was the most outstanding and beautiful woman that was worthy of a snow mountain horse?

Yu Youyao was very happy. "It's so beautiful! Can I touch it?"

Yin Huaixi nodded. "Of course. This is a specially trained horse. It's very docile. As long as you don't hurt it maliciously, it won't hurt anyone."

Yu Youyao hurriedly went forward to hug the horse's head and stroke its mane. It was as smooth as she had imagined. The horse felt her love and kindness and gently rubbed against Yu Youyao.

Yu Youyao smiled. "Does it have a name?"

"Not yet." Yin Huaixi shook his head. "Give it a name!"

Yu Youyao gently stroked the horse's mane and thought for a while. "Let's call it Snow Mountain. I think this name suits it very well. After leaving the grassland, it will be the Snow Mountain that belongs to me alone, and it will no longer be the snow mountain horse of the Northern Barbarians."