Farmhouse 391

Chapter 391: She Found Out

Gu Youyou was furious, not liking his tepid demeanor at all. She jerked her arm away, now slowly warming up, and shouted, "What else is there to ask, you still don't trust me? Your junior fellow taunts you to kill me, and it's not like you don't know. I don't want to make things hard for you, this is his territory, and I dare not provoke him anymore, yet he bullies me with his power. Look, this is what he did to me, you better look at what it is!"

Upon hearing this, Jin Zijin felt like his brain lagged a beat, because this was just too... ridiculous.

"He did this to you?"

Immediately, he understood Yue Rujing's intention.

This was really... getting out of hand.

Looking at Gu Youyou again, she seemed not to understand what this was about? Thinking of this, he suddenly breathed a sigh of relief.

This really was, she understands what she shouldn't, and what she should understand, she knows it all.

"It's fine, if it's there, then it's there," he said.

Gu Youyou: "..."

"What do you mean? What are you two up to?"

If Jin Zijin also said it was fine, then it was indeed fine. What was Yue Rujing up to? Intimidating her?

Gu Youyou's expression darkened, and she abruptly felt a sense of foreboding. Glancing at Jin Zijin again, she met his evasive gaze.

She lifted her sleeve again to look at the red mole, which looked somewhat like... the Maidenhair Spike she had seen in TV dramas?

She hadn't really researched this thing, but she knew that people in ancient times did use this as a way to verify a woman's chastity. However, in modern times, this practice had long been banned. And with surgery, anything could be faked, let alone something created with the principle of hormones.

But that's impossible, hadn't they already...

In her mind, numerous fragments came together, slowly forming a line, and Gu Youyou suddenly widened her eyes, looking at Jin Zijin with disbelief.

"You... tell me, is this or is this not Maidenhair Spike?" she asked, her voice trembling.

Jin Zijin had never thought Gu Youyou would misunderstand anything, this thing was indeed Maidenhair Spike, and he didn't see the need to hide it from her.

But why the shock and the tragic look in her eyes?

"Youyou!" He wanted to ask something, but felt at a loss for words.

Because he saw an increasingly heart-wrenching desolation in her eyes.

What happened to her?

Crying out, she bellowed, "Jin Zijin, how could you do this? In your heart, is everything fake? Ha... it's laughable, I thought you had some peculiar habits. It turns out you're just a thoroughbred liar."

After all this time, this man still wasn't hers.

In the books, there are heaps of female leads who argue and make a fuss with the male lead after losing their virginity, but as for those who are still arguing for their innocence, it’s probably just her.

"When have I ever lied to you again?" His frown deepened.

"Get lost!" Gu Youyou, filled with resentment, pushed him away and said, "You’re even more disgusting than that bastard Yue Rujing. If you’re unwilling, just say it, why do you have to beat around the bush?"

If she hadn’t been sure that he was her first man, why would she have tolerated him time and again?

If that’s not the case, then what is she doing by his side? Gu Youyou lacks men? That’s really laughable.

Jin Zijin stood frozen on the spot, unable to comprehend what was going through this woman’s mind, even with multiple heads.

"What bothers you? This?" Jin Zijin pointed at the red spot and asked.

Gu Youyou, both embarrassed and angry, let down her sleeve and said indignantly, "Hmph, I’ll have it removed tomorrow."

With that, she stormed upstairs, as if on a wager.

She had never been so humiliated; she had misunderstood.

Chapter 392: Do You Hate Maidenhair Spike?

Gu Youyou hid herself within the blankets, and in the darkness, she gradually calmed down again.

Upon reflection, perhaps this had nothing to do with him?

Just now, she was only focused on her anger, feeling that such an incident was both humiliating and embarrassing. In a moment of shame and rage, she had lost her clarity of mind. What if it was all a misunderstanding?

Back in the cave, he had explained once, but she hadn't believed him.

Thinking back to a year ago, just after they got married. Back then, she looked neither human nor ghost-like. She rarely reflected on that period, but now, considering it, he was not a pervert, and it simply wouldn't have been possible under those circumstances.

If it was about curing poison, he had mentioned using blood. Right, blood, she remembered seeing blood that day and that's why she was convinced?

Huh, that's not right, she had no wounds on her body.

She had no psychological pressure when examining other women, but when it came to checking herself...

After getting the results, her face turned beet red.

What had she touched? How embarrassing.

Suddenly, she recalled a news story she had read before, about two PhDs who got married. They had been infertile for years, and when they went to the hospital for an examination, the doctors found that the woman was still a virgin.

At that time, she had even called them two educated idiots, but now she felt she was almost the same as those idiots.

Oh my God, she felt like she couldn't face anyone, especially after she had just scolded him.

A Maidenhair Spike had insulted her intelligence and wounded her emotions. Yue Rujing, you're dead meat.

Footsteps approached, he was coming up.

Gu Youyou wished she could slap herself to death. If she had to stay alive, she would rather be an ostrich for the rest of her life, or find a hole to burrow into.

"Youyou!"

Alright, he was coming over, sitting by the bed.

Please don't lift the blankets, if you dare lift the blankets, I'll crawl under the bed.

"Youyou, after this Maidenhair Spike is applied... unless it's with someone, otherwise..."

"Shut up!" Gu Youyou's face flushed bright red.

Damn it, could you not talk about such things with such a calm tone?

He successfully forced her out from underneath the blankets.

Her hair was disheveled, her face was red, whether from being under the blankets or for another reason.

"You just said you would get rid of it tomorrow," Jin Zijin said with a face full of sorrow.

Had she said something like that? Gu Youyou looked confused.

It seemed she had.

Suddenly, she stared at him and burst into a cold laugh, suppressing the humiliation in her heart, she said, "No, Yue Rujing said it's pretty, I won't get rid of it. Why not keep it for a lifetime? Besides, living

with mutual respect is pretty good. How about I find someone to make another bed tomorrow, and send it over, so we each have our bed? After all, you're not a normal man."

Jin Zijin was taken aback, then anger swiftly spread across his face.

Furious, he flipped her blankets away in one swift move, grabbed her wrist, and pointed at the bright red Maidenhair Spike, "Do you especially hate this?"

The sudden unveil of her blankets startled her, chilly air rushed in, causing Gu Youyou to shiver.

"Who says I hate it? I'm not sex-crazed."

Huh, wait, the term 'sex-crazed' should not be applied to herself.

Never mind, the meaning is more or less the same.

Oh? So she knows about being sex-crazed?

Jin Zijin's eyes darkened, his pupils so black they seemed to draw her in. He slowly parted his lips, speaking in a low voice, "Are you implying that I am sex-crazed?"

Chapter 393: Wait for Me

"How could you? You're either a Lu Hui who can resist temptation, or you're sick." Gu Youyou replied with a mocking laugh.

"I'm sick?" Just said he wasn't up to par, now she's saying he's sick?

Gentle as he was, only she could push him to the brink of wanting to tear her apart.

Maybe it was his frightening gaze that made Gu Youyou shrink her neck guiltily, and then she shook off his hand, saying, "I'm a doctor, you don't have to be embarrassed in front of me. I can even cure Yuancheng's illness, this... ow, bastard!"

Before she could finish, her lips were sealed by another set of lips.

Ow ow...

She couldn’t stand it when he did this to her, it was too bullying.

He didn’t want to touch her, so why tease her like this?

She began to struggle fiercely, but her struggles were like that of a kitten scratching in his presence, which he simply didn’t care about.

This bastard was going too far.

Gu Youyou suddenly opened her mouth wide and bit down on him.

Bite him to death, that’ll teach him.

Jin Zijin let out a muffled grunt of pain, finally releasing her swollen lips.

Gu Youyou saw the place where she had bitten him, and the lip was already split, oozing crimson blood.

That pain, however, brought back his senses.

He almost proved on the spot whether he was really sick or not, or if he was truly up to par.

She was both embarrassed and furious, nearly shouting with a crying tone, "Either don’t touch me, or what does this count as? If you’re really sick I’ll treat you for free."

Jin Zijin was stunned for a moment, and after a short while, he let her go.

He truly had no words to counter her rebuke.

After coming to his senses, he regained his rationale, and how could he easily take this step?

He had left himself two options, either to become Monarch or to be the State Preceptor, only through that could he fulfill that mission. If he took her now, there would only be one path left.

For her, he was willing to forsake the safest path, but he couldn't explain this to his master and his fellow disciples, and although his master had not explicitly said it, he understood his meaning.

How could he let everyone down because of a moment of private desire, in light of his master's life-saving grace?

He was always careful and cautious, not leaving any handle for others, but he was not a man to forget favors and violate duties.

He sat there dejectedly, hands on his knees, and turned his head to look at her.

It took a long time before he spoke in a hoarse voice, "Youyou, can you wait for me?"

'Wait for what,' she really wanted to retort, a line her assistant from a past life loved to say.

But as she stared into his eyes, filled with helplessness and sorrow, she forcefully swallowed the words she was about to say.

Chapter 394: Someone from the Lin Family Has Arrived

A moment later, Gu Youyou gave a wry smile. "Have you still not figured it out?"

"I..."

"Alright, you don’t have to say it, I’ll wait for you. But the deadline depends on your performance."

Since he mentioned the word ’wait,’ Gu Youyou was not a fool; she believed he had his difficulties.

His stubborn temperament was probably hard to change, and he loved to bottle things up. Before it killed him, she decided to just bear with it.

What should have been a tacitly joyful ending was, unfortunately, complicated by her, unable to resist adding, "If you’re really sick, don’t be embarrassed. The longer you drag out an illness, the harder it is to cure."

Jin Zijin’s face suddenly darkened. The flicker of emotion she had stirred was swiftly snuffed out by her thoughtless words.

Once again, in a fit of anger, he yanked her over; his strength caused her to cry out as, the next moment, she found herself straddling his lap.

Gu Youyou saw the almost man-eating glare in his eyes.

...This embarrassing position...

Gu Youyou’s cheeks flushed red, and she stammered, "I... I think that illness might not be... here."

After she spoke, she regretted it, wishing she could slap herself.

Jin Zijin ground his teeth, "Gu Youyou, has anyone ever told you that your mouth really needs to be kept in check?"

"Who would dare?" Gu Youyou reflexively retorted.

Right, she remembered that there were quite a few who despised her sharp tongue. Who could blame them when she never held back her criticism? Even the veterans in her company would often end up in tears because of her scolding.

But after transmigrating, she had already changed a lot.

So she had the confidence to glare back at him.

"Who would dare?" Jin Zijin sneered, "From now on, you'll be dealt with twice a day."

"What do you mean by twice? Hey, why twice?"

His desire not yet quenched, he glanced towards those wicked lips and said indifferently, "Once in the morning and once at night; I've already dealt with you once, so we will leave the next time for tomorrow."

A morning and evening kiss?

...

Early in the morning, just as the doors opened, Butler Qiu, whom she hadn't seen in a year, arrived, causing Gu Youyou's jaw to drop.

How did he come here? Did the Lin Family already know about her accident, and that she was in Lingnan?

"Miss Gu!" Butler Qiu led a horse and quickened his pace.

"I heard you opened a medical clinic in Lingnan for women, didn't expect it to be true."

"Ah...?" Gu Youyou was dumbfounded.

After ushering Butler Qiu inside, he immediately started to chatter away.

"A while back we received a letter from Master Jin stating that your illness had healed and that you had even apprenticed under a famous doctor. Later, you moved to Lingnan and opened a clinic specializing in treating women."

He looked around the clinic, continuously saying how good it was, "If the Great Scholar and Madam knew about this, they would be so happy."

Gu Youyou replied with an awkward smile, "How are Uncle and Grandmother doing?"

Butler Qiu beamed with pride, "The Great Scholar is a favorite of the Emperor, and Madam is a First Class Madam honored by the Emperor himself, so naturally they are well. They have been concerned about Miss Gu, though, as the Great Scholar, being an important court minister, cannot leave the Emperor’s side, and Madam, given her age, cannot endure the travel. When can Miss Gu come to Beijing to visit?"

Her? Gu Youyou paused for a moment.

It was certain she would go to Beijing, but now was not the time.

Because she had asked Jin Zijin before, and learned that the Emperor’s favored minister, the Great Scholar, did not amount to much in front of the State Preceptor.

How could she possibly involve them?

Besides, having never met her Uncle’s family, who knew what to expect?

Chapter 395: Yue Rujing Got Hit

Gu Youyou chuckled and said, "This medical clinic has just opened not long ago, so I can’t leave yet, but I will definitely go to Beijing. Please trouble Butler Qiu to convey to my uncle and maternal grandmother to set their minds at ease."

"Ah! Of course, of course."

As he spoke, Butler Qiu took out a silver note and said, "The Master and the Old Madam asked me to give this to Miss Youyou. They said you've opened a medical clinic in Lingnan City and will need to spend silver everywhere."

Gu Youyou accepted it and saw that it was actually five thousand taels.

The uncle and maternal grandmother whom she had never met face to face were so generous.

Hmm, rich folks should act just like this.

She remembered hearing from grandfather that the Lin Family had once sent someone to take her to Beijing to seek treatment from the Imperial Physician, but she suffered a relapse just after leaving the Gu Family estate before even reaching the town.

Gu Youyou smiled bitterly; that relapse had come too conveniently, probably also related to the mole in the Gu Family... Gu Laosan.

Butler Qiu waited to return to Beijing with his task completed. After staying in Lingnan for two days, he left.

On the third day, the day when the seven-day New Year holiday ended and the clinic opened for the new year, with the morning dew still heavy, the first patient of the New Year arrived.

"Yue Rujing?"

Gu Youyou was surprised at the sight of Yue Rujing, with his bruised nose and swollen face, hobbling with a cane into her medical clinic, a pitiful sight.

Gu Youyou couldn’t help laughing, "Young Master, do you have some hidden illness that needs treatment?"

Yue Rujing glared at her, irritably retorting, "Hidden illness? With my condition so obvious, does it look like a hidden illness?"

Banxia was startled by the man’s altered appearance and was quite frightened by that address, ’Princely Heir.’

Good heavens, was this the ’startlingly beautiful’ Young Master so renowned in Lingnan City? But who in Lingnan would dare to beat up the Princely Heir like this?

Gu Youyou, ever so clever, quickly surmised what had happened.

Ah, the trouble three days ago hadn’t gone to waste. If it had been her, she wouldn’t have dared to thrash Yue Rujing like that.

Looking at his injuries, they were all superficial. What’s superficial? It’s the face—to think that someone had struck Yue Rujing in the face for her, how utterly satisfying.

However, although she understood what happened, Gu Youyou still feigned great surprise on the surface.

"My my, who would dare to beat you like this, and so ruthlessly at that, I heard that Cuihua from the west side of the city has pined for you for a long time. Could it be that the goddess had feelings and the prince had intentions, and you ran off with her, only to be caught and sacked by her husband?"

What an imagination, what a framing.

Yue Rujing’s mouth twitched, both in pain and in irritation.

Such a venomous tongue—how he wanted to hit her.

But he didn’t dare.

Because a few days ago, he annoyed Gu Youyou and ended up being beaten by his senior brother.

But that wasn’t his fault, good gracious. With her senior brother being so good to her and her being even more capable than he had imagined, any man would worry. What if his senior brother couldn’t resist her and took her for himself?

So, he coaxed a few younger sisters to set up Gu Youyou with a scheme, using Maidenhair Spike to test her.

After the results came out, he could relax.

Little did he expect that the very next day, his senior brother would beat him up to this extent. In such a condition, he dared not go home, and he had been staying at Ji Dongcheng’s house for the past three days.

Healers often find it difficult to treat themselves. The injuries he could manage had already been taken care of, and he was much better than the first two days.

Considering the stellar reputation he held at home, he couldn’t bring himself to seek another doctor to look at him, as it would be too humiliating.

With no other choice, he endured for three days, waiting for Gu Youyou’s clinic to reopen and came to her.

Before he left, he thought about covering his face with a broad hat or a veil, but then he considered his tall figure. In case someone recognized him, and moreover, if he also wore a broad hat—it would clearly be a case of ’thirty taels of silver not here.’

So, he might as well come in this ghoulish state. Anyway, even his own parents wouldn’t recognize this face anymore. Those who saw him would only think that the silhouette of this unfortunate soul bore a

striking resemblance to the handsome and dashing Young Master, but no one would believe it was actually him.

Yue Rujing was seething with anger as he shakily sat down with the support of his cane.

The moment he sat down, he screamed in pain and ordered the stunned Banxia standing by to bring a cushion.

Banxia was scared witless. The Princely Heir had been beaten to such a state and even mocked by Sister Youyou. Was the world going to fall into chaos?

Gu Youyou nudged Banxia, and she came back to her senses.

"Go on then, since he’s come to our clinic, he is a patient of the clinic."

"Ah...? Right, I’ll go now." Banxia hurried off to the backyard.

Yue Rujing humphed, "Your husband beat me, you’re responsible for curing me."

Well, still so full of himself despite it all?

Gu Youyou raised her chin and arched an eyebrow, "You brought it on yourself."

Seeing Yue Rujing glaring back furiously, Gu Youyou then continued, "Since you’ve come to me, of course I’ll have to heal you. I run a clinic for business, I can’t very well smash my own signboard. However..."

Yue Rujing, growing nervous at her mischievous smile, watched her warily and asked, "What are you planning to do?"

Gu Youyou chuckled lightly, "Don’t get worked up, you’re injured, it’s best not to have such great emotional fluctuations. I’m not planning to do anything, I simply want to remind the Young Master in advance, don’t forget about the silver."

She was a doctor, but also a businesswoman. As long as the patient paid the consultation fee, any treatment would do.

Yue Rujing sighed with relief and looked at her sarcastically as his arm stiffly fished out an intricately embroidered cloud-patterned purse from his waist and tossed it towards Gu Youyou.

Gu Youyou knew it was silver, and she reached out to catch it.

She checked it and saw it wasn’t a small amount. Her attitude improved considerably as she said, "There, paying with silver works. I was actually worried that your words about your husband beating me and your responsibility to cure me were a ploy to swindle my consultation and medication fees."

Yue Rujing’s lips twitched violently, "You materialistic woman, with nothing but silver in your eyes. As the esteemed Young Master of Lingnan, could I possibly swindle your medicine fee?"

"One can never be sure. After all, your earlier words were misleading. I’m just a humble female doctor, everything in this clinic costs money, so I’m just being practical."

Immediately after, she pocketed the silver, properly recording it, before sitting down beside Yue Rujing to examine his injuries.

Banxia, having brought over the cushion, stood by, ready to assist Gu Youyou.

She began with his face; after three days, the bruises on his face were turning purplish-black but were no longer a serious concern.

Jin Zijin had acted with restraint, only causing superficial damage. Though it looked severe, in reality, it would heal in just a few days even without any medication.

He had intentionally been made to appear like this, evidently anticipating that he would seek out Gu Youyou for treatment.

He was showing her that he had avenged her, regardless of whether the perpetrator was his junior disciple—he would be taught a lesson for bullying Gu Youyou.

After the examination, Gu Youyou said with a smile, "It's just a superficial skin injury, it'll heal in a few days. There was no need for you to come to me for this, you quack!"

He had learned medical skills himself and shouldn't be too bad at it, though certainly not as good as Gu Youyou.

Yue Rujing shot her a glance and said, "I'm aware of Doctor Gu's exceptional medical skills, but there's no need to belittle me. I haven't been home in three days, and I can't keep it hidden any longer. Administer the medicine, I must return by tomorrow at the latest, and no one must be able to tell I'm injured."

"Oh, is that so?" Gu Youyou raised her eyebrows and said, "There is medicine for quick healing and there is medicine for slow healing, but the price is very different. That bag of silver you just gave..."

Chapter 397: Not Taking Disciples

Yue Rujing was seething with rage to the extreme as he said, "You're really jacking up the price on me."

"Oh, not at all, but you can't pressure me to sell you my precious medicine cheaply just because you're the Young Master, can you?"

"You..." There was a sense of powerlessness as if she had outmaneuvered him, "I only brought this purse with me, and I've given it all to you."

"No worries, I can understand the patient's difficulties," Gu Youyou said sympathetically.

That seemed fair enough, and Yue Rujing's expression improved slightly.

"So?"

"So, you can sign a debt note!" Gu Youyou struggled to hold back her laughter as she seriously suggested to him.

Yue Rujing lifted his arm and pointed at her for a long time, but couldn’t utter a word.

Gu Youyou suddenly stood up, enlightened, and said to Banxia, "Banxia, bring some paper and ink. The Princely Heir is asking for a pen."

Finally, Yue Rujing spat out a mouthful of blood in anger, almost fainting on the spot.

Then that woman Gu Youyou continued to prattle, "Even if you faint, you still owe me the Silver. If you don’t pay, I’ll have someone carry you back to the Marquis Residence."

Hearing this... he completely lost consciousness.

"He’s finally fainted! Saved me a packet of Knockout Drug," Gu Youyou wiped her sweat, telling the shocked Banxia, "Come, help me get him to the sickroom. I need to use needles on him."

The clot of blood he had spat out made it the best moment for acupuncture.

Apparently, Jin Zijin didn’t go easy on him either.

Banxia and Gu Youyou moved Yue Rujing onto the sickbed, with her remaining in a stunned state the whole time.

Honestly, she had never known who Gu Youyou and Jin Zijin were, only that they were from out of town, Gu Youyou was a doctor who opened a clinic here, while Jin Zijin seemed to be a soldier who left for the barracks before dawn and only came back at night.

But now her head was a mess; what kind of soldier could beat the Princely Heir to such a state?

Since it was time for acupuncture, of course, clothes needed to be removed.

Gu Youyou promptly stripped off Yue Rujing’s clothes, shocking Banxia into silence once again.

Yet there Gu Youyou was, calmly inserting long needles into the Princely Heir’s body, while casually talking to her.

"Banxia, you’re quite smart. I know you are eager to learn, so I am inclined to teach you Medical Skills. Would you like to learn medicine from me?"

Banxia looked up at Gu Youyou with fear and respect, then lowered her head again and suddenly knelt down.

Of course, she was willing; she was even more willing than her brothers at home, but because she was a girl, her grandfather and father would never pass on their medical knowledge to her.

"Passing it to sons but not daughters" was the mindset of those with any kind of skill, especially with Medical Skills.

Banxia kowtowed to Gu Youyou, "Banxia is willing, Master... "

"Don’t kneel, get up!" Gu Youyou said indifferently.

Banxia stood frozen on the spot, not understanding what Gu Youyou meant.

Gu Youyou said with a smile, "I will teach you Medical Skills, but I won’t accept your formal respects, so you don’t have to call me Master. Don’t read too much into it. I just feel embarrassed. We look about the same age, and I would feel awkward being called Master by you. If you were ten years younger, then it might be a different story."

Gu Youyou sounded so genuine that Banxia didn’t dare to think otherwise. She was a person of true feelings.

Banxia’s eyes suddenly welled up with tears as she softly called her "Sister Youyou."

The greatest stroke of luck in her life was encountering Gu Youyou, who had carved a new path in her once hopeless existence, allowing her to pursue the Medical Skills she had dreamt of learning.

"Don’t be like that; you’re making me feel embarrassed," Gu Youyou said with a laugh, her hands steadily working the needles.

"Okay!" Banxia wiped away her tears and stood up straight.

Chapter 398: Scaring Yue Rujing to Death

She felt she could only stand tall and straight beside Gu Youyou if she straightened her own spine.

"The first lesson I’m giving you today is about worldly etiquette," she said.

Worldly etiquette? What are you doing right now? Banxia was surprised after being moved.

Banxia straightened her back, but she kept her gaze on her own toes, not daring to look at Yue Rujing’s skin, which was even more delicate and fair than a woman’s.

She actually wanted to go out, but Gu Youyou wouldn’t allow it, insisting on teaching her medical skills instead.

As her mind wandered, Gu Youyou’s serene voice came again, "Banxia, a healer’s worldly etiquette is to have no worldly etiquette. I know what’s in your head, but I need to tell you that’s not correct.

In the eyes of a healer, there’s no distinction between male and female patients—not just in words, but in action. You don’t have to be embarrassed, I’m going to make you lift your head now."

"Ah? But he is..." Banxia was shocked internally, and though she knew Gu Youyou was speaking the truth, she still hesitated, her eyes flickering with uncertainty.

However, Gu Youyou said, "The first time I held a scalpel to a patient's chest, I was also afraid, It was a surgery for internal bleeding. If I didn't open the patient's chest to clear the clotted blood, he would die, so, in the end, I decided to make the cut.

Compared to facing a life, performing cranial or abdominal surgery, what does this distinction between sexes matter? Banxia, if you can't even bear to look, how can you make a precise cut? You should know once the scalpel is down, there's no room for even the slightest deviation."

Banxia suddenly lifted her head, looking at Gu Youyou. Her words were undoubtedly overturning her understanding of medical skills—opening someone's chest?

Then, she saw Gu Youyou put away a needle and take out a small knife, softly patting it on Yue Rujing's waist and abdomen.

Afterward, she saw the legendary and incomparably handsome Princely Heir sit up suddenly, looking at Gu Youyou with a mix of shock and anger.

Then, he began to roar, "You heartless woman, still thinking about those two bowls of blood, right? You actually wanted to take the chance while I was unconscious to cut open my belly. It's a good thing I woke up in time, otherwise, I wouldn't even know how I died. Wow, you're ruthless, truly ruthless!"

Having said that, he put on his clothes and ran out, limping, forgetting even to take his cane.

Gu Youyou's smile was as beautiful as a blooming flower, "Banxia, get the ointment from the topmost shelf, third cabinet for the Young Master. His leg is lame, he won't get far fast."

Banxia breathed a sigh of relief and swiftly went to get the ointment to follow after him.

It was a false alarm, as it turned out Sister Youyou wasn't really going to open up the Princely Heir's chest—she was just scaring him.

She was indeed startled because Sister Youyou had mentioned the Princely Heir vomiting clotted blood and said she had once performed chest surgery on a patient with clotted blood in their chest.

"Young Master, please wait!"

Banxia ran quickly, catching up to Yue Rujing in no time.

With him in that condition, he couldn't have gotten far, so he simply stopped moving.

He angrily said, "You're that wicked woman's lackey, what else are you planning to do?"

That woman dared to bully him, was it because she relied on her brother's favor?

Banxia lowered her eyes, not daring to look at him, but she reached for the bottle of ointment and said, "You misunderstood Sister Youyou, she was only scaring you. You had already vomited the clotted blood, so there's no need for chest surgery. This ointment is for you, from her."

"Humph!" Yue Rujing snatched the ointment and walked away, limping.

Watching his back, Banxia felt regret.

Fearful he would get too far, she had hurried after him too quickly, she should have brought his cane along.

Chapter 399: When Will You Return to Qingshui Town?

Yue Rujing, being a doctor herself, naturally knew whether there was congestion in her own chest, and how could she not be aware of Gu Youyou's astonishing medical methods. It was because she was angry with Gu Youyou. Knowing that he had already woken up, yet she had still said such frightening words and even took out that little knife to scare people—that knife that was once used to treat Yuancheng's condition.

This ruthless woman must have done it on purpose.

When Banxia returned to the medical hall, Gu Youyou was already attending to another patient, a middle-aged woman.

She listened intently as she articulated the woman's condition and prescribed her medicine.

With a light smile, she pinpointed the root of the middle-aged woman's ailment and devised the most rational treatment plan.

The patient's transformation, from the furrowed brow and fear upon entering, to the gradual calm and relaxed demeanor, to the ease and comfort upon leaving, did not escape Banxia's notice.

Throughout the process, Gu Youyou seemed to be treating patients, yet not quite so, as if chatting with them, even carrying on as if they were enjoying a lively conversation.

Facing patients of all kinds, Gu Youyou's composed and unperturbed demeanor might take Banxia a lifetime to emulate.

Every patient who left Jisheng Hall wore a smile that seemed to carry enough confidence to face their illness.

"Banxia!"

Having followed Gu Youyou for months, she increasingly felt Gu Youyou was unattainable, yet she was immensely grateful she could learn medicine from her. She didn't expect to be like her in the future; she only wished to face everyone with the same confidence as her.

"Sister Youyou, the Princely Heir has taken the medicine, but he still doesn't look happy."

Gu Youyou laughed, "If he's not happy, then let him be unhappy. What does it matter to us?"

She had Banxia sit down, took a sip of tea to moisten her throat, and then said, "While I was partly dealing with Yue Rujing, those words indeed formed your first lesson. Can you set aside the prejudice of gender difference? If not, I can only teach you the Qihuang Technique."

"I..." Banxia was fearful inside; she had never heard of such a way of treating patients. But looking into Gu Youyou's eyes, she didn't want to show weakness.

And besides... could she really expect to marry in this lifetime? She had suffered the greatest humiliations and endured the hardest days. What was there left to fear?

But Sister Youyou... would her husband, Mr. Jin, truly not mind her examining other men's bodies?

Hmm, presumably he wouldn't mind, after all, her words weren't wrong.

After a moment, Banxia said, "Sister Youyou, I'll learn whatever you teach me. I'm not young anymore, so please don't scorn me for being slow."

Gu Youyou was left speechless by her comment about not being young anymore.

She was only eighteen or nineteen, just the right age to have finished the college entrance exams and start university. Wasn't that the best time to study medicine?

...

"Did you hit Yue Rujing the other day?"

Jin Zijin raised an eyebrow and said, "His injuries, did you treat them?"

Gu Youyou chuckled, "I am a doctor, he gave silver, and I treated his illness. I can't ruin my own reputation, can I? Those old brands on East Street are watching me closely for any mistakes."

Jin Zijin looked at her in astonishment and said, "You knew?"

Gu Youyou replied, "Of course I knew. The marketplace is a battlefield; if I don’t even know my own competitors, how can I survive?"

Jin Zijin narrowed his eyes slightly. How many more surprises was she going to bring him?

"Oh, by the way, how much longer do we have to stay here? Is the situation in Qingshui Town resolved?"

Considering the several months they spent here, it really was something!

Jin Zijin told her directly, "There’s no need to go back to Qingshui Town for now. It’s not a place for us to stay for long. Youyou, you should understand that staying in Lingnan City is the safest right now. It’s not because we’re afraid of them, but rather we should not involve others."

Chapter 400: The Snow Lotus on the Mountain

Bringing trouble to others, Gu Youyou instantly understood Jin Zijin’s meaning.

They really shouldn’t trouble them, the peaceful little mountain village, where the women and men just needed to gossip and quarrel over trifles. These minor spats were fine, but they should not be dragged into irrelevant strife.

That was also why she hadn’t mentioned when she would go to Beijing.

She just missed her grandfather a bit.

Gu Youyou thought, thankfully, although her uncles and aunts were jerks, they were still filial, so her grandfather should be fine.

She quickly cheered up and looked toward Jin Zijin, saying, "The snow is thick on the mountains to the east. There are some precious herbs that are best gathered this season. Can you accompany me there tomorrow?"

"Tomorrow?" Jin Zijin muttered softly before replying, "Sure!"

With his agreement, Gu Youyou smiled and said, "I didn’t want to ask you initially. It would be fine just going with Banxia, but considering the clinic just reopened yesterday, it wouldn’t be good to close again so soon. So, it’s better to leave Banxia behind."

Jin Zijin laughed, touched her head, and said, "The snowy mountains are dangerous. Even if you went with Banxia, I wouldn’t be at ease. And... you can’t withstand the cold, so you must dress warmly tomorrow."

Gu Youyou propped up her chin and puffed her cheeks, saying, "Alright, I’ll wrap myself in a cotton quilt then."

"Mischief!"

...

Enduring the fierce cold, he had been waiting on the summit for two months now, estimating that in the next two or three days, it would bloom.

Looking at the snow-white petal buds with a hint of pink, almost translucent, his eyes sparkled like glass.

The wind from the mountain peak blew past him, and he tightened his collar, quickly running toward a nearby cave.

Even profound Inner Strength cannot withstand the poison inside his body that resonated with the severe cold weather. He sustained his body temperature by consuming a large number of seeds from the Hongxin Fruit. As long as his body temperature stayed high enough, the cold poison wouldn’t be triggered.

In the cave, he furrowed his brows as he chewed on the nasty-tasting Hongxin Fruit seeds, thinking about the woman who was just like him.

What was her name? He heard people calling her Youyou; that must be her nickname.

Ah, Youyou! A truly unique girl.

He understood why his father had left her in a coffin; he knew he was eventually meant to be a sacrifice, doomed not to live long. His time was not long, and he wanted to leave a descendant.

The girl he had chosen was good, a pity she was someone else's wife, and his father was oblivious to the fact that she, like him, was a medicine person.

Two people with no future were indeed well matched.

Thinking this, he smiled.

In this world, apart from thinking about her, he really didn't know who else to think about. Other people... other than her, thinking of anyone else couldn't bring him a good mood. The millennia-old Heart-Cooling Snow Lotus was about to blossom, and these days his mood was good. Thus, he hoped to think of pleasant things and people, not wanting anyone to ruin his mood.

Gu Youyou was dressed too warmly, climbing the mountain with considerable difficulty. Her resentful eyes turned to the man responsible for this plight; this guy, she had said they were going up the mountain to gather herbs, yet he had her wear so much? How could she possibly gather herbs like this?

"Come, eat this. It might taste a bit awful, but you have to endure it."

Jin Zijin said to her gently, his smile like the spring snow in March, yet he was quite domineering, giving her no chance to retort and stuffing a handful of bright red seeds into her mouth.

Bright red sesame seeds? They only looked like sesame, though.

She had seen white and black sesame seeds, but red sesame seeds were new to her.

"Ugh~so nasty." The moment the red sesame seeds entered her mouth, Gu Youyou felt a weird smell emanating from them that irritated her taste buds.