## Farmhouse 1691

Chapter 1691: It’s Only Safe When She’s Knocked Out

It was at this moment that Jin Luoyin realized Jian Shiqing was not the biological son of the owner of the Tianhai Villa, but rather his adopted son. And the coming-of-age ceremony two days later was for the Young Master, Zhu Yiping!

Over the past two days, Jian Shiqing had been acting strange, not leaving the courtyard for eating, drinking, or anything else. Except for occasionally wandering around the courtyard, he stayed inside the house and demanded that she be ready at his call.

Really, she couldn’t even find a chance to run.

Touching the Poison Needle that Searcy’s aunt had prepared for her, countless thoughts of stabbing him to death popped into her mind.

But considering he hadn’t done anything that horrendous to her, she endured it.

She’d set a bottom line for herself: as long as he dared make her do what a chamber maid does, she swore she’d stab him dead with one needle.

On the day of Young Master Zhu Yiping’s coming-of-age celebration, he, as the owner’s adopted son, had to go out.

"Stay put in the house. If you dare run, believe me, I’ll catch you even if you escape to the ends of the earth!"

Jin Luoyin let out a cold laugh.

Fine, sister will wait for you to come catch me.

Let’s see if you dare enter the Plum Blossom Valley Prince Residence to catch me; see if this Commandery Princess won’t skin you alive!

Anyway, Jin Luoyin planned to flee as soon as he left; today, with so many people around, was the perfect opportunity to escape.

However, although she thought this, she wasn't verbally defiant.

"Young Master treats Mingzhu so well, why would Mingzhu run away? Go ahead and enjoy the banquet, Mingzhu will obediently wait for you at home. And remember to pack a meal for Mingzhu to bring back!"

Jian Shiqing paused for a moment, then smiled contentedly.

A while later, he changed into different clothes and left the house, and Jin Luoyin exhaled a breath of relief, hurried back to pack her belongings and leave.

But just as she finished packing and turned around, she ran into Jian Shiqing, who had returned.

He stared at the bag in Jin Luoyin's hand and sneered coldly, "So you really wanted to run, huh? You liar, after giving you twenty taels of silver, you still want to leave? You think it's easy to swindle a master's silver?"

Jin Luoyin: "..." Who the hell covets your silver.

"Hmph, if it's not for money, tell me, why do you want to flee?"

Jin Luoyin had been guarded by him for two days and she was angry too. She said, "What do you mean I'm a liar? Clearly, you're the liar, right? You only said you'd have me as a night maid for ten taels of silver a month, but you didn't say I'd have to be... a chamber maid! If it's a chamber maid the price is more than ten taels of silver, I'm not doing it!"

"Oh?" Jian Shiqing teased her with a smile, "With your looks, how much silver do you think you're worth?"

Jin Luoyin: "..."

Jian Shiqing chuckled playfully, "Don’t worry, as long as you do well, the master will increase the silver based on your performance, don’t worry!"

Damn...

"Who wants your damn silver? Though I used to be a porter, I was a porter with principles. I only sold my strength, not myself, and the same goes for now. No matter how much silver, I won’t sell myself!"

"Oh, is that so?" Jian Shiqing said flatly, then half-smiling, "That’s not up to you!"

Jin Luoyin was about to retort, but unexpectedly he suddenly struck her, chopping at her neck, and in the next second, she had already fainted in his arms.

He thought knocking her out was more reassuring.

In Jian Shiqing’s view, this girl called Mingzhu wasn’t just special in looks but also had a very unique personality.

He truly had no idea what was going on in her mind.

If it were one of those former chamber maids, they had only one thing in mind: climb into his bed and soon become a concubine.

Chapter 1692: Eating Together

This made him feel extremely disgusted.

As long as this girl seemed to be constantly avoiding him, ever since she became aware of his specific identity, she even seemed desperate to escape.

Which woman living at the bottom doesn't want to climb into the bed of a wealthy young master to become a concubine? Yet she doesn't want to. She is truly a special existence.

…

Jian Shiqing attended Zhu Yiping's coming-of-age ceremony, with various merchants and wealthy individuals, and even the city lord of Yangguan City, coming to congratulate him. It showed that the owner of Tianhai Mountain Villa had no small amount of prestige.

After the excitement, Jian Shiqing returned to his courtyard desolately.

That dazzling young man truly made people envious, but no matter how well or outstanding he did, he could never surpass that person.

He sat on the stool, with his arms resting on the table, his fingers tapping on the table absentmindedly, watching Jin Luoyin, who was about to sleep, with interest.

Jin Luoyin was knocked out by a hand strike from him, only waking up slowly during the night.

She rubbed her sore neck, wanting to curse a little, but when she turned her face, she saw Jian Shiqing watching her.

She sat up and walked toward Jian Shiqing.

"Young Master?"

Jian Shiqing didn't respond to her; only then did she realize he wasn't looking at her but was lost in thought.

"Young Master Jian?" she called out again and waved her hand in front of his eyes.

Jian Shiqing raised his hand to brush aside her hand and said, “Awake?”

“Yes, I’m awake!” Jin Luoyin was a bit sulky, “Young Master, you are really unfair. I said I wouldn’t run, so why did you knock me out?”

Her stomach was growling; she hadn’t eaten all day.

Even though she was awake, her neck was still sore and achy.

Jian Shiqing smiled a little and said, “Want me to rub it for you?”

“Ah…?” Jin Luoyin, who was rubbing her own neck, was startled and grimaced, “No, no need, Young Master, how could Mingzhu let you rub her neck for her? By the way, Young Master, have you eaten?”

Jian Shiqing listened to the growling from Jin Luoyin’s stomach and understood.

He said, “Not yet, let’s eat together in a bit!”

He got up and went outside, instructing Xia He to bring some food in.

Xia He worked efficiently and soon brought in food with a few maids, placing it on the table, and Jian Shiqing sat down first.

Jin Luoyin and Xia He, along with others, stood by watching him eat. Staring at the colorful and fragrant food on the table, Jin Luoyin couldn’t help but swallow.

Jian Shiqing, holding chopsticks, turned to her and said, “Aren’t you coming over?”

“Me?” Jin Luoyin pointed at her own nose.

“Who else if not you? Come over and eat together!”

So, under everyone’s eyes, Jin Luoyin reluctantly sat down opposite Jian Shiqing.

Xia He and the others looked at her with a mix of envy, jealousy, and resentment. It’s not that they didn’t look good enough. Earlier, so many beauties attempted to please Young Master Jian unsuccessfully. Yet, somehow, Young Master Jian just liked this particular look, something a bit special.

Jin Luoyin found it hard to start eating with those resentful eyes staring at her, but she was truly hungry and just awkwardly watched Jian Shiqing eat with relish.

Jian Shiqing glanced at her and said to Xia He and the others, “You all can leave now!”

Xia He and the others, following their master’s orders, could only leave.

Jian Shiqing ate while saying, “Why? Feeling embarrassed to eat with others around?”

“Not really!” Jin Luoyin said, “It’s mainly that my current status is the same as theirs, a maid!”

Chapter 1693: His Coming-of-Age Ceremony Too

“Oh? What was your status before?” Jian Shiqing suddenly said.

Jin Luoyin’s heart skipped a beat. She gave a dry laugh and said, “I used to be a mover, you know, eating and living with Shitou and the others didn’t feel awkward at all.”

“Ha!” Jian Shiqing suddenly chuckled, looking at her meaningfully, “It’s alright, we have plenty of time in the future!”

These inexplicable words left Jin Luoyin quite uneasy. She just thought she was truly unlucky; such a bad start!

How did she run into someone like this? Maybe changing her face would help her avoid him.

If there's truly no way, she could just reveal her identity and scare him to death.

Jin Luoyin felt a bit better after eating her fill, but noticed that Jian Shiqing seemed a little different from usual.

He zoned out several times during the meal, and his words were haphazard, sometimes even unrelated to the questions.

"Young Master, are you full?"

Jin Luoyin's bowl of rice was almost finished, yet Jian Shiqing had only eaten half of his.

Jian Shiqing looked down at his bowl, put down his chopsticks, and said, "I'm done eating!"

"But you barely ate anything," Jin Luoyin said.

"I don't want to eat, I just don't feel like it!" Jian Shiqing replied.

"Oh." Jin Luoyin didn't bother with him, got up, and without any intention of clearing the dishes, went straight to the courtyard for a walk.

Jian Shiqing felt a bit down for a moment, snorted coldly, and followed her out.

"Aren't you going to ask me why I'm unhappy?"

Jin Luoyin turned around to look at his awkward expression and asked, "Why are you unhappy?"

“You… humph, you have no sincerity at all.”

Jin Luoyin: “…”

“Then I’ll ask sincerely, why are you unhappy?”

“…”

Looking at Jian Shiqing’s speechless face, Jin Luoyin laughed again, “Alright, this time I’m seriously asking, Young Master Jian, what’s making you unhappy? Does it have to do with the Young Master?”

Jian Shiqing looked surprised and asked, “How did you know it has to do with the Young Master?”

“Isn’t it written all over your face? Today is the Young Master’s coming of age ceremony, and everyone’s happy, except you. If it’s not because of him, who else could it be? Could it be because of me?”

“It also involves you!” Jian Shiqing said irritably, “Am I really that unlikable? Why did you run away?”

Uh…

“Well… because I was scared!” Jin Luoyin said, “I heard the previous maids who kept vigil for you were all killed by you. My family relies on me earning money for them. If you kill me…”

“I won’t!” Jian Shiqing interrupted her, “They were inconsiderate and didn’t know their place, you’re different!”

“I…” Jin Luoyin felt she might be even more inconsiderate. She even tried to run away, and he caught her twice!

“Forget it, I won’t talk about this. You’ll understand in the future!”

Jian Shiqing sighed and said, “I’m unhappy indeed because of Zhu Yiping. Today is not only his coming of age ceremony, but also mine! Yet no one knows!”

This… she didn’t know what to say.

After all, he is the owner’s only child, his real son, and you’re just an adopted son.

Jin Luoyin stepped forward, thought of some comforting words, and said, “Try to look at it this way, the coming of age ceremony is just a chance for those in power to have a lively gathering; for normal people, it’s not a big deal!”

Jian Shiqing pouted without saying a word.

Jin Luoyin sighed and said again, “Maybe just… wear an extra hat, or I could help you put one on?”

Chapter 1694: Young Master

Jian Shiqing turned his face, looking at her strangely.

"You want to crown me?"

"Uh... have you been crowned today?"

He didn’t have a crown on his head, so she asked unnecessarily!

But the crowning was something usually done by a reputable elder for a junior within the clan, wasn’t it too strange for her to crown him?

Both were stunned, and after a moment, Jian Shiqing let out a deep sigh, with an indescribably peculiar expression.

He then said, "Alright, come with me!"

After entering the room, he rummaged through a box and took out a hat. It turned out he had already prepared a coming-of-age hat for himself.

The two set up an altar, and it seemed he had prepared everything needed, the wardrobe filled like a treasure chest.

Once everything was ready, Jin Luoyin chuckled and then put on a serious face, solemnly placing the hat upon him with great care.

Jian Shiqing suddenly had an epiphany when he looked at himself in the bronze mirror, laughing heartily, "Isn’t it just putting on a hat? It doesn’t matter who wears it, right!"

"Yes, yes, yes..." Jin Luoyin echoed repeatedly.

As long as you’re happy, whatever I say goes!

Unknowingly, she kept him company until midnight, causing quite a stir with their laughter, while Hen Xiang and others in the outer courtyard eavesdropped for half the night.

"Has Mingzhu succeeded?"

"Who knows, they’re still making noise at this hour, probably so!"

"If she has, she should become a concubine tomorrow."

"Exactly, we’ll find out tomorrow!"

...

Jian Shiqing was like a mountain bandit who bought a wife, continually guarding her day and night to prevent her from running away. On her first day here, she had wanted to escape, and yet, after twists and turns, she had stayed for half a month.

This half-month, she had been looking for a chance, but never found one.

"Aren't you tired?" Jin Luoyin said helplessly, "Even if you're not tired, I am. I'm really not fit to be a bedroom maid; I still prefer being a porter. Can we part on good terms?"

Jian Shiqing put down an account book, about to say something when he saw Xia He rushing in from outside the window.

"Young Master Jian, the Young Master has arrived!"

The Young Master? Jin Luoyin had been here for half a month and had never seen the legendary Young Master, beloved by everyone.

"What's he here for?" Jian Shiqing was clearly unhappy but still had to get up to greet the so-called Young Master.

What choice did he have? As Mingzhu said, he's the biological son, and Shiqing is the adopted one.

If they're pleased, he's the adopted son; if not, he's just a servant.

"Shiqing!" From the sound of it, the Young Master seemed very delighted.

The person had not yet appeared, but the voice had already come in from afar.

"Young Master!" Jian Shiqing cupped his hands and smiled, "What brings the Young Master to visit Shiqing today?"

Zhu Yiping laughed, "I've recently acquired a Spear Playbook, and the spear techniques are really exquisite, so I brought it over for you to take a look. See what you think of it?"

Zhu Yiping handed a blue-covered book to Jian Shiqing.

Jian Shiqing took a glance and then smiled, "Young Master, Shiqing can't understand this stuff. You know, Father hoped that one of us would focus on literature, the other on martial arts. You chose martial arts, and Shiqing chose literature. You want me to look at account books, recite a few poems, that's fine, but these, how could I possibly understand?"

Jin Luoyin, who was pretending to wipe the table, stopped and looked at Jian Shiqing in surprise. He doesn't know martial arts? A liar, his martial prowess is so strong, yet he claims he doesn't know martial arts?

Chapter 1695: Zhu Yiping

Zhu Yiping laughed aloud and said, "Indeed, I forgot for a moment that Shiqing is not interested in these things!"

Jin Luoyin looked at Zhu Yiping and noticed that Zhu Yiping actually bore a seventy to eighty percent resemblance to his father, Zhu Haisheng. Truly, one glance revealed that they were biological father and son.

Yet, although he was smiling, his smile seemed somewhat fake, as if it didn't reach his eyes.

After just one exchange between Zhu Yiping and Jian Shiqing, it was clear that the two did not get along.

The tension between the adopted child and the biological child was palpable, no wonder this adopted child was feeling stifled.

He deserved it too. Knowing that he is an adopted child, why would he compete with the biological son? If he honestly and diligently performed his duties, life would still be good for him, otherwise, the owner of Tianhai Mountain Villa wouldn't have taken him in as an adopted child, right?

If he couldn’t understand this himself and insisted on contending with the biological son... everyone knows the owner has only one precious son, and would definitely side with him. As an adopted child, he might be worth less than a servant.

Even the newly arrived outsiders could see the discord between the biological son and the adopted child. Presumably, the owner wasn’t foolish and must have known this.

However, he did not target the adopted child just because of this discord; instead, he entrusted him with more and more business, seemingly as compensation!

This suggests that the owner’s character is quite commendable.

Zhu Yiping looked over at Jin Luoyin, asking with keen interest, "I heard you chose a maid yourself, is it her?"

Jin Luoyin quickly put down the cloth she was using to wipe the table, saluted Zhu Yiping, and said, "Mingzhu greets the Young Master!"

"Hmm, quite well-mannered! And cute too!" Zhu Yiping’s eyes lit up, seemingly more interested in Jin Luoyin.

Jian Shiqing watched and, with a barely noticeable frown, scolded Jin Luoyin, "Mingzhu, go inside!"

Jin Luoyin: "..."

Although she was Jian Shiqing’s maid, she felt more agreeable towards Jian Shiqing’s rival, Zhu Yiping.

Despite a guarded smile towards Jian Shiqing, Zhu Yiping was otherwise amiable, and according to her mother, his smile was rather radiant.

Yes, it was the kind of feeling one gets from seeing sunshine.

Zhu Yiping’s interest in Jin Luoyin deepened, as if he hadn’t seen Jian Shiqing’s displeased expression, deliberately provoked him by asking, "Where did you find her? Could you lend her to me for a few days?"

Jian Shiqing’s face darkened like the bottom of a pot, even Jin Luoyin was internally shouting profanity.

What did they take her for? Something that could be passed around?

"She’s my bedwarming maid, and you want to borrow her?" Jian Shiqing’s tone held a hint of gnashing teeth.

Zhu Yiping turned his face to look at Jin Luoyin, sizing her up and finding her gaze exceedingly calm, yet naturally confused.

Was it because she was too young to understand what a bedwarming maid was, or did she accept her identity as one?

Shouldn’t she at least blush a little?

Zhu Yiping opened his mouth, snorted and asked mockingly, "Little sister, do you know what a bedwarming maid is?"

Uh...

Jin Luoyin turned to look at Jian Shiqing with his darkened face. From initially being afraid, she had now become quite composed.

She was almost certain that this guy calling her a bedwarming maid was just an excuse.

It’s unclear what aspect of the owner of Tianhai Mountain Villa doesn’t align; instead of urging his biological son Zhu Yiping to focus on the important matter of continuing the lineage, he kept a close watch on the adopted son instead.

Chapter 1696: Got Beaten Up

One after another, various beautiful women were sent to Jian Shiqing, but the more they were sent, the more disgusted he became.

Out of anger, he killed those women who used every trick to climb into his bed and brought back this unfortunate person himself.

He used himself as a shield, and the owner found some peace.

Jin Luoyin smiled and said, "Luckily, the pay is good!"

She really didn't know what to say, just felt that Zhu Yiping wasn't annoying. Aside from the hostility towards Jian Shiqing, he was quite pleasant to her, and those star-like eyes always gave her a bit of fondness.

"How much does he pay you?" Zhu Yiping seemed unwilling to let her go, perhaps to provoke Jian Shiqing. He kept asking her question after question.

"Ten... ten taels of silver a month!" Jin Luoyin said, retreating her neck while watching Jian Shiqing's face become increasingly unpleasant.

"Ha..." Zhu Yiping laughed and said, "Come with me to my courtyard. I won't make you a bed-warming maid, you can be... a flower-tending maid. I'll give you a hundred taels of silver a month. How about that?"

Alright, alright! Jin Luoyin quickly nodded.

Even though she knew Jian Shiqing wouldn't do anything to her, she felt that being a flower-tending maid for a hundred taels was more practical than a bed-warming maid for ten taels.

The key point was that the Young Master looked more approachable and seemed much easier to get along with than Jian Shiqing.

Most importantly, as long as she stayed far away from Jian Shiqing, she'd have a chance to escape.

Having been at Tianhai Mountain Villa for half a month now, she had no time to waste with this perverted Jian Shiqing; she still needed to find her brother.

Seeing his little maid so excited and about to fly away, how could Jian Shiqing stay calm?

He grabbed Jin Luoyin's shoulder with force, pulling her into a solid chest and trapping her tightly with a strong arm.

"What? You still want to take two pays?"

"At worst, I'll pay you back!" Jin Luoyin protested.

"Pay me back?" Jian Shiqing sneered, "You took twenty taels from me, at least stay with me for two months. After two months, maybe you'll have my child in your belly. If the Young Master doesn't mind and still wants you, I don't mind handing you over to him and letting him raise my child!"

God damn...

Clearly, ten taels were as compensation for breaching the contract!

Jin Luoyin's anger surged. These words were nothing but an insult to her.

Two months for only twenty taels, and she had to have a child...

She was the most noble Commandery Princess of Zhuzhao Country. Even if she revealed her identity and scared him, she couldn't let him humiliate her like this.

At worst, she'd go back and be teased by Searcy.

"Jian Shiqing, you..." Jin Luoyin just started to shout when she saw Zhu Yiping's forehead veins bulge, and he punched Jian Shiqing.

This punch carried significant force, sending Jian Shiqing flying backward, crashing hard against a tree behind him.

With a cracking sound from his back, he probably broke a rib.

Jin Luoyin was stunned in shock, but the next second, she was tightly protected behind Zhu Yiping.

"No matter how much of a bastard you are usually, I haven't seen it, but since I witnessed it today, I won't let you keep being a bastard. This punch is a lesson for you, I hope you remember it."

Under the eaves, Xia He and the others were stunned for a good while before they reacted and rushed forward to help their master.

Chapter 1697: Quick to Admit Fault

"Young master, Young Master Jian, how are you, are you alright?"

"Don't move!" Before Jian Shiqing could speak, Jin Luoyin, who had come to her senses, quickly stopped them.

"He's injured his ribs, be careful not to let the broken bone pierce the internal organs!"

"Ah…what…what should we do?" Xia He was extremely anxious. She was the maid of Jian Shiqing's household, and if something happened to her master, wouldn't the ones suffering be them, the servants?

Enduring the pain, Jian Shiqing looked at Jin Luoyin with surprise. How could she say something so medically insightful?

Meanwhile, Zhu Yiping looked at his own hand and after delivering the punch, calmed down and felt as if he'd gone mad.

He had been meaning to teach this boy a lesson for a long time, but did he need to hit him so hard?

On the other side, the little maid protected by him had already rushed over to the man under the tree, orderly commanding the servants to find a doctor, get a stretcher, and carefully placed Jian Shiqing on it, sending him to the house.

Jian Shiqing clenched his teeth in pain, yet took advantage of the moment when no one was paying attention to lower his voice and ask, "Weren't you planning to escape? Why save me?"

"What about you? Why didn't you dodge?" Jin Luoyin rolled her eyes at him.

She naturally knew why he didn't dodge.

In the eyes of outsiders, this skillful Jian Shiqing appeared to be an unarmed softie, and all his skills were learned in secret.

Hmph, getting beaten up and not dodging, truly satisfying.

At that moment, Zhu Yiping stood at the door, his expression showing a hint of apology, but seeing Jin Luoyin so concerned about that damned Jian Shiqing, he felt a surge of anger.

He steadied himself and shouted to Jin Luoyin, "Hurry up and come with me, why are you staying here? Can you perform medical skills?"

Well, she could perform medical skills, but couldn't let it be known!

She quickly got up and retreated to the side.

Zhu Yiping stepped forward, grabbed her arm, and began leading her out when Xia He, who had just gone out to get water, hurried back inside, “Young master, the owner wants to see Miss Mingzhu!”

Jian Shiqing’s brow furrowed deeply.

Zhu Yiping paused, looked at Jin Luoyin, and then laughed, “Alright, I’ll take you there, and just take this chance to tell Father that you’ll be a flower maid in my courtyard!”

Then, confidently, he glanced provocatively at Jian Shiqing lying on the bed.

Jin Luoyin looked at Jian Shiqing somewhat sympathetically before following Zhu Yiping out.

From this, it was clear that the treatment between a biological and adopted child was vastly different.

But this is human nature, right? You can’t expect a father to not be close to his own son, nor can you expect him not to favor his biological child, can you?

The key is how this adopted son thinks.

…

Jin Luoyin followed Zhu Yiping to the owner’s place.

Zhu Yiping spoke boldly, “Father, I hit Shiqing a bit too hard today, accidentally injuring him, please punish me!”

So insincere, apologizing that quickly? And still acting so self-righteous.

Jin Luoyin seemed to grasp why Jian Shiqing felt so aggrieved.

“You injured him?” the owner frowned and said, “You practice martial arts, how could you not control your strength?”

“Father, I was wrong!” Zhu Yiping lowered his head, looking like a repentant good boy.

Jin Luoyin turned towards him, and he just happened to glance in her direction, cheekily winking at her.

Jin Luoyin’s heart slightly tightened, feeling an unfriendly gaze from the owner ahead, she quickly shifted her view and, imitating Zhu Yiping, lowered her head.

Chapter 1698: As Long as You’re Happy

Unable to see the owner’s expression, after a moment, I heard the owner sigh lightly: "Forget it, Shiqing won’t be petty enough to blame you, but only this once. Be more careful next time, understand?"

That indulgent tone, just let it go after breaking someone’s ribs like this?

Rumor has it that the owner of the Tianhai Mountain Villa is protective of his own, and it turns out to be true.

The adopted son is absolutely defeated!

Zhu Yiping happily lifted his head and hurriedly said, "Thank you, father!"

"Hmm, it was wrong of you to injure Shiqing. Later, go to the pharmacy and pick out some good medicine to send over to him to recuperate!"

"Alright, father!"

The owner then looked at Jin Luoyin and said, "I heard that it’s been half a month, and you still haven’t accomplished it, right?"

Jin Luoyin went "pfft" and almost spat out a mouthful of blood.

What kind of people are these?

"Maid, this kind of thing can’t be rushed by me, mainly because Young Master Jian..."

"Humph, useless is useless, what excuse are you finding?" The owner was full of anger, scolding: "Do you think I, the owner, don’t know? Shiqing hired you just to fool me. Go back and tell him, I’ll give you one more month, if you can’t produce a son, I will kill you!"

"Ah...?" Jin Luoyin felt that this owner was not normal, even more perverse than that Jian Shiqing.

She really couldn’t understand, why was this happening?

Why does the owner try every means to send women to the adopted son’s house and insists on having children?

If it’s for the sake of continuation of the family line, isn’t that a job for the biological son?

But the biological son just looked at them with a faint smile, he is also single, without even a concubine, and this old thing doesn’t force him?

Seemingly sensing Jin Luoyin’s curious gaze, the owner awkwardly moved his gaze to Zhu Yiping, and softly said, "Yiping, as for you, if you fancy any girl, you must tell father. If her family background matches ours, father will make the decision for you!"

Oh, haha... Jin Luoyin let out a cold laugh.

This really is the difference between a biological son and an adopted son, no wonder Jian Shiqing wanted to resist.

A biological son has to find a girl he likes, and her family background must match.

If he can’t find one for a while, it’s fine, we can take our time.

But for the adopted son, it’s alright to just arrange a woman to bear children?

Thinking like this, that Jian Shiqing is quite pitiful.

Zhu Yiping’s gaze swept over Jin Luoyin, suddenly saying: "Father, I think Shiqing found this girl indeed to rebel against you, he has no intention at all of having a child with this girl. I think this girl is quite clever, it’s a pity to kill her. Why not father give her to me, and then send a new woman to Shiqing."

"You want her?" The owner, although indulging in the Young Master, still shook his head in disapproval, saying: "No, no, this girl is not even worthy of being your concubine. You are the son of Zhu Haisheng, how can you just find any random woman to bring into the house?"

"No, father, you’ve misunderstood, I’m not taking her as a companion to warm my bed, I just lack someone to water the flowers and plants in the garden. Let her be a watering maid for me."

The owner looked at Zhu Yiping meaningfully.

Zhu Yiping knew the owner’s temper, so he quickly stepped forward and acted cute and spoiled, saying: "Father, you have never refused your child’s request, it’s just a maid, are you still hesitating?"

This trick worked well on the owner, who immediately laughed heartily, saying: "Alright, alright, as long as you are happy. Don’t just mention a maid, the entire villa is yours, as long as you like it, it’s all fine."

"Thank you, father!"

Chapter 1699: He’s So Lonely

And so, Jin Luoyin was taken away by Zhu Yiping to water the plants.

To Jin Luoyin’s surprise, Zhu Yiping’s courtyard was just as luxurious, and even had a massive glass greenhouse with a perpetual spring, almost rivaling the one in her own Prince Residence.

Thinking back to Jian Shiqing’s shabby courtyard, she couldn’t help but sigh again: the treatment of a biological son and an adopted one is truly different!

"You’ll be staying here from now on, except for the main house, you can pick any room you like!" Zhu Yiping said to her very generously.

Jin Luoyin couldn’t figure out whether this Young Master was accommodating her to spite Jian Shiqing or for some other reason.

Jin Luoyin was cautious, listening carefully and choosing a nondescript room to stay in for the time being.

However, Zhu Yiping wasn’t very satisfied and said, "This room is for storing miscellaneous items, it’s not fit for living."

Hey, wasn’t it you who told me to choose?

She thought this room was far from the main house and close to the courtyard gate, making it convenient for escaping!

"Come with me!" Zhu Yiping suddenly pulled her along and took her to a guest room next to the main house to stay.

Jin Luoyin looked around at the layout of the room and felt a bit awkward: "Young Master, isn’t this room meant for your distinguished guests? I’m just a servant responsible for watering the plants..."

Zhu Yiping unceremoniously pushed her in and said, "If I let you stay, then you stay, where’s all this nonsense coming from? Besides, I don’t have friends, and there won’t be any guests staying over."

"No friends?" Jin Luoyin was stunned. There should be plenty of people willing to be friends with Zhu Yiping, given his good looks and status as the future Young Master of the Tianhai Mountain Villa. How could such a person have no friends? Once the old owner passes away, how is he going to run this villa?

Zhu Yiping nonchalantly said, "I used to have some playful companions, but they couldn't keep up. Most of them were young masters from merchant families, pampered and delicate, who liked writing and painting. I am more inclined towards martial arts, so they got along well with Jian Shiqing, but not with me. My father said someone like me doesn't need friends, so it's fine."

Jin Luoyin found that the owner not only loved him but downright spoiled him.

"Do you ever go down the mountain to have fun?"

Zhu Yiping gave her a casual glance and chuckled, "I used to, when I was little, sneaking off the mountain. But once I almost got sold by kidnappers, which caused my father to fall ill for half a month, after that I didn't dare to sneak out and play anymore."

"So, do you mean you've stayed in the villa all this time?"

"What else?" Zhu Yiping suddenly pinched her cheek, scaring Jin Luoyin so much that she broke out in cold sweat, quickly taking a few steps back to evade him.

Heavens! How embarrassing would it be if her fake face got pinched off by him!

"What? Why are you suddenly so scared? Do I look like a bad person?" Zhu Yiping asked with a smile.

"No, no!" Jin Luoyin replied with a touch of awkwardness, "I... I still need to head over to Young Master Jian's place, my clothes are still there!"

Zhu Yiping sat down, smiling faintly at her, and said, "Go ahead, that kid is injured by me, he can't do anything to you. Grab your stuff and come back quickly, alright?"

"Ah...?" Jin Luoyin felt unexpectedly favored, she hadn't thought Zhu Yiping would be so easygoing.

"Alright, I'll be back soon!"

The sky was getting dark, she indeed needed to go early and return quickly.

Having gone through this incident, she truly didn't know how to face Jian Shiqing now.

When she arrived at Jian Shiqing's courtyard, she was blocked at the door by Xia He and a few servants.

Chapter 1700: Forcibly Kissed

"Hey, who is this here, is it Mingzhu?"

"Xia He, why are you so sarcastic? It's not me who hit Young Master Jian!" Jin Luoyin understood why Xia He and the others had so much hatred towards her. If it were her, and her master was beaten, she would also harbor some resentment towards the instigator of the conflict.

But it's not her intention for Jian Shiqing to be beaten.

"Ha, it is Mingzhu, huh? Oh dear, the name Mingzhu is really fitting. You truly are a pearl! Don't fancy our Young Master Jian, but instead cling to the Young Master. With your lowly status, do you really aspire to be the Young Master's Madam?"

Jin Luoyin wasn't in the mood to entangle further with them. She had already decided to retrieve her belongings and escape tonight; arguing with these servants would only waste time.

She took out the twenty silver coins given by Jian Shiqing from her bosom and said, "This is the wage from Young Master Jian. Get out of the way, let me get my package, and the silver is yours. Otherwise, I'll have to make another trip and call the Young Master to come in with me to fetch the package. You decide!"

Xia He and the others were surprised; they dared not let the Young Master come.

The Young Master is more prestigious than the owner in Tianhai Mountain Villa because he is the owner's lifeline. Whatever the Young Master wants, the owner will satisfy him.

In this villa, there's a saying that it's better to provoke the owner than to go against the Young Master's wishes.

Xia He took Jin Luoyin's twenty silver coins and stepped aside.

Jin Luoyin smoothly entered the room!

She was staying in the outer room of the main house, and after tidying up her package, she hesitated about whether to go inside and see Jian Shiqing. She turned around and realized Jian Shiqing was already standing behind her.

"Ah, you…" She was startled and said, "Weren't you injured? How did you get up?"

With broken ribs, it usually takes a hundred days to heal such injuries; she thought he'd be bedridden for at least a month.

"Are you hoping that I won't be able to get up?" Jian Shiqing had a somber face, and in the dark, his teeth looked like they were ready to devour.

Quite terrifying!

"You… you're not injured? Did you do it deliberately during the day?"

Indeed, during the day Zhu Yiping didn't exert much force. He wasn't an ordinary person, and she could withstand it, let alone the enigmatic Jian Shiqing.

He did it just for show.

Jin Luoyin was relieved but surprised at how she was worried about him.

That bastard!

“Where are you going?” Jian Shiqing was not about to let her go, grabbing her hand and pressing forward!

Jin Luoyin took a breath and said indifferently, “The owner summoned me during the day, saw through your plan, and then… the Young Master requested me. I’m here to pack my things and soon have to go to him.”

“My plan?” Jian Shiqing looked increasingly dangerous, with a playful smile at the corner of his mouth.

“Yes, because you didn’t want to randomly grab a woman to bear children, so you grabbed one just to… ah…”

“Are you suggesting that I have neglected you?” Jian Shiqing tightened his grip on her hand, forcing her back into the corner.

“You… What do you mean? The Young Master is waiting for me… Um…”

He kissed her forcefully, took advantage, and Jin Luoyin’s eyes widened in shock, a surge of anger rushing to her head.

She didn’t care about concealing her identity anymore, fiercely channeling inner power to strike at him.