

## Indulgence 211

### Chapter 211: Agreed

Mrs. Han wasn't afraid that Princess Xiaguang would force Yun Jinnian; she was worried that Yun Jinnian, oblivious to the gravity of the situation, would agree in confusion.

For so many years, no one had been able to treat Yuwen Ming, not even his father, who had gone and merely shaken his head in sighs; Jinnian was just a child.

Mama Song pulled Mrs. Han out of the room, and Yuwen Ming also followed, with the maids exiting without needing any instructions.

In the room, only Yun Jinnian and Princess Xiaguang, who lay on the bed, remained.

Yun Jinnian tiptoed to the bedside and bowed. "Yun Family's Jinnian pays her respects to Your Highness the Princess, may you be blessed with peace and wellbeing!"

"Sit by the bed and keep me company," the Princess said weakly.

Yun Jinnian sat on the edge of the bed, looking at Princess Xiaguang.

She was in her sixties or seventies, with completely white hair, yet her face did not show signs of old age; instead, she appeared kindly and easy to get along with.

But Yun Jinnian knew that a royal princess who had lived to such an age could not simply be kind and easy to get along with.

"You're afraid of me!" said the Princess.

Yun Jinnian shook her head slightly, then nodded.

Afraid, but also not afraid.

Princess Xiaguang's life hung in her hands; she wasn't afraid, but she did fear that saying too much might anger the Princess to death.

"You are the first person to detect poison in me just by taking my pulse and know about adopting a child!" the Princess exclaimed.

"Your Highness!" Yun Jinnian called softly.

"Can you cure it?"

"I am not certain!"

"How certain are you?"

"Fifty percent!"

Princess Xiaguang's eyes reddened immediately. "With fifty percent, I am willing to take the risk!"

Seeing Princess Xiaguang getting emotional, Yun Jinnian hurriedly said, "Your Highness, you currently show signs of a stroke, you mustn't get agitated!"

"Alright, alright, I'll listen to you, I won't get agitated; I still want to see Little Wu get married and have children!"

Yun Jinnian kept Princess Xiaguang company for a while, took her pulse again to ensure there were no major issues, and then left the room. Yuwen Ming bowed to Yun Jinnian and quickly entered the room.

Several maids bowed to Yun Jinnian as well, then followed Yuwen Ming inside, but Mama Song stood in the courtyard. "Miss Yun has worked hard, but tonight, I'm afraid we must trouble you to stay here and keep watch!"

"As I should!" Yun Jinnian responded.

Yun Jinnian had agreed, so what else could Mrs. Han say? She left Bai Que to take care of Yun Jinnian and took Hemei and Henuan back with her.

Mama Song smiled at Yun Jinnian, "Miss Yun, please!"

"Hmm!"

Yun Jinnian entered the room and sat down to one side.

Mama Song promptly had two arhat beds brought in, clearly—one for Yun Jinnian and one for Yuwen Ming.

But the other maids either made beds on the floor or simply stayed awake to keep watch throughout the night.

The maids quickly made the beds, and Yun Jinnian stood by the bed, observing the sleeping Princess Xiaguang. After Yuwen Ming had washed up, she stood by Yun Jinnian, "I am Yuwen Ming, thirteen years old this year!"

She didn't say that she was the Commandery Princess Xiaguang, personally bestowed by the Emperor, but there was a hint that she wanted to form a close friendship with Yun Jinnian.

"My name is Yun Jinnian, and I am twelve this year!"

"Ah, Sister Jinnian!" Yuwen Ming exclaimed, taking a deep breath, "Sister Jinnian, my grandmother..."

"Your Highness is not in great peril right now; just avoid moving carelessly. She should be able to recover in a few days!"

"Then why haven't you prescribed any medicine?" Yuwen Ming was puzzled.

Usually, after seeing a patient, a doctor would always prescribe medicine!

"Medicine is poison in three-parts; I had already instructed Mama to dissolve a Detoxification Pill in water and to let the Princess drink it. Those were Reinvigorating Detox Pills made from various precious ingredients, more effective than medicine prepared by boiling!"

### Chapter 212: The Gentlewoman

Yun Jinnian said as he walked over and sat down on the Arhat bed.

Yuwen Ming immediately went to Yun Jinnian's side and sat beside him, "Was that pill concocted by you?"

"It was developed by my maternal grandfather!"

Yuwen Ming then asked, "Can you sell some to me?"

"They're not for sale," Yun Jinnian responded indifferently.

Seeing Yuwen Ming's disappointed look, he said with a light smile, "However, you can bring precious medicinal ingredients to exchange!"

"That's possible, my family has a lot of medicinal ingredients. Just tell me what you need, and I'll write a letter right now. I'll have it sent to the Capital City with all speed so that preparations can be made!"

Seeing how Yuwen Ming did as he said, Yun Jinnian helplessly replied, "There's no rush for that. The medicine required by the Princess must be well-prepared. It would be even better if it could be delivered to Huaxi County! The Princess's condition right now cannot withstand the jolting."

"Hmm, don't worry about the medicinal ingredients, but what about you? Are you staying here with us, or are you going back to the Capital City for the Dragon Boat Festival?"

Yun Jinnian paused.

He had originally planned to return to the Capital City for the Dragon Boat Festival and then go on to study at the academy.

Now it seems that he might not be able to leave.

"Is it fine if I return to the Capital with all of you?" Yun Jinnian tentatively asked.

"That would be truly wonderful, having you by my side makes me feel much more at ease!"

Being of similar age, and with Yuwen Ming having the intention of befriending Yun Jinnian, plus her own experiences traveling with the Commandery Princess, she was well-informed, humorous, and witty in conversation. Yun Jinnian was very curious about the outside world and listened with keen interest.

In just an hour or two, they felt as if they lamented not having met sooner.

In the middle of their talk, Yun Jinnian stood up to take the Commandery Princess's pulse. Yuwen Ming eagerly asked, "How is it?"

"The Princess's pulse is calm and steady, there is no harm!"

Yuwen Ming finally breathed a sigh of relief, "Sister Jinnian, thank you for your hard work!"

"Having encountered the Princess is the fortune of several lifetimes for me, Sister Ming, do not speak like that!" Yun Jinnian said with a light smile, pulling Yuwen Ming to sit down on the Arhat bed, "Sister Ming should rest early too. Tomorrow, I will teach you a set of massage techniques, which are beneficial for the Princess's condition!"

Yuwen Ming was delighted, "Really? No need to wait until tomorrow, can you teach me now?"

Yun Jinnian, feeling helpless, said, "Alright, sit down, and I'll demonstrate it for you!"

Yun Jinnian had Yuwen Ming sit down and then loosened her hair.

"Is it necessary to loosen the hair?"

"Yes, this is a scalp massage; naturally, the hair must be loose!" Yun Jinnian explained as he massaged Yuwen Ming.

"Remember, your fingers must use appropriate force, doing it stroke by stroke!" Yun Jinnian instructed while massaging and teaching Yuwen Ming.

After the massage, Yuwen Ming found it to be extremely intriguing.

She turned around and had Yun Jinnian take a seat, "I will try massaging you!"

Yuwen Ming massaged stroke by stroke, and with some guidance from Yun Jinnian, she quickly grasped the tricks of the trade.

"Sister Jinnian, you rest first, I'm going to have Nanny Song come and try it!"

Yun Jinnian laughed to herself, leaning back on the Arhat bed and flipping through Medical Books, while Yuwen Ming pulled Nanny Song over to massage her.

"Nanny, how does it feel?"

"Comfortable!"

Yuwen Ming was extremely happy, "Nanny, let me massage you again; I hope you don't mind the trouble!"

"It's a great fortune to be massaged by the Commandery Princess, no trouble at all!" Nanny Song replied, laughing.

That was also why she liked Yuwen Ming. Though a lady of high birth, she was kindhearted and down-to-earth, different from those pretentious young ladies.

Yuwen Ming was overjoyed.

#### Chapter 213: Admonition

Unbeknownst to Yun Jinnian, the entire inn had already been emptied, with the Governor's Office personnel surrounding the inn, making it impossible for anyone to enter or leave.

After reading Medical Books for a while, Jinnian checked on the Commandery Princess of Zhen Guo once more, then went to sleep.

Meanwhile, Yuwen Ming was still massaging Madam Song.

He occasionally checked on the Commandery Princess, and only after seeing she was unharmed did he feel relieved, then took Madam Song's advice and went to bed as well.

At dawn, Yuwen Ming got up.

By the time Jinnian got up, Yuwen Ming had already tidied everything up and was helping the Commandery Princess drink some water.

The Commandery Princess smiled at her affectionately, and Yuwen Ming was very well-behaved.

Jinnian just watched, her eyes filled with admiration, then quickly lowered her head to hide her thoughts.

It wasn't until after the Commandery Princess had drunk the water that she approached and said, "Let me take the pulse of the Princess!"

Yuwen Ming hurriedly made way.

After taking the Commandery Princess's pulse, Jinnian said, "All is well, Your Highness. You may sit up and lean back for a while, but lie down immediately if you feel dizzy!"

Yuwen Ming immediately responded.

Together with Linglong and Madam Song, they helped the Commandery Princess sit up and gave her a blanket to lean on, tending to her meticulously.

"I am already out of danger; you go back and join your mother for breakfast," said the Commandery Princess.

Jinnian curtseyed to take her leave.

It was only when she stepped out of the lodging courtyard that she realized the emptiness around her and knew that the other inn patrons had all been sent away.

She pursed her lips and continued forward, only to see Mrs. Han hurriedly approaching. Mrs. Han pulled Jinnian into the room and asked anxiously, "How is the Princess doing?"

"She has passed the critical period; all she needs now is good care and rest!"

Mrs. Han nodded, "Then I have another question for you. Has the Princess asked you to treat her son?"

"Yes!"

Jinnian did not dare to conceal anything from Mrs. Han.

"Did you agree?"

"I agreed!"

"Oh, you child, do you know that so many doctors, Imperial Physicians, even your grandfather would not dare to try, and yet you dare?" complained Mrs. Han, visibly upset.

"Mother, I..." Jinnian wanted to explain.

But Mrs. Han added, "Do you know why your grandfather didn't dare to try?"

Jinnian shook her head, tears already brimming in her eyes.

She knew she had been somewhat rash, but she truly believed she had a seventy percent chance of success.

"Who is Yuwen Ming? He's the youngest child of the Commandery Princess and has also been conferred the title of Commandery Prince by the late Emperor. If he's cured, of course, everyone will be overjoyed, but if there is a slight mishap, not only will the responsible doctor's life be at stake, but even the whole family could be implicated!"

Jinnian's eyes widened, "How could that..."

"How could it not? When you agreed, did the Princess make you any promises? Did she say that no matter the outcome, she would not hold you accountable for any crime?"

Jinnian shook her head.

Indeed, there had been no promise.

Not a single one!

Mrs. Han pulled Jinnian to sit down, saying, "I am not trying to scare you, but such is the power of the Emperor!"

"Mother, I..." After a moment of silence, Jinnian spoke softly, "I'm sorry!"

"Silly child, I am not blaming you. As a doctor, having a compassionate heart and skill is important, but you must also understand the situation, comprehend?" said Mrs. Han.

"I understand!"

Mrs. Han patted Jinnian's head, "Are you hungry? I've already prepared breakfast. Let's eat, and afterward, I'll accompany you to pay respects to the Commandery Princess!"

After breakfast, Mrs. Han did take Jinnian to see the Commandery Princess.

When the Commandery Princess of Zhen Guo saw Mrs. Han, she waved her over.

Mrs. Han quickly approached with a smile, "This humble woman pays respects to Your Highness. May the Princess be blessed with peace and good health!"

The Commandery Princess patted the spot next to her on the bed, "Sit down!"

Mrs. Han hesitated briefly before lightly taking a seat.

Only then did the Commandery Princess speak, "Ming'er, take Jinnian out to play. I want to have a word with Mrs. Yun. Song'er, you stay."

Song'er was Madam Song.

#### Chapter 214: Promise

Everyone else had left the room.

Yun Jinnian glanced back and pursed her lips, silent.

Her eyes gradually deepened.

Yuwen Ming took Yun Jinnian's hand, "Grandmother has always been kind-hearted, it will be okay!"

Yun Jinnian wanted to say that was true for her because she was her granddaughter and would naturally be treasured, but in the end, she said nothing and just nodded slightly.

In the room

The Commandery Princess of the State took out a jade pendant and handed it to Mrs. Han.

Mrs. Han quickly stood up, "Your Highness, what is this..."

"This is the token given by Father Emperor to my palace, and I give it to you today, simply to put your mind at ease. Whether Jinnian can cure Xiao Wu or not, I will not blame her. Do not pressure the Jinnian girl, let her do as she wishes!"

"But Your Highness, the Commandery Prince..."

The Commandery Princess of the State sighed, "These years, Xiao Wu has lived enough. It's because my palace has been unwilling to let him go that he hasn't spoken for two years. If the poison in his body can be cured, it will be a joy for all. If not, it is fate, all fate!"

Mrs. Han, upon hearing this, couldn't help but sigh.

Such is the heart of all parents in the world.

She quickly got up and bowed to the Commandery Princess, "With these words from Your Highness, I know what to do!"

"You are fortunate to have given birth to such a good daughter!"

"Thank you for your compliment, Your Highness!"

The Commandery Princess of the State smiled, "You may go now, I am tired."

She casually put the jade pendant away.

That jade pendant, tantamount to the imperial seal, would of course not truly be given away. It was only brought out to show Mrs. Han, just to put her mind at ease.

Although she was old, she was not senile yet.

"Yes, I take my leave!"

Mrs. Han left the room.

The Commandery Princess of the State then said, "Just as the rumors say, very cautious!"

"It's just a pity she married such a person!"

The Commandery Princess of the State began to laugh, "But it's not solely the fault of Yun Family's Second Master. She is also to blame for being too aloof and not understanding that in the face of love,

one must bend and put aside pride. However, the Yun Family's reputation has indeed declined. I recall back when the last old matriarch was in charge, the Yun Family was bustling with activity..."

As the Princess spoke, she couldn't help but sigh, "In the blink of an eye, I've grown old, and this time, I almost didn't make it over this hurdle!"

"Your Highness!" Song Momo's eyes immediately reddened.

"While saying you don't believe it, in your heart you already do, otherwise you wouldn't have come, would you?"

Song Momo nodded.

"Remember my words, if something indeed happens, issue my decree, absolving Yun Jinnian of all guilt!"

"Yes!"

Mrs. Han walked out of the room and looked up at the sky, finding the sun particularly glaring that day.

"Mother!" Yun Jinnian called out and walked over to Mrs. Han's side.

Mrs. Han rubbed Yun Jinnian's head, "Make sure to treat Her Highness well, understand?"

"Mm!"

"Then stay here and accompany Her Highness back to the Capital City. I'm going back first!"

Yun Jinnian was startled, "Mother, you are leaving first?"

"Mm, your father will be home for the Dragon Boat Festival, and I must return. And also, the gifts from the City Lord Residence need to be sent back, so they can celebrate the festival at home, right?"

After Mrs. Han said this, Yun Jinnian understood.

"I'll see you off!"

Mrs. Han originally intended to leave Bai Que behind, but Yun Jinnian insisted on only keeping Hemei and Henuan; Mrs. Han couldn't do without Bai Que by her side.

In the end, Mrs. Han did not insist, taking Bai Que with her as she left.

Watching the departing caravan, Yun Jinnian exhaled deeply.

A warm hand grasped her icy one. Yun Jinnian turned to look and saw Yuwen Ming, her lips curving slightly.

"Don't be sad, we'll rest here for a couple of days, and I'm sure I can get you home by the Dragon Boat Festival!" Yuwen Ming consoled.

Yun Jinnian nodded.

Her heart was filled with a complex mix of emotions.

Actually, whether she went back for the Dragon Boat Festival was not important.

She didn't really want to face the Yun Family; being away felt much more comfortable and pleasant than being at the Yun Family's home.

Chapter 215: Acting Cute

Yun Jinnian helped the eldest Princess with acupuncture, and after that, Yuwen Ming massaged the Princess. Watching Yun Jinnian standing nearby with a gentle, soft smile, the eldest Princess grew fonder of her.

She couldn't help but ask.

As for her childhood experiences, Yun Jinnian never mentioned them.

Talking about them wouldn't make people think she had had a tough time, nor would not talking about them erase the hardships she had endured.

Having suffered in those years was good in a way, as it made her cherish the happiness that wasn't easy to come by all the more.

Lunchtime

The eldest Princess was having chicken congee, while Yun Jinnian and Yuwen Ming sat by her side, enjoying delectable dishes.

"Girl, is it tasty?" the eldest Princess asked Yun Jinnian.

"Delicious!" Yun Jinnian replied.

Eating bit by bit.

"Eat more!"

When the eldest Princess said this, Madame Song hurriedly picked up some dishes for Yun Jinnian with her chopsticks.

"Thank you, Madame Song!"

Yun Jinnian graciously thanked her, continuing to eat little by little.

While they were eating, a guard walked in from outside, "Reporting to the Princess, Prince Rui has arrived!"

Yun Jinnian was taken aback.

This guy, why has he come to Huaxi County too?

The eldest Princess paused slightly, "Why has he come?" She then asked Madame Song, "Is it the second day of May today?"

"Yes, it is!"

The eldest Princess smiled and said, "Quick, invite the Prince in. Song, you go to the kitchen yourself and bring a bowl of longevity noodles!"

"Yes!"

Yun Jinnian was even more surprised.

Was today Chu Yu's birthday?

Holding her chopsticks, she paused, and suddenly remembered that last year, a few days before the Dragon Boat Festival, Chu Yu always lingered around her, asking her to develop several more kinds of poison powder. It turned out that was his birthday.

No wonder...

She lowered her head to look at the purse at her waist. Inside the purse, there was another purse made with a piece of red cloth and gold thread given to her by the abbot. Since there wasn't much fabric to begin with, and it had been venerated in Huguo Temple for over a hundred years, making it extremely precious, Yun Jinnian thought it had the effect of warding off evil. Therefore, she cut a corner to make a purse. Because she had to copy Sutras during the day, she didn't have much time, and it was only now that she had finished one. She hadn't decided yet who to give it to.

But now, Yun Jinnian decided to give it to Chu Yu as a birthday present. Although it was light, the gesture was what counted!

Seeing Yuwen Ming put down his chopsticks, Yun Jinnian also put hers down.

Then she saw a tall, purple figure stride in swiftly, soon accompanied by a faint scent of cold bamboo.

Yun Jinnian looked toward Chu Yu and saw his eyes and brows filled with laughter, his eyebrows arching into his temples, his high and straight nose, and his slightly red lips parting in a smile to reveal white teeth—all of it made him somewhat dazzling today.

Yun Jinnian lowered her gaze.

As soon as Chu Yu entered the room, he glanced at Yun Jinnian, then turned his head to walk toward the eldest Princess. He clasped his fists in a salute, respectful and cordial, "I greet my aunt!"

The eldest Princess smiled and beckoned, "Come here, come to your aunt and let me have a good look at you!"

Chu Yu sat next to the eldest Princess and took her hand, "Aunt, it's been over a year, have you been well?"

"Good, good!"

"Aunt is fibbing!" Chu Yu said, then added, "But seeing you in good health now, I can rest assured!" He quickly extended his hand toward the eldest Princess again, "Aunt, hand it over!"

The eldest Princess slapped his palm lightly, "You're so grown up, yet still asking your aunt for birthday gifts!"

"In front of aunt, I will always be a child!" Chu Yu declared unashamedly, as though it were only right.

The eldest Princess laughed, "Indeed. Even if you live to be ninety-nine, as long as your aunt is here, you would still be a child!"

Turning her head toward Madame Song, Madame Song immediately went to fetch something.

#### Chapter 216: Seeing Through

"Wow, when I live to be ninety-nine, how old will you be then, Auntie... Let me do the math," Chu Yu was very serious.

The Princess of Zhen Guo smacked him, "You heartless thing, daring to imply your aunt is an old demon!"

"I wouldn't dare. Even if Auntie were an old demon, she'd be the most adorable old demon," Chu Yu replied with a grin.

The Princess of Zhen Guo burst out laughing.

This child, she thought, was worth her favoritism.

Her own eldest grandchild was several years older than Chu Yu, and when Chu Yu and Jinfeng were born, their mother simply vanished. The birth of boy and girl twins was considered an auspicious omen, and naturally, the Emperor showed favoritism.

Later, when Chu Yu was afflicted with a strange poison, she felt empathy for him, thinking of her own fifth-born, and showed him extra care and affection.

The temper of these two children was not easy; they were like little tyrants. But to those who were good to them, they were always grateful and willing to return favors.

Yuwen Ming stepped forward with a bow, "Greetings to Uncle Rui!"

Chu Yu waved his hand dismissively, "No need for formalities!"

He pulled out a round, lustrous bead of Imperial Green jade from his money pouch and handed it to Yuwen Ming, "Here, take this to play with!"

Yuwen Ming was delighted, taking it with thanks, "Thank you, Uncle Rui!"

Chu Yu looked at Yun Jinnian, and Yuwen Ming was also looking at Yun Jinnian, even the Princess of Zhen Guo was watching her.

Yun Jinnian had no choice but to brace herself and step forward to perform a courtesy, "Greetings to His Highness Prince Rui!"

Chu Yu's heart was joyful, and he also took out a round bead of Imperial Green jade, "Here, take this to play with!"

"Thank you, Your Highness!" Yun Jinnian took the bead and passed it behind her to Yuwen Ming.

Chu Yu chuckled, "We're all acquainted here, no need to pretend you don't know me, Auntie is not an outsider!"

Yun Jinnian was startled, looking at Chu Yu in disbelief.

She couldn't fathom what he was up to.

After her initial shock, the Princess of Zhen Guo quickly understood. Chu Yu had informed her in a secret letter that the poison in his body had been cured.

At the time, she had her doubts, but now as she thought about it, with Yun Jinnian's exceptional medical skills and Chu Yu referring to her as an acquaintance, it dawned on her that the person who had cured Chu Yu was indeed Yun Jinnian.

Realizing that Yun Jinnian could cure the poison in Chu Yu meant that perhaps she could cure her fifth-born as well...

The Princess of Zhen Guo looked at Yun Jinnian differently now but feigned ignorance as she asked, "Do you two know each other?"

"More than that, she's the one who cured the severe poison in me!" Chu Yu said, and then boasted, "Auntie, don't be fooled by her young age, her medical skills are extraordinary!"

"Yes, last night we also had her to thank!" The Princess of Zhen Guo said, her fondness for Yun Jinnian growing.

Yun Jinnian was silent.

She wasn't foolish, she understood many things upon a moment's reflection.

There was a certain bitterness in her heart.

Was Chu Yu using her as a pawn for his own ends?

What if her medical skills had fallen short and she hadn't been able to cure him?

Thinking this, Yun Jinnian became even more modest and subdued, silent!

Yuwen Ming hadn't expected Yun Jinnian to be so capable and grabbed her hand excitedly, "Sister Jinnian, is it true? Did you really cure Uncle Rui of his poison?"

Yun Jinnian nodded lightly, smiling softly and gently, yet her eyes revealed a slight, scarcely perceptible detachment.

Chu Yu had been watching Yun Jinnian all along, and naturally sensed the subtlety and change in her demeanor, and his heart skipped a beat.

He sat up straight unconsciously, feeling somewhat nervous.

The Princess of Zhen Guo also watched Yun Jinnian, her vast experience allowing her to perceive the minute shift in Yun Jinnian's emotions. Seeing Chu Yu's nervousness, she found it amusing. She knew Yun Jinnian had a compassionate heart and a proud spirit; she wouldn't go back on her word. Her displeasure stemmed from Chu Yu's presumption, suspecting that he had not discussed with Yun Jinnian about treating her or her fifth-born. Now, by some fluke, Yun Jinnian happened to save her first, and Chu Yu was rashly claiming they were old acquaintances. It would indeed vex Yun Jinnian not to be annoyed. The Princess entertained herself with the unfolding drama.

#### Chapter 217: Angry

Chu Yu saw Yun Jinnian with his head lowered, as if wanting to speak, just as Nanny Song happened to bring a brocade box over.

The Commandery Princess took it and handed it to Chu Yu, "Open it and have a look!"

In the past, she couldn't understand why Chu Yu had eagerly asked her for a birthday present in his letter, specifically requesting only those three unique Medical Books. Now, seeing his relationship with Yun Jinnian, she immediately understood.

Chu Yu accepted it, opened it, and glanced inside, brimming with joy, "Thank you, Aunt!"

"You!" The Commandery Princess tapped Chu Yu on the head.

Fancying anyone but the daughter of the Han Family.

Each member of the Han Family carried themselves with a proud spine. Look at Mrs. Han; even after Yun Qi took a concubine, she discarded him like a worn-out shoe, giving him no further chances.

But it was no wonder the women of the Han Family were so steadfast. Just look at the men of the Han Family, each one faithful to the end. Not to mention distant cases, just look at the recent one of Han Xuzi. After the death of his original wife, he had gone on a journey with Mrs. Han and never sought another.

The old master, back in his day, was a man as towering as the wind-clearing moon. Had she been born just a few years earlier and the old master not already wed with children, she certainly would have resorted to extreme measures...

As the Commandery Princess pondered, she shook her head and chuckled to herself.

She was getting ahead of herself.

Chu Yu closed the brocade box, looking at Yun Jinnian. Seeing that Yun Jinnian ignored him with her head down, he inexplicably panicked, thinking that later on, when he would give the unique Medical Books to Yun Jinnian, he needed to explain well.

The jokes had caused the dishes to go cold. The Commandery Princess ordered the servants to clear the table, planning to serve fresh ones later. She felt somewhat tired and decided to rest for a while, asking to be called once the new dishes were ready.

Not needing Yun Jinnian's assistance, the Commandery Princess stepped back and quietly left the room. Chu Yu, who had been watching Yun Jinnian closely, immediately followed her out.

Yuwen Ming was perplexed, "Eh..."

But the Commandery Princess said to Nanny Song, "Give the order for everyone to keep a tight lip!"

If any gossip leaked, it wouldn't be good for Yun Jinnian and Chu Yu.

A good deed from Chu Yu, she must not let it be in vain.

With Yun Jinnian's medical skills on the line, and Little Fifth counting on her to save his life, she dared not be careless.

"Grandmother..."

Yuwen Ming was confused.

The Commandery Princess smiled at Nanny Song, who immediately understood, "Commandery Princess, the Princess is tired, let me tell you instead!"

"Mhm!"

Yuwen Ming followed Nanny Song into the courtyard, where Nanny Song spoke, "Does the Commandery Princess know how old His Highness the Prince is this year?"

Yuwen Ming thought carefully, "Eighteen, right?"

"Yes, His Highness is eighteen, and quite a few people are already betrothed," Nanny Song said as much.

Yuwen Ming was utterly astonished.

"He, he..."

Nanny Song started smiling, "Commandery Princess, what do you think about the Fourth Miss?"

"Sister Jinnian is a good person!"

Not to mention her looks, as beauty fades with time and so does love; nor her virtue, as my acquaintance with Yun Jinnian is too brief to know her true character.

Based on this short interaction alone, Yuwen Ming felt that Yun Jinnian was a good person.

Quite fair.

Nanny Song laughed, "What the Commandery Princess said is very true!"

But Yuwen Ming didn't mention that Yun Jinnian and Chu Yu together would surely make a perfect match.

And she thought, if these two were to marry in the future, she would have to call Yun Jinnian her aunt.

"..."

Yuwen Ming suddenly found herself speechless.

Yun Jinnian walked quite quickly, but how could she outpace Chu Yu?

Chu Yu knew that the inn was staffed by the Commandery Princess's people, felt he could be a bit more bold and, with a burst of energy, leaped in front of Yun Jinnian, blocking her path.

Hemei and Henuan knew that Yun Jinnian and Chu Yu were acquainted and didn't say much, only watching Chu Yu with caution.

Yun Jinnian looked at Chu Yu without saying a word, while Chu Yu appeared somewhat cautious, "Are you angry?"

## Chapter 218: Reconciliation

Angry?

Yun Jinnian found it amusing.

"No!" Yun Jinnian said, and then turned her head away.

Chu Yu pursed his lips, "You're lying. You say you're not angry, but you're ignoring me!"

Yun Jinnian didn't bother to pay attention to Chu Yu and started to walk away.

Chu Yu reached out and grabbed Yun Jinnian's arm.

Chu Yu was very tall and sturdy. In front of him, Yun Jinnian looked pitifully small.

His hand was also very large; gripping Yun Jinnian's arm, because it was summer and the clothing was thin, Chu Yu felt not flesh but what seemed to be just a bone.

Yet the palm of his hand felt burning hot, and then he quickly released her and stepped back a few steps.

After taking a deep breath, he handed a brocade box to Yun Jinnian, and cautiously said, "Here, these medical books are rare volumes. I'm giving them to you. Please, don't be angry, alright?"

Yun Jinnian had intended to say who would want that.

But to her, gold, silver, jewels, and fine silk fabrics really weren't that appealing, but she greatly valued these medical books.

However, she didn't want to forgive Chu Yu so quickly. Otherwise, he might continue to manipulate her in the future, which could be deadly for her.

She didn't take the brocade box and walked past Chu Yu.

Hemei and Huan immediately followed her.

Chu Yu stood there stunned, utterly bewildered.

Not even wanting the rare medical books, was she that angry?

He hurried after Yun Jinnian, once again blocking her path, "Jinnian, Jinnian..."

"What can I do for you, Prince Rui?" Yun Jinnian's voice was distant and cool.

Suddenly so estranged, Chu Yu felt a mixture of pain and panic in his chest.

He looked at Yun Jinnian incredulously, while Yun Jinnian, head lifted without a trace of fear, also stared at Chu Yu.

Determination was written all over her small face.

In the end, it was Chu Yu who conceded and stepped aside.

Yun Jinnian also disregarded him and walked away.

Chu Yu watched as Yun Jinnian, with Hemei and Huan, entered a guest house, and the door to it closed behind them.

A bang was heard.

Chu Yu's body trembled slightly.

Clutching the brocade box, he stood in place, not knowing where to go, just standing there straight.

Inside the guest house, Yun Jinnian stood for a long time before saying, "Hemei, go out and see if His Highness is still there. If he is, let him come in. Huanan, go ask Mother Song for a pot of tea!"

Hemei hurriedly opened the gate and seeing Chu Yu still standing there, felt a flicker of joy and quickly approached, bowing to Chu Yu, "Your Highness, my young lady invites you in to talk!"

Chu Yu was startled for a moment, then ecstatic, he strode toward the guest house. Upon entering, he saw Yun Jinnian sitting on the steps under the eaves, and he quickly sat down beside her.

"I'm sorry!!" Chu Yu apologized earnestly, feeling somewhat uneasy in his heart.

He was afraid Yun Jinnian was angry, and just as afraid she would ignore him.

Yun Jinnian turned her head to look at Chu Yu, and seeing his handsome face full of remorse, she scoffed coldly, "What did you do wrong?"

"I was wrong not to ask for your consent before revealing to aunt that you have medical skills. I promise it won't happen again!"

Thinking of her cold, indifferent, and distant gaze, calling him Prince Rui with icy frost in her voice, his heart ached—how could there be a next time?

"That's what you said. If there is a next time, I really won't pay attention to you again!" Yun Jinnian snapped.

"Yes, yes, I've got it. I won't dare do it again!"

Yun Jinnian huffed, took off the purse tied around her waist, opened it, and took out a red purse embroidered with auspicious clouds and the words 'Amitabha Buddha' in golden thread.

It looked peaceful and sanctified.

She handed it to Chu Yu, mimicking his tone, "Here, this is for you, take it and fiddle with it!"

#### Chapter 219: Pacifying People

Chu Yu heard this and was immediately overjoyed.

He quickly reached out to take it and examined it closely in his hand, only to discover there was another layer inside.

"Turn it over and have a look!" Yun Jinnian reminded aloud.

Chu Yu turned the purse over to reveal a black purse. At a closer look, it seemed unembroidered, but if one rubbed it carefully with their hand, they could feel there was actually embroidery.

"It's a 'fortune' character!"

Yun Jinnian nodded, "Yes, there should be twelve of them in total, symbolizing fortune every month!"

The invisible place concealed fortune, and with the Buddha's postal blessing, indeed the purse was very auspicious.

Chu Yu quickly stood up, handing the purse to Yun Jinnian, "Would you help me wear it?"

Seeing Chu Yu's eyes full of anticipation, Yun Jinnian, feeling helpless, took the purse and tied it onto his belt for him, "It looks good!"

"I think it looks good too!"

Most importantly, it was made by Yun Jinnian, which made it all the more beautiful and precious.

Chu Yu sat next to Yun Jinnian, fiddling with the purse.

Only then did Yun Jinnian speak, "Next time if you have a friend or relative who needs my medical attention, you must tell me so I don't misunderstand the situation and say or do the wrong thing!"

She didn't want to harm herself or cause trouble for Chu Yu.

Hearing this, Chu Yu nodded solemnly, "Jinnian, I was wrong this time. I know of your kindness and medical skills, yet I forgot to respect your decisions and choices. I won't make the same mistake again!"

Yun Jinnian was a clever girl; after Chu Yu promised, she wouldn't hold on to it.

Then she added, "You're also not allowed to walk away when you make me angry next time. Who knows, my anger might subside midway, and I'll have Hemei call for you!"

"How could I dare let there be a next time!" said Chu Yu as he scratched his head.

One time was enough for him to be on tenterhooks, let alone a second.

Yun Jinnian also smiled and then continued to ask, "It's your birthday today, will the Princess return to the Capital City?"

"Jinfeng? No, she won't come back until the Mid-Autumn Festival!"

Yun Jinnian sighed.

"You miss her?"

"Yes, I miss the Princess!"

By the bonds of friendship, the Princess counted as her first friend.

The days in the valley were short but filled with happiness.

"Then write to her, tell her you miss her and ask her to prepare some medicinal materials to bring back to the Capital City. When she returns, you can make the medicinal pills for her!"

Yun Jinnian nodded firmly, "The Princess loves beauty; I will prepare some skin-beautifying papers for her when the time comes!"

Thinking of Princess Jinfeng, Yun Jinnian's smile became more sincere.

Seeing Yun Jinnian smile, Chu Yu smiled along with her.

Yun Jinnian turned her head to look at Chu Yu, "Why are you smiling?"

"I'm happy. Today is my birthday, and you gave me a purse. Even Jinfeng doesn't have one!"

Yun Jinnian smiled without saying a word, certainly not about to tell Chu Yu that Princess Jinfeng had already received a purse from her.

Seeing Yun Jinnian not replying, Chu Yu thought for a moment and then said, "Shall we go for a walk on the streets? Duanwu Festival is just a few days away. Have you bought your multicolored threads yet?"

"Multicolored threads?" Yun Jinnian asked.

She had no idea what that was.

"You don't know?" Chu Yu asked in surprise.

He remembered that when they were children, Jinfeng would prepare a lot of it early on, giving some to him and bestowing them to their servants.

"Back at the Yun Family, we barely had enough to eat; who would tell me about these things!" Yun Jinnian said, pausing before grabbing Chu Yu's sleeve, "Take me out to buy some, will you?"

Chu Yu nodded emphatically, "I'll take you. Let's go speak to aunt and bring Ming along!"

"Alright!"

Chu Yu took Yun Jinnian to visit the eldest Princess' guest house, saying they wanted to take Yuwen Ming and Yun Jinnian for a walk on the streets, and the eldest Princess readily agreed, instructing Nanny Song to accompany them.

It was not to surveil anyone; with Nanny Song present, nobody would later use this matter to criticize Yun Jinnian or Yuwen Ming!

Chapter 220: Shameless

Yuwen Ming was happy to be able to go out and have fun.

Since the inn was located on the bustling main street of Huaixi County, stepping out the door, there were many shops selling goods for the Dragon Boat Festival.

For instance, there were various threads as well as fragrant sachets for rice dumplings. Although the materials and threads used weren't of the highest quality, they were exquisitely made, and the sachets even contained some herbs to ward off insects.

Yun Jinnian bought quite a few in one go.

He also purchased some small trinkets.

Hemei and Huan, who both had a little money to spend, were not timid about buying things either.

Thinking of Hongxiu, Hongdou, and Hongye, he also bought some things for them.

Nanny Song also picked out a few items.

After eating some snacks at the shops and buying a few things for the Princess, Yun Jinnian, feeling impulsive, made a round at the pharmacy. Seeing that there were no precious or rare herbs, he then returned to the inn.

With too many followers behind, Yun Jinnian didn't enjoy himself as much as he could've, but he was still very happy.

After washing up, he went to take the pulse and pay respects to the Princess.

"How is it?" asked the Princess of Zhen Guo.

"The Princess is recovering very well!"

The Princess of Zhen Guo nodded her head, "Then can we set off back to the Capital City tomorrow?"

After thinking for a while, Yun Jinnian said, "If the carriage travels slowly, it is possible!"

"Then let's head back to the Capital City early tomorrow morning!"

"Yes!"

Since it was Chu Yu's birthday today, dinner was very rich. Yun Jinnian and Yuwen Ming also drank a little fruit wine, and after just a small cup, both girls became tipsy and their eyes looked blurred.

So after dinner, when Yun Jinnian took the Princess's pulse, her head bobbed slowly, clueless about what she was doing. The Princess laughed at this and asked Nanny Song to take Yun Jinnian back to her room to rest. Yun Jinnian was completely unaware that Chu Yu had secretly slipped into her room and stood by her bed for a while before he left.

The Princess of Zhen Guo knew about Chu Yu's night visit to Yun Jinnian's room and disapproved, saying, "This child, he is still behaving somewhat frivolously!"

"Don't worry, Princess, the fourth miss is someone with her own mind!" said Nanny Song, sighing.

"What's wrong?" the Princess of Zhen Guo asked.

"This fourth miss looks slender in her clothes, but when I covered her with a quilt earlier, looking at her wrists, they were so thin, just skin and bones. Who knows how much hardship she has suffered!" Nanny Song thought of the young ladies of the Yuwen Family.

Even if born to a concubine, they were pampered and cherished, never treated so harshly.

The Princess scoffed in mockery, "The ways of the Yun Family have long been twisted. Otherwise, do you see any of them accomplishing much nowadays? With such a foolish old lady, the Emperor dare not employ people from the Yun Family. Yet that old lady still thinks she's so great, not realizing that the Yun Family is already a rotten structure showing a façade of prosperity, about to collapse at any moment!"

"Indeed, that Yun elder seems clever but is actually not!" Nanny Song agreed.

"Foolishly filial! In other words, weak. To make him an Imperial Censor, they really overestimated him. It seems the Emperor wants him to burn fiercely until the end, his former merits wiped clean because of that foolish old lady. It would be easier to deal with him then!"

In a few words, the Princess of Zhen Guo pierced through everything.

Nanny Song fell silent and said no more.

After a while, the Princess of Zhen Guo said, "Let it be. I'm getting old. Let the children handle their own affairs, just as long as they don't cause trouble."

As for Chu Yu's feelings for Yun Jinnian, the Princess of Zhen Guo knew she couldn't meddle too much.

As the saying goes, "Every man knows his own business best." Whether Yun Jinnian was good or not, Chu Yu knew best.

Even if Yun Jinnian were arsenic, Chu Yu would think her honey. If anyone said Yun Jinnian was not good, Chu Yu would be hostile towards them, which would not be worth the trouble.

"The Princess should relax and focus on recuperating properly. His Highness is no longer a child. Let him make his own decisions. Furthermore..."

The Princess of Zhen Guo, fearing that Nanny Song would reveal secrets, hastily said, "Enough, let's stop discussing this matter and never bring it up again!"