

Indulgence 441

Chapter 441 Tianci Grows Up

Since they had decided to save the man, hot water was indispensable. They moved the carriage to the roadside and took a rest there.

Luoyi took the lead in heating the water.

Elder Wood and Elder Earth worked together to treat the man.

They even called Han Tianci over.

Han Tianci got on the carriage and couldn't help but feel like vomiting. However, thinking that his sister could endure, he, as a man, must be even more enduring,

he forced himself to stand by Elder Earth's side. Elder Earth handed a knife to Han Tianci, "Young master, you cut the necrotic flesh!"

"..."

Han Tianci's eyes widened.

"I can't do this!"

He had never done this before.

"How do you know you can't if you never tried? Young master will have to practice medicine someday. Sooner or later you'll have to take this step, and today is a good time for you to practice!" said Elder Earth.

Anyway, they were keeping the man alive with Snow Lotus Pills, and he couldn't die. Giving Han Tianci a chance to practice was a stroke of luck for the man.

Upon hearing this, Han Tianci felt extremely apprehensive.

But he couldn't admit he was scared, so he bravely stepped up.

With two fingers pinching the necrotic flesh and one hand holding the knife, his hand was shaking non-stop, then he cut into the wrong spot.

Elder Earth didn't say a word, just silently took the medicine powder to stop the bleeding.

After making the first cut, the second seemed less difficult; Han Tianci even dared to look.

After several cuts, as he watched the necrotic flesh slowly disappear under his hands, bloodied but triumphant, Han Tianci felt a sense of accomplishment and his movements became more agile.

After cutting away the necrotic flesh, he used a cloth to absorb the blood, applied hemostatic medicine, and then moved on to the next area.

Elder Earth and Elder Wood watched, nodding in satisfaction.

They helped Han Tianci with some minor tasks but did not mind that he was sweating profusely.

They just leisurely assisted.

It wasn't until Han Tianci cut away the last piece of necrotic flesh, cleaned and medicated it, and let out a breath.

Han Tianci looked at Elder Wood and Elder Earth in astonishment, "Did I complete it all by myself from start to finish?"

Both elders nodded, and at that moment, Han Tianci was overjoyed, "Ah, I can finally be a doctor!"

He jumped down from the carriage and ran toward Yun Jinnian, "Sister, sister, I completed it all by myself just now, aren't I amazing!"

Yun Jinnian had been waiting for a long time. Seeing Han Tianci emerge from the carriage happily running toward her, she too was filled with joy.

Just as Han Tianci was nearing Yun Jinnian, he suddenly stopped, "Hehe, sister, I'll go wash and change my clothes first!"

This endearing boy had finally grown up today.

He was no longer the child who only knew theory.

Yun Jinnian smiled and stepped forward, taking a handkerchief to gently wipe the sweat from Han Tianci's forehead, "The hot water has been prepared for you over there. Go take a wash first, put on clean clothes, and sister will make tea!"

"Alright, I'll listen to sister!"

Han Tianci cheerfully went to bathe and changed into clean clothes, his hair wet and draped behind his head.

Somewhat unruly, but his beaming smile was quite endearing.

Once on the carriage, Yun Jinnian, Chu Yu, Prince Yanjun, and Yuwen Ya were all there. Yun Jinnian said with a smile, "Come in and sit down, so that Sister Jiayu can style your hair, my tea will be ready soon!"

Yun Jinnian was an expert in tea ceremony, but she seldom brewed tea. Today was a special day.

Her brother had truly become a man, and she naturally wanted to brew tea to celebrate.

"Sure!"

As soon as Han Tianci sat down, Shi Jiayu climbed onto the carriage with a cloth towel, knelt behind Han Tianci, and began to style his hair.

This little brother was someone Shi Jiayu liked and cherished.

Yun Jinnian finished making the tea, poured the tea liquor into cups, and offered it first to Prince Yanjun, "Commandery Prince, please have a taste!"

Chapter 442: Vaguely

Prince Yanjun took the teacup, thanked him warmly, and sipped lightly.

In this scorching summer heat, drinking a cup of hot tea warmed his heart and cooled his chest, bringing tranquility to his restless mind.

Yun Jinnian smiled and poured another cup for Chu Yu, who happily accepted it.

After a sip, "Good tea!"

Yun Jinnian poured and handed a cup to Yuwen Ya, "Seventh Brother!"

"Thank you!" Yuwen Ya wasn't particularly fond of tea; he preferred alcohol at the moment.

Yun Jinnian poured another cup for Han Tianci, who held it and took a sip with a whoosh, "So fragrant, but a bit bitter!"

Yun Jinnian smiled without a word and poured himself a cup, taking small sips.

Life is like this tea, bitter or sweet upon the first taste, one must truly savor it to appreciate its profound flavors.

He passed the teapot to Shi Jiayu, "Take this to Elder Mu, Elder Tu, and the Venerable One."

Shi Jiayu nodded and left the carriage with the teapot.

After drinking the tea, everyone returned to their carriages. Han Tianci lingered with Yun Jinnian, who let him be.

As for the person they had rescued, no one bothered to inquire about his origins.

The group entered Yangxi City in a leisurely procession, staying at its most luxurious inn. Chu Yu, with a grand gesture, booked the entire inn. The shopkeeper was so delighted he couldn't stop smiling.

"Gentlemen, please come inside. Hot water and dishes will be served shortly. However, I'm not sure if you'd like to dine in your rooms or the hall?"

"The hall!"

"Yes, yes, yes!"

The inn's other guests had already been politely directed to other establishments by the shopkeeper.

Faced with someone as financially powerful as Chu Yu, not only the shopkeeper was helpless, but the other guests also did not dare to provoke him.

It was simpler for them to quietly switch inns and stay out of trouble.

Yun Jinnian took a hot bath and then lounged by the window, watching the bustling streets below.

The people looked very agitated.

"Is something going on here?" Yun Jinnian murmured softly.

"Shall I ask the shopkeeper?" Hemei asked tentatively.

Yun Jinnian nodded.

Hemei went out and soon returned, "Miss, it is said that a large household in the city was wiped out overnight, including maids, old women, servants, amounting to over three hundred people. Shockingly, the mastermind was the household's eldest son in collusion with bandits. After the bandits broke in, they killed on sight and looted everything!"

"Has the case been solved?"

Hemei nodded, "Yes, the magistrate solved the case on the third day. Initially, the eldest son and the bandits vehemently denied involvement, but later for some reason, they confessed. The magistrate has ordered their execution at the market square tomorrow at noon."

Yun Jinnian listened but didn't pay it much mind.

Good deeds are rewarded, evil deeds punished; it's not that they go unnoticed, just that their time hasn't come yet.

Having committed such evil, any death would be well deserved.

The inn's servant brought over iced tea, and Yun Jinnian took a gentle sip; it was refreshingly cold and tasted very good.

"Delicious!" Shi Jiayu drank a bowlful.

"Indeed delicious, Miss, can you replicate it?" Hemei asked cautiously.

"It's not difficult; I can taste the herbs used, though I'm not sure about the exact proportions. If you can get some of the residue for me, I could make it. Then we just need to boil it and store it in the ice cellar to get this iced tea!"

As Yun Jinnian was speaking, she added, "Never mind, let's not bother getting the residue. We should try to concoct it ourselves. After all, this is someone else's hard-earned creation!"

Chapter 443: Calculating Tianci

"Hehe," Shi Jiayu laughed.

Hemei and Henuan laughed as well.

Indeed, after all, this was something others had worked hard to research and sell for money.

Han Tianci was quite concerned about that man, as after all, this was his first time treating someone, and he couldn't mess up and have the man die on him.

So he was watching attentively at the moment.

When Xing Keshou opened his eyes, he saw a delicately handsome boy staring at him, which startled him, but he also realized that he had been rescued.

"You..." Xing Keshou spoke, his throat painfully sore.

His whole being didn't feel that weak, though.

"Hey, you're awake! I saved you, you know. My name is Han Tianci, remember that! It was me who saved you. I personally cut away the rotting flesh and applied medicine. Also, how are you feeling now? Uncle Zhong has already prepared some medicine for you, after you take it, have a good sleep, rest assured, you're safe now!"

Han Tianci chattered on nonstop, and Xing Keshou understood that he had been saved.

"I, I..." Xing Keshou began to speak but couldn't manage to say anything.

Though it's said that real men don't cry easily, the Xin Family of hundreds was now down to him alone as the only survivor.

How could he not shed tears?

"Ah, don't cry. You're a grown man, why are you crying?" Han Tianci asked, puzzled.

Even he wasn't crying anymore.

Xing Keshou observed Han Tianci; his clothes were of the finest damask, the belt in his hair was made of silk, and the unbelievably valuable piece of lustrous, flawless white jade on it shone brightly. Looking at his rosy lips, white teeth, and the sparkling vitality in his eyes, it was clear he was a well-bred son of a wealthy family.

After reflecting for a moment, he had a plan and then spoke weakly, "Our family... only I am left."

"Ah..."

Han Tianci was extremely shocked.

"They are all dead, everyone but me!"

Han Tianci's eyes widened, "Are you alright?"

"..."

Xing Keshou said nothing more.

Looking at him, Han Tianci sighed, "What exactly happened to you? Where is your family? Why are they all dead?"

Though he was young, he knew he was being used.

But curiosity drove him, and he asked very earnestly.

"Six days ago, a murder occurred in Yangxi City. The Governor conspired with bandits to murder their way into the Xin Family, one of the city's influential households, all to get a hold of the Treasure Map in possession of the Xin Family and to capture Madam Xin."

"..."

Han Tianci's eyes went wide with amazement at this revelation.

What a drama.

"Who are you?"

"I am the third legitimate son of the Xing Family, Xing Keshou!"

Although Han Tianci was mischievous, he knew this was beyond his ability to manage, "Wait here, I'll find someone who can help!"

Han Tianci ran out of the room and saw Chu Yu, "Big Brother Chu, that person inside, he..."

Chu Yu ruffled Han Tianci's hair, "I know, go find your sister!"

"I don't want to go. Can I just stay and watch quietly?" Han Tianci pleaded with pitiful eyes.

Chu Yu felt a softness in his heart, "Fine!"

He led Han Tianci back into the room.

Xing Keshou had already struggled to sit up.

Chu Yu looked at him impassively, "Xing Keshou?"

Xing Keshou didn't speak, but instead forced himself off the bed and with a heavy thump knelt down on the ground, "This humble person, Xing Keshou, pays his respects to Your Highness, Prince Rui!"

Han Tianci covered his mouth in shock.

This man actually knew Big Brother Chu's identity, how impressive!

Chu Yu's brows furrowed slightly, his expression solemn, "Do you recognize this prince?"

"Your Highness, Prince Rui, in earlier years, this humble person had the opportunity to see Your Excellency's honorable presence in the Capital City, and this time on my way to Hengzhou City, I was also aware that Your Highness was traveling from Hengzhou to Yangxi City!"

Chapter 444: Greenhouse Flowers

Xing Keshou said this, gasping heavily, but he dared not faint, nor dared to lie.

This was his only chance.

Chu Yu still did not speak, looking down at Xing Keshou from above.

Han Tianci felt that Xing Keshou was too wicked, but seeing him so pitiful, without parents or family.

Han Tianci tugged at Chu Yu's sleeve.

Chu Yu gave Han Tianci a "be patient" look.

"You certainly have some nerve!" Chu Yu said coldly.

As if harboring a murderous intent.

Han Tianci was startled.

He had never seen Chu Yu like this before.

"Your Highness, it was a few days ago, someone from the merchant convoy following you recognized you. By the time we reached Yangxi City, someone told me about it. At that moment, I had no other thoughts, just nowhere to seek justice after this abrupt disaster, so I could only head towards Hengzhou, but to my surprise, that corrupt official sent people to chase and kill me, Your Highness..."

As Xing Keshou spoke, he started coughing.

Then he coughed up a few mouthfuls of blood.

Han Tianci tugged at Chu Yu's sleeve again.

This was the first person he had tried to save; he couldn't just die.

Chu Yu looked at Han Tianci and sighed before saying in a deep voice, "Xing Keshou, do you mean to say you know who the murderer is?"

"Yes, Your Highness, it's Yangxi City's Magistrate Xiu Bingsheng. He wanted the Treasure Map that has been passed down through generations of the Xing Family and he also desired my aunt; it was he who colluded with the bandits to kill over three hundred members of the Xin Family!" Xing Keshou said as he began to cry.

Chu Yu looked at him, his face expressionless.

But Han Tianci felt considerable sympathy.

"You may not know, but your uncle has confessed, admitting he colluded with the bandits!" Chu Yu spoke indifferently.

"No, that can't be possible. My uncle must have been coerced, right, my aunt... My aunt has disappeared. Xiu Bingsheng must have captured my aunt and threatened my uncle. Your Highness, if we can just find my aunt, my uncle..." Xing Keshou trailed off, falling silent.

Since the massacre began, he hadn't seen his aunt.

Xing Keshou wasn't a fool, nor was he stupid.

He immediately understood something.

Chu Yu looked at him and said, "Just wait. I will send people to investigate. In the future, you may use someone else, but not Tianci. He saved you!"

Chu Yu then walked outside, leading Han Tianci by the hand.

"Big Brother Chu?"

"Hmm?"

"Do you believe him?"

"What about you?" Chu Yu retorted.

Han Tianci shook his head, "I don't know!"

Though he was smart, he was too inexperienced to see through people's hearts.

"Then follow me to work on the case, shall we?"

"Yes!" Han Tianci replied eagerly and happily agreed.

Since he was taking Han Tianci out, Chu Yu thought he should let Yun Jinnian know, so not to worry her.

Upon learning that Chu Yu was taking Han Tianci out and seeing Tianci's excitement, Yun Jinnian nodded and let them go.

"Miss..." Shi Jiayu was somewhat worried.

"Let them go. Tianci is a boy; he can't always follow me. With Big Brother Chu, he will take good care of him!"

And with Chu Yu's knowledge in both literature and military strategy, being highly talented, Tianci could learn a great deal from him.

Moreover, Tianci shouldered the future of the Han Family, and it would be good for him to venture out more.

Hearing this, Shi Jiayu fell silent.

A flower raised in a greenhouse indeed is not as tenacious as one that has braved the wind and rain, just as the plum blossom's fragrance comes from the bitterness of cold.

He also envied Han Tianci for having such a sister who wholeheartedly looked out for him.

How wonderful.

Chu Yu left the inn with Han Tianci, and fearing that he would not be able to look after Tianci well, brought along Luoyi and Luo'er. That way, if something untoward happened, someone would be able to take care of Tianci.

Yun Jinnian then asked Shi Jiayu to fetch silk and a needle and thread, and she quickly started sewing a pouch.

"Miss, your embroidery is really beautiful!"

Chapter 445: Colluding in Disgrace

Yun Jinnian smiled without speaking, focused on making the sachet in his hands.

He planned to make one for Tianci, and another for Chu Yu. Yun Jinnian knew that these few days he probably wouldn't be able to leave Yangxi City, and not wanting to read Medical Books, he could only find something to pass the time.

"If Miss is bored, you could go out and have some fun. I've heard there's a theater in Yangxi City with really good plays!"

Yun Jinnian looked at Shi Jiayu, "If you want to go, take Hemei and Henuan with you. Go early and come back early, that will do. You don't need to attend to me all the time, go out and enjoy yourselves, and you can also invite Nurse Qian and the others!"

"Then we'll go tomorrow, and stop by the vegetable market too..." Shi Jiayu said, then fell silent.

She sneakily watched Yun Jinnian, seeing him calmly embroider the sachet, and only then felt slightly eased.

Thinking about arranging to meet with Nurse Qian and the others that night, to go together the next day for some mutual support.

She couldn't practice martial arts, after all.

Chu Yu was jumping across rooftops with Han Tianci, "Your footsteps need to be light. Not making a sound even when you land on a tile, that's what makes a first-class expert!"

Han Tianci huffed, focusing on his footing.

The moment his foot landed on a tile, it made a crackling sound, and Han Tianci's face immediately flushed red.

"What's with the blushing? When I was your age, I made even louder noises than you!"

"Really?" Han Tianci asked with delight.

"Why would I lie about such an embarrassing thing!" Chu Yu said, continuing to move forward.

Han Tianci felt less ashamed and quickly followed.

Although he still made noise, he felt less anxious inside and gradually relaxed.

He didn't notice that the sound of his footsteps on the tiles was getting quieter and quieter.

The two of them eventually reached the Prefectural Governor's Office.

Luoyi and Luo'er were moving stealthily in the shadows, having arrived earlier. Seeing Chu Yu and Han Tianci arrive, they quickly came out, "My lord, Xiu Bingsheng is not in the Governor's Office!"

"Then he should be in his private residence!"

"However, we saw a woman in the backyard of the Governor's Office, quite a beauty. Not sure if she's the Second Lady of the Xin Family," Luo'er said.

Luoyi, always indifferent, didn't say much.

Chu Yu looked at Han Tianci, "If it were you, what would you do?"

Han Tianci raised an eyebrow, "Me?"

"Yes, you!"

Han Tianci thought seriously for a moment, "First, I'd find out the woman's identity. If she is the Second Lady of Xin, we'd hide her away, then go to the jail to question Second Master Xin, and tell him the Second Lady is in our hands. He can speak out if he has any grievances!"

His voice still had a hint of childishness, but his words were lucid and sensible.

Chu Yu ruffled his head, "Let's follow your plan. Luoyi, go and confirm it. If she is really the Second Lady of Xin, knock her out and bring her back to the inn and keep watch, don't let her meet anyone from Xiu Bingsheng's side."

"Yes!"

Luoyi departed promptly.

"Tianci, come on, let's go on an adventure!"

"An adventure?"

"Yes, let's go see what we can find in Xiu Bingsheng's study. There might be some useful things!"

A Magistrate's study in the Governor's Office would certainly hide some things.

But what's most important, Chu Yu still wanted Xiu Bingsheng to panic first. Only in panic would he reveal any flaws.

"Alright, Big Brother Chu, I'll surely follow you closely!"

Chu Yu laughed, pulling Han Tianci towards Xiu Bingsheng's study.

Along the way, they encountered several patrols, but Chu Yu with Han Tianci easily evaded them. He was very composed, as if he was used to it.

Han Tianci, on the other hand, had a heart pounding excitedly, his young face flushed with the thrill, extremely adorable.

Chapter 446: Obscene Language

The two slipped into the study, and Han Tianci was quick to sense what was expected of him, not rummaging around, but simply following behind Chu Yu.

"Remember the arrangement of these items, and once I've done, you'll put them back in their original order!" Chu Yu commanded in a muted voice.

Han Tianci nodded vigorously.

And paid careful attention.

After Chu Yu had disturbed the items, Han Tianci on the side committed the scene to memory before precisely putting everything back in place.

Chu Yu saw what he'd done and was very pleased, "Next time there's something like this, I'll bring you along again!"

"Really?" Han Tianci's eyes lit up.

This feeling was very thrilling and fun.

"Hmm, perform well, and if you do, I'll bring you next time!" Chu Yu said, flicking Han Tianci's forehead with his finger.

Han Tianci wasn't annoyed and quietly giggled, assisting Chu Yu in tidying up.

Suddenly, they heard voices outside; Chu Yu quickly grabbed Han Tianci, and in an instant, they both leapt up to hide among the beams, concealing themselves.

Han Tianci looked at Chu Yu, who put a finger to his lips and gently "shushed" him. Han Tianci immediately nodded and pressed his lips tightly together.

Chu Yu gave a thumbs-up in approval.

They saw the door squeak open and two men, one after the other, entered. The first, clad in official attire, was around fifty, with a goatee; the second, a bit younger, sported a mustache.

"Sir, the third young master of the Xing Family has disappeared, what should we do next?" the man with the mustache asked.

"What's there to fear, Mr. Yi? The second son of the Xing Family has already confessed, and the bandits have been dealt with neatly. When the time comes, we'll just behead a couple of people, and it will be done. What threat is a little boy to us!" Xiu Bingsheng said, nonchalantly sitting down on a chair.

"That's true, but I've heard that His Highness Prince Rui has already arrived in Yangxi City, and if His Highness becomes aware of this matter..." Mr. Yi appeared somewhat anxious.

The worst fear was that Xing Keshou had already met Prince Rui and was articulating his grievances.

After all, Prince Rui was not known for his leniency.

"He won't find out. You see, he passed through Yangxi City and chose to stay at an inn rather than the post station, and he didn't send anyone to summon me. This shows that they will depart tomorrow, and Yangxi City will still be under my control!" Xiu Bingsheng said, brimming with pride.

"But what if Prince Rui intervenes in this matter?" Mr. Yi asked.

"If he doesn't know what's good for him..." Xiu Bingsheng said, then drew his finger across his neck, his eyes full of ruthlessness.

Up on the beam, Han Tianci was indignant beyond words, but Chu Yu held him back with a silent shake of his head.

Han Tianci turned his head away, frustrated. Bit by a dog when he was only trying to be kind, couldn't Chu Yu see that his anger was for their sake?

Chu Yu found it amusing.

He signaled Han Tianci to continue listening.

They heard Xiu Bingsheng say, "Recall all the people we sent out, and keep a close watch on the cells. Make sure no one rescues the second Xing son. I just hate that when we caught the Xing brat, he managed to take the Treasure Map with him!"

"Lord, I don't understand; why kill the second Xing son?"

"Xing Er knew too much. If he lives, I can't rest easy. Besides, with that little girl around, if the young Xing lad comes looking, we could use the girl to coax him. Perhaps we could even charm the Treasure Map out of him!"

Mr. Yi nodded repeatedly, "My lord thinks of everything!"

"Ah ha ha, else why am I the lord and you the steward!" Xiu Bingsheng boasted, laughing recklessly. Then, recalling something, his face contorted into a lecherous smirk, "That little girl tasted quite good, quite saucy. Mr. Yi, would you like to try?"

"Wouldn't that be inappropriate?"

"How could it be inappropriate? Now she's putty in our hands, shapeable however we wish. Mr. Yi, don't be so modest!"

Chapter 447: Kind Advice and Admonition

"Then I shall graciously comply!"

Mr. Yi said, his mind harboring some vile thoughts, half-heartedly conceded to the request.

Xiu Bingsheng laughed heartily, "Then hurry over, Mr. Yi, don't keep the beauty waiting. Put some effort into it, that young lady is quite a catch, if not, Xin Lao'er wouldn't treat her like a treasure. His entire family died, and he didn't even frown, but as soon as he learned that the young lady fell into our hands, he couldn't hold up any longer!"

"Yes, yes, yes!"

Han Tianci listened to these obscene words in a daze, while Chu Yu heard every word clearly, wishing he could tear Xiu Bingsheng into a thousand pieces.

Damnably thing.

You like women, don't you? Once this matter is investigated thoroughly, I'll let you die on a woman's body.

Mr. Yi left first, and Xiu Bingsheng sat on the chair, his deep laughter lingering for a while before he stood up, searched a compartment in the bookshelf, and with a click, the bookshelf slid aside revealing a nook. Inside, there was a brocade box. Xiu Bingsheng opened the brocade box, took out the silver note, and tucked it into his bosom, before restoring the bookshelf and leaving the study.

From the rafters above, Han Tianci, eyes wide with bewilderment, asked in confusion, "Big brother Chu, what does 'quite a catch' mean?"

Chu Yu gave Han Tianci's head a knock, "You're just a kid, spouting nonsense. When we get back, don't you dare mention this in front of your sister, understand?"

"..."

Han Tianci didn't understand but still nodded his head.

He figured it definitely was nothing good.

"Let's go, we will raid the study and take all the silver notes!"

Han Tianci quickly nodded, "Okay, okay! Then, Big brother Chu, shall we go shopping for sister afterward?"

"Sure, what would you like to buy?"

Chu Yu asked, pulling Han Tianci down from the rafters, and walked over to the bookshelf. Finding the mechanism, he slid the bookshelf open, opened the brocade box, took out all the silver notes, and stuffed them into his chest, "Let's go!"

The two quickly left the study, with Chu Yu pulling Han Tianci as they hastily exited the Governor's Office.

"Big brother Chu, how much silver do we have in total?" Han Tianci asked excitedly.

Chu Yu flicked Han Tianci's forehead, "Money-grubber, I'll give it all to you later, but we're going to make one more stop first!"

"Where are we going?"

"To the Xiu Residence!"

Han Tianci's eyes instantly lit up, "Big brother Chu, let's go quickly, right now, and clean him out completely..."

"You little rascal, you're nothing like your sister!"

Yun Jinnian was so gentle, how did she end up with a little rascal like Tianci?

"Sister is a girl, she can't show herself in public. I'm a boy, naturally I have to be a bit bad to protect my sister!"

"You have the right idea!"

Chu Yu laughed, pulling Han Tianci along as they asked someone for directions to the Xiu Residence.

"Sir, could you tell us how to get to Magistrate Xiu's home?"

The old man looked at Chu Yu and Han Tianci, asking, "Who might you be?"

"Our father is from the same hometown as Magistrate Xiu. My brother and I have come to seek his support, but we don't know where his house is located?"

Seeing the fine clothes on Chu Yu and Han Tianci, the old man said, "Young lads, if you have silver, there's nowhere in this world you can't settle down. Why insist on seeking support from this Magistrate Xiu? Don't end up seeking a protector only to trap both you and your brother in a quagmire, a fate worse than death, wishing for death yet not able to die!"

Chu Yu and Han Tianci exchanged glances.

Just how bad was Xiu Bingsheng's reputation that asking anyone on the street would elicit such a response?

"Old sir, why do you say that? Could it be..." Chu Yu ventured tentatively.

The old man, however, shook his head, "It's better left unsaid, better left unsaid. The Emperor is far, and who can govern the tyrant of Yangxi City!"

Chapter 448: Conspire Together

Enough, enough, if people can't deal with him, heaven will.

Heaven's law is clear, and retribution is certain.

The old man hung his head in dejection and walked away. Chu Yu signaled to someone in the dark, who immediately followed the old man.

Only then did Han Tianci ask, "Brother Chu, why do I feel like Magistrate Xu seems very wicked?"

Chu Yu patted Han Tianci on the head, "He's ultimately not a good person, come on, let's ask for directions!"

"Okay!"

Han Tianci nodded vigorously.

Han Tianci often looked up to Chu Yu with admiration.

Aside from Yun Jinnian, he was willing to share everything with Chu Yu.

The two of them asked several people for directions, but they were all reluctant to guide them, looking pitiful and anxious.

Han Tianci and Chu Yu exchanged looks.

"Brother Chu, should we still go?"

"Go, why not? We should not only go, but also bring people to steal everything he has, completely!"

"Hehe, Brother Chu, take me with you!"

Chu Yu flicked Han Tianci's forehead, "You little rascal, you're polite when you want something from me. When it comes to dealing with your sister, you try every means to be a nuisance!"

"But I only have one sister, if I don't watch out for her, what if you tarnish her reputation?" Han Tianci retorted with a blush on his face.

He did not think he was wrong at all.

"You're always right," Chu Yu said, seeing that it was getting dark, he pulled Han Tianci back to the inn.

Shi Jiayu had already prepared a meal, and upon seeing them return, she smiled and said, "You're back. The food is ready, just wash your hands and you can eat!"

"Sister Jiayu, what delicious food do we have?" Han Tianci asked eagerly as he went to wash his hands.

"Everything you like to eat. And I'll tell you a secret, miss has prepared a gift for you!"

At those words, Han Tianci's eyes brightened, "Really? What is it?"

"I can't tell you what it is, you'll find out soon enough!"

Han Tianci covered his mouth, laughing, and Shi Jiayu, seeing how happy he was, laughed along.

Chu Yu, a master of martial arts with keen hearing, naturally overheard the conversation and thought that he should also have one.

He watched Han Tianci closely, curious to see what Yun Jinnian would give him.

Han Tianci then ran off to find Yun Jinnian.

"Sister, sister!"

Yun Jinnian saw Han Tianci running towards her and smiled gently, "You're back!"

She did not ask them what they had been doing.

If Han Tianci was with Chu Yu, Yun Jinnian felt reassured.

"Sister, I missed you!" Han Tianci embraced Yun Jinnian, acting affectionately spoiled.

"Sister missed you too!" Yun Jinnian said, straightening up Han Tianci's clothes, and then took out a pouch to hang on him.

The sapphire blue pouch was adorned with crape myrtle leaves and contained herbs that repelled insects, as well as the saliva of the Spiritual Poisonous Insect, which kept snakes, insects, and poisonous creatures at bay.

"Sister, did you make this with your own hands?" Han Tianci asked, delightedly fiddling with the pouch.

"There are herbs inside, so you can't wear it all the time. I'll make a few more for you to switch between!"

"Thank you, sister, I love it!" Han Tianci was overjoyed and then added, "Sister, take your time, don't hurt your eyes. Oh right, sister, did you feed the Spiritual Poisonous Insect today?"

"It's been a bit unwell the last few days, not wanting to drink, so I haven't fed it!"

Mainly because it had been badly hurt before, and then it laid eggs. Now, being on the road had upset it.

"Oh..." Han Tianci responded nonchalantly.

He was creeped out by that Spiritual Poisonous Insect.

A worm, so smart for what?

Yun Jinnian took Han Tianci to the dining hall for dinner. Chu Yu looked Han Tianci over, noticing the sapphire blue pouch on his waist, and immediately looked forward to receiving his own...

Chapter 449: Chu Yu Gets Jealous

But the meal was finished, and Yun Jinnian hadn't said a word, nor had he given him the purse. Han Tianci was still showing off, flaunting the new purse Yun Jinnian made for him, asking one person if it looked nice and another if it smelled good.

Chu Yu's face darkened. "Aren't you supposed to follow and join the excitement? Why haven't you left yet?"

Upon hearing this, Han Tianci immediately reined in his smile and followed Chu Yu eagerly.

Yun Jinnian watched Chu Yu with a solemn face and gently smiled. Yuwen Ya came up to Yun Jinnian and said, "You really are playing favorites!"

Yun Jinnian looked at Yuwen Ya and smiled without a word.

How was she playing favorites?

The fabric was already cut, and the pattern of the purse had been embroidered; it just needed the leaves added, and then it would be done. It was just that today was a bit rushed and there wasn't enough time.

"Poor uncle, he must be heartbroken. I ought to go and comfort him!" Yuwen Ya said as he chased after the others.

Was that really to comfort him?

It was probably to ridicule and tease him!

Yun Jinnian didn't point it out and after speaking a few words with Prince Yanjun, she returned to her room. She walked around slowly for a few circles before picking up the needle and thread to continue her embroidery.

Meanwhile,

"Big brother Chu!" Han Tianci called out submissively.

He trailed behind Chu Yu, following his every move.

Chu Yu extended his hand towards him, "Hand it over!"

"What?" Han Tianci feigned ignorance, his eyes rolling around but deliberately not looking at the purse.

"Stop playing dumb. The purse your sister made for you, give it to me, and I'll take you with me to the Xiu Residence!" Chu Yu demanded Han Tianci's purse with an even tone.

Han Tianci quickly clutched it tight, "This won't do. My sister made it for me!"

"Then I'm not taking you with me!"

As he spoke, Chu Yu turned to pick up the Precious Sword.

Han Tianci eagerly followed him, "Big brother Chu, ask for something else then. How about if I give you the Eight Trigrams Mantras my master taught me?"

"I don't want it!"

"The Lightness Skill Mantra then?"

"I don't want that either!"

"How about Martial Arts Manuscripts? My master recently taught me a set of boxing techniques that are really powerful!"

"Heh, do you think I lack a Martial Arts Manuscript?" Chu Yu sneered as he searched through his pack.

He remembered that Yun Jinnian had also given him a purse, which he had never had the heart to wear. Where had he put it?

Chu Yu searched for a while before realizing that Yun Jinnian had never actually given him a purse.

It was all pills and medicinal herbs, she had never made him clothes, a hairband, or shoes.

"Huff!"

Chu Yu let out a sigh.

Looking at Han Tianci became even more unbearable.

Yuwen Ya stood at the door for a long time, wanting to laugh but not daring to, struggling to hold it in.

Eventually, he burst out laughing, "Hahaha!"

Chu Yu glanced at Yuwen Ya coldly. "You seem to be having a good time!"

"Just average!" Yuwen Ya said, avoiding Chu Yu's gaze as he went to tease Han Tianci, "Just give the purse to your Big Brother Chu; after all, your sister will make as many as you want!"

"No way, my sister made it for me. How can I just give it away to someone else!" Han Tianci resolutely refused.

Yuwen Ya found it increasingly amusing.

Chu Yu's face remained stern. "Since you're so spirited, you'll be in charge of the jailbreak at the prison later!"

"Ah..."

Yuwen Ya was utterly shocked.

Wasn't it agreed that they would go together to move Xiu Bingsheng's study?

What could they gain from a jailbreak?

"Can I... not go?" Yuwen Ya asked pitifully.

Inside, he berated himself, cursing his own loquacity and mockery. Now karma had caught up with him.

"What do you think?" Chu Yu said before leaving the room.

Han Tianci quickly followed him.

Together, they went to Xing Keshou's room.

Xing Keshou had already taken his medicine and had a full meal. Among this group, only Shi Jiayu took care to deliver food to Xing Keshou and even fed him when he struggled to do it himself.

If not for Shi Jiayu, he genuinely would have gone hungry.

Seeing Chu Yu come in with Han Tianci, he promptly sat up. "Your Highness!"

"If you want me to help you seek justice, I have a demand!"

"Please speak, Your Highness!" Xing Keshou said aloud while feeling anxious inside.

Chu Yu looked at Xing Keshou and said indifferently, "Give me the Treasure Map that you have!"

Chapter 450: Chu Yu Tianci

"You may also choose not to agree, but I should tell you that your second uncle will be executed at the vegetable market tomorrow!"

Chu Yu seemed to mention it casually, while Han Tianci looked at him, puzzled.

Puzzled because Chu Yu had clearly promised to handle the matter, so why was he now asking Xing Keshou for the Treasure Map?

Xing Keshou looked at Chu Yu in astonishment.

"Beheaded..."

Although he had known it was coming, hearing it now still made it hard to bear.

The Treasure Map was indeed in his hands, but it was the Xing Family's heirloom, the foundation upon which the Xin Family's existence was built.

But if he didn't hand it over...

After hesitating for a long time, Xing Keshou finally said, "Fine!"

After thinking for a bit, he added, "But the Treasure Map isn't in my possession right now!"

"No matter, since you've agreed to give it, I will trust you," Chu Yu said, and then he left the room with Han Tianci.

Xing Keshou leaned against the head of the bed, unable to snap back to reality for a long while.

Han Tianci followed Chu Yu, noticing his grim expression. He thought about giving Chu Yu the purse several times but couldn't bring himself to do it.

He could only cling to Chu Yu as they reached the Xiu Family home.

Upon arrival, he saw that the backyard was on fire. Xiu Bingsheng was really anxious because Mrs. Liu had gone missing.

After searching the entire Governor's Office, there was no sign of her.

"Master, master, news from the Governor's Office—someone has broken into the prison!"

Xiu Bingsheng's eyes widened, "What?"

"Someone has broken into the prison!"

Xiu Bingsheng suddenly thought of the missing Mrs. Liu, "Quick, deploy the troops to the cells, we cannot let the prisoners be taken!"

"Yes, master!"

Xiu Bingsheng immediately led his men to the Governor's Office, not even caring about the fire in the backyard anymore.

As Xiu Bingsheng left.

Han Tianci on the roof tugged at Chu Yu's sleeve, "Brother Chu, he's taken his men away!"

Luoyi came over quickly, "My lord, all the people hiding in the shadows have been dealt with!"

Chu Yu nodded, "Hmm, let's head to his study!"

Together with Han Tianci, he quietly snuck into Xiu Bingsheng's study.

This time, it was not just the two of them but also Luoyi and a dozen others she brought with her.

"Take all the valuables with you!"

At Chu Yu's command, Luoyi and the others swiftly wrapped the valuable items in cloth. He then felt around the room, and with a click, a door opened in the wall, revealing a secret chamber filled with treasures.

"Wow..."

Han Tianci's eyes widened.

So many treasures.

Chu Yu, however, was calm, "Move them!"

"Yes!"

Luoyi gestured, and immediately people entered, wrapped up the treasures in cloth, and began to pack.

A few packed while others carried the loads away.

Han Tianci's eyes were wide open as he watched people going in and out, emptying the secret chamber.

"Brother Chu!"

"Let's go!"

Chu Yu, holding Han Tianci, quickly left the study and climbed onto the rooftop, only to notice that Xiu Bingsheng and his men had returned.

That was close, lucky to have run fast.

Han Tianci patted his chest, thinking how embarrassing it would have been to get caught.

Watching him, Chu Yu chuckled, taking Han Tianci back to the inn. They didn't go straight to their room but sat on the rooftop, enjoying the cool breeze.

"What's wrong? Scared?"

Han Tianci shook his head, "Not scared, just a bit nervous!"

This was his first time experiencing anything like this. It was strange, nerve-wracking, yet thrilling.

A completely new experience.

"You'll get used to it gradually. If you like it, you can follow me in the future. I'll show you more strange and fun things," Chu Yu offered.

Han Tianci looked at Chu Yu.

Because he was Yun Jinnian's younger brother, Chu Yu doted on him, playfully ruffling Han Tianci's hair, "But the prerequisite is you must learn your skills well. Then, you won't just be helping me; at the very least, you'll be able to protect yourself!"