

## Indulgence 301

### Chapter 301: Calculation

Yun Jinnian was still too lazy to see them, although she had come to a realization, both her body and spirit were still not recovered, and she felt somewhat lethargic.

The opportunity had once been in front of the City Lord Zhuge, and he hadn't cherished it, but now he was seeking it again, who did he think he was?

"I won't see him!"

Yun Jinnian still focused on eating her food.

Han Tianci glanced at Yun Jinnian and regretted bringing out so much medicine, which had caused so much trouble.

Without a word, Yun Jinnian picked up some meat and placed it in Han Tianci's bowl, then ladled half a bowl of chicken soup for him.

"Thank you, Sister!"

Yun Jinnian smiled.

She continued eating.

In the past, she would stop eating after being three-fifths full, but now she had decided to eat more, stopping only after she was at least seven-tenths full.

Turning her head toward the doorway, she saw Zhuge Wenzui still holding a fist over his bowed waist in a gesture of respect, and only then did Yun Jinnian ask, "Uncle Zhong!"

"Hmm?"

"Who is that person at the door?"

Han Zhong glanced at Zhuge Wenzui, "The eldest son of the City Lord Residence, outsiders all call him Young City Lord. However, the City Lord is partial, favoring his second son more. That second son is the one born by the concubine from before!"

Yun Jinnian nodded slightly, signaling that she understood.

Han Zhong continued to eat his meal.

Chu Yu put down his chopsticks, "This Zhuge Wenzui could have been quite a figure, but it's a pity his father is too biased!"

Speaking of favoritism, Chu Yu seemed to recall his own deceased father, the Emperor, who had also been extremely biased.

And he grew silent.

After some thought, Yun Jinnian said, "Is it worth helping?"

Yuwen Ya glanced at Yun Jinnian and went on eating, as it had nothing to do with him.

Prince Yanjun also ate quietly.

After thinking it over, Chu Yu said, "Depends on what kind of reward you want!"

But he already had a plan in mind.

When Chu Yu said so, Yun Jinnian, not knowing his plan, smiled and said, "Then let's give it a try!"

Upon hearing Yun Jinnian say this, Han Zhong slowly finished the food in his mouth before rising and heading towards Zhuge Wenzui, "Go back and tell City Lord Zhuge to get ready. My family's young master will see to City Lord Zhuge in a moment!"

"Thank you!" Zhuge Wenzui said sincerely.

His martial arts skills were outstanding, and he overheard the conversation in the dining room clearly. He did not know why the Han Family's young master decided to help him in the end—was it out of sympathy or pity?

Either way, it wasn't out of any benevolent heart or skill.

Regardless, this moment nevertheless alleviated his pressing concern.

This father of his was truly too biased, and ruthless, constantly scheming to promote his second brother.

He could do without anything, but if he fell from favor, what would become of his mother and his younger siblings?

Zhuge Wenzui turned and walked to the side of the carriage, respectfully saying, "Father, Han's young master has agreed to see you, should someone help you down from the carriage?"

"Hmm!"

A faint hmm emanated from within the carriage.

Without any regard for him humbly standing under the sun, painstakingly waiting.

Although filial piety is a given, shouldn't he be rewarded with a kind word, words acknowledging his hardship, or a heartfelt praise?

Zhuge Wexui took a deep breath, ordered the removal of the carriage's fittings, and went to prepare.

In this place, because Yun Jinnian was going to treat the City Lord, after the meal, Prince Yanjun and Yuwen Ya both waited on the carriage.

The restaurant naturally did not want to let people inside, so they had no choice but to dismantle the surroundings of the carriage and erect a tent to barely shield the City Lord from the sun.

Madam Yin had complaints, but now that it involved the City Lord himself, she dared not make a fuss.

Being heavy set tends to make one feel hotter, and the City Lord had been waiting a good while without seeing anyone approaching, he asked impatiently, "Why haven't they come yet?"

Zhuge Wexui was silent.

Madam Yin also wanted to complain and make a few sarcastic remarks, but then she saw Yun Jinnian approaching slowly, accompanied by Han Tiansi and Chu Yu, with Chu Yu carrying the medicine chest.

"The master is coming, Han's young Divine Doctor is here!" Madam Yin said joyfully.

Upon hearing this, the City Lord was overjoyed and tried to sit up with effort. Zhuge Wexui hurried to assist him, but he brushed Zhuge Wexui off, "I don't need your help!"

#### Chapter 302: Harden One's Heart

Zhuge Wexui's hand stiffened in place, and after a while, he managed a faint smile, lowering his hand to greet Yun Jinnian and the other two, "I have seen Young Master Han, I have seen Your Highness!"

Yun Jinnian was somewhat surprised that Zhuge Wexui recognized Chu Yu and nodded slightly in response.

Over there, Nanny Yin and the two attendants helped the City Lord up, and the City Lord started laughing upon seeing the trio of Yun Jinnian, drooling continuously.

Nanny Yin wiped away his drool with a look of disgust.

Yun Jinnian glanced over and noticed that the City Lord was indeed quite rotund, and spoke lightly, "Let's take the pulse first!"

Nanny Yin lifted the City Lord's sleeve, revealing his plump wrist. Yun Jinnian took a damp cloth, lightly wiped her hands, and then proceeded to take the City Lord's pulse.

"How is it?" asked the City Lord.

"There is still hope for you, but from now on, you cannot eat even the slightest bit of meat or fish, nor can you drink alcohol, and you cannot engage in sexual intercourse. Once you break any of these rules, even the Great Luo Immortal won't be able to save you!" Yun Jinnian said, pulling her hand back.

The City Lord was overjoyed, "Really?"

Yun Jinnian nodded slightly.

After wiping her hands with the cloth, she continued, "I will let some of your blood now, and then we will do it again every half month. You must also take the medicine I prescribe and the elixir I have prepared, and get out of bed to move around more!"

Yun Jinnian bled the City Lord, wrote a prescription, and also provided an elixir, "Take one pill of the elixir every day for the first month, and thereafter one every three days. Once you finish, there's no need to continue. As for the consultation fee, just have someone deliver it to Han Residence on White Tiger Street in the Capital City!"

As she handed over the prescription and elixir, there was also a bill for the consultation fee, listing the required herbs. As for other requirements, Yun Jinnian didn't ask for much, taking what was offered without fretting over whether the Zhuge family might renege on the deal.

Because of this delay, they did not set off again until after midday.

Chu Yu had already decided to spend the night in the wild and had sent people ahead to find a spot and prepare game for dinner.

"Big Brother Chu, are we going to roast game tonight?" asked Han Tianci.

His heart fluttered with a small excitement.

"Yes, we'll have a pot of plain rice porridge, enjoy the game, and then lie side by side on the grass, watching the stars and the moon—it has its own delight!"

"Great, that sounds marvelous!"

Seeing Han Tianci's heart full of joy, Yun Jinnian smiled faintly, a glint of light sparkling in her eyes.

Night deepened.

The carriage was still hurrying along.

They had a distance to cover to reach the location Luo'er had found before they could rest.

Han Tianci's spirits were high; looking forward to the unusual dinner, he didn't feel hungry.

Yun Jinnian took her cup and sipped her tea.

Thinking of the departed Luoyi, Yun Jinnian's eyes grew deeper.

Some matters were initially just conjectures, but now that Chu Yu was behaving in such a way, she was certain of them.

"Sister, what are you thinking about?" Han Tianci asked curiously.

"Sister is thinking about what to do," she replied.

Should she help Chu Yu or pretend to be oblivious to everything?

Deep down, she wanted to help Chu Yu.

She did not understand why she harbored such an absurd thought.

"As long as sister is happy, Tianci supports whatever sister does!"

Yun Jinnian looked at the naive and cute Han Tianci, cupped his face in her hands, and gently kissed his forehead, "Thank you, Tianci!"

Han Tianci's face turned red immediately, and he said blankly, "You're welcome!"

Yun Jinnian burst into laughter, her spirits lifting as if the fog had cleared to reveal sunny skies, her heart suddenly becoming bright!

City Lord Residence

After taking the medicine prescribed by Yun Jinnian, the City Lord felt much better. He scolded Zhuge Wenzui fiercely and then ordered him to leave, not even sparing a moment of time for his eldest son.

"Big brother!" Zhuge Wenyan called out softly.

Zhuge Wexui patted Zhuge Wenyen on the shoulder, "Go back, I want to walk alone!"

Zhuge Wenyen watched his elder brother's retreating back, then glanced at the main house where a harmonious family of three were present, and clenched his fist.

He wouldn't let this rest.

No meat, no sex, no alcohol.

He would surely find a way!

### Chapter 303: Affection Begins to Show

Zhuge Wexui wandered the garden without a clear destination in mind, simply seeking a place to be alone for a while.

He was even less eager to face his tender wife, unwilling for her to worry about him.

"Are you content to continue living this idle life?"

Startled by the voice, Zhuge Wexui exclaimed, "Who's there?"

Such high martial arts prowess that he hadn't noticed anyone approaching.

"My identity is not important. I'm merely here on behalf of my master to ask the young City Lord a question, are you resolved to keep compromising in this way?" the man said as he stepped out of the shadows.

It was none other than Luoyi, an attendant of Chu Yu.

Zhuge Wexui recognized him and hastily bowed his hands in greeting, "I am honored!"

"The young City Lord need not be overly courteous. I am here to ask on behalf of my master if you are willing to become one of his people, to obey his orders. If the young City Lord is willing, someone will clear all obstacles for you, ensuring you can securely assume the position of City Lord of Hongchou City!"

To become a person of Prince Yanjun, Zhuge Wexui was naturally willing.

He quickly knelt on one knee, "I am ready to serve His Highness!"

"Then, the young City Lord just needs to wait for the news. When the time comes, I hope the young City Lord can act convincingly!" After speaking, Luoyi left as silently as he had appeared.

Zhuge Wexui remained in place, filled with anticipation.

It was quite a while before he returned to his own courtyard. Seeing his wife look at him with tenderness and harmony, he carried her directly to the bedroom, and what followed was a passionate intertwining, now with added vigor!

By the stream

A grill had already been set up with chickens and rabbits turning on spits, and a large pot boiled with a thick porridge.

Prince Yanjun sat atop a carriage, playing the zither.

Han Tianci followed Yuwen Ya, happily learning from him how to roast chickens and rabbits.

Yun Jinnian stood to the side, looking up at the night sky, listening to Prince Yanjun play the zither.

The music was hauntingly ethereal, beautifully addictive.

Yun Jinnian turned his head towards him, curious how someone who had been tormented by poison since birth could play such ghostly beautiful music.

Chu Yu walked over to Yun Jinnian, "Do you want to play the zither?"

Yun Jinnian looked at Chu Yu, "May I?"

"Just wait, I'll help you get the zither!" said Chu Yu as he went over to Prince Yanjun and whispered something.

Yun Jinnian couldn't hear what he said, but Prince Yanjun stopped playing, allowing Chu Yu to bring both the zither and the stand to Yun Jinnian.

"This is the Fengmin Zither!" said Chu Yu.

"No wonder it can produce such wonderful music!" said Yun Jinnian as he had Henuan wipe his hands with a wet towel, then dry them and apply a medicinal solution before gently plucking the strings.

He played "High Mountains and Running Water" elevating the piece to new heights, as if depicting majestic mountains and babbling streams, and seemed to convey the deep friendship between Boya and Ziqi with profound vivacity.

"The moon rises over the sea, sharing this moment with the end of the earth," Chu Yu murmured softly.

Yun Jinnian glanced at him, "Raising my cup, I invite the bright moon, my shadow and I make three."

Chu Yu laughed, "Soon we'll have delicious roasted chicken and rabbit, will Jinnian join me for a cup?"

Yun Jinnian looked at Chu Yu and also smiled, "In that case, I shall enjoy a light drink!"

This smile was filled with warmth and joy.

Chu Yu watched, somewhat entranced.

His ear tips also turned slightly red as he quickly turned away, licked his lips, and signaled to Luo'er, "Bring my Jade Meteor!"

Such a perfect moment surrounded by beauty, he wanted to perform a piece with Jinnian.

To not waste such a wonderful and peaceful night, to not waste Jinnian's warm smile.

Yun Jinnian was slightly taken aback upon hearing this, after all, few played the Jade Meteor, and sons of nobility like Chu Yu usually played the long Xiao or a flute, didn't they?

For a moment, Yun Jinnian actually looked forward to performing a duet with Chu Yu!

#### Chapter 304: Cheers

When Chu Yu got hold of the Jade Meteor flute, Yun Jinnian sneakily changed the tune he was playing, simply strumming however he felt, following his mood.

Regardless of what had been played before or what was to follow.

But Chu Yu quickly managed to keep up, harmoniously complementing Yun Jinnian's music as he played the flute.

It worked out quite well, silencing everyone, including those as grand as Prince Yanjun, to just listen quietly.

That is, until Yuwen Ya shouted out, "Ouch, it's burnt!"

The music and flute sounds suddenly stopped, and Chu Yu, red-faced, tossed the Jade Meteor to Luoyi and yelled, "Yuwen Ya, you're done for!"

And then proceeded to chase after Yuwen Ya.

Watching them, Yun Jinnian burst into laughter.

He wiped the guqin clean, carried it, and returned it to Prince Yanjun.

"Thank you for lending me your guqin, Commandery Prince!"

Prince Yanjun slightly curved his lips into a smile, and his personal servant came forward to take the guqin, wiped it down once more, then carefully placed it in the brocade box, clearly someone who cherished the instrument dearly.

To be able to serve by the side of an almost ethereal Prince Yanjun, one's skills must also be extraordinary.

Yun Jinnian turned back and glanced at Hemei and Henuan, who were eagerly following him, "You two go help with the roasting, I need to speak a few words with the Commandery Prince!"

"Yes!"

After they replied, Hemei and Henuan happily scampered off to find Han Tianci.

Although these guards were all grown men, they showed extra care and tolerance towards the ten-year-old Hemei and Henuan, not to mention their affection for the lively and charming Han Tianci.

Yun Jinnian saw this and felt his eyes warm.

Lowering his gaze, he said, "Commandery Prince, if anything is amiss in the future, you must tell me so I can adjust the prescription according to your condition!"

Prince Yanjun nodded, signaling his understanding.

Yun Jinnian let out a slight sigh of relief.

He truly feared that Prince Yanjun would say nothing, for although he was a doctor, diagnosis wasn't solely based on pulse-taking and observing facial expressions—it also depended on thorough inquiry and examination.

Han Tianci came over, pulling along two rabbit legs, and offered one to Yun Jinnian, "Sister, here's one for you!"

Yun Jinnian, looking at the greasy rabbit leg which indeed smelled delicious, was caught in a dilemma, unsure whether to accept it or not. Han Tianci's eyes gleamed brightly next to the bonfire, dazzling in the dark.

Yun Jinnian eventually reached out to take it.

"Thank you!"

Han Tianci then handed the other one to Prince Yanjun, "Commandery Prince, this one's for you!"

Prince Yanjun likewise accepted it, taking a bite from the edge and nodding.

Han Tianci broke into a smile, "Tastes good, right? I'll bring over some sliced pork and chicken in a moment!" After speaking, he ran off to help.

Yun Jinnian looked on, his gaze filled with warmth.

He hesitated for a moment before taking a small bite. It was a bit hot, but undeniably delicious.

The skin was crispy while the meat was tender, and the flavor was truly good.

Soon, a small table was set up on the grass, several plates of rabbit and chicken slices were brought over, along with two bowls of porridge.

Yun Jinnian realized that only he and Prince Yanjun were sitting down to eat, while everyone else seemed to be enjoying their meat, tearingly happily. He chuckled, picked up the porridge, and sipped it slowly.

Prince Yanjun did the same. Although blind, his use of chopsticks to pick up meat slices was accurate, and he ate slowly and elegantly, chewed the food thoroughly.

A cup of wine was placed in front of Yun Jinnian, its aroma wafting through the air.

Yun Jinnian looked up at Chu Yu.

"We agreed to just a light drink, but this wine is strong, only a sip for now. Once we reach Tortoiseshell City, I'll have Luo'er find some fruit wine. That kind is tasty and less potent!"

Yun Jinnian smiled lightly and nodded, lifted the wine cup, and gazed at Chu Yu with a smile, who also raised his flask to clink with Yun Jinnian's cup, "Cheers!"

"Cheers!"

Yun Jinnian raised her hand to drink, glanced at Chu Yu, who was also looking at her, and in that moment, Chu Yu's face turned red as he thought that sharing this drink with Yun Jinnian felt particularly like...

Chapter 305: Anger

It somehow resembled the look during the joining of cups ceremony.

Chu Yu quickly turned his head away, afraid that his feelings might be discerned.

He was also secretly relieved that it was dark and hard to clearly see his blushing face and rapidly beating heart.

Yun Jinnian didn't notice, and after they ate dinner, he went to relieve himself in a secluded place before returning to wash his face and feet and go to sleep.

Of course, Yun Jinnian slept in the carriage, while Han Tianci had to sleep outdoors on the ground along with Chu Yu. Since Hemei and Huan were girls, they slept in the carriage with Yun Jinnian.

On the grass

Han Tianci nestled next to Chu Yu, "Brother Chu!"

"Hmm?"

Han Tianci leaned closer to Chu Yu, "Teach me Martial Arts!"

"Sure!"

Chu Yu didn't ask why Han Tianci wanted to learn Martial Arts; if Han Tianci was willing to learn, he would teach.

"Big Brother Chu of Xiaoxiang!"

Chu Yu couldn't help laughing, stretching out his hand to ruffle Han Tianci's hair, "Go to sleep, we have to travel again tomorrow!"

"Okay!"

Early the next morning, they ate a simple breakfast of chicken porridge and steamed buns. It was then that Yun Jinnian realized one of the guards, who was only eighteen, cooked the meals beautifully, and that surprised her.

Since they set off early in the cool of the morning, Chu Yu wanted Han Tianci to run with him. Han Tianci agreed without hesitation, and they ran ahead of the group for two hours. By the time it was to get on the carriage, he was gasping for air,

so Yun Jinnian got off the carriage with Hemei and Henuan to change his clothes.

Chu Yu walked over to Yun Jinnian, "Won't he overwork himself?"

Looking at him, he seems to handle it well. If he still wants to run tomorrow morning, let's shorten the duration a bit and gradually increase it. Tianci is still young, after all!"

Upon hearing this, Chu Yu said, "That's my fault. I can run for six hours without any issues. I'll pay attention tomorrow!"

"It's alright!"

Before long, it was June and they were getting closer and closer to Tortoiseshell City. The weather was also becoming hotter, and sitting inside the carriage felt like being roasted over a fire.

The crops along the way looked wilted as though they were about to dry out.

"Your Highness, do you think there will be a drought this year?" Yun Jinnian asked.

Suddenly, Chu Yu thought of the flood that had followed the heavy snowfall the previous year, and immediately ordered Luoyi to go back the same way to arrange for the bulk purchase of food and medicine.

Yun Jinnian glanced at him and remained silent.

## Imperial Palace

Besides the entourage led by Mother Qian, the Emperor had also dispatched two Hidden Guards to secretly monitor every move of Yun Jinnian's party. When the letter arrived at the Imperial Palace and in the hands of the Emperor through pigeon post, he was immediately infuriated, "Idiots, a bunch of idiots!"

Hearing this, Eunuch Hai knelt on the ground with a thud, not daring to breathe too loudly.

"What were my orders before they left? Just follow the Yun Family girl's instructions in all matters. But this cunning old servant, thinking too highly of himself, rushed them along the journey, allowing the Yun Family girl to reverse the situation, sedating them for a day and a night. After waking up, these idiots didn't report back, but chose to hide it and foolishly went after her. Meanwhile, the Yun Family girl and her companions never left Hongchou City, and even stumbled upon Prince Yanjun and Prince Rui!"

The Emperor grew even angrier as he spoke, "Worthless fools!"

The Hidden Guards reported that Yun Jinnian's party traveled extremely slowly, which looked more like a leisurely tour rather than a journey to Nanjiang to find an antidote for the Emperor. He even suspected that Yun Jinnian had known Chu Yu from before and that this trip to Nanjiang was primarily for Chu Yu and Prince Yanjun.

But he was powerless to do anything.

Han Xuzi couldn't cure the poison in his body, only suppress it, and sometimes he couldn't even control his overwhelming desires...

## Chapter 306: The Monster

Sometimes, when the torment was unbearable, he thought that rather than suffer so, it was better to die in that rolling yellow silk brocade.

But then he thought of his imperial power, his grand undertaking, how could he dare to die, and how could he bear to let himself die.

"Your Majesty, please calm your anger!" Eunuch Hai mustered his courage to say.

"Calm my anger, how can you ask me to calm my anger, those damned servants, they simply deserve death!" The Emperor said, and in his anger, he grabbed a teacup and smashed it to the ground.

"Your Majesty, even if you send someone else, Miss Yun Si, Yeye will not accept them. It's better to let Qian Momo and the others make amends for their error. Having suffered a great loss once, they surely won't dare to underestimate Miss Yun Si again!" Eunuch Hai said hurriedly.

After hearing this, the Emperor also felt there was reason in it.

"Rise!"

"Thank you, Your Majesty!"

Eunuch Hai got up and wiped the sweat from his forehead.

Fortunately, fortunately.

"Summon Yun Chen and Yun Qi to see me!"

Now Yun Qi was a second-rank official, and Yun Zhen was a third-rank Imperial Censor. Both had requested imperial edicts for their wives, which the Emperor had been withholding until now.

Now, to placate Yun Jinnian, the Emperor had no choice but to approve their requests.

Yun Chen and Yun Qi soon arrived at Yangxin Hall. The Emperor, observing the two brothers, noted that despite their kinship, their temperaments were entirely different, "I have read the memorials regarding

your requests for noble titles. I had intended to decide based on official ranks, but there is a seniority to maintain. I cannot favor one over the other, and so I confer upon each of your wives the title of third-rank Lady of Grace!"

"Thank you for Your Majesty's grace!"

The Yun Family suddenly had two Ladies of Grace, and those who were originally superficial came fawning once again. Mrs. He walked with an air of importance. Previously, Yun Muyou's marriage prospects were somewhat difficult, but once the Emperor's conferral came, several families seemed to show some interest. Thus, Mrs. He decided it was time to choose carefully.

As for Yun Zhen, he had intended to marry below his status, but now, Mrs. He was resolved to seek a legitimate daughter from a prestigious family, and if not the eldest legitimate daughter, then a younger legitimate one would do—the illegitimate ones were absolutely out of the question.

Mrs. Han remained indifferent to these developments, devoting her days in Qiyue Academy, making clothes for Yun Jinnian and Han Tianci.

Within the household, the ones genuinely displeased were the old lady and Xu Xinmo.

The old lady could never have dreamed that both daughters-in-law would be granted titles while she herself had none...

She was so angered that she fell ill.

On the road to Nanjiang in June, Han Tianci had become deeply tanned and grown quite a bit taller and sturdier, with significant improvements in his martial arts.

He and Chu Yu appeared to be up to something, but Yun Jinnian could still see that Chu Yu's martial art skills had improved a lot, presuming Han Tianci had taught him the Muscle-Tendon Transformation Classic and the Marrow-Cleansing Classic.

All this, Yun Jinnian pretended not to know, focusing solely on researching the Nanjiang medical books and geography.

"If we travel for another day, we can reach Hongchou City," Han Zhong said from outside the carriage.

Yun Jinnian lifted the carriage curtain for a glance and then let it fall again.

It was getting hotter, and many crops' leaves were shriveled up, likely yielding no harvest. And after a great drought, a locust plague would often follow.

At this thought, Yun Jinnian wondered whether the Hidden Guard sent by the Emperor had been reporting back everything seen along the way.

Meanwhile, Chu Yu's men had already purchased a considerable amount of grain and even sent people to the other four nations to buy more. Hopefully, while he profited handsomely, he would not forget these innocent people.

As they were about to reach Hongchou City, there was a surging crowd outside the city.

"Move it, move it, let's go have a look! They say they're going to burn that witch alive!"

"Really? They haven't burned her in all these years, why burn her today?"

"Oh, you don't know yet? It's said that her birth caused the death of her mother, then she caused the death of her father, grandfather, and grandmother. She had just gotten married and caused the death of her husband. She birthed a child with extra fingers and toes. If she's not a witch, what is she?"

Chapter 307: Rest

"Could it be because of her that Tortoiseshell City has experienced a drought?"

"Definitely because of her!"

The crowd was abuzz with discussion, but as they watched the line of carriages rapidly approaching and saw one man after another riding atop their steeds, despite being covered in dust, their imposing bearing still rendered the people of Tortoiseshell City silent, immediately clearing the way.

What surprised them most was that the City Lord and the Governor warmly and respectfully came forward to greet them.

"This subordinate (humble citizen) has seen His Highness Prince Rui and the Commandery Prince!"

Chu Yu did not speak; instead, Luo'er stepped forward and said, "Lead the way!"

"Yes, yes!"

Chu Yu, Yun Jinnian, and others had originally planned to stay at an inn, but as the small counties surrounding Tortoiseshell City were also stricken by the drought and suffering severe water shortages, it was better to stay at the City Lord Residence.

Firstly, because there was water, and secondly, everyone was eager to continue their journey and needed a good meal and proper rest.

Tortoiseshell City used to be quite prosperous; it was only because of this year's drought that it seemed somewhat desolate and dilapidated. The City Lord Residence had been very well maintained, especially the courtyard prepared for Chu Yu, Yun Jinnian, and their party, which was arranged with particular elegance.

"Your Highness, Commandery Prince, the bath water for the two noble masters has been prepared. You two can take a good soak in the bath, and each of the guards has two buckets of water for bathing as well!"

Chu Yu himself didn't mind, but he took care of Yun Jinnian, "In addition to the water prepared for this young master to soak in, let's make it two buckets per person for everyone else!"

Upon hearing this, the City Lord was delighted and quickly responded, "Good, good!"

Do not underestimate these large buckets of water, as it takes fifteen to fill them up.

Nowadays, servants had to go to the deep mountains early in the morning to fetch water, so they needed to save where they could.

Yun Jinnian was just about to say that two buckets were also enough for himself.

But Chu Yu pulled at him, "You've had a hard time on the road. Take a good soak and get rid of the travel dust. You still have to examine our cousin later. If you really want to save water, let Hemei and Henuan bathe with you!"

Seeing Chu Yu insisted, Yun Jinnian could only say, "Alright!"

Upon hearing Chu Yu speak this way, the City Lord understood Yun Jinnian's esteemed status and dared not be negligent.

He led them into their respective courtyards, and hot water was carried in one after another. The maids set down the scented soap and clean towels before retreating to wait outside the room.

After washing his hair and taking a bath, Yun Jinnian felt much more relaxed.

Sitting on the stool, he took a dry towel and gently wiped his hair.

Hemei and Henuan also washed themselves clean and still had nearly half a bucket of water left.

"After the bath, I feel so much more refreshed!" Hemei said. Seeing Yun Jinnian sitting on the stool drying his hair, she hurried over to help him.

Yun Jinnian smiled slightly, "I can do it myself. You should also dry your hair quickly, so you don't catch a cold!"

Hemei nodded and began to wipe with the towel.

Yun Jinnian stood up and carried the stool over to her side, "Sit down!"

When Henuan came out, he invited her to sit as well.

The two girls were only ten years old but followed him around on his travels without a word of complaint.

"Thank you, Miss!"

The two sat down and, once their hair was dry, they got dressed and put on men's clothing. Hemei followed Yun Jinnian, and Henuan went to wash clothes, especially Yun Jinnian's undergarments, which could not be seen by others when drying.

They had just finished getting ready when the meal had been properly prepared. Yun Jinnian saw Han Tianci, who had washed up clean and came looking refreshed, "Tianci!"

"Brother!"

Naturally, Yun Jinnian took Han Tianci's hand, "Are you hungry?"

"A little!"

"Eat more later then!"

"Okay!"

However, when the siblings entered the dining hall and saw the seven or eight enchanting and beautiful maids, they paused...

### Chapter 308: Chu Yu Gets Angry

Yun Jinnian and Han Tianci looked at each other in dismay. Han Tianci didn't understand, but Yun Jinnian realized why these beautiful maids appeared, and each one was dressed very beautifully, with an exquisite fragrance on them.

At this, Yun Jinnian just gave a faint smile, thinking to himself that these gentlemen really had extraordinary luck with ladies.

Han Tianci took a few more glances and tugged at Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian shook his head slightly at him, making Han Tianci break into a mischievous smile.

The young Han Tianci had never even considered the possibility that Chu Yu would take a liking to his sister, so faced with these beauties, he couldn't help but smile mischievously.

The maids, however, were still very respectful towards Yun Jinnian and Han Tianci.

When Prince Yanjun, Chu Yu, and Yuwen Ya entered, the color rose in the maids' cheeks, and they immediately went to greet them, "This servant..."

"Get out!"

Before the words could leave their lips, Chu Yu coldly commanded, scaring the beauties pale, even Yun Jinnian startled, looking at Chu Yu, puzzled.

Chu Yu saw that Yun Jinnian showed no sign of jealousy, which made him feel bitterly uncomfortable inside.

He kept telling himself that Yun Jinnian was only twelve this year, did not understand love and should be understood, but still felt very upset deep down.

Yuwen Ya felt that Chu Yu was making a mountain out of a molehill, but considering Chu Yu's feelings, Yuwen Ya could only say gently, "You can leave, we don't need your service here!"

"Yes!" The maids hurriedly responded and quickly left.

Chu Yu then coldly said, "Let's eat!"

Yun Jinnian quickly pulled Han Tianci to sit down, and during the meal, she picked out several dishes for Han Tianci but didn't say a word to Chu Yu, making him feel extremely aggrieved.

After the meal, Yun Jinnian took Prince Yanjun's pulse, and after seeing that Prince Yanjun was unharmed, she pulled Han Tianci away in a rush.

Chu Yu stood there with his mouth agape, stunned.

Prince Yanjun smiled gently, his lips curving, while Yuwen Ya let out a laugh.

Chu Yu glared at Yuwen Ya, "What are you laughing at?"

"Nothing, it's just that I have things to do, so I'll be leaving now!" Yuwen Ya said quickly and dashed off.

Chu Yu turned to Prince Yanjun, who touched his nose and also left the dining hall.

Chu Yu sat down on a stool, "Go, summon the City Lord and the Magistrate to see me!"

Luo'er immediately heeded the command, wanting to laugh but not daring to, after all, it was rare to see his master lose face.

The Magistrate and the City Lord hurried over.

From the moment they saw the maids' pale faces, they knew things had gone wrong, that they had failed to please His Highness and had instead angered him. What to do now?

City Lord Fan and Magistrate Wang secretly cursed themselves, yet still quickly made their way to Chu Yu, "This official (this humble one) pays respects to His Highness!"

"Heh!" Chu Yu sneered coldly, his gaze fixing on them.

Without saying a word, just staring coldly, he had already terrified the two middle-aged men. Even though they were authoritative figures, in Chu Yu's presence, they didn't dare to breathe too loudly, let alone make a sound.

"Now you know fear? When you were thinking of bribing me with women, why didn't you think it through? One of you is the City Lord and the other the Magistrate, both of you prominent figures. How come you don't act accordingly?"

City Lord Fan and Magistrate Wang immediately knelt down, "This official deserves death, we beg for the Prince's mercy!"

Chu Yu glanced at them. It was already hot, and in just a short moment, their clothes were soaked through with sweat. Waving his hand, he said, "Let this matter rest, and let's never mention it again. With all this cunning you display, you'd better spend it thinking how to get Tortoiseshell City through this drought!"

### Chapter 309: The Helping Hand

City Lord Fan and Magistrate Wang looked at each other before speaking, "Your Highness, do you think it's possible that a demon is causing mischief?"

After all, the demon was currently bound and waiting just for the two of them to burn it alive.

"A demon?" Chu Yu sneered. "You actually believe in such superstitious nonsense?"

"But, but, that demon gave birth to a child with twelve toes and twelve fingers. It was born and immediately caused the death of its parents. After getting married, it also caused the death of its husband..." Magistrate Wang's voice grew quieter and quieter.

Chu Yu looked at Magistrate Wang.

Only to see Yun Jinnian slowly approaching, saying word by word, "Childbirth is inherently a life-and-death situation—it's not strange for people to die. Her father and husband, did they have chronic illnesses from years back? Were they constantly taking medicine, especially her husband, who had tuberculosis? If so, then it would make sense for the child to have extra fingers and toes!"

City Lord Fan and Magistrate Wang paused.

Is there such a theory?

Seeing Yun Jinnian approaching, Chu Yu felt pleased, and he didn't find City Lord Fan and Magistrate Wang as annoying, "The two of you, get up. Let's hear what... Young Master Han has to say!"

"Thank you, Your Highness!" City Lord Fan and Magistrate Wang hastily stood up.

They were also murmuring in their hearts.

"It is said that all medicine has some toxicity. A person who takes medicine year-round surely accumulates toxins in the body. Some children are born with these toxins, and some may even be deformed because of it!" Yun Jinnian added.

City Lord Fan eagerly asked, "Then according to Young Master Han, that demon, no, that woman can't be burned to death?"

"Burning her alive would solve the drought crisis in Tortoiseshell City? If it could, the City Lord can burn her. But if after burning her, the heavens still don't rain, what should the City Lord do then?" Yun Jinnian counterquestioned.

City Lord Fan was immediately at a loss for words.

If burning her brought rain, then it would confirm the presence of a demon; but if after the burning there was still no rain, then it would be an unjust killing.

City Lord Fan quickly looked at Magistrate Wang, who also had a serious face and didn't know how to respond for a moment.

Chu Yu glanced at Yun Jinnian, not understanding why she came here, but said anyway, "Send someone to check, what kind of people are in that young widow's family? How much is her inheritance worth? I suspect that someone wants to take over the property left by her deceased husband and has therefore concocted this monstrous lie!"

Upon hearing this, both City Lord Fan and Magistrate Wang thought it made sense and agreed again and again, departing to take action separately.

One sent people to halt the execution, while the other dispatched people to investigate the widow's family situation.

In the dining hall

Only Chu Yu and Yun Jinnian were left.

"Why have you come?"

Yun Jinnian took out a letter from her bosom and handed it to Chu Yu, "This was shot at me with a dagger. Uncle Zhong has already gone to halt it; hopefully, they can save that poor woman's life!"

She was born with tough fate, causing the death of her parents and then her husband.

Yet all this might be nothing more than a huge lie, a vicious fabrication concocted by someone coveting her wealth.

When she was a child, the death of her parents allowed her uncle's family to take over her property, becoming wealthy.

Now, the clan elders want to take her husband's inheritance and, because she gave birth to a child different from normal people, they want to put her to death.

As long as she dies, that baby will eventually die too, and the significant inheritance will fall into the hands of the clan.

The letter clearly identified all of the involved parties, making it impossible for Yun Jinnian not to make this trip.

After reading the letter, Chu Yu was silent for a long time before saying, "I will investigate this matter thoroughly. If you are bored, take Tianci out for a stroll!"

### Chapter 310: Seeing the Key Point

Yun Jinnian smiled slightly, "I won't go out. If you want to go, take Tianci for a walk!"

As we are getting closer to Nanjiang, the number of Medical Books I need to review is increasing, and the master who will teach me the Nanjiang language is coming too. I have too many things to do, and going out for fun should be skipped for now!

"Alright, I'll take Tianci out for a stroll, and you just focus on your reading!"

"Good!"

Chu Yu went to find Han Tianci, and took him out for fun. Along the way, the bond between Chu Yu and Han Tianci had already grown very strong.

Chu Yu was always ready to fulfill his future little brother-in-law's wishes, and Han Tianci was not a troublemaker. On the contrary, he was sensible, obedient, and understanding, winning the favor of the Hidden Guard and also that of Prince Yanjun and Yuwen Ya.

Once they reached the street, Yuwen Ya pulled Tianci by his shoulder, "Just buy whatever you want later, brother has brought money!"

"Thank you, Seventh Brother!"

Han Tianci responded with a sweet smile.

Chu Yu's face darkened. His future little brother-in-law was calling his nephew "Seventh Brother"; their relationship was a mess...

However, he was the one deeply involved in his affair with Yun Jinnian, so for now, let Yuwen Ya take a little advantage. There would come a time when he'd repay it tenfold, a hundredfold.

The three of them entered a pharmacy.

The shopkeeper, his assistant, and the in-house doctor all seemed sickly.

Seeing guests arrive, they quickly perked up, "Gentlemen, do you want to see the doctor or get medicine?"

"Get medicine!" Yuwen Ya said and handed over the prescription Yun Jinnian had rewritten.

The shopkeeper took it and after a thorough look, felt that the prescription was risky and tricky.

"This..."

"Stop dawdling, just grab the medicine as it's written!" Yuwen Ya interrupted, then told Tianci to look for any medicinal herbs he might want.

Tianci shook his head.

Having seen better at his grandfather's pharmacy, he didn't think much of the herbs from this kind of shop.

Once the shopkeeper prepared the medicine, Chu Yu and Yuwen Ya went with Tianci to a jade store. Tianci actually bought several pieces of jade raw materials, none of which had been polished or carved yet.

"What are you buying this for?" Yuwen Ya asked with curiosity.

"To carve for fun when I get back!" Tianci answered casually.

Playing with a piece of jade in his hand.

Yuwen Ya didn't mind and asked the shopkeeper to bring out more pieces, which he and Tianci sorted through.

Chu Yu, however, sank into contemplation.

According to the Emperor, the Han Family ancestors were renowned master carvers; the imperial seal had to come from the Han Family, otherwise, it wouldn't be considered legitimate. And the Han Family never got involved in court politics but was a covert operator for the Emperor, handling matters that couldn't be disclosed publicly.

After a new emperor ascended the throne, people from the Han Family would come to visit. Could it be that this Han Family was the one...

Considering this possibility, Chu Yu's expression slightly changed.

City Lord Residence

Since Yun Jinnian was disguised as a man, no one came to seek her company for fun or anything else; therefore, she immersed herself in reading about Nanjiang, until she turned a page that read "Magic Poisonous Insect Technique of Nanjiang."

"The Magic Poisonous Insect Technique of Nanjiang, originating from ancient times, includes curses, shooting at effigies (envy victory), and poisonous insects among others!" Yun Jinnian murmured softly.

"A Poisonous Insect is, in fact, a type of venomous insect. The so-called Magic Poisonous Insect Technique refers to harming people with the toxins from these insects!"

"Method of Magic Poisonous Insect Technique: Place spiders, scorpions, toads, venomous snakes, centipedes, and other venomous creatures into a pot, seal it for ten days, then the one that survives upon opening is the most poisonous and is the top choice for the Poisonous Insect. After breeding it (methods omitted), it finally becomes a Poisonous Insect. Placing its feces in someone's well or food, the person who consumes it will have insects grow in their belly, becoming weak and slowly dying!"

As Yun Jinnian read, her face slightly shifted, and she stood up swiftly, "Hemei, go and invite Prince Rui over right away!"