

Indulgence 1041

Chapter 1041: Bribery Inquiry (Part 2)

Regarding entering the palace, Jinnian had no thoughts, but Mrs. Han was somewhat worried and wanted to say something, but Han Xuze stopped her.

"Let everything follow fate; nowadays, the Emperor won't harm Jinnian!"

He would only find ways to make Jinnian recall the poison within him; apart from Jinnian, no one else can cure it.

If only for his own sake, the Emperor wouldn't do anything to Jinnian.

While worrying, Mrs. Han also felt her father's words made sense.

After a tiring journey, it's ultimately not as good as being at home, especially with the house full of familiar feelings, even the maids serving with warmth, Jinnian rested when tired.

Yun Family

People from the Yun Matriarch's maiden family arrived, including her nephew and niece-in-law, and their two children. It's said that several sons will come later, as there are more visitors, given this year marks Yun Matriarch's grand birthday celebration.

The visitors on that side seemed more intimate.

Yun Matriarch looked at her nephew and niece-in-law and started to cry.

Mrs. He had to offer some comfort.

Zhu Yan looked around, feeling many differences.

For example, Yun Matriarch's room appeared not as luxurious as before, with scarce good things, Xu Xinmo stood aside with a face full of discontent, seemingly very unhappy, and the cousins were also different from past lives.

Even the household maids, she recognized only a few.

In the previous life, Ming Liu was married off, but now she's the concubine of the eldest uncle...

Where is Yun Jinnian?

Why is no one mentioning her? According to logic, she should have married the Fifth Prince as a concubine, even if she wasn't favored during childhood, things should be different now.

Moreover, the previous life status of the eldest uncle wasn't as high as it is now, with the third uncle appointed as Prime Minister.

And till now, no one mentions the third uncle?

There are truly many unusual circumstances, yet Zhu Yan dared not ask more, only obediently sitting as Yun Mulan and Yun Musi did not quite interact with her, speaking happily with Zhu Yue.

Xu Xinmo occasionally spoke a few words while sitting beside them.

At Xu Xinmo's age, she should have returned to Xu Family, but she still lived in Yun Family, indicating that Xu Family likely no longer wanted her.

Suddenly, Zhu Yan recalled that several elders of Xu Family seemed to be officials elsewhere, not holding any significant positions, so even the old lady had followed them out. Xu Family now might just have a few servants left, probably already empty!

Thinking of this, Zhu Yan glanced at Xu Xinmo.

She saw Xu Xinmo pressing her lips tightly, full of resentment, understood her feelings.

But still found the current Yun Residence quite confusing.

It seemed necessary to find someone to inquire in detail tonight.

In the evening, there was a welcoming banquet, and Yun Matriarch was very delighted, warmly inviting Zhu Yan's family to eat at a big table full of dishes.

She was especially affectionate towards Zhu Yan and Zhu Yue.

"Make proper arrangements for them, ensure these two little darlings aren't aggrieved!"

Zhu Yan and Zhu Yue, the sisters, shared a courtyard, but Zhu Yue went to sleep with Yun Musi and Yun Mulan, leaving Zhu Yan alone in the courtyard, watched over by well-experienced maids and matrons.

Zhu Yan dismissed all but one matron, who was very appropriately dressed, then handed her a purse.

"This..." the matron hesitated.

What does the young mistress mean?

"I don't need you to do anything, just want to inquire about the situations in this residence to avoid many detours and taboos. Just share what you know!"

The matron looked at the purse, bulging, containing at least several dozen taels.

The residence seemed prosperous, but in reality, madam had been rewarding servants rarely.

After hesitating for a moment, she reached out to accept it.

"What does the young mistress wish to know?"

Chapter 1042: Fundamental Differences

Zhu Yan thought for a moment before saying, "Who are the masters in this residence?"

This question was not difficult to answer.

"To reply to Miss Biao, there is the old Madam, the Master, the Madam, the eldest young master, the second young master, the third young master and the three young mistresses, the second young lady, the third young lady, and Miss Biao, no other masters are there!"

Just a few of them?

Zhu Yan pondered for a moment, "What about the second and third uncles?"

"To reply to Miss Biao, there are no second or third Masters in the residence anymore. Both of them have disassociated from the Yun Family, and henceforth will have no contact. Even the second lady has separated from the second Master and returned to the Han Family with the former fourth young lady!" The old woman said, leaning towards Zhu Yan, "Miss Biao, you must never mention the second or third Masters, the old Madam does not like it!"

"Why?"

The old woman weighed the silver in her hand, feeling it was quite considerable, and then whispered, "The former fourth young lady, now Princess Yijia, the old Madam never liked her, and through these years has not been sparing in her mistreatment. Now, Princess Yijia has become the eldest young lady of the Han Family and has no more connections to the Yun Family. Moreover, Princess Yijia is very wealthy, owning several large residences, not to mention her rewards. In this Capital City, there's no young lady richer than Princess Yijia!"

"Is she married?"

"Not yet, it's said she left with the Commandery Princess, and then again heard she's back in the Capital City!"

"..."

No, it's not like this.

After turning fifteen, Yun Jinnian married the Fifth Prince. Now, at sixteen, she is the Fifth Prince's consort, and for the old Madam's grand birthday, she returned as the Fifth Prince's consort to attend the banquet, where she also first met the Fifth Prince.

That elegant, graceful, and charming Fifth Prince.

She was a modern woman from society, and naturally had ways to win the heart of an ancient man.

Especially being able to outshine Yun Jinnian.

Except in terms of appearance.

But now, things seem different.

From the moment she entered the Capital City, everything was different; Yun Jinnian did not marry the Fifth Prince, but became the eldest young lady of the Han Family and was even conferred as Commandery Princess.

To this day, she has not married, much less become the Fifth Prince's wife.

Does that mean she has a chance to become the rightful wife and not the lowly concubine...

Thinking of this, Zhu Yan felt her entire body heat up.

She waved her hand to signal the old woman to leave; the old woman, having received the silver, happily withdrew and upon returning to her own hut, counted a total of fifty-five taels, feeling even more delighted.

She needed to save more silver to buy her family's freedom; this Yun Residence always gave her a sense of foreboding...

Xu Xinmo smashed the cup in her hand, feeling it wasn't enough to vent her anger, she smashed two more, and even the teapot, before feeling somewhat relieved.

Her coming-of-age at fifteen was a joke, a joke of the entire Capital City, with not one of her family's matriarch, father, uncles, or aunts in attendance, nor did they send any token of recognition, let alone consider that the entire Xu Family had relocated to officialdom outside the city, departing without informing her at all.

Though her grandmother still doted on her, wanting for anything was no longer as convenient as before.

Mrs. Jin mysteriously disappeared without a trace, and from time to time, she felt intensely itchy, unable to scratch the right spot, and even after consulting the Imperial Physician, no solution was found, so the eldest uncle did not request the Imperial Physician again.

"Ah..."

Xu Xinmo let out a sharp scream, wildly agitated.

Yet she didn't know how to resolve it, Daidai, watching from the side, was anxious, but dared not speak up.

"Daidai, come here!"

Daidai hurried forward at her call, "Miss!"

"Let me ask you, did Yun Jinnian really return?" Xu Xinmo asked, with intense envy and jealousy in her eyes.

When Yun Jinnian came of age, many people sent gifts, whereas for her coming of age, despite sending numerous invitations, only a few responded.

Chapter 1043: Ignorance

"Miss, she's really back!"

Xu Xinmo paced back and forth in the room, and after a long while, she said, "Go and make arrangements. I want to see her!"

Yun Jinnian has a gentle nature. If she cries a bit, she might lend her a hand, right?

Daidai had no choice but to nod and leave.

That night, Jinnian slept extremely well, almost immediately falling asleep, feeling that every corner of the courtyard was incredibly comfortable. Even Tuanzi, when she held it in her arms to sleep, felt soft and extremely peaceful.

The more she thought of some matters at the border town of the Great Zhou Kingdom and the Marquis Residence, the more Jinnian believed that this was her home.

Although she couldn't remember any of it.

When the morning sun shone, Jinnian yawned and got out of bed, and immediately, Hemei and Henuan came forward to assist her in washing up.

In a daze, Jinnian remembered something and asked, "Do I have two maids by my side?"

Hemei's eyes reddened immediately, "Miss, indeed you do. However, Madam arranged for Sister Ru Yue and Sister Jiayu to be married off!"

"Really?"

"Yes, and they're married quite well, both to scholar officials. They'll be able to return in a few years!"

Jinnian nodded to show she understood.

Today, when entering the palace, Mrs. Han wanted Jinnian to wear the Commandery Princess's attire, but Jinnian refused, claiming she remembered nothing.

After breakfast, she prepared to enter the palace with Hemei and Henuan, but a carriage arrived from the palace.

"Servant greets the Commandery Princess!"

"Oh..."

As she got on the carriage, Jinnian looked at the pedestrians on the street.

As they passed a street, she silently murmured to herself, to the left, indeed to the left.

Once inside the palace, she was led to the residence of Noble Consort Lin.

Looking at the charming and enchanting Noble Consort Le, Jinnian slightly curtsied, "Greetings to the Noble Consort!"

Noble Consort Le scrutinized Jinnian.

Compared to before, she was noticeably thinner, with eyes full of inquiry and vigilance, no longer possessing the gentleness and grace of the past.

Yet her appearance remained dazzlingly beautiful to behold.

Like the finest Mingzhu in the world, one could not help but be enchanted.

"Commandery Princess, no need for ceremony, have a seat!"

"Thank you, Noble Consort!"

Jinnian sat down, and the palace maid served tea and snacks. Jinnian thought the snacks looked very appealing, so she took some and started to eat.

"How does it taste?"

"Very delicious, thank you for the treat, Noble Consort!"

Noble Consort Le shook her head, not caring much.

She could only sigh deeply in her heart, fearing that Princess Yijia had truly forgotten past matters.

She couldn't even detect the medicine in the pastries.

If it were the past, she would have noticed it immediately.

Jinnian ate one piece and found it delicious, so she ate a few more. When she felt it was too much, she drank some tea before eating something else.

Noble Consort Le watched, increasingly perplexed.

How long has it been since she had cake?

"Is it really that good?"

Jinnian smiled, "Yes, it's delicious. Thank you, Noble Consort. Could I possibly have some more?"

"Of course!"

"Thank you, Noble Consort!"

The two continued their casual chat, mostly with Jinnian listening.

"This is quite boring. Shall we invite a couple of musicians to play the lute?"

"Sure!"

When the musicians arrived, after a few pieces, Jinnian began to nod off.

It wasn't that the musicians played poorly; she actually found it quite pleasant, but she was especially sleepy.

Then her body went limp, and she fell asleep on the table.

"Miss..." Hemei exclaimed.

Noble Consort Le quickly called over the Imperial Physician to check Jinnian's pulse.

"Reporting to the Noble Consort, the Commandery Princess is just tired, which is why she fell asleep!"

"Tired?"

"Yes, Noble Consort, that's right. The Commandery Princess's health is quite poor. If she doesn't take careful care, I'm afraid..."

"Afraid of what?" Noble Consort Le quickly asked.

"Afraid she won't have many years to live!"

Chapter 1044: Not Recognizing an Old Friend

Noble Consort Yue was stunned by the news.

How could there only be a few years left to live? She was still so young!

"You go first, summon another Imperial Physician!"

But after consulting a dozen Imperial Physicians, the result was the same.

Jinnian's health was very poor. If not carefully treated, she wouldn't have many years left to live.

"Go invite His Majesty over!"

The Emperor wanted to come early in the morning, but he had to attend court. Moreover, Chu Yu had asked for an Imperial Decree to grant marriage in front of the civil and military officials, and he could not refuse, yet he was reluctant.

So he wanted to delay a bit and did not agree immediately.

Upon hearing that Jinnian's health was poor and she didn't have many years left to live, the Emperor felt very complicated.

Speaking of which, she was his lifesaver...

What was he thinking back then to actually agree to cooperate with Zhou Yunshen!

"Your Majesty..." Noble Consort Yue called softly.

"Hmm?"

"How does Your Majesty plan to handle the situation with Princess Yijia?"

The Emperor was silent for a long time before speaking calmly, "Today at the court, Rui Wang openly asked me to grant marriage. My beloved, do you think I should agree?"

Noble Consort Yue thought for a moment before saying, "Agree, why not agree? After all, within a few years, the Princess would be gone. If His Highness Rui Wang deeply loves the Princess, he might be devastated and can't think straight..."

Those malicious thoughts were left unspoken by Noble Consort Yue, but naturally, the Emperor also thought of them.

Princess Yijia marrying His Highness Rui Wang as the official wife was a suitable match.

But the Han Family...

The Han Family were Hidden Guards, yet they no longer served him.

"I actually don't want her to marry Rui Wang. I'd rather her marry my fifth son!"

Noble Consort Yue was taken aback by his words.

Fifth Prince Chu Liange, the son of Noble Concubine De.

Noble Concubine De appeared virtuous and gentle on the surface, but in reality, she was full of schemes. The Fifth Prince wasn't an easy character either. If given the chance, there would be no place for Noble Consort Yue in the harem.

"But Rui Wang might not let it go. If he gets the Grand Princess or Princess Jinfeng to bring forth the former Emperor's Imperial Decree..."

"That's why I'm so annoyed!"

This marriage, in any case, had to be granted.

But...

He didn't want to.

"Since that's the case, why doesn't Your Majesty agree to His Highness Rui Wang's request? We can start from the Princess's side. If the Princess doesn't want to marry and pleads before Your Majesty, it wouldn't be Your problem!"

The Emperor, upon hearing this, immediately laughed heartily, "My beloved's thoughts are so thorough!"

This was a great move.

As long as Princess Yijia disagreed, he, as the Emperor, would naturally have to consider it. How could Chu Yu dare to force the marriage?

"Then shall I have Princess Yijia stay in the palace for two days?" Noble Consort Lin suggested, shaking her head, "Not appropriate, not appropriate. How about I go to the other courtyard and have Princess Yijia accompany me? Then, Your Majesty could send some unmarried princes over, and since they are all of similar age, something might just blossom!"

The Emperor felt that Noble Consort Yue's suggestion was good and immediately agreed.

When Jinnian woke up, she was a bit confused as she looked at Hemei and Henuan, "How did I fall asleep?"

Hemei smiled, "Miss is finally awake. You've slept for quite a long time!"

"So where are we now?"

"We're preparing to go home. Up ahead is Xufuji. Would Miss like some pastries?"

Jinnian thought for a moment, "Let's go down and take a look!"

"Yes!"

Carefully helping Jinnian down from the carriage, they entered Xufuji and saw a man in white clothing carrying pastries out.

The man, upon seeing Jinnian, immediately smiled, "I greet the Commandery Princess. It's been awhile, and the Princess seems to have lost some weight!"

Jinnian looked at the young man before her and inwardly marveled at how handsome he was, with a graceful demeanor. The sight of him brought pleasure to the eyes.

But...

"Who are you?"

Chapter 1045: Honesty

Feng Wushuang heard this, and immediately felt a deep bitterness in his heart.

However, his expression did not show it, "The Commandery Princess does not recognize me, so let me introduce myself. My surname is Feng and first name is Wushuang, my wife is Danyan of the Chen Residence!"

Feng Wushuang?

Chen Danyan?

Jinnian thought carefully but could not recall, so she smiled slightly, "Oh, I will remember that. Next time I see you, I will surely recognize you!"

Feng Wushuang smiled, "Yes!"

No need for more words amidst a thousand things to say.

Her safe return is enough.

It's best to forget those unhappy and unpleasant memories.

He would not let those who wronged her go unpunished!

"I take my leave!"

"Hmm!" Jinnian nodded slightly, watching Feng Wushuang leave, then happily went to pick some snacks.

She particularly enjoyed spending money, buying everything she wanted.

She also liked sweets and took a lot at once.

Happily, she left Xufuji and boarded the carriage to return home.

Not far away, Feng Wushuang gently lowered the carriage curtain and told the servant, "Let's go back!"

Now, he had a family of his own.

In the future, so would she.

Today, His Highness Rui publicly requested an imperial decree for marriage, and she will be the Princess of Rui.

Prince Rui treated her sincerely, waited for her for so many years, and exhaustively sought her out and brought her back.

They ought to be a pair.

Thinking of this, Feng Wushuang smiled bitterly.

Then thought of his delicate wife at home. Though he respected her, there was a lack of affection.

Returning to the Feng Residence.

Upon learning Chen Danyan was with his mother, Feng Wushuang slowly walked over, carrying pastries.

"Master is back!" Chen Danyan smiled gently and stepped forward to take the pastries from Feng Wushuang's hand, "I was just talking to Mother about you, and you bought them back!"

Old Madam Feng chuckled.

Now, having become an old madam, she had no demands on life, only hoping that her son would open his heart soon and live well.

Even if he couldn't let go, it was time to continue the family line.

However, this could not be forced, as this person was not the one he held dearly in his heart, she dared not pressure him.

Eating the pastries her son bought back, Old Madam Feng finally said, "I heard the Commandery Princess has returned?"

Chen Danyan's heart tightened.

Feng Wushuang nodded, "She has returned, we just met at Xufuji!"

"..."

Chen Danyan tightly held onto her handkerchief.

Feng Wushuang reached out to hold Chen Danyan's hand, feeling its chilling cold, sighed lightly, and asked with concern, "Are you feeling unwell?"

"No, it's just that..." Chen Danyan took a deep breath, "Jinnian has such a bitter fate!"

No matter what, this had nothing to do with Jinnian.

And Jinnian had suffered so much, she did not dare to complain in the slightest.

"We should visit her someday. When I saw her today, she seemed very happy, but she didn't recognize me or remember you!"

Upon hearing this, Chen Danyan burst into tears.

Even Old Madam Feng couldn't eat her pastries, gently sighing, "Such a good child. Those with blackened hearts, Wushuang, I..."

"Mother, you don't need to say anything, I understand!" He then looked at Chen Danyan, "Danyan, let's take a walk!"

"..."

Chen Danyan was puzzled but followed Feng Wushuang out of the old madam's courtyard.

They walked slowly, side by side.

Feng Wushuang remained silent, and Chen Danyan dared not ask more.

After a long time, Feng Wushuang finally said, "Since I was young, I have been very clever, able to deduce many things from one. Father praised me as being suited for scholarly pursuits, and Mother was gentle, allowing me a happy upbringing. But that year, disaster struck swiftly; Father met with an accident and lost his life. Just as I was about to head to the capital for exams, I couldn't bear to leave Mother alone at home, desolate and lonely, so I brought her to the capital!"

Chapter 1046: This is Really Good

"Our travel funds were scarce to begin with. On the road, my mother fell ill, and I started selling everything, trying every possible way to earn money, until I became a beggar and arrived in the Capital City!"

"The Capital City..." Feng Wushuang said with a sigh.

"So large, so vast, with countless wealthy families, and my mother's illness was severe. I was truly at my wit's end. If I had paper and pen, I could still write or draw, but I didn't even have a single coin!"

"The weather was so cold every day. I thought that if I didn't find food soon, my mother would surely not survive, and I would starve to death as well. Thus, I begged along the way, and no one paid attention to us until that fairy-like girl turned back to look at us and gave us two hundred taels of silver, gently saying to take it to treat my mother first. She was Yun Jinnian, now the Princess Yijia!"

Chen Danyan tightly pursed her lips, crying out loud.

If it were her, at that time, she might not have intervened.

"That was a ray of warm sunlight, providing help when I was at an impasse. Without her, there would be no Feng Wushuang today, no healthy body for my mother now. She's in my heart, placed in the most precious spot, and even if I can't fulfill my wishes, I'm willing to do anything for her!" Feng Wushuang said, looking at Chen Danyan, "Marrying you was a decision made after much consideration, with some utilitarian intentions, but for the rest of my life, I will never let another woman enter this house. I will give you the utmost respect. Give me time, and I will return your love, but not now; I have more important things to do!"

Chen Danyan reached out to hug Feng Wushuang, crying, "I know, I know, I'm happy that you told me. I am willing to wait, willing to wait for you to handle your important affairs. I will always wait for you. I care who is in the most precious place in your heart, but if it is her, I do not feel disgust or jealousy. She is so good, so kind, always smiling gently at everyone around her. But those people..."

"Wushuang, you understand me, and I understand you. Persist in what you think, don't worry about repercussions, go and do it, if you truly fail, I will surely follow you down the Nether Road!"

Upon hearing these words, Feng Wushuang felt a warmth in his heart.

He truly feared that Chen Danyan would make a scene.

After all, there are some things that he couldn't do without Chen Danyan's support.

"Thank you, Danyan!"

"You fool, I am your wife. If I don't support you, who will?"

At least Feng Wushuang was willing to tell her these things, which meant he already regarded her as family.

Rather than nitpicking over losing his heart, it's better to yield a little, capture his heart, and live this life well with just him, to have children.

People, ah, who doesn't have someone in their heart whom they cherish deeply?

Especially men.

Jinnian joyfully returned home, and Mrs. Han came to greet her, "It's good that you're back, come, let me measure you for some clothes!"

"Will they be pretty?"

"Pretty!"

Jinnian smiled, took Mrs. Han's arm, and chatted as they walked, making Mrs. Han laugh knowingly.

Mrs. Han measured Jinnian and had the sewing room make the clothes. In her spare time, she either spent it with her daughter or went to the kitchen to cook.

"Mother, let me learn to cook with you!"

"Sure!"

But after Jinnian almost set the kitchen on fire, Mrs. Han promptly kicked her out.

"Whining, not happy!"

The doorkeeper delivered some invitation cards, very beautiful and fragrant.

Jinnian took a look at them, "Dai Hanmi, Hu Shuiling, Chen Danyan!"

Jinnian pinched her chin, not asking Hemei or Henuan if she knew these girls, "Send someone to reply that I will be at Huiquan Tower on time tomorrow!"

Chapter 1047: Like or Not

It's just a meeting and a meal. Why should she be afraid of them?

Chu Jun was sent back to the Prince Rui Residence by Mrs. Yuan, but Chu Jun couldn't do without Mrs. Yuan, so Mrs. Yuan had to stay. Jinnian didn't mind this.

After all, she couldn't remember, nor did she want to reminisce. She just wanted to live happily nowadays.

But she did seem to miss Chu Yu a bit.

"Hemei!"

"Miss?"

"Do you have a way to contact Chu Yu? Why doesn't he come to see me?"

Hemei was surprised for a moment, then smiled and said, "Miss, His Highness Prince Rui will surely be busy these days, but if you want to see His Highness, I have a way to invite him here!"

"What way?"

"Didn't His Highness give you something like fireworks? If you want to see him, just light the fireworks, and His Highness will know you want to see him, and naturally, he'll come!"

Jinnian thought about it seriously and felt that Hemei's method was really a good one.

Back then, Chu Yu did say this: if you miss him, light the fireworks.

But with him so busy, would he come?

"Hemei, go pick a flower for me, one with plenty of petals!" Jinnian instructed earnestly.

She wasn't as delicate and willful as she once was.

"..."

Hemei was speechless and immediately went to find a flower.

But there were only medicinal plants in the residence, so finding a flower was indeed difficult. She had to shift her focus outside the residence.

She found the butler and asked him to buy a flower.

"Who wants it?"

"The Miss wants it!"

The butler was taken aback for a moment before he understood. "You go back, I'll make the arrangements here!"

"Yes, butler, the Miss wants a flower with many petals!"

When the flowers were delivered, Hemei and Henuan watched as Jinnian picked the flowers and murmured.

"Yes, no!"

"Yes, no..."

Jinnian was plucking the flowers there, endlessly scattering petals all over the ground.

One by one they went, and by the end, a whole bed of petals lay on the floor, with several pots still untouched.

Jinnian was fully engrossed in plucking the flowers, and Hemei and Henuan sighed deeply.

Things were indeed different than before; her temperament had changed a lot.

But no matter what, she was still their Miss, the person they respected the most in their hearts.

In the end, Jinnian still hadn't decided whether to call Chu Yu over, but she went through a lot of flowers. After dinner, she sat by the window in a daze.

Chu Yu brought some food over and saw her looking like she had lost her soul, as if about to drift away like a fairy, which scared him, making his face go slightly pale, and he quietly walked over to Jinnian's side and opened the food box.

Letting the aroma from the box waft out.

Jinnian smelled the fragrance, turned around, and saw Chu Yu, then smiled.

"Why are you here?"

"I brought you some food!"

"What is it?" Jinnian asked curiously, waiting for Chu Yu to serve the food, then picked up chopsticks and ate in small bites, occasionally giving praise, and even fed Chu Yu a few bites.

Seeing Chu Yu eating happily, Jinnian slightly frowned, then focused on feeding Chu Yu.

"Is it good?"

"It's good!"

The originally tasteless mouth seemed to rediscover its taste buds, feeling as if these delicacies were no more than this.

When Chu Yu finished eating everything, Jinnian laughed cheekily, "I went to the kitchen today, nearly burned it down, and mom kicked me out!"

Chu Yu chuckled.

Ate until he was a bit full.

Reached out to tuck the stray hairs behind Jinnian's ear, "If you want to eat something, have the maidservants do it, or I'll cook for you next time!"

"Can you cook?"

Chapter 1048: Love Stronger Than Gold

"I know a thing or two!"

Jinnian felt a bit deflated, "Not fair, you're a guy and can cook, yet I can't!"

"So what do you want to eat? I can make it for you!"

Jinnian thought carefully, but couldn't think of anything she wanted to eat, she didn't seem to have specific demands for food, but she liked eating.

She just didn't know what was delicious, so she didn't know what to want to eat.

"I'm going to Huiquan Tower tomorrow; there must be lots of tasty food there!"

Going to Huiquan Tower?

Chu Yu paused slightly, "You're going alone?"

"Yeah, a few girls, who say they're my friends, invited me to hang out. I'm going to see who they are!"

"Who are they?"

"Dai Hanmi, Chen Danyan, Hu Shuiling!" Jinnian said, looking at Chu Yu, "Chu Yu, was I good friends with them before?"

Chu Yu nodded.

"Really?"

"Yes, really, you were very good friends, go and have fun!"

"Alright!"

The two talked about other things, and soon Jinnian put aside her doubts and unhappiness.

Leaning on Chu Yu's shoulder, with her eyes closed.

"Jinnian!"

"Hmm?"

"Today in the hall, I asked the Emperor to grant a marriage!"

"..."

Jinnian looked at Chu Yu, puzzled.

A marriage grant.

Was it for her and Chu Yu?

"It's just a formality; in a few days, there's a good day. I'll have my aunt come over to propose, you'll agree, won't you?"

Agree?

Agree to what?

Jinnian looked at Chu Yu.

This man, she didn't hate him. At first glance, she found the look in his eyes very sincere. At that time, she believed his words.

In these days of getting along, she didn't dislike him either.

After thinking seriously, she finally said, "What do you like about me? Am I different from before?"

"The old you was gentle and kind, you suffered a lot, smiled often, but it was somewhat heavy. The current you is innocent and lively, spontaneous and cute, there is a difference!"

"Which one do you like more?" Jinnian couldn't help but ask.

Even though she felt the question was silly.

"I like both, but I wish you'd always be like this, happy, forgetting the sad and troubling, just living a joyful life!" Chu Yu said, reaching out to hold Jinnian in his arms.

His chin rubbed against her head, tender and lingering.

It made her heart soft and unable to refuse.

Jinnian gently nuzzled, feeling Chu Yu's chin was so hard, yet it felt warm.

He must really like her!

A joyful feeling bubbled inside her, she couldn't help but ask, "In the future, will you stop liking me?"

"How could I!"

After waiting for so many years, loving for so many years.

For the first time knowing longing, understanding what love is, what affection means.

In this lifetime, it's impossible not to like you.

"In the future, can I go traveling around?" Jinnian asked softly.

She wanted to see many places, to play around, not wanting to be confined to the back house, she felt there were many things she hadn't done.

"Of course, we can go wherever you want to go, but you have to take me with you!"

This lifetime, just one separation is enough.

No more like this in the future.

It's worrisome to the point of losing appetite and sleepless nights.

After a bout of illness, even lost the sense of taste, but he did not regret it.

Jinnian was silent for a moment, then looked up at Chu Yu, saying very seriously, "Okay, I agree!"

Chu Yu looked at Jinnian, immediately teary-eyed, and regardless of everything, held Jinnian's face and kissed her.

"Mm..."

Jinnian murmured softly.

Only felt the emptiness in her heart was filled at this moment.

Chapter 1049: Meeting My Cousin Again

Yun Jinnian was quite calm about going to meet friends.

After having breakfast at home early in the morning, she leisurely took a carriage to Huiquan Tower.

Standing at the entrance of Huiquan Tower, she turned her head to ask Hemei, "Do I have a private room here?"

"Yes, on the third floor!"

Jinnian pressed her lips.

"Where did they ask me to meet them?"

"The private room on the second floor!"

Jinnian nodded, "Let's go!"

Entering the private room, Dai Hanmi, Chen Danyan, and Hu Shuiling were there, the only one absent was Ruan Wanrong as Duan Qimeng had gone to serve as an official in another place.

Looking at the three of them, Jinnian smiled.

Because it felt familiar, felt comfortable.

"Jinnian's here, come sit down!" Dai Hanmi said with a hearty smile.

Han Jinnian smiled, walked over to sit down, waited for Hemei to help wipe her hands, then took some pastries to eat.

"These pastries taste good!" Jinnian said with a smile.

She further said, "Let me guess which sister is who!"

"You still remember us?" Chen Danyan hurriedly asked, her eyes instantly reddening.

It had been so long waiting for her to come back.

During this period, who knows how much suffering and hardship she endured.

Jinnian shook her head, "I don't remember, just feel familiar. Yesterday, after receiving the invitation, I asked Hemei and Henuan about our past. I vaguely feel like there's another person among us!"

Jinnian's words ended up making the three girls cry.

Dai Hanmi looked at Jinnian, holding her hand, "It's good that you're back, just good that you're back!"

Without asking what she had experienced or what had happened, just saying it's good to have her back was warming to the heart.

Jinnian tightened her grip on Dai Hanmi's hand.

The familiar warmth, the familiar connection.

Once, they must have been very close.

They chatted a bit, and soon the strangeness among them vanished, even teasing Hu Shuiling and Chen Danyan.

Hu Shuiling was already a mother, her face somewhat thicker, while Chen Danyan, though married, was very much a maiden; her face blushed with a mere mention, so everyone teased her together.

"You all teamed up to bully me!"

"Ahahaha, if we don't tease sister, who else would we tease!"

After laughing and playing for a while, a few of them arranged to play a game of cards, with no one giving way to another, being serious when necessary.

Jinnian felt it was particularly genuine.

After lunch at Huiquan Tower, they set the date for their next gathering and went downstairs together to take the carriage home.

The four women, two with married hairdos, two with maiden hairdos, were all beautiful and delicate, especially Jinnian, who with every movement exuded a graceful charm. Her smiles as she glanced back showed she was very happy.

"Cousin!"

Xu Xinmo sweetly called out upon seeing Jinnian coming down.

Behind her were Zhu Yan and Zhu Yue, the two sisters.

Jinnian looked at them upon hearing the voice. Xu Xinmo quickly came over but was stopped by Hemei and Henuan.

Jinnian looked displeased and asked Dai Hanmi, "Who are they?"

"Your former cousins, the one leading is quite a worthless person, bullied you a lot in the early years. Nowadays, she's desperate to marry into the royal family, without considering if she has what it takes. The two behind her look sneaky and are certainly not good people. Don't bother with them, they're trouble!"

Jinnian nodded, looking carefully at the leading Xu Xinmo, "I don't like what I see either!"

But in the public, she couldn't be too harsh, so she said, "Hemei, Henuan, let them come over to talk!"

Her high and mighty demeanor made Xu Xinmo choke with emotion.

The Yun Jinnian of the past was not like this!

Chapter 1050: Mocking Remarks

Zhu Yan was also guessing in her heart.

The Yun Jinnian of the past wasn't like this. Back then, Yun Jinnian was already married, her head bowed, lacking even the courage to look people in the eye.

She would never be like this, so aloof, not even acknowledging others.

But her appearance hasn't changed.

No, it has changed, become even more beautiful, more pleasing to the eye, even more unforgettable.

Also, more stunningly beautiful.

Zhu Yan always thought she was beautiful, but in front of Yun Jinnian, she was still outshone.

If the Yun Jinnian of the previous life had been a bit smarter, after everything she did for Chu Liange, as long as she conveyed a thing or two, Chu Liange would have been devoted to her, but she was ridiculously foolish.

No, something's not right...

Zhu Yan felt like she had forgotten something, and her face suddenly turned pale.

"Cousin, are you out playing with friends? Can I join?" Xu Xinmo shamelessly asked.

Jinnian looked at Xu Xinmo and burst into laughter, "Young lady, perhaps you have mistaken me for someone else. I'm not your cousin. My surname is Han, and I'm called Han Jinnian. There's only one daughter in the Han Family, and I have one younger brother. My mother never mentioned having any cousins. Distant cousins, yes, but I've never met them. You speaking so freely about playing together makes me doubt your intentions!"

Xu Xinmo widened her eyes in surprise.

How could Yun Jinnian dare to say this...

Jinnian, determined not to let her off, continued, "Are you trying to use me to curry favor with someone?"

"That's truly inappropriate. A young lady should have self-respect. You're really lacking self-respect, asking me to take you along in public when we aren't familiar with each other. Aren't you afraid I'd sell you off!"

Xu Xinmo's face was red with anger, just about to speak, but Jinnian added, "Looking at your appearance and outfit, you don't seem to be worth much, haha!"

Jinnian laughed first.

Dai Hanmi, Hu Shuiling, and Chen Danyan all burst into laughter.

Satisfying.

Treating someone like Xu Xinmo should involve ridiculing her like this.

Wearing last year's clothes, thinking that a head full of gold hairpins signifies wealth. Look at the jade hairpins on Jinnian's head. Pluck one at random, and it outweighs everything on Xu Xinmo.

"You, how dare you..." Xu Xinmo exclaimed incredulously.

This isn't Yun Jinnian, definitely not Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian wouldn't dare to speak to her like this, Yun Jinnian wouldn't dare.

This person must be an imposter, must be an imposter.

Jinnian chuckled, "Hey, seeing you like this, your mind seems not right. Fine, why should I argue with someone of unsound mind!" She turned to Dai Hanmi, Chen Danyan, and Hu Shuiling, saying, "Ladies, I'll take my leave first. I'll wait for you at home the day after tomorrow to come and play. Sister Hu, remember to bring your little one. I love children!"

"Okay!"

Dai Hanmi and the others laughed so hard they could barely stand.

Satisfying, truly satisfying.

Jinnian should've done this long ago.

With identity, status, money, power, and prestige, why fear someone like Xu Xinmo?

No need to indulge that selfish little person, Xu Xinmo.

Nowadays, even the Yun Family doesn't care—neither the Xu Family nor her own father.

Where does she find the face, being so shameless?

The group alongside Jinnian boarded the carriage and rode off into the distance.

Only then did Xu Xinmo scream and burst into tears.

Zhu Yue immediately comforted, "Cousin, ignore her. I think that person is truly arrogant, mustn't be good. Cousin need not bother with her. Once there's a chance, I'll help you teach her a lesson!"