

Indulgence 1031

Chapter 1031: Returning

Mrs. He heard this and her composed expression instantly shattered.

That day, they colluded with outsiders to take Yun Jinnian away, thinking she'd never come back in her lifetime...

Back?

How could she come back?

Wasn't she kidnapped? What face does she have to return?

If she came back, would she seek revenge? Would she settle scores with them?

Mrs. He didn't say it aloud, but she was very apprehensive of Yun Jinnian in her heart, not to mention Yun Jinnian's mother, Mrs. Han, now one of the top-ranking ladies in the Capital City, running more than a dozen shops with great success, making a fortune daily, and spending money so lavishly that it aroused jealousy.

"She..." Mrs. He opened her mouth but didn't know what to say; the words caught in her throat, causing her discomfort.

Tianmi glanced over and quickly said, "Madam, we should strike first!"

The principle of "strike first to gain the upper hand, act later and suffer"—how could Mrs. He not understand? She had trained many underlings in recent days, but the family was still struggling financially; two sons got married, and Mu Si was now fourteen, about to turn fifteen and reach adulthood, needing dowry preparations. Her funds were limited.

If something needs to be done, money is essential.

"I understand, you may go now!"

Currently, Tianmi is Yun Chen's chamber maid, naturally devoted to Mrs. He.

Thinking about the pregnant Concubine Liu, Mrs. He felt a surge of hatred, but she couldn't make a move against the child in Ming Liu's belly. Now the old lady watched the child very closely, even Yun Chen considered the child's arrival timely, calling it a blessing.

He stayed at Ming Liu's courtyard day and night, worrying about food, clothing, and usage, leaving her with no opportunity to act.

And reflecting on Yun Muyou, who hadn't had a miscarriage despite consecutive pregnancies, Mrs. He just felt a severe headache.

She coldly remarked, "This matter is not urgent; if they return, we will act according to circumstances!"

A First Rank Commandery Princess, personally gifted a title by the Emperor, following the Commandery Princess to other regions, now to come back.

Mrs. He closed her eyes heavily, her expression gentle, but her mind pondered how to destroy Yun Jinnian.

No, now she is not called Yun Jinnian, but Han Jinnian, the legitimate daughter of the Han Family, with no relation to the Yun Family anymore.

The Yun Family doesn't have a second or third branch, only one branch.

Mrs. Han learned of her daughter's return and smiled with great joy, immediately ordering people to tidy up Jinnian's and Tianci's courtyards, "Be meticulous everywhere, the furnishings in the rooms should be exquisite, stable, and elegant. Bai Que, you oversee it personally!"

Bai Que nodded with a smile.

The news from the young master earlier brought joy to the manor when the eldest Miss was found, and now they are finally returning.

Mrs. Han was overjoyed, "I must go and tell Father!"

She also thought of Yun Qi and Yun Bi, "Send a message to the second master and third master as well!"

"Yes!"

In these days, Yun Qi and Yun Bi have been helping to search everywhere. Mrs. Han has long given up on Yun Qi, but after they formally separated, they met several times due to Han Jinnian and business dealings, not as affectionate as before, yet Yun Qi's deliberate restraint brought some agreement.

She had had a long-standing friendship with Yun Bi, and together they had Tianci, but Yun Bi, upon learning, never mentioned it. After Mrs. Han probed several times, she realized Yun Bi knew but did not speak; evidently, he would not fight for Tianci, so she opened up, establishing a sincere friendship, bringing elements reminiscent of their carefree youth. Yun Bi remained the only male who could freely enter and exit the Han Family.

Mrs. Han joyfully found her father, Han Xuzi, seeing him with a letter, she smiled, "Father also received a letter from Tianci?"

Chapter 1032: Various Schemes

Han Xuzi nodded.

He gestured for Mrs. Han to sit down and handed her the letter he was holding.

He felt that Mrs. Han needed to know something about Jinnian's situation.

Mrs. Han took the letter and sat down. The more she read, the more distressed she felt, yet she held back her tears, though her eyes turned red, "My poor daughter!"

She called out softly and eventually burst into tears.

Han Xuzi watched, and his heart was also filled with sorrow.

"Father, what should we do now?" Mrs. Han asked tearfully.

"Nothing needs to be done; we'll wait until she comes back to discuss it!"

Mrs. Han clutched her chest, "But my heart aches. I will never forgive those bastards of the Yun Family!"

Han Xuzi remained silent.

Forgive? How could that be possible!

Currently, the Emperor is severely poisoned. He had invited him to the palace, and upon going, he straightforwardly stated that he couldn't cure it.

Even if he could cure it, he wouldn't detoxify the dog Emperor.

The Han Family had always been loyal to their master, yet this is the kind of heartless treatment they receive.

Now, the Emperor is also hoping for Jinnian's return. But if he knew that Jinnian had returned, lost her memory, and her temperament had changed, no longer the gentle and kind girl she once was, he might wonder what he would think.

Yun Bi, upon learning that Jinnian returned, was overjoyed and rushed straight to the Han Residence.

When he saw Mrs. Han, and noticed her red eyes, he felt uncomfortable and consoled her, "Jinnian is about to come back, why are you still crying?"

"It's hard to explain in a few words!"

No one knows what happened to Jinnian; they'll have to wait for Tianci to come back to explain in detail.

Yun Bi sighed, "Shuniang, don't overthink it. As long as she returns safely, it's enough!"

"Yes, as long as she returns safely, it's enough!"

The Commandery Princess is returning, and accompanying her is Princess Yijia. For some, it's a source of joy, and for others, worry.

The Emperor is undoubtedly the happiest.

As long as Princess Yijia returns, he can be cured of the poison in his body.

Holding the Noble Consort in excitement, he spoke with more energy, "Send someone to receive, to receive Princess Yijia and the Commandery Princess!"

He had collaborated with the Crown Prince of the Great Zhou Kingdom in the past but later regretted it.

Especially after being poisoned.

As for the poison, the Emperor suspected it might have been Chu Yu's doing, although there was no evidence. Later, Chu Yu went looking for someone and rarely returned to the Capital City throughout the year. He took the opportunity to lay defenses, determined to eliminate Chu Yu upon his return, at any cost.

Regarding Princess Yijia not entering the palace as a consort, he still had several sons. The fifth, sixth, and seventh Princes were all of suitable age, even the ninth Prince, who was three years younger, would do. A woman three years older is like a golden treasure; he definitely couldn't let Chu Yu marry her!

This is also why he hadn't let his sons marry yet.

Especially the fifth Prince...

Among these sons, he was most satisfied with the youngest fifth.

Noble Consort Le smiled, "Since His Majesty favors Princess Yijia and the Commandery Princess so much, why don't I organize a palace banquet and invite them to the palace?"

"You're right, my dear. You handle it. Invite the young ladies and gentlemen from various families too, so they can also get to know each other!"

"Yes!"

The Noble Consort responded joyfully.

This way, she wouldn't have to attend to the Emperor, and she would have more free time.

"Then I shall take my leave!"

"Hmm!"

The Emperor's health was not good, and even a slight movement tired him. He hadn't favored any concubine in the harem for a long time.

Even Noble Consort Le remained plain.

He called over Eunuch Hai, "How is the investigation going?"

"Reporting to Your Majesty, aside from the patrolling Imperial Guards, no man has entered the harem. However, those guards are always in groups of fifteen, with no chance to leave individually, nor any opportunity to enter the harem!"

Chapter 1033: Zhu Yan Goes Online

The Emperor nodded slightly upon hearing this, "Keep a close watch on the inner palace; don't let those concubines have any chances to fraternize with the guards!"

He absolutely would not allow himself to be cuckolded.

"Yes!" Eunuch Hai responded cautiously.

The news that the Grand Princess had recovered and was returning to the capital with Princess Yijia quickly spread.

Upon hearing this, Dai Hanmi immediately arranged to meet Hu Shuiling and Chen Danyan.

The four close sisters, two had already been married off, and both had married well. Dai Hanmi was genuinely happy for them.

Now that Jinnian had returned safely, Dai Hanmi was overjoyed.

Hu Shuiling was still simple in her sisterly affections, but things were a bit more complicated with Chen Danyan.

She had married Feng Wushuang under everyone's gaze, yet during the mourning period, they hadn't consummated the marriage.

She learned bit by bit that Feng Wushuang's heart was set on Jinnian; marrying her was a formality and to comfort his mother-in-law.

He respected her greatly, but it was only respect, not love.

And she had once had feelings for someone else, but due to certain events, she had forgotten him, never seeing or mentioning him again.

The more she spent time with Feng Wushuang, the more moved she became...

Now that Jinnian was returning, what should she do?

Should she invite Jinnian over as a guest in the future? What if Feng Wushuang encounters her?

"Danyan, what's wrong? I've called you several times and you didn't respond!" Hu Shuiling nudged Chen Danyan, smiling, "Is it because you're too happy that Jinnian is coming back!"

Chen Danyan nodded with a smile.

Dai Hanmi, vaguely aware of Feng Wushuang's thoughts, naturally understood why Chen Danyan was distracted, and said with a smile, "Then another day, let's arrange to meet at Huiquan Tower, or go to Jinnian's Commandery Princess Residence, going to the Han Family would work too, what do you all think?"

Hu Shuiling nodded.

Chen Danyan gave Dai Hanmi a grateful smile.

Dai Hanmi also smiled, but her smile slowly faded as she thought of her third brother who still had no news from home.

When would her third brother return?

On the way to the capital, three indigo cloth carriages traveled leisurely, stopping by a small creek.

A middle-aged couple got down from one of the carriages, followed by two girls about thirteen or fourteen from another.

One was lively, the other serene.

"Mother, how long before we arrive at Great Aunt's house?" the lively one asked, pulling on the woman's hand.

"A few more days, I suppose. It's also my first time traveling," the woman replied, looking toward her husband, "Husband, how many more days do you think?"

"Probably half a month; we're traveling slowly, so maybe around twenty days!"

The woman nodded, her expression turning unpleasant as she watched her stepdaughter washing her face by the creek.

She couldn't understand why her husband brought this jinx along.

Not only was she beautiful, but she was also filled with malice, not liked by anyone.

Zhu Yan squatted by the creek, washing her face, a smile curling at her lips as she looked at her reflection in the water.

She didn't know why she had come alive again, and still before entering the capital.

But she was excited.

Because she had been reborn and knew so many things.

Regarding Chu Liange, she remained determined to win at any cost.

In her past life, she had defeated Yun Jinnian, but never expected that brat to be so ruthless, growing up to be so malicious, not only harming her children but forcing her to eat their flesh.

In this life, she would definitely crush that brat, giving him no chance to grow up.

As for Yun Jinnian, who was familiar with everything Chu Liange loved, let her just die early.

A stone splashed into the water in front of her, sending up countless sprays that soaked her skirt.

As expected, it was her legitimate sister, Zhu Yue, who was now laughing uncontrollably, self-satisfied after pranking her.

A gentleman's revenge, even after ten years, is not too late. Once she became the Empress, Zhu Yue would have no place left to die!

Chapter 1034: Ruthless and Vicious (Part 1)

The undercurrents in the Capital City were turbulent, but Han Jinnian didn't know; she happily spent her days playing around, eating well, drinking well, sleeping well, and seriously taking care of her health.

Throughout the journey, she also understood clearly that although there seemed to be only a few dozen people, there were definitely more hidden in the shadows. The caravans in front and behind were actually there to secretly protect them.

Furthermore, she realized she was the only one in the group who didn't know martial arts. She pestered Chu Yu to teach her a few moves, resulting in a sore waist and back, and she nearly fainted from being drenched in sweat, causing Chu Yu to get punched hard by Tianci. Ever since then, she dared not learn, and Chu Yu dared not teach.

She also wondered if Chu Yu and his companions might be bad people. But looking at Chu Yu's gentle and indulgent smile, and Tianci's wholehearted admiration and unconditional protection, she could no longer harbor suspicions. She contentedly became a silk-stock, and over a period of time, she actually gained some weight.

The lean little face even had some flesh now.

Up ahead was a county town, and upon reaching it, they were closer to the Capital City.

"We will rest here tonight and continue the journey tomorrow!" Chu Yu gave the order and, turning around, saw Jinnian and Tianci chatting and laughing. He didn't know what Tianci said to make Jinnian laugh out loud.

Chu Yu watched, smiled, and turned to give instructions for other matters.

Luoyi and Luo'er quickly went to make arrangements.

Especially the inn, they had to book it entirely, and naturally, it needed to be cleared out.

Very soon, those staying at the inn were asked to leave. Zhu Yan, looking down and modest, followed behind, while Zhu Yue held her mother's arm, looking miserable.

"Having money is so great, huh? How can they just kick us out like this? Hmph, when we get to the Capital City, I will..." Zhu Yue suddenly silenced herself.

There truly was such a handsome man in the world, dressed in black, tall and imposing.

Zhu Yue tried hard to find words to describe the man.

Clear and refined, dashing and elegant, with the looks of a Banished Fairy, graceful and charming, heroic and vigorous...

Yet it seemed none could fully depict that young man standing proudly in black.

Zhu Yan also looked up and was immediately scared into a sweat, hurriedly lowering her head, not daring to look again.

Prince Chu Yu?

Why would he be here?

It's known that the little one can grow up safely in the future because of Prince Chu Yu's great contribution. Everyone said Prince Chu Yu harbored disloyalty, but who knew his disloyalty was all directed at the Emperor, while he protected that little Chu Mo flawlessly.

She never dreamt she'd meet him under such circumstances and with such a disparity in status.

Chu Yu only gave the Zhu family a brief glance before turning to walk towards Han Jinnian and Tianci.

"Haha, Brother Chu, listen to Tianci's joke, it really killed me with laughter!" Han Jinnian laughed joyfully.

Following Chu Yu closely, chatting away without any hint of propriety.

It was this laughter that made Zhu Yan raise her head again.

She immediately stared wide-eyed as if she'd seen a ghost.

Yun Jinnian...

Her?

Wasn't she supposed to be married to the Fifth Prince by now? Why was she here?

Why was she with Prince Chu Yu? And who was that handsome and tall young man beside her?

Jinnian also sensed Zhu Yan's gaze, looked at Zhu Yan with displeasure, glared at her, then made a face at her and turned to follow Chu Yu into the inn.

She whispered something in Chu Yu's ear, making Chu Yu pat her head.

She...

Was she really Yun Jinnian?

If she was, why did she have such a personality, so wilful and disrespectful?

But if she wasn't Yun Jinnian, could there be such a similar person in the world?

No, this was not Yun Jinnian. Although the appearance was somewhat similar, Yun Jinnian was timid and weak, simply a cowardly fool, uniquely stupid.

She was not the Yun Jinnian.

Chapter 1035: A Nightmare

Inside the inn

Han Jinnian lay slumped on the soft couch, "Hemei!"

"I'm here, my lady!"

"Go check on that family we first encountered outside the inn. I find them very annoying, especially that little girl in blue clothes, she's particularly irritating!"

"Yes!"

Hemei responded and left.

Han Jinnian felt a bit tired, so she lay down on the soft couch with her eyes closed to rest.

Hemei brought a thin blanket to cover her, standing by her side to watch over her.

Zhu Yan's family found another inn to stay in, Zhu Yue was preoccupied with the noble gentleman she saw earlier, feeling somewhat lightheaded.

"Zhu Yan, did you see that young master in black earlier?"

Zhu Yan nodded.

"Is he good-looking or not?"

Zhu Yan nodded again.

Zhu Yue instantly became shy, and added, "Then tell me, am I good-looking?"

Upon hearing this, Zhu Yan looked at Zhu Yue.

Zhu Yue was quite pretty, very charming, but she couldn't compare to her, let alone the stunning beauty beside King Birui.

"Good-looking!"

Zhu Yue smiled, "Then tell me, if I go find that gentleman, will he befriend me?"

Befriend?

Given King Birui's nature, if Zhu Yue throws herself at him, there's only one outcome: death.

But if Zhu Yue wants to throw herself to death, she would certainly let her do so.

"Yes, sister, you are so beautiful!"

Zhu Yue looked at Zhu Yan.

Though not very smart, she knew her own worth.

If Zhu Yan said so, there must be some ulterior motive.

"Zhu Yan!"

"..."

"You say we are sisters, even though I'm legitimate and you're not, but I treated you well when we were young. Why have you changed so much after falling ill? Tell me, did you hide something from our parents?"

Zhu Yan's face turned cold, her eyes filled with malice as she lowered her eyelids, but when she raised her eyes, she appeared gentle, "What's sister talking about? I'm still me, only I've grown up and have some thoughts now!"

"Is that so?" Zhu Yue was skeptical.

But Zhu Yan showed no flaw, Zhu Yue snorted coldly and sat in a daze.

Yet Zhu Yan was thinking about how to get rid of Zhu Yue, as she had been with her the longest and knew too much.

But it was impossible to do on the way.

Once they reached the Capital City, the Yun Family had plenty of fools!

After dinner, Han Jinnian, Chu Yu, and Han Tianci started a game of leaf cards. Although Han Jinnian had lost her memory, she retained her intelligence, so she played each step with clarity. Tianci was young but also very clever, and Chu Yu was cunningly astute.

While others played three rounds, they only played one, calculating every step meticulously.

Fazun looked over, shook his head, and walked away.

At the end of the game, the wins and losses were minor, but everyone playing had aching heads.

"Ha..." Han Jinnian elegantly yawned.

"Let's sleep early; tomorrow morning we'll meet up with Aunt and head back to the Capital City together!"

"Yes!"

Falling onto the bed, something flashed through Han Jinnian's mind, but she couldn't grasp it in time.

After drinking a bowl of calming herbal soup, she finally fell into a deep sleep.

"Mother..."

"Empress Mother!"

"Jinnian..."

"Ah haha, you bitch, you think you can beat me? You're dreaming!"

"Tell me, why do you treat me like this? In what way have I wronged you? Bestowed you with the highest honor, yet you treat me like this, Yun Jinnian, you bitch!"

"Kill her, kill her..."

"Sister, I'm here to take you away, to take you out of here. Sister, let's go, I'm your brother!"

"Sister, remember my name, I'm Han Tianci..."

In a fragmented dream, she only remembered Tianci collapsing in her arms, bleeding all over, calling her sister, and telling her his name!

Chapter 1036: Inquiring about the Past

Jinnian suddenly sat up, drenched in sweat, as if she had been fished out of water.

"Miss, what's wrong? Did you have a nightmare?" Hemei softly called.

Han Jinnian looked at Hemei, holding her hand, "Hemei, what kind of person was I before?"

Hemei was puzzled, thought for a moment and then said, "When I started following Miss, you were already twelve years old. The things before you were twelve, I know some of, but not much. His

Highness the Prince Ruyi knows more, but it's all superficial. The one who really lived with you for many years is the wet nurse; she knows more!"

Hemei sat down at the bedside, "Miss, your clothes are all soaked through. Let's change your clothes first, and then I will slowly tell you, alright?"

"Okay!"

Casually washed, Jinnian sat by the window, letting the cool breeze blow.

Hemei didn't persuade her, just took a thicker piece of clothing and draped it over Jinnian's shoulders.

"When I first started following Miss, you always had nightmares at night, often waking up crying. It's just that Miss rarely told me. Even the wet nurse didn't know. You kept it all to yourself!"

"Miss is a good person, kind-hearted, erudite, and excellent in medical skills, helping many poor people!"

"In my heart, Miss is a good master, never hitting or scolding us servants. You haven't even said a harsh word. Even if we said something wrong, you'd only gently correct us, and provided us with good food and clothing, taught us martial arts, literacy. Shameless to say, but many noble young ladies outside don't live as well as we do!"

Han Jinnian heard this and smiled gently.

"I never thought I was this good!"

She couldn't remember things from long ago, but she recalled the events in the Marquis Residence of the Great Zhou Kingdom and at the border town.

Even memories of being drugged in a daze started to surface.

It turns out, at that time, she was suspicious, so when Chu Yu appeared, those people were afraid and took the opportunity to drug her, making her forget everything once again.

"Hemei, what kind of person is His Highness the Prince Ruyi?"

"His Highness is genuinely sincere to Miss. When Miss went missing, everyone thought His Highness would go mad, but he didn't. He calmly issued orders one after another. Many thought he didn't care, but within a few days, white hair appeared at his temples..."

As Hemei spoke, she suddenly fell silent, exclaiming, "Miss, you're crying!"

Jinnian reached out to touch her face, wet and burning. "I didn't cry before?"

"Hmm, for a period, no matter how sad Miss was, you just had red-rimmed eyes, and wouldn't shed a tear!"

"Then I must have cried often in the past!" Jinnian said, with a gentle and soft smile.

"The wet nurse also said so, said that you were too aggrieved as a child, and cried all your tears dry..." Hemei said, kneeling down to look up at Jinnian, "Miss, it's my fault. I didn't take good care of you. That night, if I hadn't been careless, if I hadn't been so conceited, you wouldn't have been in trouble. It's my fault!"

Hemei said, bursting into tears.

Jinnian was briefly surprised, then smiled and took a handkerchief to wipe Hemei's tears, "I don't blame you!"

"Miss..."

"Well, life is never smooth sailing. It was fate and timing. When others painstakingly set a trap, they're bound to gain some rewards. Stand up and tell me about the Capital City, so I won't be completely in the dark when I return!"

Chapter 1037: Finally Returning to the Capital

Hemei nodded in agreement, got up and wiped her face haphazardly before saying seriously, "This time, with the young lady being abducted by that big scoundrel Zhou Yunshen, these people were involved..."

Listening to Hemei's fragmented words, Jinnian remained silent for a long time before saying, "So this is what is called family, it really opened my eyes!"

"So when the young lady returns, don't be soft-hearted, these people should have been dealt with long ago!"

"Mm!"

At the end of March, she reunited with the State-Stabilizing Princess.

The State-Stabilizing Princess looked at Jinnian who had lost weight but grown taller, her eyes slightly reddened, "Come here, let me take a good look at you!"

Over the past year, her eyesight had worsened.

Fortunately, her mind was still clear, and she could hold out for a few years, but how many, she didn't know, yet hoped that during these years, Ayu could handle everything well.

Jinnian stepped forward and sat beside the State-Stabilizing Princess, "Princess!"

"Good child, you've suffered grievances, it's all Ayu's fault for not taking care of you well. Once we return, I'll teach him a lesson for you!"

"Alright!"

Although she couldn't remember the past, there was some familiar feeling of bygone times, and little estrangement. Moreover, she liked the old lady, and with the State-Stabilizing Princess, Jinnian stayed by her side on the way back, amusing the old lady.

"We'll reach the Capital City in early April. By then, let Ayu send you back to the Han Family first, I'll also rest at the Princess Residence for a few days, then invite you over as a guest. Your sister Mingming will also be settling in the Capital City!"

"..."

Sister Mingming?

The State-Stabilizing Princess saw Jinnian tilting her head in thought and laughed, "This child has a tough fate, yet also good fortune!"

The entrusted ones weren't to be relied on, but she audaciously chose her own husband, which turned out quite well.

Originally thought this person would rely on Mingming to navigate officialdom, but unexpectedly, he ventured into business, was honest and straightforward, without relying on the power from the Princess Residence, wholeheartedly making a living with small trades.

Seeing Mingming's letter saying her dowry had long been packed and locked in a storeroom, now their food and clothing were all earned by him.

Now divided from the original family, once the child is born, they won't be returning anymore.

Jinnian nodded, "That's indeed quite fortunate!"

"Yes, quite fortunate!" the State-Stabilizing Princess sighed as well.

On the day they arrived in the Capital City, the sky was overcast. Chu Yu accompanied Han Tianci and Han Jinnian back to the Han Family, where Han Xuzi and Mrs. Han had already been waiting in the hall for a long time.

"Master, Aunt, the young lady and young master are back, they're back!" a young servant quickly ran inside.

Mrs. Han immediately had reddened eyes, quickly stood up and asked, "Where are they now?"

"They've entered the city, will be here soon!"

Mrs. Han nodded happily, "Quickly go keep watching, hurry!"

"Yes!"

The young servant acknowledged and ran out swiftly again.

Mrs. Han looked at Han Xuzi, "Father!"

"Let's go, we'll meet them at the gate!"

In this lifetime, he had just one daughter, one granddaughter, no, now a true granddaughter. She was Han Jinnian, part of the Han Family, a grandson, and together they made a family of four.

He was accustomed to being carefree, without much regard for age hierarchy.

Now that his precious granddaughter returned after suffering, there was nothing wrong in meeting her at the gate.

Before the father and son reached the gate, they heard the neighing of horses, as a carriage came to a stop.

Seeing the person who stepped out of the carriage, Mrs. Han cried out sorrowfully, "Jinnian!" She rushed forward, wrapping her arms around her, immediately bursting into tears, "Oh my child..."

Chapter 1038: A Sense of Familiarity

A cry of "my child" tugged at Jinnian's heart at once.

Mrs. Han's scalding tears fell on her hand, and her heart seemed to heat up too.

In that moment, she believed this was her real mother, a feeling different from Mrs. Xu's.

Mrs. Xu treated her well, but there was less sincerity and more precaution.

"Mother?"

She softly whispered.

She thought it would be difficult to call out, but it wasn't as hard as she had imagined.

Mrs. Han heard her and cried even more sorrowfully.

Han Xuzi's eyes also reddened, and he merely said heavily, "It's good to be back, it's good to be back!"

Chu Yu remained silent.

Han Tianci took a deep breath, "Mother, sister's health is not good, let's go inside before talking!"

"Alright, alright!"

The family entered through the main gate and sat down in the hall. Mrs. Han carefully examined Jinnian, "You've lost weight!"

Jinnian smiled, "I was even thinner before; I've gained quite a bit these days. It's just that sometimes the food outside doesn't suit my taste, otherwise I would have gained more!"

"Mother will cook for you every day from now on!"

What was supposed to be unfamiliar quickly turned into a warm feeling for Jinnian.

Her mother was gentle, and as she smiled, her eyes would redden. Her grandfather was kind-hearted, didn't say much, just looked at her with a smile.

Even the usually rowdy Chu Yu and Tianci sat quietly drinking tea.

"Alright, mother will take you to see the courtyard. If there's anything you don't like, we'll change it!" Mrs. Han said, looking warmly at Chu Yu, "Your Highness, please stay for lunch!"

"Yes, Auntie!" Chu Yu replied respectfully.

Chaoyang Academy

Han Jinnian looked at the courtyard, lost in thought for a moment.

Mrs. Han observed, "The characters were written by your grandfather, hoping you can be as warm and gentle as them. Look inside, there's not much difference since you left, just a thorough cleaning. Your favorite books are all on the shelf, and even the nest of that chubby cat Tuanzi is still the one you made with your own hands!"

"Tuanzi?" Jinnian asked softly.

"Meow!"

A snow-white cat walked over slowly, looked at Jinnian, as if it remembered its owner, and meowed incessantly, rubbing vigorously against Jinnian's legs.

Jinnian squatted down to hug it.

It's a bit heavy.

"It's indeed quite chubby!"

"It was thinner at first, but later it became extremely chubby, eating too much!" Mrs. Han said, fearing she might say too much and Jinnian wouldn't like it, "Alright, you freshen up a bit, I'll check the kitchen, and call you when the meal is ready!"

"Alright!"

Watching Mrs. Han leave, Jinnian looked for a while before putting Tuanzi on the ground.

Tuanzi clung to her, following her around.

Jinnian picked up a book, it was a Medical Book, with markings, the handwriting neat, somewhat like hers but not quite.

Yet it exuded authenticity everywhere.

At least there was a trace that she once lived here, even some ornaments were worn smooth from touch, and some even had a missing corner.

"Tuanzi, come here!" Jinnian called.

"Meow!" Tuanzi meowed, came to Jinnian's side, wagging its tail, happily rubbing against Jinnian.

Clearly familiar and recognized.

She hugged the cat in her arms and entered the bedroom, with an elegantly cool green mosquito net, sheets, and quilt covers, all things she liked.

Xiaoxiao lay on the bed, reached under the pillow and found a pouch.

"Oh?"

Curious, Jinnian opened it to find a small cauldron with a few chubby worms inside, looking quite cute.

"Miss!" Hemei entered the room, whispered, and handed a flower to Jinnian.

"What kind of flower is this?"

"Azalea!"

Jinnian nodded, reached out to take it, "It's quite beautiful, find a vase for it!"

"How about that Twin-Eared White Jade Vase?"

Jinnian had no memory of it, nodded in agreement.

Just as this was done, Mrs. Han cheerfully came over, "Jinnian, lunch is ready, let's go!"

Chapter 1039: Just Asking

Mrs. Han stood at the door, rubbing her hands together.

Jinnian thought for a moment, then stepped forward and held Mrs. Han's hand, "Although I have forgotten, I can feel your goodness to me. Give me time, I will remember!"

Mrs. Han's eyes immediately reddened, she nodded slightly, "Mm, Mother believes you!"

Hand in hand, the mother and daughter walked along, and Mrs. Han explained to Yun Jinnian everywhere they passed, describing what was found over there.

But this Han Family, mostly, is filled with medicinal herbs.

"Are there many planted?"

"Yes, apart from the few main courtyards, all other courtyards are planted with medicinal herbs. Once you are rested, Mother will take you around to see!"

"Okay!"

Jinnian looked at the decorations at home, everywhere was dominated by medicinal herbs, all carrying the scent of herbs, yet she couldn't recall the names of these herbs or how to use them.

"If you can't remember, don't force it. It's more important that you've returned safely. Jinnian, you are the eldest daughter of the Han Family, those past unpleasant moments, forget them if you wish!" Mrs. Han gently whispered.

She didn't want Jinnian to be stuck on the past.

Those days before were so bitter, if forgotten, let it be.

"Mm!"

Jinnian liked such days, warm and peaceful.

During lunch, Yun Bi also joined them.

Yun Bi looked at Jinnian, smiling kindly, but his eyes reddened several times as he drank a few more cups of sulking wine.

The dishes were light and very much to her taste, Jinnian couldn't help but eat a bit too much,

and also drank a small cup of peach blossom brew, feeling a bit dizzy.

"Someone, escort the Miss back to her room!" Mrs. Han smiled gently.

Hemei and Huan immediately stepped forward, supporting Jinnian as they walked outside. After taking a few steps, Jinnian looked back at Chu Yu and asked, "Are you leaving?"

"Yes, returning to the Wang Residence!"

"Oh!"

Jinnian responded and walked on.

Chu Yu felt slightly disappointed.

He looked at the departing Jinnian with a bitter smile.

Yun Bi raised his hand and patted Chu Yu's shoulder, "Go back, if you truly like our Jinnian, you must come properly and openly!"

"Thank you, Third Uncle!"

Chu Yu got up and first went to the Princess Residence of the Grand Princess of the State, then returned to the Wang Residence.

As soon as he entered the Wang Residence, a little chubby child came running clumsily, "Uncle!" His childlike voice was tender and soft.

"Junjun!" Chu Yu embraced the child, lifted him high and spun him around.

This child used to never smile, but now he calls out for Uncle.

"Uncle, Mother is behind!"

Princess Jinfeng came smiling, "Junjun knew his brother returned, and ran so fast I couldn't catch up!"

This year during spring, Princess Jinfeng submitted a letter promising never to marry and to adopt Chu Yu's illegitimate son as her legitimate son.

The Emperor initially wasn't agreeable, but Princess Jinfeng produced the decree given to her by the late Emperor, which was empty except for an allowance for matters concerning Princess Jinfeng. She could write anything, and no one could block it.

The Emperor didn't really care whether Princess Jinfeng married or not, stopping her was just for appearances.

The Emperor knew Princess Jinfeng had more than just this decree from the late Emperor; there were several, and the use of each means one fewer.

So, in the end, Princess Jinfeng succeeded.

Nuannuan was renamed Chu Jun.

He became Princess Jinfeng's legitimate first son.

"Little guy has gotten heavier again!"

"Hee hee hee!"

Chu Jun laughed, and seeing Mrs. Yuan walking towards them not far away, he called out joyfully, "Nanny!"

"Young Master!" Mrs. Yuan called out, then looked at Chu Yu, "Your Highness, have you found the Miss?"

"Mm!" Chu Yu nodded.

Mrs. Yuan immediately burst into tears, "Finally found her, is the Miss well?"

"She has returned to the Capital City, now staying with the Han Family, but she has amnesia and doesn't remember the past!"

"Has no memory..." Mrs. Yuan murmured, after a moment she said, "I need to visit!"

Yet she couldn't bear to leave Junjun.

Princess Jinfeng quickly said, "Nanny, let Junjun go with you, I'll have a carriage prepared for you both!"

Chapter 1040: The Emperor's Scheming

Mrs. Yuan returned to the Han Residence with Chu Jun, and upon seeing Jinnian, Mrs. Yuan burst into tears.

She cried sorrowfully.

Jinnian, watching her, felt a headache but still handed her a handkerchief, "Stop crying!"

"Wuwu, I didn't take good care of the young lady!"

Jinnian looked at her and sighed, "I don't blame you, so stop crying!"

"Really?" Mrs. Yuan asked softly.

Still feeling immensely guilty in her heart.

"Really!" Jinnian nodded affirmatively.

Then she teased the child Chu Jun, who was being held by a maid. She found this child particularly adorable, and Chu Jun was not shy; in fact, he liked Jinnian very much.

He laughed heartily as Jinnian teased him.

Han Family was filled with joy because of Jinnian's return.

At this moment, the Emperor sent someone with an Imperial Decree, summoning Jinnian to enter the palace to meet the Emperor tomorrow.

"Enter the palace?"

Jinnian was surprised but still went to the front hall to receive the decree.

Eunuch Hai looked at Jinnian, "The Emperor instructed before he left that the Commandery Princess does not need to kneel to receive the decree."

"Yes!"

Jinnian responded but didn't even bow.

Eunuch Hai was taken aback for a moment, handed the Imperial Decree to Jinnian, and when Jinnian took it and opened it, she remarked, "So this is what the Imperial Decree looks like!"

"..."

Han Xuzi did not even attend to Eunuch Hai and simply saw the guest out.

Eunuch Hai quickly returned to the palace; the Emperor, seeing him return, hurriedly asked, "How did it go?"

"Reporting to Your Majesty, it seems that Princess Yijia truly remembers nothing!" Eunuch Hai said, glanced at the Emperor, and seeing the Emperor silent, continued, "When receiving the decree, she didn't even bow and even said that the decree looks like this!"

The Emperor was silent.

He knew that Zhou Yunshen would drug Han Jinnian; even when the drug was being prepared, he added his own effort.

Now, it seems fine that Han Jinnian has forgotten everything. But if she has also forgotten her medical skills, what can he do?

Thinking of this, the Emperor felt very displeased.

Considering the fact that Noble Consort Le didn't visit today, the Emperor thought perhaps he should go see her.

"Let's go, let's check on Noble Consort Le!"

Eunuch Hai responded.

Followed behind, heading to Noble Consort Le's palace.

Noble Consort Le had just returned to the palace after mingling with Lan Yichen, bathed, changed, and was about to rest but learned that the Emperor had come over.

She was so frightened that she almost went limp.

Luckily, she wasn't still mingling with Lan Yichen. Had she returned a moment later and been discovered by the Emperor, it would have been over.

"Your Majesty..." Noble Consort Le called out softly, slowly going to meet him.

The Emperor saw Noble Consort Le wearing thin clothing, her body damp, and asked with concern, "Did you just bathe?"

"Yes, my body felt a bit unwell, so I bathed and was preparing to go to Your Majesty's place, but who would have thought you'd come first. Don't you think, Your Majesty, that we are in sync?" Noble Consort Le said while leaning into the Emperor's embrace.

Tender and charming, attentive.

The Emperor favored Noble Consort Le most, having genuine feelings for her, unlike with those other concubines in the harem. He even gifted Noble Consort Le an estate and farmland outside the palace.

And moved countless treasures and wealth there.

Despite the national treasury being empty and disasters arising everywhere within Tianchu Country, with the common people displaced, living in dire straits.

Discontent among the people was overwhelming; the young princes, with limited funds in hand, dared not make any move, and many places were spreading rumors that the former Emperor was poisoned to death by the current Emperor, as was the Empress Dowager and even the Empress.

Some even said that the throne was meant for Prince Rui, Chu Yu, but it was forcibly seized by the current Emperor; the former Emperor had left a secret decree.

The generals loyal to the former Emperor have already sent people to investigate, and once evidence is conclusive and the secret decree is found, there will undoubtedly be chaos within Tianchu Country.

Chu Yu has already given orders to stockpile grain and silver.

He is not afraid of chaos within Tianchu Country, nor is he afraid of Great Zhou Kingdom attacking.

These matters the Emperor did not realize, still immersed in his tender dreams...