

## Indulgence 491

### Chapter 491: Treading Carefully

"Indeed, he used to dote on me the most, but these days, I've been nagging him to take his medicine, and it has annoyed him. Now, when he sees me, he couldn't be more disgusted!"

Dai Hanmi's self-deprecating words truly made Yun Jinnian laugh out loud.

Seeing Yun Jinnian laugh brightened Dai Hanmi's mood, and she tightened her grip on Yun Jinnian's little hand, "You should laugh more often. Your laugh sounds so pleasant, and it makes you all the brighter!"

Yun Jinnian looked at Dai Hanmi in astonishment, "Sister Hanmi..."

"Jinnian, you're younger than me, yet you've borne more hardships. I've always felt extra sympathy for you compared to the other young ladies. But all I can offer is a fleeting smile. To truly be happy, you must rely on yourself. Apart from yourself, no one else can help you!"

Yun Jinnian seemed gentle and elegant, unblemished by the dust of the world.

Yet her eyes were filled with a chill that spoke of her profound understanding of life's warmth and coldness, and an awareness of worldly vicissitudes that penetrated to her very bones.

Upon hearing this, Yun Jinnian nodded slightly, "Thank you, Sister Hanmi. I know what to do!"

"Yes!" Dai Hanmi nodded and looked toward Dai Hanbo not far away, amused but then exclaimed in surprise, "Ah, Hanbo, why are you at home? Are you planning to go out or to greet Grandmother?"

"I..."

Dai Hanbo, who was usually eloquent and articulate, found his heart pounding in the presence of the woman he admired.

And when Dai Hanmi teased him, he instantly became tongue-tied.

Yun Jinnian, watching, couldn't help but smile as she bowed to Dai Hanbo, "Greetings, Third Young Master!"

"No need for such formalities, no need!" After saying that, Dai Hanbo quickly bowed back to Yun Jinnian in return.

His face even redder.

Dai Hanmi laughed heartily, her laughter both sharp and sweet.

"Jinnian, calling him Third Young Master is too formal. Since you call me Sister Hanmi and he is my biological brother, you might as well call him Third Brother just like I do!"

Yun Jinnian felt that Dai Hanmi's suggestion was polite, and so she bowed again to Dai Hanbo, "Third Brother!"

"Ah, good, no need for such formalities!"

Dai Hanbo was adorably flustered.

Dai Hanmi's happiness grew as she teased, "Third Brother, since you've got another good sister, shouldn't you make a gesture?"

"Indeed, indeed!"

Dai Hanbo spoke with immense joy in his heart. He had learned carving in his early years and had become quite skillful. After he met Yun Jinnian, he wanted to give her something, so he found a good piece of jade and carved a jade pendant with a fish playing among the lotus. He had been worrying about how to give it to Yun Jinnian.

What a perfect opportunity.

He hurriedly took out a pouch from his chest, opened it up, and presented the jade pendant to Yun Jinnian, "..."

"Third Brother, call her Sister Jinnian!" Dai Hanmi prompted.

With such a clumsy brother, she felt exasperated.

Upon hearing this, Dai Hanbo stuttered out, "Sister Jinnian!"

His voice was as soft as a mosquito's buzz.

Yun Jinnian smiled and reached out to accept the gift. She intended to give something to Dai Hanbo in return but realized everything she had was more suited for girls, not fitting for him, "I owe you a favor today, Third Brother. Next time we meet, I will definitely prepare a generous gift for you!"

"Ah, good, very good!!" Dai Hanbo beamed with laughter.

Delighted by the prospect of seeing her again, his heart blossomed with joy.

Dai Hanmi couldn't stand it any longer and took the lead, pulling Yun Jinnian away, "My Third Brother is really foolish!"

Yun Jinnian started to chuckle, "I think he's pretty good!"

Gentle and generous, enduring his sister's teasing without retort, cherishing and guarding her dearly.

He was not like those sanctimoniously rigid cousins from the Yun Family.

"Hehe, you're the only one who thinks he's good. Oh, by the way, Third Brother has gotten hold of several rare volumes, so precious that even when our Second Brother asked for them, he wouldn't give them up—he only agreed to lend them. Let's sneak into his study later, when we manage to get him away, and borrow them without him knowing. What do you say?"

### Chapter 492: Sincere Heart

"Ah..."

Yun Jinnian was utterly astonished.

She was always composed and steady; how could she possibly do such a thing?

She did not even dare to entertain the thought.

In that family, those few brothers were not really that good, merely having unwarranted reputations, nothing like Dai Hanbo with his bright as the moon and breezy as the wind demeanor, who doted on his sister, allowing her to bully him.

Even when they were good to him, it was only because they sporadically had a pang of conscience.

Just like Yun Chen back then, it was only after she made a fuss and approached him that he offered his help out of fear she would cause a scene.

She did not believe for one second that those people in the residence were unaware of her situation.

In earlier years, she was too naïve, only later did she come to understand.

"Is that really okay?"

"No worries, my third brother has a gentle nature; even if we sneak off and take it, he can't do anything about it!" Dai Hanmi said and giggled.

Yun Jinnian looked down and smiled softly.

She did envy Dai Hanmi for having such a good brother who could tolerate everything about her.

"Oh my, Sister Jinnian has finally arrived!" Mrs. Qu said, her big belly preceding her as she walked over slowly.

Her eyes and heart were full of mirth.

"Sister-in-law!" Yun Jinnian called out softly, and immediately bowed respectfully in greeting.

Seeing Mrs. Qu sturdy and with a substantial belly, she was slightly worried.

"You're back, come with me quickly; grandmother has been talking about you for a long time!" Mrs. Qu reached out her hand towards Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian did not hesitate to stretch out her hand, letting Mrs. Qu's plump hand hold hers.

"Aiyah, why is your hand so cold!" Mrs. Qu exclaimed while rubbing it. "Are you ill?"

"It's nothing!!"

Yun Jinnian felt a warmth in her heart.

It was tough on them, to be concerned about her for even such minor things.

"It's good that you're not ill. I have grown heavy with child and can't make pastries for you personally, but my maid has learned a few tricks from me. I have also supervised the baking closely, so it shouldn't be too bad. Have some later and take some back with you!"

Yun Jinnian started to laugh.

Dai Hanmi also laughed.

Now, Mrs. Qu was the most precious person in the Marquis Residence, always being taken care of by others; there was no chance for her to take care of someone else.

But with maids and old nannies surrounding her, there was no need to worry too much.

"Then I will leave everything in your care, sister-in-law!" Yun Jinnian said, giving Mrs. Qu a graceful smile.

Mrs. Qu also smiled sweetly in return.

A person in joyous spirits is always sprightly. Mrs. Qu had married into the Marquis Residence many years ago and even suffered a miscarriage by accident. After consulting many Imperial Physicians and taking numerous medicines without any effect, Yun Jinnian's few prescriptions had adjusted her body well and she had become smoothly pregnant.

She was grateful to Yun Jinnian.

Dai Hanmi stood by and supported Mrs. Qu, "Sister-in-law, Sister Jinnian is mine, you can't take her from me!"

"Sister Jinnian is so lovable that you like her and I like her too. Let's not fight over her; let's all be nice to Sister Jinnian together!" Mrs. Qu said, squeezing Dai Hanmi's small hand tightly.

She did not know what other families' younger sisters-in-law were like, but her own was indeed lovable and heartwarming.

Although she was a bit of a troublemaker, she was very considerate and extremely generous with her family.

"Okay, sure, I'll listen to you, sister-in-law!" Dai Hanmi obeyed sweetly, winking and making faces at Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian smiled as she entered the old matriarch's courtyard.

The butler beside the old matriarch immediately stepped forward to welcome her, "This old servant greets Miss Fourth; you've finally arrived. The old lady has mentioned you several times; she said if you didn't come soon, she would have to go outside to see if someone had abducted you!"

"It is Jinnian's fault for not visiting sooner; I spent a while chatting more than I should have with sister Hanmi and sister-in-law, causing grandmother to worry!" Yun Jinnian said, only to hear a gentle voice from inside the house.

"It's Jinnian, isn't it? Come in quickly, come in!"

Old Lady Dai's voice was gentle and kind, filled with both eagerness and concern, and above all, sincere.

Hearing this, Yun Jinnian's heart softened.

#### Chapter 493: Fighting for Attention and Jealousy

She liked the old lady very much, especially a kind and benevolent old lady who was fond of her.

Upon entering the small hall, Yun Jinnian saw Dai Hanmi, who was aged, with white hair and wrinkles at the corners of her eyes and brows. Perhaps because she had suffered paralysis, she would drool when she spoke, and at the moment, the Marchioness was dabbing at her mouth with a handkerchief.

Gentle and filial, without a hint of disgust.

Indeed, the elders were affectionate, and the younger generation was filial.

Yun Jinnian bowed respectfully, "Jinnian pays respects to the great-grandmother, the Marchioness, and the Crown Princess."

"Still calling me great-grandmother, we agree you would call me grandmother. You naughty girl, come over to my side, and let me take a good look at you!" Dai said affectionately, beckoning Yun Jinnian over.

Yun Jinnian hesitated for a moment but still moved forward to put her hand in Dai's.

The old lady's hand was very warm, holding her cold little hand, Yun Jinnian felt at ease.

Dai Hanmi examined Yun Jinnian closely, "You've grown taller, and you've bloomed a bit more, but you've lost a considerable amount of weight. You must have suffered a lot while outside!" she said, instructing Yun Jinnian to sit beside her.

"It wasn't hard outside, but..." Yun Jinnian paused before correcting herself, "Grandmother's concern!"

"It's good to be back, it's good to be back. No matter how good it is outside, it can't compare to home. Don't go out again unless it's very important!" Dai Hanmi said and then smiled, asking, "Is everything settled?"

"Everything is settled!" Yun Jinnian replied with a soft smile.

Dai Hanmi nodded, "Good if it's settled!"

"Grandmother is partial! Now that you have Sister Jinnian, you don't want Mimi anymore!" Dai Hanmi joked, sitting beside the old lady and taking a handkerchief to wipe her mouth.

Then, she passed it to a maid nearby and took a clean one in her hands.

"Humph, every day you're watching me take my medicine, truly annoying, I certainly don't like you!" Dai said, laughing first.

Dai Hanmi's laughter grew louder, "Then, let grandmother be good with Sister Jinnian. Later, let Sister Jinnian take grandmother's pulse and prescribe her several bitter medicines, ahahaha..."

The Marchioness, the Crown Princess Mrs. Lu, and Mrs. Qu all laughed along.

This grandmother and granddaughter pair were now at the point where a day without teasing each other just wouldn't feel right.

However, this kind of banter seemed to have sharpened the old lady's mind quite a bit. Dai Hanmi knew this, and that's why she deliberately teased her daily. Her well-intentioned efforts were obvious, who could say she was not filial?

"Look at this, such a sly heart you have!" Dai Hanmi turned to Yun Jinnian, pretending to be full of sorrow.

Yun Jinnian started to laugh, "Grandmother, Jinnian really doesn't want to make you take those bitter medications. This time, Jinnian has developed medicine pills for grandmother. If you take one pill a day and continue for half a month, I assure you will have a long and healthy life!"

Yun Jinnian spoke and signaled to Shi Jiayu, who immediately handed her a brocaded box.

Yun Jinnian opened the brocaded box, which contained many little medicine bottles.

Dai Hanmi's eyes shone brightly, and Dai Hanmi exclaimed in surprise, "What are all these wonderful things? Do I get any?"

"No, no, they're all for me!" Dai Hanmi quickly asserted.

Dai Hanmi hurriedly said, "That's not true, Sister Jinnian likes me best, there definitely is something for me!"

"Nonsense, clearly she likes me best!" Dai Hanmi declared, looking eagerly at Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian laughed, "Hmm, of course I'm best with grandmother, but I'm also good with Sister Hanmi. Sister Hanmi is just behind grandmother in my affections!"

Saying so, she took out a porcelain bottle, opened it, and placed it in front of the old lady, "Grandmother, smell this, isn't it free from any hint of medicinal scent, and doesn't it even carry a whiff of lotus fragrance?"

As the lid of the porcelain bottle was opened, the scent of lotus filled the room.

When Yun Jinnian placed the porcelain bottle in front of the old lady, Dai Hanmi felt her mind clear substantially, "Could it be Snow Lotus?"

#### Chapter 494: A Connoisseur

Old Madam Dai was a discerning person; in her younger years, she too had traveled far and wide. It was only after she grew older, married, and had children that she settled in the Capital City.

Snow Lotus, she had once possessed it as well, but had later used it all up.

Yet unexpectedly, Yun Jinnian's first gift was such a valuable item.

The Marquis Residence had Silver; they could buy any treasure, but some life-saving elixirs could not be purchased.

"Hmm," Yun Jinnian nodded, "Please bring a cup of warm water!"

No sooner had she spoken than a maid answered and dashed out, moving so quickly that before one could blink, she had vanished.

Yun Jinnian paused, stunned.

"These girls, they sure have quick feet!" Old Madam Dai laughed, her eyes and eyebrows full of satisfaction.

Yun Jinnian smiled.

It wasn't long before the warm water was brought in, and everyone watched Yun Jinnian closely, wanting to learn how she did it so they could later administer medicine to the old madam in the same manner.

Yun Jinnian had someone bring a clean cup, placed a medicinal pill inside, then poured in the warm water and gently shook it, waiting for the pill to dissolve.

A rich fragrance of lotus enveloped the air, spreading from the room and windows outward.

Refreshing to the core.

"How fragrant!"

Mrs. Dai Hanmi exclaimed softly, inhaling deeply.

Mrs. Qu too closed her eyes, enjoying and savoring the moment as she deeply inhaled.

Yun Jinnian smiled lightly, "Grandmother, it's ready, please drink it!"

"I used to take pills directly; this is the first time I've used warm water to dissolve them!" Old Madam Dai commented.

Her eyes turned slightly red.

Though Yun Jinnian was not her biological granddaughter, she felt deeply indebted to her.

Regardless of whether she could become a bride of the Dai Family in the future, she must be cherished and respected by them, just like someone held dear in the palm of their hand.

Assisted by Yun Jinnian's hand, the old madam drank the medicinal water, a delicate fragrance lingering in her mouth, an unprecedented and refreshing taste that would not dissipate.

Yun Jinnian poured more warm water into the cup, swirled it around, and said, "Grandmother, please drink this water as well!"

"I'll do as you say!"

Old Madam Dai drank the water in the cup as told.

Only then did Yun Jinnian explain, "This medicinal pill is very potent, and since it is grandmother's first time taking it, it must be dissolved in warm water. First, so that the medicinal effect can be quickly activated, and second, it's also beneficial for grandmother's health!"

"What you say makes sense!" Old Madam Dai replied, dribbling saliva down her chin.

Dai Hanmi quickly wiped Old Madam Dai's mouth and replaced the handkerchief with a clean one.

Yun Jinnian's gaze swept lightly across the room, only then realizing that the handkerchiefs used by the lady and maids of the Marquis Residence were all the same: immaculately white, without even a single flower embroidered on them.

The Marquis Residence, from top to bottom, was united and filial.

The family exhibited a harmonious atmosphere, which was comforting to behold.

Yun Jinnian smiled and presented a porcelain bottle, "Grandmother, this is for you. It contains fourteen more pills, which is just the right amount for your next fourteen days!"

Old Madam Dai accepted it, holding Yun Jinnian's hand without speaking a word.

But these medicinal pills were certainly of great value; let alone fifteen pills, even buying one at an exorbitant price could be impossible.

The atmosphere became somewhat stagnant for a moment.

The Marchioness was also deeply moved; she did not know what kind of extraordinary encounter Yun Jinnian had had outside, but bringing these pills to the Marquis Residence stirred and touched her inside.

She thought to herself that if Yun Jinnian's marriage to her son did not work out, she would accept Yun Jinnian as her adopted daughter and petition for a noble title for her at the palace.

Mimi's age was also right for her to receive a title as well.

Dai Hanmi hurriedly said, "What about mine, mine? Grandmother has so many, I should have at least one, shouldn't I?"

Chapter 495: Jokes and Banter

Dai Hanmi's clamour lightened the atmosphere once again.

Yun Jinnian handed the second porcelain bottle to the Marchioness, "Auntie, this is for you and uncle, they are all Detoxification Pills, and they can also be used in emergencies!"

The Marchioness hesitated for a moment before taking it and carefully caressing it in her palm. It was a good while before she spoke in a hoarse voice, "Jinnian, you are so thoughtful!"

Yun Jinnian felt somewhat uncomfortable in her heart; in truth, these pills weren't much to her.

At the Watch Moon Sect, as long as she was willing, she could produce as many as she liked.

The five elders couldn't have been more eager for her to make more.

Yun Jinnian then took out another porcelain bottle, and Dai Hanmi quickly reached out, "Is this one for me?"

Yun Jinnian burst into laughter, both crisp and sweet. Her stunning face was instantly tinged with joyful crimson, her eyes and brows were warm, and her eyes shone with flowing light, "This is for Sister Crown Princess and Crown Prince."

Dai Hanmi's smile froze on her face, "Ah..."

Then she laughed again, without any blushing or breathlessness, she said seriously, "I know it's for my sister-in-law, I'll give it to her for you. Hurry up and distribute it, so it's my turn quickly!" Dai Hanmi winked and gestured towards Yun Jinnian, eyeing the porcelain bottles in the jewelry box.

There were three left, one for our second sister-in-law, one for the third brother, so the remaining one must be hers.

"Hee hee hee!" Laughing, she snatched the porcelain bottle from Yun Jinnian's hands and hopped over to Mrs. Lu, the Crown Princess, "Sister-in-law, these are from Sister Jinnian for you and big brother, I'm handing them over on her behalf!"

The Crown Princess, Mrs. Lu, began to laugh, taking it with utmost seriousness.

She couldn't remember how Yun Jinnian had become entwined with the Zhuangyong Marquis Residence, but she did remember that Yun Jinnian owed a mountain of gratitude to the Marquis Residence. If Yun Jinnian hadn't stepped in at the time, the Old Marchioness might not have lasted much longer.

If the Old Marchioness had passed away, the men of the residence would have had to observe three years of mourning. By then, forget about their futures, even the Empress Mother would have had troubled days in court.

She stood up and gave a respectful bow to Yun Jinnian.

When Yun Jinnian saw this, she was about to stand up and return the bow, but the Old Marchioness pushed down on her shoulder, "Accept it, you deserve the respect she's showing you!"

"But..."

Yun Jinnian opened her mouth, unsure what to say, and Dai Hanmi chirped in again, smilingly standing next to her, "Let's distribute our second sister-in-law's share too, so that it'll be my turn quicker!"

Thanks to her jesting, much of the awkwardness was relieved.

Yun Jinnian was grateful to Dai Hanmi in her heart. Originally, it wasn't such a formal matter, but everyone was being extra formal, making the atmosphere very heavy.

This did not align with her original intention.

Thankfully, Dai Hanmi was there. She quickly took another porcelain bottle, "This is for second brother and second sister-in-law!"

Dai Hanmi took it and brought it over to Mrs. Qu, "Second sister-in-law, this is from Sister Jinnian for you and second brother, I'm handing it over on her behalf!"

Mrs. Qu also stood up, giving a bow to Yun Jinnian.

Full of gratitude.

Dai Hanmi wouldn't dare to be negligent with Mrs. Qu, handing her the porcelain bottle, helping her to sit down, and then walking back to Yun Jinnian, plopping down beside her, "Since third brother isn't here, just give it to me as well!"

"I am here, I am here!" Dai Hanbo exclaimed, rushing into the room from the small hall outside.

The urgency in his demeanor suggested he feared Dai Hanmi might secretly keep it for herself.

Yet he looked helpless against Dai Hanmi.

Watching them, Yun Jinnian found it quite amusing.

Seeing this, Dai Hanmi huffed indignantly, stood up, and sat next to the Old Marchioness, pulling on her arm, "Grandmother, look at third brother, he's neither early nor late – shows up just when Sister Jinnian is distributing things. How excessive! He makes me seem like I'm trying to steal his stuff, how mean!"

#### Chapter 496: Playing Pranks and Being Playful

Mrs. Dai laughed, "You dare say your third brother wouldn't come, that you would take his things and give them to him?"

"Hehehe!"

Dai Hanmi laughed, not blushing in the slightest.

Yun Jinnian knew Dai Hanmi would never covet the items, he took the porcelain bottle with a faint envy, initially thinking Dai Hanmi would help, only to hear her say indignantly, "Sister Jinnian, you should give it to third brother yourself, lest people think I'm trying to covet his things!"

Dai Hanbo merely smiled warmly, his gaze burning as he looked at Yun Jinnian. Feeling this was inappropriate, he quickly averted his eyes and bowed to Mrs. Dai, "Grandson greets grandmother!"

"Mother, eldest sister-in-law, second sister-in-law!"

Then looking towards Yun Jinnian, "Sister Jinnian!"

Having no choice, Yun Jinnian picked up the porcelain bottle and stood up, walking over to Dai Hanbo, "Third brother, this is for you, a modest token of affection, I hope you won't disdain it!"

Dai Hanbo was thrilled inside, his hands trembling slightly, his palms all sweaty; he wiped them on his clothes discreetly, "Of course not, anything from Sister Jinnian must be good!"

He reached out reverently to accept it, "Thank you, Sister Jinnian!"

Dai Hanbo genuinely thanked her, stealing a glance at Yun Jinnian, then quickly shifted his gaze away, clutching the porcelain bottle tightly, his heart pounding with excitement.

"As long as third brother likes it," Yun Jinnian said, bowing to Dai Hanbo.

Dai Hanbo quickly bowed back with a fist in hand.

Dai Hanmi made faces at Mrs. Dai, who extended her hand and fondly tapped Dai Hanmi on the forehead, a thousand words conveyed in the silence.

Dai Hanmi smiled foolishly, leaning on Mrs. Dai's shoulder, watching the golden boy and jade girl in the room with a smile.

The man was gentle and handsome, uniquely graceful, the woman stunningly beautiful with a picturesque face. Truly, they seemed a match made by heaven.

Yun Jinnian walked over to Mrs. Dai's side; there was another porcelain bottle inside the brocade box. Yun Jinnian reached for it, and Dai Hanmi quickly said, "I know, I know, this one is for me!"

"Yes, this is for Sister Hanmi!"

Yun Jinnian took it out and handed it to Dai Hanmi, who joyfully accepted it, then asked, "It's the same as the ones for eldest brother, second brother, and third brother, isn't it?"

"The same!"

Dai Hanmi became even more joyous, carefully storing it away and grasping Yun Jinnian's hand, "Sister Jinnian, you are so kind, even considering your future brother-in-law, hehe!"

Yun Jinnian pursed her lips and smiled.

After more than a year, Dai Hanmi's free-spirited nature was quite unexpected.

Mrs. Dai laughed heartily, "It looks like our Hanmi is eager to get married!"

"No, no, I'll accompany grandmother for a few more years!"

"We don't want you, we don't want you, hurry up and get married. The Marquis Residence doesn't keep old maids!"

"I'm only fourteen, I'm not an old maid at all!"

The two bickered, filling the room with laughter and joy, harmonious and warm.

Mrs. Qu and Mrs. Lu occasionally interjected, while Dai Hanbo sat on the side with a warm smile. He seemed to be watching Mrs. Dai and Dai Hanmi's banter, but his eyes were only on Yun Jinnian, who sat between Dai Hanmi and Mrs. Dai, playing the peacemaker.

The Marchioness had earlier signaled the maid to take Shi Jiayu, Hemei, and Henuan for tea and refreshments.

She quietly rose and left the small hall to arrange lunch.

It must be rich and tasty, to make Yun Jinnian fond of the atmosphere at home.

Thinking of Dai Hanbo's silly and infatuated demeanor, the Marchioness felt both joy and concern.

If this matter did not succeed, what then?

Her own son was infatuated; if it did not happen, how would he cope?

"No, no, we must act quickly. 'Marriage follows the command of parents and the words of a matchmaker...' " the Marchioness muttered, unable to continue.

That applied to others, but here the girl was Yun Jinnian, Yun Jinnian who had been tremendously gracious to the Marquis Residence.

If Yun Jinnian did not agree, she could not even mention it to Mrs. Han.

Chapter 497: Little Worries

"Ah!" the Marchioness sighed.

She personally made a trip to the great kitchen.

She ordered many dishes, "If anything is missing, send someone out to buy it immediately, and also wait at the palace gate. If the Marquess finishes court, please have him return to the Marquis Residence immediately. Also, invite the Princely Heir and the Second Young Master back!"

In the Marquis Residence, rules mattered, but often, there was flexibility.

Meals were usually taken in each one's courtyard, but on solar terms, everyone, regardless of rank, would sit and eat together.

"Yes!"

The servant responded and quickly left.

From the great-grandmother's courtyard, constant laughter could be heard.

The Crown Princess, Mrs. Lu, had given birth to two boys and a girl. The little girl, not yet three years old, was cute, adorable, and clever. At this moment, she woke up and came over to greet the great-grandmother, wobbling as she walked, her appearance as endearing as a beautifully carved doll.

Yun Jinnian could not take his eyes off her as soon as he saw her.

"Feifei greets great-grandmother, greets Third Uncle, greets mother, greets Second Aunt, greets little Auntie, and greets..." Looking at Yun Jinnian, she tilted her head, "Hmm, greets..."

Dai Hanmi couldn't help but laugh, "Feifei, you call her Auntie. Auntie Jinnian!"

"Hee hee, greetings to Auntie!" Feifei said, then collapsed into the great-grandmother's arms, gazing at Yun Jinnian with a giggling smile.

Yun Jinnian, seeing how much Feifei liked her, quickly took out a small gilded filigree brocade box from his purse and handed it to Feifei, "Here, this is a gift from Auntie. Let your mother keep it safe for you!"

Inside was a pill made of Blood Lotus, Thousand-Year Ginseng, Lingzhi, and other precious medicinal materials, which Yun Jinnian carried with him in case of emergencies.

Only a few pills had been refined, and they were extremely valuable. Yun Jinnian wouldn't normally give them to just anyone.

"Thank you, Auntie!" Feifei said, taking it and examining it in the palm of her hand.

She was still young and did not know the value of the item, but seeing Yun Jinnian handle it with such care, she guessed it must be very precious.

She asked Yun Jinnian seriously, "Auntie, this now belongs to Feifei, right?"

"Indeed!"

"Then, can Feifei give it away?"

Yun Jinnian was taken aback.

But he smiled, "You can!"

"Great-grandmother is not in good health. Can Feifei give it to great-grandmother?"

Upon hearing this, the great-grandmother Dai's eyes turned red, and she hugged Feifei tightly, calling her "my heart, my heart" several times. "Great-grandmother has it, your Auntie Jinnian just gave many to me. Keep what Auntie Jinnian gave to Feifei. Feifei should take good care of it!"

The great-grandmother Dai affectionately held Feifei, kissing and caressing her. She was so full of affection and indulgence that for the first time, Yun Jinnian felt envy and jealousy besides admiration.

Feifei was charmingly cute and particularly good at lightening the heart. Soon after, she performed a piece of her learning for the great-grandmother, singing in a childish voice that was truly endearing.

Dai Hanmi invited Yun Jinnian to have some tea and snacks.

"My Feifei is the most sensible and considerate!" said Dai Hanmi, her eyes unable to hide her indulgence.

Yun Jinnian nodded, "Indeed!"

Yun Jinnian liked children and the elderly lady without any reason; it was a simple fondness, which was why, upon seeing the kind-hearted great-grandmother, he had acted without hesitation in the past. He later regretted his impulsivity, but upon reflection, he realized that given the chance, he would do it again.

The room was filled with joyful laughter, while Dai Hanbo sat quietly at the side, not feeling awkward. From time to time, he stole glances at Yun Jinnian, afraid of being noticed. He would look away after just a glimpse.

His cautious demeanor touched Mrs. Lu and Mrs. Qu.

Although he was their younger brother-in-law, Hanbo had a good nature and treated his two sisters-in-law with utmost respect.

If they asked him to help with something, he never refused.

The sisters-in-law exchanged glances and decided that they must help Hanbo to marry Yun Jinnian.

#### Chapter 498: Joy and Happiness

Yun Jinnian was gentle-natured, sincere, kind and tender, and generous in his giving, making him exceedingly fine in all aspects. It was indeed wonderful to have such a person as a brother-in-law.

Although he was a bit young, that was no issue, since they were older, they would simply have to take more care of him.

Sweets, snacks, and fruits were served, and the elderly Mrs. Dai urged Yun Jinnian to eat. Feifei handed some to Great-grandmother Gu, "Great-grandmother, please eat!"

Being young and seeing her grandmother, mother, father, and grandfathers all doing the same, she followed their example.

It was never wrong to do so.

"Good child, Grandma can't eat this, you have it!" the elderly Mrs. Dai said with a smile in her eyes.

Having such filial children was her good fortune.

She too wished to live a few more years, to watch the children grow up and to protect them for a little longer.

"Hehe, then Feifei will eat!" said Feifei, taking a tiny bite and squinting her eyes in bliss.

Yun Jinnian thought to herself that once she bought a good estate outside, she would definitely take Feifei there to play.

This child was just too adorable.

After chatting for a while, the elderly Mrs. Dai became a bit weary, "You all go and have fun, I'm going to take a little nap!"

Yun Jinnian watched her and after thinking for a moment, said, "Grandma, let me take your pulse for you!"

"Alright!"

Yun Jinnian took the elderly Mrs. Dai's pulse very carefully and seriously, and after some time said, "Grandmother, your health has improved, just take good care!"

"Very good!"

Once out of the elderly Mrs. Dai's courtyard, Dai Hanmi suggested they play by the Lotus Pond; the lotus flowers were in full bloom, a breathtaking sight, and lotus pods were plentiful.

Dai Hanbo wasn't inclined to tag along, but Dai Hanmi pulled him with her, "Brother Hanbo, come with us, there's something later I'll need your help with!"

Dai Hanbo did not refuse and nodded, lifting up Feifei and playfully teasing her.

Feifei laughed joyfully.

Yun Jinnian occasionally looked back, watching Feifei and also taking the chance to glance at Dai Hanbo who was holding her.

Dai Hanbo felt his heart race uncontrollably.

Upon reaching the Lotus Pond, Dai Hanmi immediately began instructing Dai Hanbo to pick lotus flowers and pods. Dai Hanbo was of such good nature that he did whatever Hanmi asked without a hint of complaint.

"Uncle Hanbo, that lotus flower over there is pretty, it's big and pink!" Feifei joined in the excitement.

"How about I have someone bring over a small boat and let you pick them yourselves?" Dai Hanbo asked gently.

Feifei clapped her hands continuously in excitement, "Yes, yes, then Uncle Hanbo will row the boat for us!"

"Okay, we'll do what Feifei wants!"

Dai Hanbo went to have a small boat brought over and prepared a basket; he reached out to settle Feifei in the boat, took Dai Hanmi's hand to help her onto the boat, and then hesitantly extended his hand toward Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian stood on the bank, hesitating as well.

Seeing this, Dai Hanmi said, "Brother Hanbo, you should go to the stern, I'll take Sister Jinnian's hand."

After helping Yun Jinnian onto the boat, Mrs. Lu and Mrs. Qu watched from the pavilion, accompanied by several maids who, by the looks of it, were able to swim and knew martial arts—in case of any unexpected incidents, it was best to err on the side of caution.

"If I wasn't pregnant, I would join them!" said Mrs. Qu enviously.

"Once you've had the baby, let your second brother take you. For today..." said the Crown Princess Mrs. Lu, pausing for a moment.

Mrs. Qu laughed, "I know, I know!"

Mrs. Lu took some cakes to eat and remarked, "It's still not quite as good as the ones you make, the baking is a bit off."

Without that touch of heart, they taste different.

"Wait until I've had the baby, and then I'll make them every day for you, sister-in-law!"

"In the future, it won't be just sister-in-law, but sister-in-law and brother-in-law too!" laughed Mrs. Lu.

"Yes, yes!"

The sisters-in-law laughed together.

Watching the people in the Lotus Pond.

Listening to Feifei's joyful laughter, Mrs. Lu leaned close to Mrs. Qu and said, "Who knows, it might not be long before our family has a joyous occasion!"

Chapter 499: Overeaten, huh?

Mrs. Qu laughed and started nibbling on some pastries. Recalling the old lady Dai's instructions to eat less, she reluctantly had the rest taken away after only a few bites.

Out of sight, out of mind.

"Grandmother wants you to eat less for your own good; eating too much is bad for your health. The baby might grow too well, making childbirth more difficult for you!" Mrs. Lu advised as well.

Having given birth to three children, she knew how hard childbirth could be.

Fortunately, the men in the residence stood tall and proud outside but were wholeheartedly devoted and considerate at home.

"I know that!"

The sisters-in-law soon began talking about other matters.

The Crown Princess managed the household provisions, and the Marchioness helped out occasionally, spending more time taking care of the old lady Dai.

A mother-in-law like the Marchioness, uninterested in clinging to power, was rare. Ever since the Crown Princess married in, her days went smoothly. She became more amiable, strict but not harsh with the servants.

She also showed exceptional respect towards relatives, resulting in fewer troubles in the Zhuangyong Marquis Residence.

Even the maids did not dare to overstep; even if they did, whether the master would enjoy their company was a different issue, but they certainly wouldn't survive the consequence.

By the Lotus Pond, Feifei began to sing a tune, with Yun Jinnian and Dai Hanmi keeping rhythm for her.

Yun Jinnian smiled, enjoying a moment's leisure stolen from life.

On a leisurely boat ride, he picked a budding lotus flower and a fresh lotus pod, peeling out the seeds and tasting their pure, sweet fragrance.

Shi Jiayu, Hemei, and Huan also came along. Just one look at Yun Jinnian, and Jiayu knew he was in good spirits.

To Yun Jinnian, Yun Residence didn't quite feel like home; yet he seemed to have more genuine affection for the Zhuangyong Marquis Residence.

Looking at the Zhuangyong Marquis Residence, with its kind elders and filial juniors, everyone smiling warmly, they seemed to reciprocate genuine affection towards Yun Jinnian.

When the Marchioness sent someone to call them for a meal, Yun Jinnian and his companions had already picked a basket full of lotus pods and several lotus flowers.

Feifei even sported a lotus leaf on her head.

As the group headed ashore, Yun Jinnian thought about digging a lotus pond in his own residence in the future, planting lotus flowers, harvesting pods, and enjoying the edible roots.

He envisioned a pavilion over the water, where sitting in a cool breeze on summer nights, sipping tea, and playing the zither would be the epitome of leisure and elegance.

"Let's wash up before heading to the dining room!"

"Okay!"

Yun Jinnian followed Dai Hanmi to clean up before proceeding to the dining room.

The Marquess hadn't returned, but the Crown Prince and the second young master were already back. After exchanging greetings, the old lady, assisted by the Marchioness, walked over at a leisurely pace.

"Let's sit down and eat, shall we? We're all family here; no need for formalities. Let's all sit together," Old Lady Dai said, inviting everyone to take their seats.

Yun Jinnian sat next to Dai Hanmi, and Feifei wanted to sit next to Yun Jinnian. This seating arrangement was somewhat unusual; Dai Hanbo ended up sitting right next to Feifei, very close to Yun Jinnian.

At mealtime, Old Lady Dai cheerfully encouraged Yun Jinnian to eat more and had Dai Hanmi serve him extra dishes.

Dai Hanbo tenderly offered food to Feifei, who was young and had weak teeth. He showed great patience, carefully picking tender bites for her.

"Take your time eating, Feifei. Don't choke!"

"Mmm, thank you, Uncle Dai!" Feifei replied, scooping up small mouthfuls with her silver spoon.

Yun Jinnian glanced at Dai Hanbo several times. She truly hadn't expected a man to have such patience, to be so kind to his little niece. If she were his own daughter, he'd probably spoil her rotten.

He would certainly make a wonderful father.

Thinking this, Yun Jinnian paused.

Where did that thought come from?

The meal was very comfortable and enjoyable. The dishes, light and delicious, were complemented by a pleasant atmosphere. Everyone was harmonious and happy, without the rule of silence during meals. With the rotating table, whatever dish one wanted was easily within reach.

Chapter 500: Beautiful Wishes

After dinner, Yun Jinnian kept Dai Hanmi company for a while before he said, "Grandmother, I will be leaving soon!"

"Leaving already?" Dai Hanmi asked, clearly reluctant.

How nice it would be if you could stay longer.

With three grandsons and two granddaughters-in-law, if Yun Jinnian were to become another granddaughter-in-law, it would be even more perfect.

"Yes, I still need to visit the Duan Family, and I should also see the old lady there. In a couple of days, I will have to enter the palace to detoxify the emperor. I'm afraid I won't be able to leave the palace for quite some time!"

The emperor's poisoning was known to the Zhuangyong Marquis Residence.

Upon hearing this, Dai Hanmi did not hold Yun Jinnian back, "Then after you leave the palace, why don't you stay at the Marquis Residence for a few days? Or perhaps we could go together to the estate in the outskirts. We've planted quite a few tangerine trees there, and they are about to ripen now. We could go and taste them. The fish in the stream is also very plump. It would be great either roasted or made into a soup, and there are also pigs and chickens raised on the estate..."

While the Marchioness was speaking, saliva flowed out of her mouth, and the Marchioness quickly wiped it off. There was not a hint of impatience or disgust throughout the whole process.

Yun Jinnian watched, deeply moved.

In a few days, when she stayed at the Marquis Residence for a while, she would give Dai Hanmi acupuncture and turn her into a healthy person.

"Yes, I will definitely go when the time comes!"

Dai Hanmi was reluctant to let Yun Jinnian go, but she couldn't force her to stay, so she bid Yun Jinnian farewell with great reluctance, "You go to Sister Wanrong's house first. We will get together again in a few days!"

"Alright!"

Yun Jinnian said and waved to Dai Hanbo as he stepped onto a stool and got into the carriage, followed by Shi Jiayu, Hemei, and Henuan.

Uncle Cheng drove the carriage slowly.

They had eaten too much.

The two young servants who had called him earlier were extremely polite, piling his plate with food continuously. He felt too embarrassed to refuse and ended up overeating.

Shi Jiayu, Hemei, and Henuan had also overeaten.

Now, they were leaning against the carriage wall, sighing.

"I'm stuffed to death!" Shi Jiayu whispered, rubbing her stomach.

The people from the Marquis Residence didn't stop serving them dishes. For three maids, all around sixteen or seventeen years old, the enthusiasm was remarkable.

Yun Jinnian just smiled faintly.

Knowing that Uncle Cheng must also be feeling too full, worried that the carriage might jolt too much, Yun Jinnian did not say much and let him take his time.

She took a cushion and a book and slowly flipped through it.

Yun Jinnian didn't really want to read "Medical Books"; it was all she read while at the Moon Watching Sect, memorizing so much yet still not fully understanding it.

Her mind was a mess; returning to the Capital City had brought many worries, making her somewhat lazy and negligent. She didn't want to do anything at the moment.

She picked up a miscellaneous record and casually browsed through it. Seeing Shi Jiayu, Hemei, and Henuan leaning against the carriage, rubbing their bellies without daring to breathe too heavily, she pressed her lips together and laughed.

Normally, it would have taken about the time of two incense sticks to reach the Duan Residence, but it ended up taking a full two hours.

Duan Residence

Duan Qimeng returned to the Duan Family directly after his imperial court duty, unable to hide his joy upon learning of Yun Jinnian's impending visit.

"Should I send someone to gather all the brothers back here?" Ruan Wanrong tentatively asked.

But her heart wasn't really in it.

After all, it was probably because of their grandmother that Yun Jinnian was coming straight to the Duan Residence so soon upon her return. The affairs of the Duan men, though important, could wait—they had for so many years, after all.

Duan Qimeng smiled, rubbing Ruan Wanrong's face, aware of his little wife's tendency to take sides, especially since she had no biological sisters and didn't get along with her half-sisters from the Ruan Family. She treated the pitiful Yun Jinnian as her own sister and wouldn't stand for her to face a crowd of men the moment she arrived at the residence, "There's no need for now. Besides, would you be willing to let your sister Jinnian come back without getting a good rest first?"

Ruan Wanrong laughed, and seeing that the maids and old women were absent, she hugged Duan Qimeng tightly and kissed him hard, "You always see right through me with all your cleverness!"