Farmhouse 1701

Chapter 1701: Waiting for Her

Jian Shiqing didn’t expect Jin Luoyin to have such skills. He was taken aback by her slap, staggering back a few steps before stopping when he hit the corner of the table.

He looked at her in surprise and said, "You... wow, you were hiding such skills? Who are you?"

Driven to the brink of madness by the owner, he had randomly grabbed a woman without thoroughly checking her background.

Jin Luoyin dropped her usual timid maid demeanor; an aura of authority emanated from her as she coldly said, "Don’t you also have hidden secrets? You pretend not to know, and I’ll pretend not to know too. Goodbye!"

She picked up her bag and walked out of Jian Shiqing’s room with a swagger, feeling instantly refreshed. As she left, she gave him a slap, which was incredibly satisfying!

Upon her return, she found Zhu Yiping sitting at the door like an abandoned pet, breaking a piece of wild grass into segments with his hands.

He was truly bored to death.

When he saw a familiar figure approaching slowly at twilight, his eyes lit up. He dropped the wild grass in his hands and ran toward her joyfully.

"You’re back? I thought you ran away!"

Jin Luoyin paused and said, "Why would you think that?"

"I..." he suddenly seemed a bit sad. Taking the bag from Jin Luoyin’s hand, he said softly, "The only person in this world who treats me well is my father. No one else wants to be friends with me; they all

stay far away. Whenever I start to like playing with someone, they soon disappear. You just got here, and if you're gone too, I'll be very disappointed!"

Zhu Yiping's pitiful words made Jin Luoyin's heart flutter with unease!

She increasingly felt that this villa was bizarre.

At Jian Shiqing's place, there were always maids warming the bed who got beaten to death by him.

At Zhu Yiping's place, anyone who played with him disappeared, leaving the Young Master to sit at the door waiting for a maid?

What was going on here?

In her view, the disappearance was probably no different from death. She had no idea what the owner was planning.

"Why would they disappear? Is it because the owner doesn't like them playing with you?"

"Not really, they just don't like me and then leave!"

Jin Luoyin: "..." She felt the situation was becoming more and more bizarre.

"Come on, let me show you the bed I made for you!"

Zhu Yiping, having a new companion, seemed in good spirits, but his new companion wasn't too happy. Her eyes kept darting around, pondering the easiest escape route for tonight.

Once she returned, she planned to tell her parents about this!

Jin Luoyin smiled and followed Zhu Yiping to see the bed he had personally made.

Meticulously prepared to a surprising degree, the blanket was folded as neatly as tofu, without a single crease on the sheet, even better than a professional maid’s work.

"You... did you do this?"

"Ah, yes, I did it. Look, can you see my sincerity?"

Yes, yes, Jin Luoyin nodded without hesitation.

"So, could you promise me not to leave, at least not so quickly?" Zhu Yiping slightly bent over, aligning his sight with Jin Luoyin’s.

It’s said that looking at someone this way places oneself at an equal standing with the other.

In other words, the young master of Tianhai Mountain Villa, Zhu Yiping, was now pleading with her as a friend not to leave.

Seeing his eyes, bright as stars, Jin Luoyin felt a pang of sadness and couldn’t bear to refuse.

Maybe... I won’t leave tonight?

Chapter 1702: Just Helping Her Cover Up with a Quilt

Alright, since I’ve already been here for half a month, I don’t mind staying one or two more days.

"Okay, I won’t leave!" Jin Luoyin smiled, speaking softly.

Zhu Yiping immediately became jubilant, saying, "That’s great, now that you’ve promised not to leave, I can be at ease. Even though I’m guarding you, you can’t leave either!"

Jin Luoyin: "..."

"Alright, it’s getting late, you should rest first. I’ll come find you to hang out tomorrow!"

When Zhu Yiping left, he thoughtfully left her a small candle, saying he was afraid she’d be scared of the dark at night.

In the middle of the night, Jin Luoyin wanted to run away, but remembering her promise to Zhu Yiping not to leave temporarily, she was at a loss for what to do.

Run or not run, she agonized over this half the night.

Just as she was wavering indecisively, she heard footsteps approaching the house she was staying in, and then someone pushed the door open and entered. Through the curtain, she saw a man’s shadow, cautiously approaching her—it was Zhu Yiping.

Jin Luoyin was so startled she held her breath.

Why is he coming in the middle of the night? Could it be that the real psychopath in Tianhai Mountain Villa isn’t the owner, nor Jian Shiqing, but Zhu Yiping?

Could it be that his disappeared friends were strangled by him in the middle of the night?

In a short span of time, Jin Luoyin had already imagined countless possibilities.

She tightly gripped the silver needle under her pillow.

Jin Luoyin closed her eyes, trying to sense.

She felt Zhu Yiping getting closer to her, lifting her curtain.

Then he paused to look at her for a moment, gently sighed, and said, "Why aren't you covering your arms on such a cold day?"

Jin Luoyin's heart skipped a beat!

Then he pulled her hand holding the silver needle down, pressing it under the blanket.

After that, he put the curtain down and left.

Jin Luoyin let out a sigh of relief and opened her eyes.

So Zhu Yiping was just coming into the room to tuck her in? Scared her out of her wits!

She put the silver needle back under the pillow, and thinking carefully, she no longer wanted to leave.

It seems she's promised Zhu Yiping, otherwise if he doesn't see her tomorrow morning, he'd certainly be very disappointed, wouldn't he?

Thinking about him sitting alone on the steps outside the courtyard pulling weeds while waiting for her, it's truly pitifully lonely!

...

The time spent outside was not long, and before reaching the north, news had already come from the emperor side confirming the northern information was false.

Jin Zijin returned to the Prince Residence in Plum Blossom Valley, only to find out Jin Luoyin had left.

"How could she be allowed to leave? She's a girl!"

Gu Youyou sighed lightly, "When she was ten, she secretly told me she wanted to find her brother. I promised her then that after her coming-of-age ceremony, I would let her go. Originally, I thought I was just casually brushing her off, but unexpectedly, she remembered all this while. Five years have passed, she's grown up, so I've fulfilled the promise from back then!"

After Gu Youyou finished speaking, she looked at Jin Zijin.

Jin Zijin was silent for a moment, and then said, "I should still send someone to find her!"

"Hey!" Gu Youyou stopped him, saying, "Girls are the same as boys; Luoyin isn't inferior to boys! She told Searcy that she went to find her brother because she saw we've all grown old, and the father of Erniu in the village, who is the same age as you, already has grandchildren and doesn't farm anymore, yet you still have to go out often. She doesn't want to see you suffering!"

Jin Zijin looked shocked, yet somewhat gratified! Gu Youyou's words left him speechless for a long moment, filled with emotions!

Indeed, he was aging, looking at his no longer youthful wife, and suddenly realized in the quest for their son that they were no longer young!

Chapter 1703: Her Face Is Back

Jin Zijin opened his mouth, his voice hoarse, tinged with a trace of choking: "I originally promised you that we'd just live a good life after coming home together. I didn't expect things to turn out like this, unknowingly wasting half a lifetime!"

"It's okay, how long must good days last to be considered enough? A day is passing, ten days are passing, even ten years the same, never enough, as long as we've experienced it!"

"Mm!"

He carried her back to bed, they were still used to lying in bed when talking about serious matters.

“I wonder how long you’ll be able to stay at home this time?”

“This time!” Jin Zijin thought for a moment and said: “Even if I have to leave, I won’t go far!”

“Hm? Why?”

“Jin Tianyuan’s influence is concentrated in the north. These years, we also focused on the north in our search. The things we found were either useful or useless, but ultimately, they all turned out useless.”

He pulled the quilt up, changed to a comfortable position before continuing: “Not just Beiping, we even searched the Barbarian Borderlands; those seemingly useful pieces of information were just a smokescreen. There’s a saying that the most dangerous place is the safest place. I suddenly realized, maybe we should focus on the south, even close to Yangguan City!”

Gu Youyou said: “Ajing is searching over in Lingnan, checking households for anyone around Xuyao’s age. Here in Yangguan City, Yuancheng is now the city lord; he’s searched even beggars around the same age, but hasn’t found anyone who could be Xuyao.”

Jin Zijin was silent for a moment, then said: “This is precisely what I can’t figure out, maybe there are places we’ve missed. Tomorrow, let Yuancheng give me a list of the residents in Yangguan City aged fifteen to twenty-five; I want to review them personally!”

…

Jin Luoyin woke up almost at noon.

The previous night, she didn’t really dare to sleep, only falling asleep just before dawn.

She stretched, changed her clothes, and went out.

A maid came in with water for washing, and waited on her.

She naturally sat in the chair waiting for someone to serve her, but when the cloth for washing her face was placed in her hand, she suddenly realized she was also a maid, having slept too late, her mind not yet clear, forgetting for a moment.

Jin Luoyin hurriedly took the face cloth and said: “Sister, I’ll handle this myself, you can leave!”

The maid smiled sweetly and said: “Miss Mingzhu, it was the Young Master who instructed me to serve Miss Mingzhu!”

“Oh no, I’m also a maid, I’m actually responsible for tending flowers, maybe my status isn’t even higher than yours!”

The maid stood there awkwardly, at a loss for what to do.

Jin Luoyin felt a bit embarrassed and said: “Sister, what’s your name, are you the chief maid in the Young Master’s courtyard?”

The maid lightly nodded, said: “Yes, I’m the Young Master’s chief maid, my name is Shi Shu. The Young Master went out, he told me to assist Miss Mingzhu getting up.”

Jin Luoyin smiled awkwardly and said: “Sister Shi Shu, well… the Young Master is really too kind. I just arrived yesterday, maybe he was worried I wouldn’t find the place to wash my face, so…”

Shi Shu smiled and said: “Miss Mingzhu is really beautiful, no wonder the Young Master looks upon you differently!”

Ah…? What? Beautiful?

Jin Luoyin was stunned, instinctively touching her face.

Something’s not right, something is wrong.

She hurriedly stood up and looked towards the water in the basin.

In the wooden basin, clear water reflected her face, it was an extremely good-looking face, her own face!

Chapter 1704: He Tore It

Oh heavens, I don't know when my fake face fell off. Could it be that it rubbed off because I was tossing and turning, unable to sleep last night?

What shall I do?

Jin Luoyin's face turned pale as she looked at Shi Shu, who was looking at her strangely. She pondered whether to silence her by killing her, or to kill her to keep her mouth shut?

Just as she was hesitating, Zhu Yiping came in.

Jin Luoyin quickly covered her face with her hand.

Does she have to kill two people to silence them now?

Zhu Yiping, however, didn't mind and smiled, waving Shi Shu away, saying, "Don't you look quite good like this? Why make yourself look ugly?"

Jin Luoyin widened her eyes: "…"

"Your fake mask was made poorly. It's easy to tell once you get close. I've already thrown it away for you, I'll get you a new one someday tomorrow!"

Jin Luoyin: "…"

Zhu Yiping sighed, taking her hand away from her face, and said, “I don’t like people who wear masks, you look fine as you are!”

Jin Luoyin was about to cry.

“But how do I explain when others see my face has changed?”

Zhu Yiping was unconcerned, saying, “Well, don’t run around, just stay in this courtyard. Without my permission, no one dares to come in!”

“What about the owner?”

“He’s busy, he doesn’t have time to come!”

“…”

“I’m wearing a fake mask, and you’re not worried I’ll harm you?”

“You?” Zhu Yiping looked at her with amusement and said, “Can a little girl like you be a threat to me? I’m curious, though, how can you roam around wearing a fake mask outside? Aren’t you afraid your family will worry?”

Jin Luoyin was taken aback.

Facing such a situation, shouldn’t he suspect she’s up to something nefarious, sneaking into Tianhai Mountain Villa with ulterior motives? Why is he worried about her family instead?

Finding herself unsure of what to say, she lowered her head, thought for a moment, and then said, “My brother got lost, I came out to find him. I was originally disguised as a man, but Jian Shiqing saw through it.”

She didn’t even know why she told him about looking for her brother, it was really inexplicable.

Perhaps it was because he didn’t suspect she was a bad person!

Zhu Yiping stroked his chin, pondered for a while, then said, “Why don’t you draw a portrait of your brother, and I’ll try to find him for you? With the influence of Tianhai Mountain Villa, it’s certainly better than you wandering around blindly!”

Jin Luoyin felt a wave of emotion while also feeling a sense of bitterness.

She gently shook her head and said, “I don’t have a portrait, I don’t know what my brother looks like. He got lost when I was very young, it’s been more than ten years.”

“Well… that makes it much harder to find him!” Zhu Yiping said enthusiastically, continuing to ask, “Do you know any of his characteristics? How old is he now?”

“He should be twenty this year, a few months younger than you. Characteristics… I don’t know either!” The more she thought about it, the sadder she became. She said she came out to find her brother so her parents could rest better, but after wandering for more than half a month, she still had no clue.

Even the full resources of the uncle emperor and her father didn’t find him, let alone her?

That person named Fu Jian is so good at hiding, she even heard Searcy tell her mother that her brother might not even be in Zhuzhao Country, that Fu Jian had long taken him to another country.

The world is so vast, too vast to traverse in a lifetime, finding her brother would be like finding a needle in a haystack!

“Is that so? Then it’s quite troublesome!” Zhu Yiping said.

Chapter 1705: Is Jian Shiqing Her Brother?

Then she thought of how she was disguised as a man with a mask and had come to the Tianhai Mountain Villa. He exclaimed, "You came to the Tianhai Mountain Villa, don’t tell me you suspect Jian

Shiqing is your brother? Your brother is a few months younger than me? Hey, wouldn’t you know it, Jian Shiqing is indeed a few months younger than me. Tell me, which year did your brother go missing?"

Jin Luoyin’s heart skipped a beat, and she quickly replied, "The year I was born, fifteen years ago!"

"Fifteen years ago?" Zhu Yiping clapped his hands and said, "What a coincidence, my dad picked up Jian Shiqing fifteen years ago. Do you think he could be your brother?"

"No, it can’t be such a coincidence, right?" Jin Luoyin’s face turned pale as she unconsciously touched her lips.

The overbearing taste of last night seemed to linger on her lips. If it really were such a coincidence, she’d want to die.

Zhu Yiping was, however, very excited, pacing around the room and saying, "Why wouldn’t it be such a coincidence? Hey, you wait here, I’ll go ask!"

"Ah... hey, wait!"

Before Jin Luoyin could agree, he had already run off eagerly!

But he soon came running back, examining Jin Luoyin’s face, and said, "It’d be fine if it were true, but if not, we’ve got a problem. Wait here, I’ll make you a mask!"

He left Jin Luoyin’s room again, and she hurriedly chased after him.

In the study, Zhu Yiping pulled out a set of tools for fake face making as if by magic, and the equipment was even more comprehensive than Yi Yan and Lun Yu’s.

This made Jin Luoyin more puzzled about Tianhai Mountain Villa.

The young master of Tianhai Mountain Villa actually had more equipment than professional face-changers?

Watching his mask-making skills, it was very proficient.

He kept looking at her face while creating a mold on the spot.

This technique was simply extraordinary!

In less than four hours, he had crafted a delicate fake face.

When Jin Luoyin put it on, her appearance was no longer intended to be the same as before, but it no longer seemed as strange, much smoother.

With the change of men’s clothing, she was like a handsome young man!

Jin Luoyin gave him a thumbs up! Truly amazing!

Zhu Yiping laughed, "All set, now you come with me to see my dad. Asking Jian Shiqing will probably be useless, let’s ask my dad and see where he found Jian Shiqing back then. You think about whether it matches up with where your brother went missing."

Jin Luoyin panicked for a moment and quickly pulled him back.

"No need!"

"Huh? Why not?" Zhu Yiping was very puzzled.

"No, it can’t be Jian Shiqing!" Jin Luoyin’s face turned pale, luckily she stopped him.

She suddenly thought that if it really was Jian Shiqing, then the owner's identity would most likely be related to Fu Jian, who took her brother away back then. Wouldn't this alert the enemy? She might end up implicating herself.

If it wasn't him, asking was pointless.

But regardless, now was not the time to ask him.

Looking at Zhu Yiping, who was waiting for her reply, she made up a lie and said, "Mom said my brother had a mole between his brows, born with it, but Jian Shiqing doesn't, so it can't be him!"

"Oh!" Zhu Yiping was a bit disappointed but then said, "Ah, a mole between the brows, I'll have someone keep an eye out for those around twenty with a mole there."

"Thank you!" Jin Luoyin was genuinely grateful to Zhu Yiping.

He pulled off his fake mask but then crafted an even better one and gave it to her. She felt that since he had gone to such lengths, he probably wouldn't harm her.

Chapter 1706: He's Just Too Idle

Perhaps he's truly too lonely, only wanting to find someone to talk to.

That day, Jin Luoyin had dinner with Zhu Yiping and began listening to his endless stories.

He said that he spends most of his time practicing martial arts and has no friends. When he has free time, he's often lost in thought alone.

Sometimes he sits on a tree and gazes at a leaf, lost in thought.

Sometimes he squats in a corner, watching ants move homes, lost in thought.

Sometimes he reminisces about his childhood, vaguely remembering visiting a place with plum blossoms all over the mountain. But there are no plum trees in Tianhai Mountain Villa. His father prefers planting a mountain full of bamboo!

The bamboo of Tianhai Mountain Villa is famous, and Bamboo Sea and Tianhai are probably named after it.

...

Jin Luoyin wants desperately to leave, but every day she accompanies this lonely young man, endlessly talking, unable to muster the heart to leave.

She has already stayed another three days.

During the day, she stays together with Zhu Yiping, either watching him practice martial arts, accompanying him in his reverie, or listening to him talk.

At night, he occasionally appears in her room to cover her improperly tucked quilt.

This made Jin Luoyin feel very strange.

She asked, "Stop tucking me in at night. Although it’s spring now, the weather is still cool, be careful not to catch a cold!"

Zhu Yiping patted his sturdy chest and said, "Do I look like someone who would catch a cold?"

Jin Luoyin: "..."

He shook his head and chuckled, saying, "I vaguely remember my mother gave birth to a sister for me, but later on, for some reason, my father never mentioned her!"

"Oh? You have a sister too?"

Zhu Yiping nodded, then shook his head, saying, "I'm also not very sure, I was too young then and remember little. Probably not, otherwise my father would've told me!"

"What about your mother?"

"My mother..." Zhu Yiping looked at Jin Luoyin, sighed softly, and said, "My mother was a woman of low status, she was my father's maid. After giving birth to the heir, she just disappeared. Hmm, she probably stayed with me for a few years. I seem to have a slight impression of her!"

"Disappear?" Jin Luoyin was immensely surprised!

Zhu Yiping smiled helplessly and said, "A woman without status and position naturally can't occupy the position of Mistress of the Villa. My father wouldn't allow the next heir of Tianhai Mountain Villa to have a disgraceful mother. If my mother was fortunate, she was probably secretly kept somewhere, enjoying a lifetime of food and shelter. If unlucky, maybe she died early!"

Listening to this made Jin Luoyin's heart pang again and again. Tianhai Mountain Villa's owner, Young Master, Jian Shiqing, none of the three seemed normal.

She now seemed to understand why the owner forced Jian Shiqing to randomly find a woman to have a child. It turned out to be his own youthful experience.

If the owner had feelings for Zhu Yiping's mother, how could he let his beloved woman be separated from his son?

The reason he got rid of Zhu Yiping's mother was precisely because he had no feelings for that woman. All he wanted was a son; the woman, in his eyes, was probably nothing!

Truly perverse!

Yet she thought Zhu Yiping was indeed lucky.

Even though the owner forced his foster son to leave behind descendants, he couldn't bear to treat his son like that, still trying to let him choose a satisfactory, socially matched one to marry.

Of course, this is only if Zhu Yiping's preferred woman is socially matched. If not, the outcome probably wouldn't be much better!

Zhu Yiping and Jin Luoyin chatted for a while, and during lunchtime, he got up intending to leave.

Chapter 1707: Dare to Provoke the Young Master

He said, "I won't be having lunch with you today. It's the fifteenth; I have to eat with my father!"

Jin Luoyin: "…" Is that a rule too?

But it had nothing to do with her, so she waved her hand and said, "Alright, you go!"

"Hmm, you better not run away, or even if you run to the ends of the earth, I'll catch you back!"

Jin Luoyin: "…" Why does that sound like something Jian Shiqing would say?

After seeing off Zhu Yiping, Jin Luoyin was left to enjoy her lunch alone.

Just as she was delightfully eating, a snicker sounded in the room.

She put down her chopsticks and quickly turned around, alert.

There she saw Jian Shiqing standing beside the pillar behind the door, looking at her with a face full of disdain.

“You actually changed your face to trick me?” His tone was filled with a gnashing of teeth.

Jin Luoyin touched her own face; it was indeed hers.

Zhu Yiping said he didn’t like fake faces, so in his courtyard, she didn’t wear her disguise.

“You dare run into the Young Master’s courtyard, aren’t you afraid I’ll tell him?” Jin Luoyin, having already torn off her mask with Jian Shiqing, saw no need to pretend to be an innocent maid.

In terms of momentum, she was not inferior to anyone.

Jian Shiqing was stunned for a moment but then laughed and said, “Alright, tell him. Then I’ll tell the owner about your face-changing. Want to know how many died at the owner’s hands? How miserable it was?”

Jin Luoyin was momentarily stuck with anger.

She trusted Zhu Yiping; nobody dared to enter his courtyard. Well, nobody dared to enter when he was there, but who would’ve thought, as soon as he left to dine with his father, this hidden Jian Shiqing would sneak in.

He must be the only one in the villa defying Zhu Yiping.

Hitting him wouldn’t be a loss, serves him right!

Jin Luoyin sneered coldly and said calmly, “You have your secrets, I have mine. I won’t expose you, and you act like you haven’t seen me! Otherwise, if the fish dies and the net breaks, it’s no good for anyone!”

Jian Shiqing took a breath and laughed, “That’s more like it. Seems you’re a smart one. But if you dare to do anything harmful to the villa, don’t blame me for being ruthless and not considering old ties!”

Jin Luoyin's eyebrows twitched angrily. Old ties? Since when did they have old ties?

"If you're smart, you'll leave quickly. The Young Master will be back soon!"

"So eager to drive me away?" Jian Shiqing looked at her with interest, stepping toward her.

Jin Luoyin pushed aside the bowl and chopsticks, stood up, and watched him warily.

Jian Shiqing stopped three feet away from Jin Luoyin, sneering at the food on her table and said, "Looks like you're living well here, no wonder you speak for Zhu Yiping!"

Jin Luoyin said nothing, her cold eyes fixed on him.

This man wasn't one to speak kindly. Who knew what he was up to coming here?

"Did he know you wore a fake face and say nothing?"

Jin Luoyin still ignored him.

Jian Shiqing chuckled and continued, "Makes sense, he's used to it now!"

He stared at Jin Luoyin's face, clicked his tongue twice, and added, "It's quite pretty, much better than the fake face."

Staring at the annoyed-faced Jin Luoyin, Jian Shiqing laughed, raised his arm, put his long fingers to his lips, lowered his voice, and said suggestively, "Feels nice, once grandpa tries, he won't forget it, how about…"

Before he could finish, Jin Luoyin suddenly raised her hand and slapped him across the face with a loud smack, yelling, "Are you looking for death!"

Chapter 1708: You May Leave Now

Jian Shiqing didn’t dodge, and even the smile on his face remained unchanged.

He touched his own face, smiling on the outside but cold in his eyes.

He continued to speak to her in a low, ambiguous tone: "No matter who you are, once this place bears my mark, you belong to me! As for Zhu Yiping, I advise you to give up. Staying by his side will be more dangerous than staying by mine. Take care of yourself!"

After speaking, Jian Shiqing left with a sinister smile, leaving Jin Luoyin without the appetite to eat.

The village indeed exudes a sense of eeriness everywhere. She isn’t planning to leave early to tell her parents about this matter.

...

"Does Yiping really like that little girl?"

Zhu Yiping was eating large mouthfuls of food, and when Zhu Haisheng posed the question, he paused, subtly shook his head, and said: "No, she’s clumsy, can’t even take care of the flowers without needing the gardener’s help! I regret it, in a few days I’ll send her back to Shiqing!"

Zhu Haisheng was taken aback and said: "No rush, Shiqing’s injured, sending her back won’t help. Wait a few days until Shiqing recovers then send her away!"

"Oh, okay, Dad!" Zhu Yiping obediently responded.

"By the way, Dad, where did you find Shiqing back then?"

Zhu Yiping asked casually while eating.

Zhu Haisheng was startled, looking up with a faint smile: "Why suddenly ask about this?"

Zhu Yiping thought and replied: "I was just thinking, Shiqing grew up in our family, but what about his own family? Back then he got lost, and you kindly took him to our home. Wouldn't his family have been anxious, or even constantly searching for him?"

"Why are you suddenly thinking about this?" Zhu Haisheng maintained his smile but his eyes gradually turned cold.

"I was just casually asking!" Zhu Yiping finished speaking and lowered his head to continue eating!

Zhu Haisheng hesitated for a moment, then slowly said: "Shiqing wasn't someone I picked up. I've never told you this, but Shiqing is actually the son of an old acquaintance of mine, but their identity must remain hidden. In short, his entire family is dead apart from him, so you don't need to worry about his parents coming to look for him!"

"Ah...? Oh! That's how it is, then Shiqing is really pitiful!" Zhu Yiping glanced at Zhu Haisheng and then bowed his head to continue eating!

...

After keeping her for seven days, Zhu Yiping knows it's almost at the limit.

He didn't want to see any accidents happen to this kind little girl, and said to her: "I see you stare at this package every day, are you thinking of leaving?"

"Ah? Young Master?" Jin Luoyin didn't know what to say.

She thought he was lonely and pitiful and wanted to stay a few more days to talk, but she had her own matters to attend to and couldn't stay here indefinitely.

Zhu Yiping smiled faintly and said: "I once told you, I vaguely remember my mother giving birth to a sister for me. If it’s true, my sister should be about your age!"

"Mmm!" Jin Luoyin lowered her head without saying anything.

But based on Zhu Yiping’s mention of his parent’s relationship, she thinks it’s unlikely he has a sister.

Zhu Yiping’s mother was merely a tool for the owner to achieve inheritance. If the first-born was a girl, there might still be a chance to have another child for a son.

Since there’s already a son, how could a tool be allowed to give birth to a daughter?

"You’ve kept me company for so many days, you should go!" Zhu Yiping suddenly said.

Chapter 1709: The Truth

Jin Luoyin raised her head and looked into his eyes.

His eyes were as deep as the sea, revealing no emotion. After she glanced at him for a moment, he turned around, showing only his slightly bent, lonely back that made one feel sad.

He turned slightly to the side and said in a low voice, “You’re still looking for your brother, but there’s no brother here for you to find. I’ve asked my father; Jian Shiqing can’t be your brother. He’s not a lost child; he’s the son of my father’s old friend. After his friend died, my father adopted him!”

Jin Luoyin couldn’t see his face, but she could sense from his calm tone that he must be very sad.

He didn’t want her to see him.

Jin Luoyin opened her mouth and asked in a low voice, “After I leave, will you still find new friends?”

“I… don’t know!”

Jin Luoyin bit her lip and asked again, “What will you do if you don’t have new friends?”

“Me?” Zhu Yiping thought for a moment and said, “There are many ants in the backyard; it’s lively when they’re moving houses. And in the glass room, there’s a tree that never loses its leaves all year round. I can help count if there are fewer leaves; if there are, it must be the gardener who stole them!”

How bored must he be to watch ants move and keep an eye on the gardener not stealing his leaves!

Listening to this made Jin Luoyin’s heart ache with sourness.

She took a deep breath and said slowly with a bit of choked-up emotion, “Do you especially wish your mother had given birth to a sister for you?”

Zhu Yiping’s back stiffened, and after a moment, he nodded gently, saying, “Yes, having a biological sister would be great. She definitely wouldn’t be as annoying as my father’s adopted son!”

Jin Luoyin laughed and cried, saying, “Jian Shiqing is indeed quite annoying, and he probably finds having a brother like you pretty annoying too!”

Zhu Yiping angrily scoffed, “He finds me annoying? I don’t find him annoying! He’s just an adopted son, always looking down on others, and he’s occupying the nest like a cuckoo. Hmph, one day I’ll crush him!”

“Right, crush him and see him proud!” Jin Luoyin added.

The sorrowful mood, while they talked about Jian Shiqing, with mutual resentment, they momentarily forgot about their sadness.

But what needs to happen must happen, and the farewell that needs to be had can’t be avoided.

Zhu Yiping still picked up Jin Luoyin's bundle and hung it on her shoulder.

"I'll tell them you're going to Yangguan City to buy things for me. Take the chance to leave and never come back. Jian Shiqing is not a good person, and my father… he's only good to me; he's actually not a good person either!"

Hearing this made Jin Luoyin sad again.

She sniffed and suddenly laughed, "How can it be that I'll never come back? It sounds like I'm afraid of your father. Let me tell you a secret!"

Jin Luoyin suddenly felt a lump in her throat and leaned forward, resting on Zhu Yiping's shoulder.

Zhu Yiping's body stiffened, and he quickly tried to evade.

"Brother!" Jin Luoyin called softly, and only then did he freeze in place.

She was like an abandoned little girl, full of grievances.

She said, "You never leave the house; do you know about the Ningwang Residence?"

"Ningwang Residence?" Zhu Yiping nodded slightly, saying, "The one in Plum Blossom Valley, I've heard of it!"

Jin Luoyin said, "There's only one Ningwang Residence in the world, so did you know that Fifteen years ago, the Ningwang Residence lost a child?"

Zhu Yiping looked at her in surprise and said, "Don't tell me the brother you're looking for is the Young Prince lost from the Ningwang Residence?"

“Yes!” Jin Luoyin said with a bitter smile, “My parents are both old, yet they still can’t settle down to enjoy their old age. My brother went missing, leaving me as the only child at home. Although I’m a girl, Luoyin still hopes to do something for my parents. The search for my brother won’t stop, so I’ll take it over!”

Zhu Yiping took a deep breath and after a while slowly said, “Commandery Princess, so you’re the young Commandery Princess of the Ningwang Residence!”

Jin Luoyin laughed, “Yes, that’s why I’m not afraid of your father. If you get bored, you can come to Plum Blossom Valley to find me. If your father doesn’t let you out, you can sneak out. I used to do that all the time when I was young.”

“I…” Zhu Yiping opened his mouth but didn’t know what to say.

Jin Luoyin quickly added, “If you really can’t get out, that’s okay too. Send someone with a letter to Plum Blossom Valley, and I can come to see you!”

“You… Alright!” Zhu Yiping gently stroked her hair, with countless words turning into a single “Alright.”

It wasn’t hard for him to get out, but ever since he first secretly left the manor years ago and almost got sold by traffickers, he was scared to go out for a long time.

Later on, every time he secretly left the manor, the servants in his yard would mysteriously disappear, replaced by new ones. And his father would fall ill for a long time.

Someone secretly told him that those people were beaten to death by his father.

He guessed his father was frightened and took it out on the servants!

After doing this two or three times, he no longer dared.

Jin Luoyin left, and although Zhu Yiping felt sad and lost inside, becoming lonely again, he could only practice martial arts even harder to relieve this spiritual emptiness.

However, his heart was still a little secretly pleased.

His other friends, his father always found a way to make those people no longer dare play with him, but Jin Luoyin was different. She was the young Commandery Princess of Plum Blossom Valley Ningwang Residence, and his father's influence, no matter how great, was limited to the martial world and couldn't affect something as significant as the Ningwang Residence, comparable to the Imperial Family.

Now he only hoped that the little girl wasn't just saying it casually. If he wrote her a letter, she must reply!

Thinking of this, he put down the long-held bayonet, wiped the sweat from his face, and hurried back to the study to start writing vigorously.

"Hmm, she just left today, is it too early?"

"Not early at all, by the time she gets home, his letter should have arrived."

…

"Father, Mother, huh, where is everyone? Didn't they say my father was back?" Jin Luoyin put down her bag and turned around, not finding anyone, not even Searcy.

Xiang Chun hurried out to reply, "Ah, young Commandery Princess, you're back. The Prince and Princess Consort, along with Searcy, are not here. They went to the village in front because the Second Grandmother is said to be near the end."

The Second Grandmother Xiang Chun mentioned was her mother's second aunt. The last of the older generation alive!

Jin Luoyin quickly turned and left Plum Blossom Valley, running towards the nearby Lotus Village.

Fortunately, it wasn't far, and she arrived before long.

Many people were in front of the Gu Family, and cries from both men and women came from inside the house. Jin Luoyin pushed through the crowd and ran inside, seeing that they were already wearing the white mourning clothes, and Huang Xiangwen was gone.

She lived for over sixty years, having done well enough. There weren't too many regrets in her life, so it was a peaceful end.

Her mother was softly comforting Dabao, Erbao, uncles, and aunts!

The siblings were standing all around the room, and her life was a story of having a full family and fulfillment.