

## Indulgence 331

### Chapter 331: Discovery

Mrs. He's face changed several times upon hearing the news. She quickly composed herself before rising to leave the room. Just then, she saw Yun Chen leading a beautiful young girl towards her.

The girl's figure was graceful, swaying like the willows in the wind as she walked, which was very pleasant to look at.

Mrs. He cursed the shameless woman in her heart, but she still had no choice but to put on a smile and greet her, "The master has returned!"

Yun Chen nodded his head and led the way into the parlor. Mrs. He quickly followed, while the girl stayed at the doorway, not entering.

Shooting the girl a glance without saying a word, Yun Chen watched as Mrs. He asked, "Master, who is this young lady?"

"She is a gift from our superiors. See to it that she's properly accommodated, and don't let her status be wronged!" replied Yun Chen.

Mrs. He immediately understood, "Tianmi, go prepare the tea!"

Tianmi responded and left.

Then Mrs. He called out to the girl at the door, "Come in!"

The girl stepped into the parlor gracefully and bowed slightly to Mrs. He, "This servant Yuniang pays her respects to the madam!"

Mrs. He glanced at Yuniang and then at Yun Qi. No matter how twisted her heart was with hate, she still managed a faint smile, "Is there no one else in your family?"

"The madam, all of this servant's family members are deceased," said Yuniang softly.

Not looking astray, it was clear she was well-mannered.

Just then, Tianmi came in with the tea, and Yun Chen spoke, "Yuniang, serve tea to the madam!"

Once she served the tea, she would be Yun Chen's woman.

Accepting the tea cup, Yuniang knelt before Mrs. He, "This servant Yuniang pays her respects to the madam!"

Mrs. He took a sip of the tea and removed a hairpin from her head, handing it to Yuniang, "From now on, serve the master well and bear him children soon!"

"Yes!" replied Yuniang respectfully, taking the hairpin.

"Tianmi, take Auntie Yuniang to the Feicui Garden!" Mrs. He casually ordered.

Tianmi responded, and after Yuniang bowed respectfully once more, she followed Tianmi out.

Alone in the parlor, Yun Qi finally spoke, "Auntie Yuniang is a gift from our superiors, she cannot be refused."

Mrs. He smiled, "Whatever you say, master. I understand!"

"As long as you understand!!" said Yun Chen, his mind wandering to the delightful pleasures of Yuniang, which made him somewhat restless.

Who would have thought that the seemingly reserved Yuniang could be so wildly seductive in bed, to the point that he could hardly resist her?

Mrs. He smiled without saying a word.

Her heart was bleeding.

Another person was now competing with her for her husband's affection, but she took some comfort in having both a son and a daughter, both of whom were grown, so she was not too worried about Yuniang bearing a child of lesser status.

"Tonight, I will rest here with you," he announced.

Listening to these words, Mrs. He felt joy mixed with sorrow and anger, yet she still allowed Yun Chen to stay, although her heart was filled with mixed emotions.

But life must go on.

She did not possess Mrs. Han's courage to push Yun Chen away.

Let it be, let it be...

"Giddy up!"

"Tianci, run a bit faster!" Chu Yu shouted, urging Han Tianci, who was lagging behind him.

In these days, Han Tianci had been studying martial arts, medical skills, strategy, Five Elements and Eight Trigrams tirelessly. Chu Yu also taught him earnestly, even the Commandery Prince Yanjun had written some materials for Chu Yu to teach Han Tianci.

Although it was hard, Han Tianci cherished it.

Because everyone treated him like a treasure.

"Coming!" replied Han Tianci with a full breath, catching up.

Behind them were Hemei and Huan, both drenched in sweat, their little faces tanned, yet they hadn't complained of hardship or tiredness even once.

Upon hearing the noise, Yun Jinnian put down his book and lifted the carriage curtain to watch Chu Yu, Han Tianci, Hemei, and Huan running ahead, smiling softly to himself as his eyes sparkled with delight.

After letting the curtain fall, he continued reading.

But upon reaching a certain page, Yun Jinnian uttered a surprised sound, "Eh...!?"

#### Chapter 332: Arrangements

Yun Jinnian suddenly felt a bit nervous, carefully turned to the second page, and after reading it, was overjoyed, "Uncle Han, Uncle Han, slow down, slow down!"

His voice was urgent and couldn't hide the excitement.

For the usually composed and reticent Yun Jinnian, this was a significant change.

Han Zhong heard him and hurriedly signaled to the carriage behind to stop.

He had just pulled the reins and let out a "whoa," bringing the carriage to a halt and called softly to the inside, "Young miss?"

Yun Jinnian hurriedly got out of the carriage, "Uncle Han, call Prince Rui back!"

He was already walking toward Prince Yanjun's carriage.

Han Zhong was stunned but quickly leaped towards Chu Yu and the others.

Yun Jinnian quickly reached Prince Yanjun's carriage and asked, "Commandery Prince, may I come in?"

The carriage curtain was lifted. It was Tongge, a servant of Prince Yanjun. Tongge hopped down from the carriage and invited Yun Jinnian up.

Yun Jinnian nodded to Tongge, got on the carriage, and then said to Prince Yanjun, "Commandery Prince, look!"

Yun Jinnian handed the book to Prince Yanjun, pointing to the spot she had read, "Commandery Prince, look, what is written here is exactly the same as the process of your poisoning!"

Prince Yanjun took the book and saw it was indeed identical.

He quickly flipped to the next page, which unexpectedly contained the detoxification process and the required antidote.

Prince Yanjun's hand gently rested on 'Tian Mountain Blood Lotus.'

Tian Mountain Snow Lotus was already hard to find, let alone Tian Mountain Blood Lotus.

After reading it, Yun Jinnian spoke calmly, "As long as we find the Tian Mountain Snow Lotus and nourish it with human blood for eighty-one days, it will become the Tian Mountain Blood Lotus!"

Prince Yanjun's gaze shockingly turned towards Yun Jinnian.

"Commandery Prince, as long as there's a glimmer of hope, we must try. So, once we arrive in Nanjiang, shall we go directly to Tian Mountain to search for the Blood Lotus?" Yun Jinnian asked.

Prince Yanjun fell silent.

Tian Mountain was not a place one could simply decide to visit.

Chu Yu hurried into the carriage, "What's the matter?"

Yun Jinnian looked tenderly at Chu Yu, "You've arrived just in time, I've found a way to cure the poison in the Commandery Prince's body!"

"Really?" Chu Yu was thrilled.

"Yes!"

Prince Yanjun handed the book to Chu Yu, who took it and examined it closely, "Tian Mountain Blood Lotus?"

It was already difficult to find the Snow Lotus, let alone the Blood Lotus...

"We're going to enter the mountain, find the Tian Mountain Snow Lotus, and nourish it with human blood for eighty-one days to turn it into the Blood Lotus. But first, we must figure out where to find the Snow Lotus, and how to survive those eighty-one days in the snowy mountain," he said.

All these concerns needed to be addressed.

But Chu Yu smiled, "Leave the arrangements to me!"

"?" Yun Jinnian silently inquired.

"Money talks; as long as we provide enough silver, there will be plenty of people who know how to find the Snow Lotus to lead the way. We'll bring enough people, food, build a shelter in the mountains, but nurturing the Blood Lotus will have to be your task!"

Yun Jinnian nodded.

She was quite confident in herself.

She also thought about Nanny Qian and the rest; their martial arts were excellent and having suffered such setbacks, they would likely follow her commands.

"Your Highness, please find a way to locate Nanny Qian and the others!"

Chu Yu immediately understood Yun Jinnian's intention, "Alright, I suspect they will be waiting for you on the way to Nanjiang. When the time comes, you can give them a good talking to, I bet they won't dare disobey you again!"

Yun Jinnian's eyes showed a fleeting smile.

Prince Yanjun also smiled slightly.

At last, there was hope, and they began to look forward to the future!

But then they heard a commotion up ahead, and a sharp female voice cried out, "Help, help me..."

Chapter 333: Grievances

Yun Jinnian was startled.

"Stay in the carriage, I'll see what's happening!" Chu Yu said hastily.

Yun Jinnian nodded, "Be careful, and call Tianci and the others to come back!"

"Um!" Chu Yu responded and got off the carriage.

He then saw a woman covered in injuries, with disheveled hair, stumbling toward them while screaming, "Help, save me!"

Behind her, about a dozen men resembling family retainers were chasing her with sticks and clubs.

"Stop, you little wench, stop right there!"

The woman was in a sorry state. Upon seeing Chu Yu and his party, she knelt down with a plop, "Please, I beg you, save me!"

Han Tianci looked on dumbfounded.

Thinking of what Yun Jinnian had once experienced, he was rather sympathetic toward the weak and hurriedly asked, "What's wrong with you?"

"I..."

The woman hadn't yet finished speaking when one of the men chasing her spoke up, "Don't meddle in others' business!"

Han Tianci looked at them; they all had a fierce and sinister appearance, clearly not good people.

Chu Yu walked up slowly, glanced at the woman, then looked at the dozen men and spoke in a deep voice, "Who are you all?"

The leader of the men, looking at Chu Yu's brocade clothes and the numerous guards around him, suddenly felt less confident, "She is a runaway slave. We are following our master's orders to bring her back!"

"No, no, I am not a runaway slave; I am no slave. I don't have a servitude contract, they're lying, and I'm not a fugitive!" Shi Jiayu said as she crawled toward Chu Yu, "Young master, I beg you, save me, I'm not a runaway slave, I'm not!"

Chu Yu was too lazy to deal with these troubles initially.

Yun Jinnian got off the carriage and slowly walked over, standing beside Chu Yu, "If we can, let's help her!"

At these words, Shi Jiayu immediately crawled toward Yun Jinnian, "Young master, help me, help me, I'm not a runaway slave. Their master deceived me into marriage, killed my parents, occupied my family property, and now wants to kill me, my maid and nursemaid risked their lives to help me escape, young master, please save me, I cannot be taken back by them!"

Yun Jinnian let out a deep sigh and looked at Chu Yu, "Let's help her!"

Chu Yu nodded slightly and said to the dozen men, "Go back and tell your master, if what she says is true, I won't spare him, and if there's a single false word in her story, I won't spare her either!"

The dozen men looked at each other and ran off quickly.

Yun Jinnian then stepped forward to help the woman up, "Stand up, I will have the maid clean you up and check your wounds!"

Yun Jinnian's hands were delicate and soft, and Shi Jiayu immediately understood that the young master in front of her was not a man, but a woman.

And she was disguised as a man for a reason.

"Thank you!"

Yun Jinnian nodded and called Hemei and Henuan over to help, leading Shi Jiayu onto the carriage and fetching water to clean her wounds.

"There's a drought, and we don't have much water, so we need to use it sparingly, please make do!"

Shi Jiayu quickly shook her head, tears streaming down her face as she looked at the gentle and stunningly beautiful Yun Jinnian, "You saving me is already a great fortune for me!"

Yun Jinnian cautiously undressed Shi Jiayu, only to discover that her injuries were very severe, with some wounds exposing bone, yet she had been enduring the pain all along.

"Is everything you said true?" Yun Jinnian asked as she cleaned Shi Jiayu's wounds.

"It's completely true, I dare not lie in the slightest!" Shi Jiayu replied, tears uncontrollably falling.

Yun Jinnian paused in her movement, "Then later you must tell us everything, without hiding a single detail. Whether we can help you depends on you!"

Chapter 334: Narrating

Shi Jiayu nodded.

As Yun Jinnian applied medicine to her, the pain made her inhale sharply.

"I remember now, thank you!"

"My surname is Yun, given name Jinnian!"

"Miss Yun!" Shi Jiayu called out softly.

His Mandarin still carried some of the Nanjiang accent, sounding soft and gentle.

And because he was injured, his voice was hoarse with a pitiable tone.

Yun Jinnian finished applying the medicine on Shi Jiayu and then brought her a set of men's clothes to wear, "They are a bit large, but make do with them for now!"

"Thank you!"

Yun Jinnian poured a cup of water and fed it to Shi Jiayu, "Can you still walk?"

"Yes!"

Yun Jinnian helped Shi Jiayu off the carriage and led her toward the tent.

All eyes turned toward Shi Jiayu.

Shi Jiayu immediately felt very nervous.

It was evident that these people were no ordinary folk, especially that man who had spoken earlier.

Shi Jiayu gave a slight curtsy.

"Hemei, bring over a stool!"

Hemei quickly brought over a stool for Shi Jiayu to sit on, while Yun Jinnian went to the side to carefully wash his hands and dry them with a towel.

Shi Jiayu did not speak. Only after Yun Jinnian had finished cleaning up and sat down did she begin to say, "My surname is Shi, given name Jiayu, and I am the eldest daughter of the Shi family estate. Being the only daughter of my parents, it was natural to seek a son-in-law to join our family. Two years ago,

while I was out paying respects at a temple, I saved a man. He later became my husband, Yan Ruihe. He told me he was an orphan with nowhere else to go. He was also quite handsome, and after spending some time together, he behaved very well in all aspects. My parents were very taken with him, and I was too..."

As Shi Jiayu spoke, she began to cry.

No one comforted Shi Jiayu, because they simply did not know how to.

Shi Jiayu cried for a while before she continued, "Last year, we got married, and my father gradually started to let him get involved with the villa's business, allowing him to go out and handle affairs. However, this year, my parents were harmed by bandits when they were traveling. I always believed it was the work of bandits, until one day, I saw him cuddling with another woman. They said that once they got rid of me, he would be able to take full control of the villa. He also admitted that it was he who had colluded with the bandits to kill my parents. What's more, he was actually the bandit leader. I was terrified at the time and accidentally made a noise, alerting him to my presence. He captured me and locked me up, and it was only with the life-risking efforts of my maid and wet nurse that I was rescued!"

Having said that, Shi Jiayu knelt on the ground with a thud, "Please, I beg you to help me. Once the truth comes to light, I am willing to offer up the Shi family estate with both hands and am more than willing to serve as a slave or maid to repay your great kindness!"

After listening, Yun Jinnian's eyes reddened slightly and he turned to Han Zhong, "Uncle Zhong, take some people and investigate!"

He stepped forward to help Shi Jiayu up.

"If what you say is true, then live well. You're the only one left in your family, and the lineage of the Shi family must continue!"

Shi Jiayu, with tears streaming down her face, nodded vigorously.

In her heart, she had already decided. Once everything was settled, she would seal away the Shi family estate and go with Yun Jinnian, fulfilling her promise.

To serve as a slave or maid to repay the great kindness of Yun Jinnian.

Chu Yu saw that Yun Jinnian had charged Han Zhong with the investigation, so he decided not to intervene, "Let's head straight to the Shi family estate!"

The true nature of the situation had to be witnessed to be known.

Yun Jinnian nodded and instructed Hemei and Henuan to help Shi Jiayu onto the carriage, and sent Han Tianci to Prince Yanjun's carriage. Han Tianci nodded obediently, and before boarding the carriage, he took a special look at Shi Jiayu.

Yun Jinnian climbed into the carriage and seeing Shi Jiayu still crying, handed her a handkerchief, "Wipe your tears."

Being so betrayed must be very painful.

Just like her past self, while she may not have harbored deep affection for Chu Liange, she had always put him first, yet her fate had been even more tragic than Shi Jiayu's...

### Chapter 335: Seizing the Initiative

Since ancient times, women have been prone to infatuation, yet their deep emotions are often met with heartless betrayal.

In Xiyuan, how many trees of longing must there be, their arduous love awaiting the cool of nightfall.

Yun Jinnian only felt an itch in her throat, choked and uncomfortable, she turned her head away and did not look at Shi Jiayu, sighing softly instead.

Shi Jiayu, holding a handkerchief to wipe her tears, saw Yun Jinnian seemed somewhat displeased and hurriedly said, "Miss Yun, I am sorry!"

"It's nothing!"

Yun Jinnian responded indifferently, picked up a book to read, but did not turn the pages for a long time.

Shi Jiayu found it strange, this girl younger than herself seemed very aloof.

Yet she was also kind-hearted.

Otherwise, she would not have helped her.

The Shi Family estate was located in Shi County, under the jurisdiction of Tortoiseshell City, already close to Nanjiang, a very ordinary county town. If not for Shi Jiayu's involvement, Yun Jinnian and Chu Yu's party would not have come to Shi County at all.

The closer they got to Shi County, the more uneasy Shi Jiayu became, occasionally looking outside, her pale face and tightly clenched hands.

Yun Jinnian glanced at her and remained silent.

Shi County

Shi Family estate's main hall

Yan Ruihe, after hearing the servant's report, jumped up, "What did you say?"

"The lady has been rescued, and those people seem to be highly skilled in martial arts and of extraordinary origins!"

Yan Ruihe paced back and forth, then suddenly remembered the news from a few days ago, mentioning that Prince Rui would be passing through Tortoiseshell City and told his men to restrain themselves and not provoke Prince Rui.

Could it be...

Yan Ruihe shook his head, "No, it can't be Prince Rui. Surely I'm overthinking it!"

If it were really Prince Rui, then all his years of scheming would have been in vain.

Let alone taking over the Shi Family, even his own life would be uncertain.

"This won't do, I can't just sit here and wait for death!"

He must take the initiative to strike, but to attempt to assassinate Prince Rui...

His heart quivered with fear.

"What should I do?"

If he stayed at the Shi Family estate, would he still have a chance to live if Prince Rui arrived?

The best plan for now was to flee!

"Someone, pack up quickly, we must leave!" Yan Ruihe immediately called his servants to gather valuables and planned to make a hasty escape.

But his escape route was unexpectedly blocked.

"Who, who are you?" Yan Ruihe asked nervously.

The standard fear of a guilty conscience.

Han Zhong looked at him, "It's not important who I am. You just can't leave before my master arrives!"

Then it dawned on Yan Ruihe.

The man in front of him was the rescuer Shi Jiayu had sought. They had arrived alarmingly fast.

Violence flashed in his eyes, "Since you won't let me leave, don't blame me for being unkind!"

Han Zhong scoffed coldly; to him, this kind of minor villain was never worth considering.

So when Yan Ruihe thought he was attacking Han Zhong with a fearsome assault, Han Zhong easily deflected it and with one move inflicted severe injuries on him, swiftly dislocating his jaw and wrists, coldly watching as he collapsed to the ground like a lump of mud.

Yan Ruihe's men, one by one, were scared witless, not daring to offer help. The cowardly among them even wet their pants, collapsing to their knees, "Mercy, great hero, mercy! I confess, I'll confess everything!"

Han Zhong, seeing this, immediately knew that everything Shi Jiayu had said was true, and there was no need for further investigation.

He dragged Yan Ruihe out of the mansion and threw him onto the street, where Yan Ruihe's lackeys followed, kneeling with bowed heads, not daring to breathe too loudly. Passersby could not help but gawk and whisper among themselves.

"What happened here?"

"I don't know, isn't that the son-in-law of Master Shi?"

"Right, he's been dealt such a miserable hand, but where is Miss Shi?"

"Why don't we see Miss Shi?"

The Shi Family was quite renowned in Shi County; Master Shi was considered kind-hearted and charitable. Although Yan Ruihe was a son-in-law who had married into the family, he was also a reasonably good man. Yet, it was baffling to see him in such a sorry state today.

### Chapter 336: The Truth

Yet, even with such a scene, no one stepped forward to ask a question.

Everyone feared trouble might befall them, so they all stood there, watching the excitement, yet no one stepped forward to inquire.

There were whispers and a buzz of speculation.

A man's face turned pale after catching sight of Yan Ruihe's sorry state and he quickly left the scene.

Han Zhong might not have witnessed this, but someone quietly followed the man.

As the carriage entered Shi County, Shi Jiayu burst into tears.

Yun Jinnian glanced at her before lifting the curtain of the carriage window to look outside.

Although Shi County was also drought-stricken and close to Nanjiang, it was much less affected than the counties between Tortoiseshell City and Hongchou City, so there were still people on the streets conducting their business.

Yun Jinnian's arrival in Shi County attracted curious onlookers.

It wasn't until the carriage came to a stop that someone approached and said, "Miss Shi, we've reached the Shi Family estate. His Highness invites you to disembark from the carriage!"

Shi Jiayu took a deep breath and with the support of Hemei and Henuan, she alighted from the carriage.

No sooner had she stepped down than countless eyes turned toward her.

"Eh, isn't that Miss Shi?"

"Yes, how did she get injured?"

"Indeed, how did she get injured?"

The crowd buzzed with discussion.

Shi Jiayu took a deep breath and suddenly knelt to the ground. "My uncles, aunts, and elders, your daughter has been wronged by the whole world!"

"What!"

Her action shocked many onlookers.

They began to buzz about what could have happened to her.

A path cleared in the crowd, allowing Shi Jiayu to see Yan Ruihe lying on the ground. "Yan Ruihe, you ingrate, you heartless beast, give me back my parents' lives!"

With a shriek, Shi Jiayu lunged at Yan Ruihe.

She grabbed his throat fiercely, "Why did you have to harm my parents? The Shi Family is already in your hands, why did you collude with bandits to take their lives, you heartless beast? I'll fight you to the death!"

Shi Jiayu's screams were filled with immense sorrow, but her voice was exceedingly clear, making it possible for everyone to understand what she was saying.

It was at this moment the onlookers really comprehended the situation.

It turned out that Yan Ruihe had killed the master of the Shi estate and his wife!

Heavens, how could this be possible?

However, Miss Shi was not known to be a liar, and her body was covered with wounds. Could it be that she had discovered Yan Ruihe's misdeeds, so he even intended to harm her?

It must be said, the people actually understood the truth.

Yun Jinnian sat in the carriage, listening to the people's varied discussions and Shi Jiayu's accusations, his lips curling into a faint smile.

Shi Jiayu was indeed clever. This act of hers, while exposing her own plight, skewed public opinion entirely in her favor.

What a clever girl.

The County Governor's Office soon sent people, ready to take Shi Jiayu, Yan Ruihe, and their group away. Naturally, Chu Yu did not consent. He made his identity clear and demanded that the County Magistrate try the case on the street.

The County Magistrate was so frightened that he sweated profusely but could only begrudgingly establish a public tribunal on the street. However, there was no need for Yan Ruihe to confess, as his underlings spilled everything.

Yan Ruihe, the Bandit Leader, had coveted the wealth of the Shi Family estate. However, after several schemes that came to naught, he learned that the master of the Shi estate had only one daughter and sought a son-in-law to join the family. He knew his opportunity had come.

So he pretended to be an orphan without any family, and also during his time of despair, was rescued by Miss Shi. He would be entirely devoted to Miss Shi, and thus he quickly gained favor with the master of the Shi estate and, as a matter of course, married Shi Jiayu, becoming the fortunate son-in-law of the Shi Family estate.

While embracing Miss Shi on one hand, he schemed for the Shi Family's wealth on the other, knowing that someday when the master of the Shi estate left with his wife, he would conspire with bandits to stage a grand drama...

#### Chapter 337: Consequence

Yan Ruihe was so greedy that he couldn't wait a few years, the Shi Family estate would have inevitably become his.

Another reason was that he himself was originally a bandit, if he didn't strike first, being exposed in the future would mean a dead end for him.

Therefore, he killed Master Shi and his wife first, plotting against Shi Jiayu's life, not expecting Shi Jiayu to overhear by accident, which led to Shi Jiayu being imprisoned.

But the Shi Family, being a benevolent house, always had some loyal servants.

During the public interrogation, Yan Ruihe's eyes widened, several times he wanted to speak, to beg Shi Jiayu for forgiveness, yet Shi Jiayu knelt upright, tears streaming down her face, eyes bloodshot, but she refused to look at him.

Only when all the mountain bandits were captured and brought before him, did his face turn ashen, and he closed his eyes.

"With such disregard for human life, committing all kinds of evil, take him away and behead him!" Chu Yu immediately decreed.

Yan Ruihe's brothers, many being notorious villains, received not an ounce of mercy from Chu Yu.

More than a dozen bandits were executed at once, bringing immense satisfaction to everyone, the word spread among the people, and those bandits who committed minor offenses were already scared out of their wits.

Chu Yu and Yun Jinnian's group checked into the inn, preparing to continue their journey early the next morning.

"Since ancient times, many women obsess, full of passion only to be let down by heartlessness. Xiyuan knows no bounds for yearning thoughts, hard waits in vain affection and cold nights!"

Yun Jinnian murmured softly.

Chu Yu, with furrowed brows, asked, "What's wrong with you?"

Yun Jinnian gave a faint smile towards Chu Yu, "Nothing, just lamenting for Miss Shi, who devoted all her sincerity, only to have it misplaced!"

Because she was a daughter, they intended to adopt a son-in-law, not having found a suitable candidate, they ended up inviting a wolf into the house, leading to the death of her parents.

Even if she had mountains of gold and silver, there would be no one to love her without expectations in return.

Thinking of this, Yun Jinnian went to the writing table and wrote a letter to Mrs. Han, informing her of what she had seen and heard these days, also telling her that the matter of Prince Yanjun was making progress, that she and Tianci were well, and that Mrs. Han needn't worry, she would return soon!

"Writing a letter to your mother?" Chu Yu helped Yun Jinnian grind the ink.

"Right!"

Yun Jinnian said, sealed the letter with wax after placing it in an envelope.

"Do you need to use homing pigeons for delivery?"

Yun Jinnian shook her head, "No, send it through the post."

Chu Yu gave a gentle smile, "Then I will also write one to Princess Jinfeng!"

"The Princess will surely be very happy to receive your letter!"

"I hope so!"

But don't scare her.

Chu Yu sat down and picked up the brush.

Reminding Princess Jinfeng that she is already eighteen, and will be nineteen after the New Year, and that it's time to finalize the selection of her husband.

If worst comes to worst, they could just make do with Leng Bingham, although the youngster was only fifteen, but as the saying goes, 'a woman three years older than the man is like grasping a gold brick,' he, as her brother, was quite open-minded.

He also requested that Princess Jinfeng find him filigree smoky gauze, the more the better.

Hearing this, Yun Jinnian chuckled, "If the Princess finds the filigree smoky gauze, she will surely make clothes for herself to wear, how would she give it to you!"

Chu Yu paused, "You make a good point, I should ask her to discover the method of making this filigree smoky gauze instead!"

Yun Jinnian smiled lightly without a word.

Once Chu Yu finished writing the letter and sealed it with wax, Yun Jinnian finally spoke, "When will Luoyi and Luo'er be back?"

"What's the matter?"

"Regarding the cultivation of Snow Lotus with human blood at the snow mountain's peak, it's crucial to have more hands; not fearing ten thousand, but fearing the unexpected direct robbery!" Yun Jinnian expressed her concern.

Chu Yu fell silent.

After a moment, he solemnly said, "I will handle this arrangement, don't worry!"

"Also, for this human blood, over eighty-one days, not a single day can be missed, and the blood donor must be male and in good health, you need to be ready for this too!"

Chapter 338: Discussing

"Hmm, I will send someone to Nanjiang to find five hundred men, and then you can personally feel their pulse before deciding whether they can be used!"

"With such a large scale, it will inevitably attract countless people, Your Highness..." Yun Jinnian said, taking a deep breath, "I worry..."

"Don't overthink it, you know my skills, rest assured, I will handle it well. Besides, the Imperial Court has troops stationed in Nanjiang, we are acting openly and upright, I don't think there will be many who dare to openly challenge the Imperial Court!" Chu Yu reassured.

Yun Jinnian nodded, thought for a moment before saying, "Actually, we could join hands with Young Master Zhou!"

"??"

Chu Yu was silent.

But he extremely disliked Zhou Yunshen.

To cooperate with him, he would rather expose his own strength than work with Zhou Yunshen.

"His body needs long-term care, we could..."

"I object!"

Before Yun Jinnian could finish speaking, Chu Yu spoke out against it.

Anger was subtly rising in him, Yun Jinnian didn't understand, "Why?"

"Jinnian, you don't need to worry about this matter, I will handle it well, we don't need anyone's help. It's getting late, you should rest early, I'll deliver the letter to the post station!"

Having said that, Chu Yu got up, took the letter, and left.

Yun Jinnian was stunned for a long time, and by the time he chased after him, Chu Yu's figure had already disappeared.

"Really..." Yun Jinnian sighed.

Actually, cooperating with Zhou Yunshen would double the efficiency, and surely the number of contenders would diminish greatly, but since Chu Yu disagreed, it was inappropriate for her to bring it up again.

Well, then let's trust in Chu Yu.

After washing up, Yun Jinnian waited for her hair to dry before going to sleep.

Shi Family

Shi Jiayu had asked the Clan Leader and the elders to come over to discuss adopting someone into her parents' name to inherit everything of the family.

As for the candidate, Shi Jiayu already had someone in mind.

It was the Clan Leader's legitimate second grandson, Shi Jiamo.

Shi Jiamo was fair and kind-hearted, as well as capable, fully able to take over the Shi Family's mess.

Naturally, the Clan Leader agreed, so the decision was quickly made. The family registry was amended, the reasons clarified, and Shi Jiamo became her elder brother.

"From now on, I'll leave all family affairs in your hands, Big Brother!" Shi Jiayu gave a slight bow.

"Don't worry, Sister, I will definitely take good care of you!"

In his heart, Shi Jiamo was actually quite pleased.

Shi Jiayu shook her head slightly, "Big Brother, I won't stay at home in the future. I've said that I would serve as a slave or a maid to repay Miss Yun's kindness, and I will certainly do it. Big Brother, I don't ask for much, only that you burn incense on our parents' grave each Qingming, and give them something

valuable during the festivals. If one day I can return..." Shi Jiayu paused, "I hope Big Brother will take me back in!"

"Sister, please don't talk like that, this is your home too. I'm just adopted, it's different from you!"

"Don't talk foolishly, Big Brother. From now on, you are the master of Shi Family estate. Take care of yourself, Brother, I'm leaving!"

After speaking, Shi Jiayu left the Shi Family with her bundle on her back.

To fulfill her promise, she cut off all her avenues for retreat.

"Sister!" Shi Jiamo ran after Shi Jiayu, "Take more silver notes with you. When traveling..."

"Big Brother, I already have enough silver notes, the rest I leave to you. I hope that, like Father, you will treat the servants of the estate kindly. There's no need to see me off!" Shi Jiayu said, walking away with an air of resolute freedom.

Shi Jiamo watched Shi Jiayu's departing figure and sighed.

It's a pity that she's just a girl; if she were a boy, the Shi Family estate would have a true successor who could bring it even greater glory.

Yan Ruihe, that bastard, is dead, but the woman he conspired with is still alive.

### Chapter 339: Drowning Sorrows in Alcohol

He had become both a parent's son and Jiayu's brother, and he would find the person responsible and avenge this feud.

Chu Yu sent a letter and felt somewhat troubled.

So he grabbed some liquor and sought out Yuwen Ya for a drink.

"Little uncle, what's wrong with you?" Yuwen Ya was puzzled.

The girl you like is right by your side, and you can even be with her all the time, so why are you still drinking in silence?

Don't ask him how he knew; Chu Yu's behavior was too obvious.

"Stop nagging, drink with me!" Chu Yu demanded, taking a swig from the jar.

"Normally, I'd join you until we both pass out, but under these circumstances, it's not possible!" Yuwen Ya said, grabbing the liquor jar from Chu Yu's hand.

Chu Yu glared at Yuwen Ya, then looked up at the night sky without a word.

Yuwen Ya took a small sip and handed the jar back to Chu Yu, "What's wrong with you?"

After taking a fierce gulp from the jar, Chu Yu deflated and said, "She doesn't take delight in me!"

Thinking that Yun Jinnian didn't like him, Chu Yu felt very defeated.

In Yun Jinnian's presence, he was afraid to even speak too loudly, fearing he would frighten her.

He truly didn't dare to imagine what he would do if Yun Jinnian were to fall for someone else.

"Love begins in an unknown place, then grows deep with time!" Yuwen Ya said, snatching the jar from Chu Yu and taking a sip before continuing, "Miss Yun is a good girl, you have an excellent eye!"

Chu Yu glanced at Yuwen Ya, "What's the use of my good eye if she doesn't like me?"

Yuwen Ya laughed, "Usually, among us, you are the most domineering and clever. How have you become so foolish now?"

Chu Yu snorted coldly and turned his head away.

Yuwen Ya sat beside Chu Yu, "Little uncle, Miss Yun is a good girl, worthy of any man's sincere treatment in this world, moreover, you are different to her!"

"Really?" Chu Yu was unconvinced.

"Of course it's true!" Yuwen Ya was at his wit's end with Chu Yu.

Chu Yu suddenly laughed out loud, kicked Yuwen Ya lightly, "Tell me, how am I different?"

Yuwen Ya rolled his eyes, "She looks at Tiansci with indulgence, but when she looks at you, there is a touch more warmth than when she looks at the rest of us!"

Although not deep and strong affection, it was already quite extraordinary for Yun Jinnian who was of a gentle nature.

They say that the one involved is blinded while the bystander sees clearly; at this moment, Yuwen Ya truly felt that the old saying 'even the bystanders in Ancient City are not deceived' applied.

"Really?" Chu Yu asked.

After asking, he laughed again.

"I was just saying, with my gallant and handsome looks, my refined and elegant demeanor, like bamboo in the frost, graceful as a young gentleman, how could she possibly not like me? She must be too young to understand love, so in a couple of years, when she is older, she will surely see my wholehearted affection and be glad to have me!"

Yuwen Ya looked astonishedly at Chu Yu who was talking to himself, and after a silent moment, he simply said, "Shameless!"

Chu Yu laughed foolishly, "You little brat, what do you know!"

"I may be a brat, and I may not understand, but I still remember someone here who was so distressed that he wanted to drown his sorrows in liquor just before!" Yuwen Ya said, picking up the jar to take a sip.

But he also felt that having someone to love was quite nice.

Without a bit of madness, youth would be wasted; to have a true love that lasts a lifetime is the most beautiful aspect of love.

Yuwen Ya looked at Chu Yu, "Little uncle, Miss Yun is only twelve years old, can you wait?"

Chu Yu took the jar, gulped down another mouthful, spilling some liquor down his collar without any concern, "When my heart moved for her, she was only ten, what do you think, can I wait?"

In a blink of an eye, it had been two years. Was he lacking another year or two?

Of course, the premise is that in these two years, there would be no other man by her side but him!

Chu Yu immediately felt that this was a significant task, and he had to be fully alert and give it his all.

Chapter 340: Beast

"Beast!" Yuwen Ya cursed upon hearing Chu Yu's words.

Feeling it wasn't quite fitting, he added, "A beast in gentleman's clothing!"

Lusting after a ten-year-old girl, if that wasn't a beast in gentleman's clothing, what was?

Chu Yu was not annoyed, "Let it be beast then. Anyway, you, a lonely and solitary man, wouldn't understand the feeling of liking someone. Maybe by the time we return, the Marchioness will have arranged a marriage for you, forcing you to wed a woman you've never seen before, one who looks like a female ogre!"

Yuwen Ya's eyes widened, "Have you, have you heard something?"

Chu Yu just gave a cold smile.

He knew to strike the snake at its vital point; these words were even more bothersome to Yuwen Ya than beating him up.

"What could I have possibly heard?"

Chu Yu would not admit that he indeed had heard something.

"Little uncle, you're my real uncle, you can't do this to me!" Yuwen Ya was extremely anxious.

He was now eighteen, and his marriage was not yet arranged—his grandmother had other plans. If his mother had arranged a marriage for him in secret...

"Why would I harm you?"

He and Yuwen Ya had grown up together since they were children, and although they were of different generations, they were friends.

It was the same with Chu Zhaowei and Chu Renzhi.

"So tell me, did my mother really start looking for a match for me?" Yuwen Ya urgently asked.

"There's some talk, but with your aunt around, your marriage can't be settled without her approval. Look how silly you're being!"

Yuwen Ya finally breathed a sigh of relief.

"And you? If you really managed to end up with Miss Yun, it would still be tough! You also have to watch out for the Emperor ordering your marriage..."

"Ordered marriage?" Chu Yu sneered.

The Emperor wouldn't dare arrange his marriage.

Because once he was married and if he had an heir, the Emperor's hidden lines would come to the forefront. If Chu Yu had no intention of rebelling, it might be fine, but once he harbored thoughts of rebellion, the Emperor would undoubtedly find it hard to eat or sleep.

So how could he arrange a marriage for him?

"He won't do it!" Chu Yu affirmed.

Yuwen Ya took a deep breath, "I really envy you, living so freely and unrestrained!"

Free and unrestrained?

If it weren't for those brutal pursuits, maybe that would be the case, but the Emperor wouldn't let him go. To survive, how could he possibly live freely and unrestrained?

Chu Yu just laughed without a word, grabbing the wine jug and drinking.

"Raising my cup to invite the moon, alongside my shadow makes us three."

"We're only two people!"

Chu Yu tapped Yuwen Ya on the head, "Who says there are only two of us, look at the shadows on the ground!"

"Nonsense, pure nonsense!"

"Then refute it!"

"Seeing how certain you are, I truly find myself unable to refute, it's so frustrating!"

The two drank from the wine jug, one sip at a time.

Both were the finest youths of Tianchu Country, sitting together was quite a sight.

Even the innkeeper's daughter, who came over with her maid, couldn't take her eyes off them upon seeing them.

Both of the young masters were so handsome that Hao Zhenzhu didn't know whom to approach first.

Hao Zhenzhu was very beautiful, and while Yuwen Ya was still pleased with himself for being noticed by a girl, Chu Yu quickly stood up, "I have something to do, I must be off!"

He ran off in a hurry.

Yuwen Ya opened his mouth to keep Chu Yu but no trace of him was left.

Hao Zhenzhu immediately breathed a sigh of relief.

Well, one less to choose from.

Her face flushed as she stepped forward, "My lord, I give you my respects!"

Her voice was soft, and Yuwen Ya found it very pleasant. Just as he was about to speak...

Tongge ran over quickly, "Young master, you're here! The lord is calling for you, he has something to say!"