

## **Indulgence 361**

### Chapter 361: I Feel for You

Zhou Yunshen heard the words and looked at Chu Yu, whose eyes seemed to flash with daggers. He hated that he couldn't slash Chu Yu a thousand times over.

Yet Yun Jinnian nodded earnestly, "Yes, I really don't like eating meat. Thank you for your thoughtfulness, Young Master Zhou!"

Chu Yu struggled to hold back his laughter.

He almost burst out laughing.

Yun Jinnian, on the other hand, was quite indifferent to it all. She was just telling the truth, and besides, she didn't enjoy being stared at.

Even if the person doing the staring held a high and powerful position.

Zhou Yunshen, looking at Chu Yu's smug expression, was so angry that he actually laughed, "Leave it for those two children to eat then!"

It was such a large dish. When Yun Jinnian reached out to take it, Chu Yu pulled her aside, looking surprised.

But then a guard stepped forward to take it and brought it to Hemei and Henuan.

Not knowing what the guard said to Hemei and Henuan, the two children quickly came over, bowed deeply to Zhou Yunshen, and thanked him, "Thank you for your generosity, Young Master Zhou!"

Zhou Yunshen couldn't help but chuckle, "I'm off to have breakfast first!"

Turning around to walk back, his hand clenched into a fist.

Indeed, the human heart is biased!

Yun Jinnian soon put the matter of Zhou Yunshen behind her. After breakfast, the group prepared to set off again.

Amdo was still searching for his Spiritual Poisonous Insect in the cave, never dreaming that it was currently snoozing sweetly inside a small tripod.

"What is he looking for?" asked Yun Jinnian.

"Seems like he lost a pet he was keeping!"

Yun Jinnian frowned, thinking of the insect from the previous night, and then remained silent.

She just wouldn't return it to Amdo.

And even kept her distance from him.

The journey continued, with Yun Jinnian walking ahead on her own for a stretch, but as they moved higher up the mountain, the cold wind grew sharper, making it impossible to walk. She had no choice but to let Chu Yu carry her on his back.

When she first lay on Chu Yu's back, Yun Jinnian felt quite shy.

But Chu Yu soon told her a few jokes to cheer her up, and she gradually got used to it.

The two of them walked ahead of Zhou Yunshen.

Whatever Chu Yu said made Yun Jinnian punch him lightly, prompting Chu Yu to chuckle twice, but he quickly stopped to avoid triggering an avalanche.

Zhou Yunshen looked at Chu Yu's robust and tall physique, then thought about his own frailty, feeling somewhat powerless.

But if Yun Jinnian were willing to let him carry her up the mountain, he was capable of it.

In the cave

Amdo was still searching for his Spiritual Poisonous Insect, this time pouring out the Poisonous Insects it liked to eat. The Poisonous Insects crawled all over the ground, but the Spiritual Poisonous Insect stubbornly refused to emerge.

Amdo was anxious, and so were the people who came with him with money.

"Hall Master..."

Amdo paused for a moment, "Could it be that the Spiritual Poisonous Insect has already been taken away?"

As the Hall Master of the Azure Dragon Hall of the Moonwatching Sect, Amdo was no fool.

He quickly realized that the Spiritual Poisonous Insect was certainly not in the cave anymore.

"Then let's go after it. We must find the Spiritual Poisonous Insect at any cost!"

Amdo nodded.

This was the only Spiritual Poisonous Insect left for the Moonwatching Sect. If it were lost, the sect would be doomed.

Without the Saintess, the Sacred Relic, and even the Spiritual Poisonous Insect gone...

Amdo dared not contemplate the consequences and could only lead his people to immediately pursue Yun Jinnian and Chu Yu.

The cold wind rustled, with Yun Jinnian hugging her head and shrinking into Chu Yu's neck.

"Are you cold?" asked Chu Yu softly.

"Not at all!"

She was dressed warmly, and Chu Yu's back was especially warm, not feeling the cold in the slightest.

"If you're cold, you must tell me!"

Yun Jinnian nodded, "Mhm, are you tired from carrying me?"

"Not tired, haven't you noticed I'm not even sweating?" Chu Yu walked steadily with Yun Jinnian on his back.

Seeing that Chu Yu really wasn't tired, Yun Jinnian spoke quietly, "I picked up an insect last night!"

Chapter 362: Negotiation

"Ah?" Chu Yu was puzzled.

These insects from Nanjiang weren't something you could just pick up willy-nilly, "Did it bite you?"

"No, it's quite fun, I'll take it out and show it to you later!"

"Alright!"

Although their voices were low, people with high martial arts skills could still hear them, and naturally, Hu Lao San heard as well.

Considering Amdo had been scurrying around in the cave early in the morning searching for something, and now Yun Jinnian said she had found an insect.

Hu Lao San felt a chill run across his forehead.

Could the insects of the Moon Worshiping Sect be casually picked up? And judging by Amdo's anxious demeanor, it definitely wasn't an ordinary insect, yet Yun Jinnian managed to get hold of it without it biting her.

One should know that the Poisonous Insects of Nanjiang were extremely spiritual and could even recognize their master...

Hu Lao San suddenly remembered that last night, Yun Jinnian had stirred for a bit around midnight before falling soundly asleep.

Could it have been then when she found it?

During a break to study the route, Yun Jinnian took Chu Yu to a spot sheltered from the wind, opened her purse, and saw a pitch-black insect sleeping inside the small cauldron, which startled her.

"How did it crawl inside?"

Chu Yu took a twig and gently prodded it, and the Spiritual Poisonous Insect rolled over and then fell back asleep.

"How did you coax it into your hand?"

"I fed it some blood!"

Chu Yu looked at Yun Jinnian, astonished, "You learned that from a book?"

"Uh-huh, I just wanted to try it out, but to my surprise, it actually ate it!" Yun Jinnian said as she took a silver needle, pricked her finger, and squeezed some blood out. The Spiritual Poisonous Insect immediately woke up, lifted its head looking pleurably eager at Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian squeezed the blood out, and the Spiritual Poisonous Insect skillfully caught it, then lay back in the cauldron, its body gradually changing from black to pink.

"It can change colors too!"

Chu Yu was also amazed, "Let me try!"

He took a silver needle, pricked his finger, and let a drop of blood fall. The blood did not blend into the cauldron, and the Spiritual Poisonous Insect looked disgusted and started to vomit.

"Uh..."

Yun Jinnian felt that this was odd and took a handkerchief to wipe off the blood from the cauldron; the Spiritual Poisonous Insect then clung to Yun Jinnian's finger, extending its tongue, and looked at her pleurably.

"Want to eat more?" Yun Jinnian asked.

The Spiritual Poisonous Insect cocked its head, and after a while, it nodded.

"It actually understands!" Yun Jinnian felt surprised and squeezed a few more drops of blood to feed it.

The Spiritual Poisonous Insect ate its fill and then shook its head, curled up in the cauldron, and went back to sleep.

Chu Yu exclaimed, "People always say Nanjiang's insects have a spiritual nature, it's true!"

"I also found it peculiar last night, it actually resembles this small cauldron..." Yun Jinnian paused, "I always have this strange feeling that both the cauldron and the insect have a mysterious fondness for my blood!"

"Your feeling is not wrong, Jinnian did you notice that ever since you started researching this small cauldron, those insects, snakes, and beasts have never approached you, and it's been the same after entering the mountain. Last night, the person leading Nanjiang was constantly fidgeting, this insect must



not have escaped on its own but was released by him to bite people, yet it ended up in your bag by some strange twist of fate!"

Upon hearing Chu Yu say this, Yun Jinnian realized as well.

"Chu Brother..." Yun Jinnian hesitated because sometimes she called Chu Yu 'Your Highness' and other times 'Chu Brother'.

Chu Yu affectionately ruffled Yun Jinnian's head, "No matter what you call me, as long as I know it's me you're calling, that's fine. I'm broad-minded and won't take it to heart with you!"

Yun Jinnian lowered her eyes, feeling somewhat shy to look at Chu Yu.

"Keep this small cauldron and the insect safe, and when we find the time, ask Hu Lao San about it. He's a native of Nanjiang; he'll surely know a thing or two!"

#### Chapter 363: Negotiate

Yun Jinnian nodded, carefully stowed the small tripod and insect in his pouch, and secured it at his waist to prevent loss.

The two returned to where the others were resting.

Hu Laotie had already taken the lead in cooking some meat soup, a bowl for each person, which warmed them up after eating it with two steamed buns to fill their stomachs.

Although they had brought rice and flour, these were to be saved for use at the mountain peak.

"Another two hours of walking and we'll reach the mountain top, let's eat something first before we go!"

Once they reached the mountain peak, they couldn't rush to search for the Tian Mountain Snow Lotus; they needed to find a place to settle down first.

The side of the mountain was covered with snow all year round, leaving no trees at all, but there were a few lush medicinal plants that had been dug up and stored away to sell for a good price once they got back down the mountain.

The things that grew amidst the biting cold on the snowy mountain were always different.

Yun Jinnian also found several plants of Snow Mountain Artemisia that could be used for activating blood circulation and relieving pain.

The path was now incredibly steep, so Chu Yu took a rope and tied Yun Jinnian to him, with the other end secured to Yuwen Ya and several others, to prevent accidents where one might fall through the ground, they could save each other.

Chu Yu was also sweating a bit from the climb.

They were now approaching a fork in the road.

"We've already been to one side but didn't find the Tian Mountain Snow Lotus, and we haven't been to the other side!" said Chu Yu to Yun Jinnian.

Facing the cold wind, Yun Jinnian vaguely smelt a faint fragrance.

It was coming from the direction of the wind.

"Big Brother Chu, let's continue on the side you've been to before!"

Hearing this, Yuwen Ya hurriedly asked, "Do you think there's a Snow Lotus there?"

"I'm not sure, but I smell a faint fragrance in the cold wind, do you all smell it?"

Everyone shook their heads.

They really hadn't noticed it.

All eyes turned to Chu Yu, waiting for him to make a decision.

Hu Laotie's group was also looking at Chu Yu.

After some thought, Chu Yu still chose to trust Yun Jinnian, "Let's go there once more!"

They headed once more in the direction that Chu Yu and his group had been to three times before.

On the right was a precipice, and to the left was a cliff. Fortunately, they had traveled this route several times and were not so afraid anymore. Still, with Yun Jinnian on his back, Chu Yu walked very cautiously.

"Are you scared?" Chu Yu asked softly.

Yun Jinnian shook her head slightly.

She knew Chu Yu wouldn't let anything happen to her, so she wasn't very scared.

Plus, she was lying on Chu Yu's back and didn't look down the cliff.

"Suck in!" Yun Jinnian took several deep breaths, "Big brother Chu, wait a moment!"

Yun Jinnian called out.

"Smelt something?" Chu Yu asked.

"The scent is very strong, let me down!"

Chu Yu carefully put Yun Jinnian down, and she then lifted her veil to reveal her face.

Yuwen Ya immediately handed a porcelain bottle to Yun Jinnian, who opened it and took a deep breath before sighing profoundly.

"The fragrance is coming from below the cliff!"

But looking at the cliff face, it was a vast expanse of white, not a speck of green in sight. Where to search?

"It's said that the Tian Mountain Snow Lotus is snow-white, even the stamen is white!" No sooner had Yun Jinnian finished speaking than she felt the insect in her waist pouch start to move incessantly, as if it was trying to crawl out.

This insect was originally raised by people from Nanjiang, who also said they were heading into the mountains in search of the Snow Lotus.

The insect had been sleeping soundly all the way up until now, when the fragrance was at its strongest, then it woke up.

"Big Brother Chu, I have an idea!"

As Yun Jinnian spoke, she opened her pouch and let the insect jump out to the ground where it looked expectantly at her.

"Little thing, do you want to drink blood?"

The Spiritual Poisonous Insect licked its lips and nodded.

"And did you smell the fragrance?"

The Spiritual Poisonous Insect nodded again.

Both Yun Jinnian and Chu Yu started to smile.

"Then will you lead us there? If you do, I will give you blood to drink!"

Chapter 364: Took a Bite

Yun Jinnian coaxed in a soft voice.

The Spiritual Poisonous Insect seemed to understand Yun Jinnian's words, not really because it understood her, but because it had drunk her blood and could feel it.

It nodded again and began to crawl toward the cliff below.

"Prepare the rope; I'll follow down!" Chu Yu said, then grabbed a rope and tied it around himself, intending to go down as well.

However, the Spiritual Poisonous Insect suddenly turned back, glaring fiercely at Chu Yu and even baring its fine, sharp teeth.

From the moment Hu Lao San saw the Spiritual Poisonous Insect, fear shattered his soul into pieces.

It was no wonder that Amdo tirelessly sought this creature. This was the Sacred Relic of the Moon-worshipping Sect. It was said to have lived for over a hundred years, raised by the Snow Lotus since infancy. In this vast mountain range, only it could rapidly and accurately track down the Snow Lotuses of Tian Mountain.

And why did the Spiritual Poisonous Insect listen to Yun Jinnian so obediently? Hu Lao San felt terrified yet immensely shocked at the same time.

"Your Highness, please don't follow it. This is a Nanjiang Spiritual Poisonous Insect. It grew up eating Snow Lotus. If you follow it, it will think you want to steal its Snow Lotus. It is covered in deadly poison; even if it bites you, not even the Great Luo Immortal could save you!" Hu Lao San quickly spoke out to caution.

And the insect was in such a hurry to go down the cliff; there must be Snow Lotus below.

"What should we do?" Chu Yu asked anxiously, but the Spiritual Poisonous Insect just stared blankly back at him.

Hu Lao San had no solution either.

All of a sudden, Yun Jinnian spoke up, "I'll go with it!"

"No!"

Everyone objected.

After all, Yun Jinnian was a doctor, and both Yuwen Jia and the Emperor were waiting for her to return.

In the hearts of Qian Momo and her group, they could all perish, but Yun Jinnian absolutely could not come to any harm.

"Lower me down the cliff. I'm not afraid. If this bug really can find the Snow Lotus, I think..." Yun Jinnian said as she took a few steps closer to the Spiritual Poisonous Insect, "how about I go down with you to search for the Snow Lotus?"

The Spiritual Poisonous Insect looked at Yun Jinnian uncomprehendingly.

"See, you like drinking my blood, right? If I eat the Snow Lotus, my blood will definitely taste even better!" Yun Jinnian coaxed cautiously.

The Spiritual Poisonous Insect suddenly understood.

It nodded vigorously.

It also put away its ferocity and started to crawl toward the edge of the cliff, taking a few steps and then looking back at Yun Jinnian, waiting for her to join.

"Chu Big Brother, quickly give me the rope and the brocade box. If this fragrance truly is from the Snow Lotus, I must pick it first and bring it back to administer to the Commandery Prince!"

Chu Yu thought for a moment, "You go ahead; I'll follow behind and descend together with you!"

Yun Jinnian thought it over and finally nodded her head.

She let Chu Yu take a rope and tie her up, then slowly lowering her down the cliff.

The Spiritual Poisonous Insect crawled very slowly, always waiting for Yun Jinnian, and seemed delighted that she was following it.

But upon seeing Chu Yu behind them, it immediately became aggressive again.

It made a move as if to bite both Yun Jinnian and Chu Yu. Still, Yun Jinnian, summoning courage from who knows where, caught it in her palm.

"Hiss!"

It had bitten her.

Yun Jinnian winced with pain, opening her palm, where the Spiritual Poisonous Insect was eagerly sucking her blood, its small body instantly turning red.

Her palm suddenly hurt and tingled, gradually spreading up her arm.

Yun Jinnian exclaimed in alarm.

She felt cold and hot inside her body, alternating between the two in a painfully uncomfortable manner.

But her mind was exceptionally clear.

She just felt somewhat ill at ease, and the Spiritual Poisonous Insect also seemed to sense her discomfort, curling up and retching, then it spit out a white substance, gently depositing it on the wound it had made.

"Jinnian!" Chu Yu exclaimed in shock, quickly jumping down next to Yun Jinnian and grabbing hold of her hand, about to catch the Spiritual Poisonous Insect.

"Chu Big Brother, don't..."

Chapter 365: Finding the Snow Lotus

Yun Jinnian felt the wound warming up, starting from his palm and spreading downwards, gradually making his arm and his entire being comfortable.

He even became sharper of hearing and sight, and his nose grew more sensitive, allowing him to pinpoint exactly where that fragrance was coming from.

"Brother Chu, the thing it spat out cured my poison!" Yun Jinnian hastened to explain.

Chu Yu saw that Yun Jinnian indeed seemed much better, but still worried, he asked, "Are you really feeling much better?"



"Brother Chu, it's true that its bite is poisonous, but since it feeds on Tian Mountain's Snow Lotus, the substance it spat out must be an antidote miracle!" Yun Jinnian said, pausing before adding, "I feel like I'm not that cold anymore!"

Chu Yu was skeptical, but when he reached out to touch Yun Jinnian's other hand, it was indeed warm and toasty.

"You're really okay?" Chu Yu asked, still uneasy.

"I'm really okay!"

Having been bitten, Yun Jinnian grew even more fond of the creature.

He reached out to press its head gently with his fingertip, and the Spiritual Poisonous Insect joyously rolled over, revealing its furry, feet-covered belly, signaling Yun Jinnian to press again.

Yun Jinnian and Chu Yu looked at each other and both smiled helplessly.

Yun Jinnian still reached out to press it, and the Spiritual Poisonous Insect relaxed completely, looking completely content.

"Anyone who doesn't know better would think you've raised it for many years!" Chu Yu joked.

Yun Jinnian gave a light smile, "Yeah, who would know that we actually just met last night!"

A few drops of blood had coaxed it away.

And he selfishly kept it, not returning it to its previous owner.

"Little thing, get up, let's continue searching for the Snow Lotus!" Yun Jinnian said as he nudged the Spiritual Poisonous Insect, which looked at him groggily and then obediently nodded, crawling up the cliffside and continuing downward.

Yun Jinnian and Chu Yu tugged at the rope, signaling those above to continue releasing it.

"The scent is getting stronger!" Just as Yun Jinnian finished speaking, he saw the Spiritual Poisonous Insect fighting with something else.

"It's the snake guarding the Snow Lotus!" Chu Yu acknowledged.

The snake was small but agile. The Spiritual Poisonous Insect leaped up and down, attacking continuously without fear.

"Brother Chu, should we help it?" Yun Jinnian asked.

"No need, look how much fun it's having!"

Yun Jinnian looked closer and saw that, just as Chu Yu had said, the Spiritual Poisonous Insect was toying with the snake, then one by one coaxed the snake off the cliff.

Then it lay down in a place, looking up at Yun Jinnian, as if to please him.

"Brother Chu, I'm going over!" Yun Jinnian said, carefully arranging his gear and slowly moving over.

He spotted a protruding area from where the fragrance emanated.

Yun Jinnian carefully dug away the snow, revealing a snow-white, sacred flower.

"Brother Chu, it's the Tian Mountain Snow Lotus!"

Upon hearing this, Chu Yu was overwhelmed with joy, pulling at the rope several times to send a signal upward.

Yuwen Ya was overjoyed, exclaiming, "We found it!"

Old Hu and the others were also thrilled.

Yun Jinnian carefully removed the Snow Lotus, preparing to place it into the brocade box. Seeing the Spiritual Poisonous Insect looking at him expectantly, Yun Jinnian chuckled and fed a small piece of the edge to the creature, which joyously bit into it.

Yun Jinnian packed the brocade box securely and strapped it to his back, "Little thing, let's go up!"

But the Spiritual Poisonous Insect shook its head, continuing to crawl further down.

"Could there be more below?" Yun Jinnian muttered.

Chu Yu quickly sent a signal upwards, indicating for the rope to keep lowering.

Yuwen Ya was delighted, exclaiming, "There's actually more Snow Lotus, this is just great!"

#### Chapter 366: Jealous

Several expeditions into Tian Mountain had yielded nothing, but this time, with Yun Jinnian joining in, they found it.

Yuwen Ya immediately felt that Yun Jinnian was a lucky star.

Because of her, his grandmother could be saved; because of him, his uncle was saved; and because of her, his other uncle saw hope.

He hastily put down a brocade box.

Watching the bundle slide down the rope, Chu Yu quickly stretched out his hand to catch it, slung it onto his back, and then he and Yun Jinnian moved down the slope.

The cold wind rustled, and snow fluttered around.

Yun Jinnian's little face was frozen red, and Chu Yu felt terrible seeing this, yet he had no choice but to let Yun Jinnian go and harvest.

The insect only listened to Yun Jinnian's commands.

The second time they found the Snow Lotus, the Spiritual Poisonous Insect didn't even tease the snake guarding the Snow Lotus. It simply bit it off, watched Yun Jinnian harvest the Snow Lotus, and then obediently crawled over to Yun Jinnian. After she placed it in her pouch, it followed Chu Yu as he pulled them up.

"Huff, huff!"

Only once she had solid ground beneath her feet did Yun Jinnian really feel the cold.

She also felt a burning pain under her armpits, chafed by the rope.

But now, surrounded by men, she couldn't really say anything.

"Uncle, shall we continue moving forward?" Yuwen Ya asked.

Having harvested two Tian Mountain Snow Lotuses, should they return or continue?

"Let's continue moving forward. It's not easy to come into the mountains, we should try our luck a bit more!" Chu Yu said, glancing at the sky. "Let's find a place to rest first!"

Chu Yu had noticed something was off with Yun Jinnian.

As they continued forward, Chu Yu carried Yun Jinnian on his back, and she, laying on his back, dared not move.

Any movement was painful.

"Are you hurt?"

Yun Jinnian nodded her head.

"Later, let Madam Qian take a good look at you!"

"Mhm!"

Yun Jinnian replied in a muffled voice.

The men tactfully pretended to be deaf. After all, Yun Jinnian was still a young girl, delicate and tender. She had helped find the Snow Lotus in the mountains; her contribution was undeniable.

They now neither dared to underestimate nor disrespect her.

Zhou Yunshen's brow was deeply furrowed.

He felt sorry for Yun Jinnian and blamed Chu Yu, yet he had no position to speak out, only able to watch as Chu Yu carried Yun Jinnian forward.

By the time they reached the mountaintop, it was almost dark.

They found the tents and simple beds left from their previous trips.

After setting up the tents and lighting a few pots of charcoal, Chu Yu asked Madam Qian to check on Yun Jinnian.

The men were quite aware of their boundaries and did not glance toward the tents, busy setting up pots to boil water.

Inside the tent, Yun Jinnian took off her cotton coat, and Hemei and Henuan applied medicine to the few cuts on her smooth, jade-like skin.

"Hiss!"

Yun Jinnian gasped in pain.

Once the medicine was applied, Yun Jinnian put on her clothes and got herself together before exiting the tent. Madam Qian and the others then went into the tent and laid out a simple folding bed and a quilt for Yun Jinnian's night's rest. The tents were connected to prevent them from being blown over by strong winds and snow.

After tidying up, Yun Jinnian stepped out of the tent, and Chu Yu quickly approached, "Is it serious?"

"Not serious!"

Yun Jinnian shook her head slightly and pulled her cloak over her head.

"Go into the tent, it's warm inside. Once the water boils, I'll bring some to you. Are you hungry? If you're hungry, I'll have someone roast a bun for you!"

"Okay!"

Yun Jinnian then went into the tent, took off her pouch, opened it, and took out a small cauldron in which the Spiritual Poisonous Insect was sleeping soundly.

Yun Jinnian pressed gently on the insect's head. Seeing that it continued to sleep soundly, she put it back into her pouch.

"Young Master Han, my Young Master invites Young Master Han over for a moment to drink some warm tea!"

Upon hearing this, Yun Jinnian was silent for a moment before standing up and exiting the tent. Looking at Teng Fei, she said, "Let's go!"

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"Master Han, please!"

Teng Fei was exceedingly polite.

Yun Jinnian nodded, leading Hemei and Henuan through the snow following Teng Fei.

Chu Yu immediately came over upon seeing this, "Jinnian?"

"Brother Chu, Master Zhou invited me for tea, come join us!"

"Sure, I'll go over to Master Zhou's for a cup of tea as well!"

Chu Yu really didn't feel reassured about Yun Jinnian being alone with Zhou Yunshen; there were too many wolves in sheep's clothing these days.

Teng Fei looked at the following Chu Yu, his heart full of bitterness.

How was he going to explain to his master? He hadn't invited Prince Rui, it was Miss Yun who did, and now that the prince wanted to come, he couldn't refuse.

Zhou Yunshen's tent was very large and warmly lit, seemingly quite cozy.

Yun Jinnian remembered that among Zhou Yunshen's party, there were two burly men carrying large packages, likely the tents themselves.

The most important thing when entering the snowy mountains was to keep warm and avoid avalanches.

Chu Yu was in high spirits, which could be seen from his upturned lips and smiling brows.

The better his mood, the more worried Teng Fei was for his own master.

To Yun Jinnian, Zhou Yunshen might not harbor genuine feelings, but his interest was certain.

Strikingly beautiful, unparalleled in medical skills, composed and sensible, serene, and lovely.

Extremely learned, speaking eloquently.

Embodied with grace, even if Zhou Yunshen was the Crown Prince, he was but a mortal man; how could he not be moved.

"The two of you, please!" Teng Fei said, lifting the tent curtain.

Zhou Yunshen's tent was very spacious, about four or five times larger than Yun Jinnian's, and it was the largest tent in the group.



Yun Jinnian and Chu Yu entered Zhou Yunshen's tent, and Zhou Yunshen was momentarily taken aback before standing up to greet them.

"Miss Yun. His Highness, Prince Rui!"

Since Zhou Yunshen addressed them as such, Yun Jinnian could only bow slightly, while Chu Yu hooked his lips coldly.

Zhou Yunshen's intentions were clear to all.

Did he really think everyone was blind, unable to see his scheming towards Jinnian?

"Master Zhou!" Chu Yu called out softly, intentionally not exposing Zhou Yunshen's status.

Zhou Yunshen inwardly sneered, but remained composed as he invited Chu Yu and Yun Jinnian to sit.

A simple bed, two chairs, a small table, and several charcoal basins, the tent was warm and toasty, contrasting sharply with the freezing world outside.

No sooner had they sat down when Teng Mu brought the tea.

"Miss Yun, His Highness, please enjoy the tea," Zhou Yunshen said warmly.

Yun Jinnian nodded, took the teacup, and tasted a sip, her eyes narrowing slightly, as if amongst the misty clouds of the snowy mountains.

Grown in the cold high cliffs of the Great Zhou Kingdom, yielding only about a pound of leaves a year. The frequent dew and early snows endured by the leaves imparted a fragrance that, when brewed, would fill the area with a misty swirl, earning it the name "Snow Mountain Mist."

The Great Zhou Kingdom truly was prosperous.

"Snow Mountain Mist, Master Zhou is too kind!" Chu Yu said, taking a sip before setting the teacup on the table.

No matter how fine the tea was, he wasn't particularly interested.

Seeing this, Yun Jinnian also felt it inappropriate to continue drinking and set down her teacup, taking a handkerchief to wipe her mouth.

It almost seemed like a duet between husband and wife.

Zhou Yunshen was so infuriated he could have spat blood, but he couldn't lash out, so he too set his teacup down and said indifferently, "Actually, I invited Miss Yun here to check my pulse, as I've been feeling a bit unwell lately!"

With Zhou Yunshen saying this, Yun Jinnian couldn't well refuse.

She looked at Chu Yu, who quickly said, "I'll have someone bring a damp cloth for you to wipe your hands!"

"Yes!"

Yun Jinnian nodded with a smile.

Such tacit understanding only wounded Zhou Yunshen further, "I've already had someone prepare a damp cloth, Miss Yun, you can rest assured, it's brand new and never used!"

Yun Jinnian nodded, her smile faint.

Chu Yu then said, "Master Zhou might have misunderstood, Jinnian needs the damp cloth to wipe her hands not because she has a mania for cleanliness but because it makes feeling the pulse more accurate!"

## Chapter 368: Furious to Death

Chu Yu finished speaking and then threateningly asked Yun Jinnian, "Jinnian, what I said is right, isn't it!"

"What Big Brother Chu said is indeed true!"

She really didn't have a cleanliness obsession; wiping her hands was to make her fingers cleaner and more sensitive, thus making her pulse diagnosis more precise.

"So that's the reason, I've indeed overthought!" Zhou Yunshen said with a laugh.

However, he was watching Yun Jinnian and Chu Yu.

Yun Jinnian herself might not have realized that she was defending Chu Yu.

Careful and without a trace, she was defending Chu Yu from the heart, agreeing with whatever he said and having absolute trust in him.

Teng Fei brought in a towel, and after Yun Jinnian wiped her hands, she took Zhou Yunshen's pulse.

Yun Jinnian's hands were very cold, and Zhou Yunshen's body was also icy to the bone, but compared to Prince Yanjun, it was still far too little.

"After these days of treatment, Young Master Zhou's condition has improved a lot, if you don't enter the snow mountains, your condition will be even better!" Yun Jinnian said, glancing at Zhou Yunshen.

She withdrew her hand.

And she probably understood why Zhou Yunshen had asked her to come here.

Zhou Yunshen wanted the Snow Lotus from Tian Mountain.

And at this moment, it was indeed in her care.

If Yun Jinnian had figured it out, how could Chu Yu not understand?

Seeing the situation, Zhou Yunshen did not beat around the bush and directly revealed his intention, "May I ask, if there is a Snow Lotus from Tian Mountain, is it possible for me to take it? What would be the effects after taking it?"

"If there is a Snow Lotus from Tian Mountain to take, Young Master Zhou's condition will indeed improve a lot!"

"Miss Fourth, His Highness Prince Rui, I wonder if you could sell me one of the Snow Lotuses in your possession, name your price!"

Yun Jinnian naturally would not sell it as it was meant to be taken back to Prince Yanjun.

But Chu Yu chuckled and asked, "May I ask how many taels of silver Young Master Zhou is willing to offer?"

On this trip to Nanjiang, nearly a million taels of silver and the lives of dozens of men have been invested just to find these two Snow Lotuses, yet Zhou Yunshen brazenly spoke of buying one, how entitled does he think he is?

"Prince Rui, please name a price!" Zhou Yunshen said, elegantly and delicately holding a teacup.

He didn't care about the silver.

The Great Zhou Kingdom had plenty of silver.

"Two million taels!" Chu Yu stated calmly.

That was indeed a lion's demand.

Yun Jinnian looked at Chu Yu in astonishment; she thought that Chu Yu wouldn't sell it.

"Deal!"

Zhou Yunshen didn't even bother to bargain.

Yun Jinnian couldn't help but feel emotional, Great Zhou truly was wealthy.

Chu Yu inwardly cursed, as Zhou Yunshen was indirectly indicating to Yun Jinnian that Great Zhou was rich and more prosperous than Tianchu Country, and as the Crown Prince, if she followed him, she would enjoy inexhaustible and endless wealth and glory.

Unfortunately for Chu Yu and Zhou Yunshen, in the end, they would be disappointed.

After Yun Jinnian inwardly sighed at the wealth of Great Zhou Country, she had no other thoughts.

And she had no objection to Chu Yu selling one of the Snow Lotuses.

She didn't oppose it either.

Although Zhou Yunshen had purchased the Snow Lotus, he was also frustrated.

Chu Yu stood up, "Young Master Zhou, since we have agreed on the matter and the tea has been drunk, Jinnian and I will take our leave now!"

Upon hearing this, Yun Jinnian also promptly stood up.

"I'll see you two out!"

Chu Yu and Yun Jinnian left Zhou Yunshen's tent and walked back.

Yun Jinnian asked in a low voice, puzzled, "Big Brother Chu, why did you agree?"

"If I didn't agree and he decided to take it by force, what would we do?"

Yun Jinnian fell silent.

The people around Zhou Yunshen were indeed skilled in martial arts; if he really decided to take it by force, even if he couldn't get the Snow Lotus, it would result in injuries on both sides.

It was better to sell him one.

With the little creature around, they could certainly find other Snow Lotuses.

Back in the tent, Yuwen Ya brought over a golden-brown baked bun and handed it to Yun Jinnian, "Try it, see if it's good!"

"Thank you!"

Yun Jinnian took the bun, tore off a piece, and took a bite—the taste was indeed good.

Both fragrant and crispy, very delicious.

Yuwen Ya hesitated before finally speaking, "Your nose is really sensitive!"

## Chapter 369: Coaxing and Deceiving

Yun Jinnian pursed his lips into a smile, "What would Seventh Brother like to say?"

Yuwen Ya was somewhat embarrassed by Yun Jinnian's question, "I just want to say thank you!"

"Thank me for what? All I did was what I should do, and the benefits I got are not minor either!"

As Yun Jinnian spoke, he tapped his coin purse.

Yuwen Ya couldn't help but chuckle, "Don't worry, I've already instructed my men not to let word out about you receiving the Spiritual Poisonous Insect!"

"I'm just afraid that the people from Nanjiang will find out sooner or later!" Yun Jinnian was also worried.

After all, the Spiritual Poisonous Insect wasn't raised by her, and if the people from Nanjiang came looking for it, she would have no choice but to return it.

That's why she decided to continue using it to search for the Snow Lotus, at least to find the Snow Lotus before those people from Nanjiang managed to track her down.

Yuwen Ya was also somewhat worried.

Chu Yu said coldly, "We won't return it to them. What can they do, forcibly snatch it?"

"It's not the likelihood I fear but the possibility," Yun Jinnian retorted. "Uncle, let's set out early tomorrow morning to search for the Snow Lotus!"

"Let's eat something first!"

Yun Jinnian broke off a piece of steamed bun and handed it to Chu Yu, who happily accepted it and stuffed a piece into his mouth, "Not bad, bake some more later so everyone can taste something different!"

A pot of meat soup, buns.

They ate with great pleasure.

After dinner, Yun Jinnian sat on her little bed, playing with the Spiritual Poisonous Insect.

The insect was indeed very spirited; it gleefully ate the Snow Lotus leaves that Yun Jinnian gave it. After eating, it would roll around joyously. When Yun Jinnian fed it a little more, it started to roll again. After consuming a small piece of the leaf, it refused to eat any more and just gazed at Yun Jinnian's fingers eagerly, waiting for her to prick her finger and feed it a few drops of blood before contentedly getting ready to sleep in its little cauldron.

"You little thing!"

The Spiritual Poisonous Insect looked up at Yun Jinnian when she called it.

"Will you take us to search for the Snow Lotus tomorrow?"

The Spiritual Poisonous Insect cocked its head and thought for a moment, then nodded its head and crawled towards the little cauldron to sleep inside it.

"What a cute little thing!" Yun Jinnian said as she pulled out some cotton and sewed a small quilt out of silk for the insect, covering it up.

The Spiritual Poisonous Insect looked at Yun Jinnian groggily, rubbed the little quilt, and snuggled inside to sleep.

Yun Jinnian then got up and went to find Chu Yu.



"How did it go?" Chu Yu asked.

"We've agreed, it will lead us tomorrow!"

Yuwen Ya was overjoyed, "That's wonderful!"

Chu Yu could hardly contain his joy, "Then get some rest. We'll head out first thing in the morning!"

They needed to find not only the Snow Lotus but also a place where it could be cultivated.

Yun Jinnian returned to her tent, and had Hemei and Henuan squeeze onto the little bed with her. At first, the children were reluctant, but after Yun Jinnian insisted, they took off their shoes and lay down next to her.

After a long day, Yun Jinnian was exhausted and quickly fell asleep.

Only then did Hemei and Henuan sit up, giving up their spots to Yun Jinnian so she could sleep more comfortably.

The two curled up together and also slept soundly.

Outside, the cold wind howled, but inside the tent, there were two basins of charcoal fire. At one point, Granny Qian came in to let fresh air circulate inside the tent.

Outside the tent, a group of people were on patrol. When the cold became unbearable, they would take a swig of strong liquor to warm up a bit. When their shift was over, they could enter the tent to warm up and rest.

As dawn broke, everyone already had hot water boiled and porridge cooked.

Granny Qian took the lead in making steamed buns, accompanied by pickled vegetables, making for a good breakfast.

Yun Jinnian unusually ate an extra half bowl of porridge and also made some rice soup to feed to the Spiritual Poisonous Insect. The insect took a sip, spat it out disdainfully, amusing Yun Jinnian greatly.

After squeezing a few drops of blood to feed it, she pressed down on its head and said, "You're in charge in a bit, little creature. Once we find the Snow Lotus, I'll let you drink plenty of blood, until your belly is so full you can't take anymore. How about that?!"

#### Chapter 370: Accident

The Spiritual Poisonous Insect perked up as soon as it heard, nodded its head, and jumped to the ground. It crawled out of the tent, took a few deep breaths, and then scurried in one direction, looking back at Yun Jinnian.

"We'll follow it first, leave twenty people to pack up, then have them catch up!" After saying that, Chu Yu immediately carried Yun Jinnian on his back and followed the insect.

Zhou Yunshen also promptly gave orders and followed with Teng Fei and Teng Mu.

After walking for a full two hours, many people began to wonder why they hadn't found any Snow Lotus yet.

But they also had great faith that the Spiritual Poisonous Insect would lead them to the Snow Lotus, so they didn't ask any more questions.

Chu Yu had been carrying Yun Jinnian for two hours, and his face didn't turn red, nor did his heart race; he had plenty of strength.

"Big brother Chu, are you tired?" Yun Jinnian asked softly.

"Not tired!"

Not to mention carrying for two hours, he wouldn't tire even if he carried her for a lifetime.

He was pleased.

The blizzard was fierce; it stung people's faces. Hemei and Henuan were walking a bit slowly, so they were carried by two guards and kept moving forward.

Upon reaching the mountain's summit and descending again, they traversed one snowy peak after another, the range stretching endlessly.

Yun Jinnian looked around, "Big brother Chu!"

"Hmm?"

"We'll search for one day today and another day tomorrow; then we should descend the mountain and treat Prince Yanjun's illness first," Yun Jinnian spoke, pausing for a moment, ultimately deciding not to reveal her own plan.

She wanted to try using the substance the Spiritual Poisonous Insect spit out to see if it could cure the poison afflicting Prince Yanjun.

But such matters were originally known only to her and Chu Yu. If she revealed it now, with more people knowing, it would be quite troublesome.

"Okay, I'll listen to you!"

Chu Yu was a smart man, naturally understanding what Yun Jinnian wanted to say but didn't, clearly due to some concern.

Moreover, if the Spiritual Poisonous Insect was really that powerful, could it cure the poison in his cousin's body?

If it could cure the poison, what's the need to look for the Blood Lotus then?

Nanny Qian and others were trailing behind, listening to Chu Yu and Yun Jinnian's conversation, their emotions were quite strange.

They wanted Yun Jinnian to think of the Emperor's illness, yet feared upsetting her and being sent away.

Then all their efforts would come to naught.

After traversing two mountain tops, the team was both hungry and tired, and just then, the people packing up also caught up.

"Rest here in place, prepare lunch!"

Another tent was pitched for Yun Jinnian to rest in.

Yun Jinnian cradled the Spiritual Poisonous Insect in her palm, dripped blood for it to drink, and this time she wasn't stingy, letting it drink its fill. After it was sated, the insect rested inside a small cauldron.

Yun Jinnian gently pressed down on its head and tucked in its tiny blanket,

before placing it into her pouch to rest.

For lunch, Chu Yu had meat boiled, a large pot of meat, a large pot of rice, and flatbreads. Zhou Yunshen's group also had a sumptuous meal cooked up.

"It's really strange, why haven't we encountered a single animal on this trip to the snow mountains?" Yuwen Ya asked.

In past trips to the mountains, they had come across wolves, wild dogs, wild pigs, foxes, rabbits, and many others, but this time they saw none.

Chu Yu and Hu Laotian also thought about it.

"That's right, Your Highness, we haven't seen any wild animals at all on this trip!" Hu Laotian was equally astonished.

Then, looking towards Yun Jinnian, he guessed, "Could it be because of the Spiritual Poisonous Insect, so no wild beasts dare to approach?"

Chu Yu was silent.

"Yuwen Ya, take some people to check over there; see if you can encounter any wild animals. Remember, safety first, and come back earlier!"

Yuwen Ya nodded, picked ten people, and went with him.

A quarter hour later, Yuwen Ya returned with a few wild chickens and rabbits, "Uncle, indeed, when we went to the other side, there were wild animals. We even saw wild wolves. If it weren't for the fact that wolf meat tastes awful, I would have thought about bringing back a wolf!"

Talking, Yuwen Ya had people heat water to kill and clean the wild chickens and rabbits, "Boil the wild chickens for soup, and roast the rabbits!"