

Indulgence 511

Chapter 511: Mrs. Han's Twisted Heart

Han Tianci couldn't wait and crisply responded, "Good!"

He didn't like being cooped up at home either, and following Yun Jinnian, he could learn a lot.

When Yun Jinnian brought up the matter of the Duan Family again, upon hearing it, Han Xuzi said, "This must stem from some deep-seated enmity; otherwise, why would they be so ruthless!"

"Indeed!" After hearing this, Han Tianci felt chills run down his spine.

The thought of being cut off from descendants made his scalp tingle.

Mrs. Han came in with a bowl of sweet soup, "What are you talking about? I've made some sweet soup, drink some and then talk slowly!"

"Thank you, mother!" Yun Jinnian stood up.

Han Tianci also stood up and bowed with his hands clasped, "Thank you, mother!"

The fleeting sigh from Mrs. Han quickly turned into an adjustment of her mood.

"Drink the sweet soup quickly!"

After drinking the sweet soup, Yun Jinnian then talked about the matter of the Duan Family's medicinal recipe and the three shops that the old lady of the Duan Family had given.

He took out the property deeds to show Han Xuzi, who smiled upon seeing them, "These are all in the best locations of the Capital City; even if someone wanted to buy them, they might not be for sale. The old lady of the Duan Family really is willing to part with them!"

"I feel ashamed to take them!"

In fact, Yun Jinnian had never thought about getting anything from the start; it was all because of Ruan Wanrong.

"Take it if it's given to you. If you don't, they won't feel at ease. By taking them you make them feel that you have benefited, which will ensure they put their hearts into their efforts," Han Xuzi said.

Upon hearing this, Yun Jinnian felt there was some reason to it.

He turned to look at Han Tianci, "Tianci, do you want to take one of the shops to try and see if you can make some silver? As for the other two, I plan to lease them out and just collect the rent."

After thinking for a moment, Han Tianci said, "Sister, how about we sell rouge?"

"That's a good idea, but although the rouge we make is high-quality, the cost is too high, and ordinary families can't afford it!"

"We'll sell only the best. Ordinary families may not afford it, but there are too many wealthy households in the Capital City. We should create a sensation that having our rouge is an extraordinary thing, symbolizing status and power. With that feeling, are you afraid no one will buy?" Han Tianci spoke, having a clear plan in mind.

Not that he was money-focused, but he craved that sense of achievement.

Now that Yun Jinnian suggested it, it was certainly to his liking.

"Mhm, your idea makes sense. We will then initially develop some products and, at the grand opening, invite the Princess, Hemei sister, Ruan sister and the others. We will surely make a big impact and become one of the top rouge shops in the Capital City!"

The siblings began to discuss their plan.

Mrs. Han wanted to say something, but Han Xuzi shook his head at her and quietly gestured for her to walk outside the study.

After they were far enough from the study, Mrs. Han changed her tone, "Father!"

"What's wrong with you today? You don't seem quite right," Han Xuzi asked.

She seemed distracted, and even the flavor of the evening meal seemed off.

Either too salty or too bland.

"Father, Tianci is not affectionate towards me!"

Han Xuzi was stunned upon hearing this and after a long pause, he sighed, "Before, he was always raised within the estate, not exposed to much, so he wouldn't know how to behave. But don't think that just because he is young he doesn't understand. He knows that these years, he has been abandoned by you. That is why he is particularly close to Jinnian because he and Jinnian sympathize with each other. Seeing that Jinnian bears no grudges against you, he feels that if Jinnian can be like that, then as a man, he should be more open-minded and thus grows slightly closer to you. But to say he has devoted his heart to you would be impossible. Even Jinnian cannot have absolutely no resentment at all!"

"This trip out must have brought something about, something they didn't tell us, but it is indeed their secret. Hemei and Henuan couldn't get it out of them. I asked Han Zhong, and even he was evasive and afraid to tell the truth!"

Chapter 512: Persuasion Fails

Han Xuzi said, looking at Mrs. Han, "Shu Niang, children are like debts, and indeed you did abandon Jinnian, leaving her to suffer alone in the Yun Family. You also let me take Tianci to Sanzhou, not seeing him for many years!"

Mrs. Han did not speak, tears had already fallen.

"I know they must hate me in their hearts!"

"Then you're really overthinking it. These two kids, they have good hearts and understand the ways of the world. Tianci, following Jinnian, has learned well. On this trip back, he's become sensible and wise. Like running the Rouge Shop, many people wouldn't dare to be so bold and conspicuous, but he dares. Do you know why?"

Mrs. Han was silent, quietly shedding tears.

Han Xuzi continued, "A newborn calf is not afraid of tigers, that's one point. But more importantly, he has the courage. He's not afraid, and even if he fails, he doesn't care about the silver, because he must have seen mountains of gold and silver to have such aspiration for the best!"

Han Xuzi gently patted Mrs. Han's shoulder, "Shu Niang, Jinnian and Tianci are your children. They share a great bond, and you should be happy about that, not worrying about reputation. As a doctor, Jinnian can't avoid treating men, and to her, even if she loses her reputation, sooner or later someone will vindicate her. Those who have benefited from her will surely speak up for her. But if she, as a doctor, is preoccupied with her reputation and refuses to treat men, then she's merely fishing for fame, and those who envy her will only grow in number, which is a loss not worth the gain!"

"I just..."

Mrs. Han suddenly found herself at a loss for words.

When she was away, she eagerly awaited her return, but now that she was back, what was happening to her?

"Regardless of the reason, do not forget your original intentions, and do not hurt the two children's hearts. The first time they will forgive you unconditionally, but if there's a second time..."

Mrs. Han did not need Han Xuzi to say the consequences, for she had already understood.

If there was a second time of anger, forgiveness would never come again.

"Father, I know what to do now. I won't interfere too much in the future, only being wholeheartedly good to them. I'll say what I need to say, and whether they take it to heart is up to them!"

Han Xuzi shook his head.

He sighed, feeling that Shu Niang still did not understand.

Being wholeheartedly good to the two children was right and necessary.

He wanted to advise her further, but then the butler came in, "Master, someone has sent this letter to the gatehouse!"

Mr. Han received the letter and upon opening it, read, "Do not meddle in others' affairs, or the Han Family will end up just like the Duan Family now!"

"Such audacious arrogance!" Han Xuzi snorted coldly, then turned and returned to his study.

Yun Jinnian, upon learning of it, remained expressionless, "It's good that they've made a move. An enemy hidden in the dark is much more problematic than one in the open."

Han Tianci also nodded, "It's good that they've come out. I was afraid they wouldn't show up. Grandfather, don't worry, we aren't scared of them!"

Looking at the two children, Han Xuzi smiled, "Yes, we are not scared, but still, when going out, one must take precautions. Bring more antidote elixirs!"

"Yes!"

As the three of them were talking, the butler came rushing in again, "Master, Young Master, Miss, someone from Prince Rui Residence is here, saying that Princess Jinfeng has been injured and is asking Miss to go there and take a look!"

Yun Jinnian was taken aback. The Princess was injured?

"Who brought the message?"

"A young master, cold as ice all over, and there was another person with him, they said his name is Luo'er!"

Yun Jinnian thought for a moment. Could it be that the siblings had fought in the carriage and Chu Yu had injured the Princess?

"Let me first inquire about the situation. Tianci, you go to Chaoyang Academy and fetch my medicine chest for me!"

"Sister, can I go with you?" Han Tianci eagerly asked.

Yun Jinnian nodded, "Let's go together!"

Chapter 513: I've Figured It Out

Mrs. Han almost opened her mouth to prevent Han Tianci from going, but she saw Han Tianci already running out thump-thump-thump, heading straight for Chaoyang Garden, and all her words choked in her throat.

A bit uncomfortable, a bit stifling.

However, Yun Jinnian had already left the study and was heading to the hall.

Han Xuzi followed as well, looking at the study that was bustling and harmonious just a moment ago, it suddenly became deserted. Mrs. Han sat in the chair, silent for a long time without a word.

"Madam, what's wrong with you?" Bai Que asked softly.

Mrs. Han was silent, and after a long while, she asked, "Bai Que, do you think Jinnian and Tianci have a good relationship?"

"Yes!"

"I'm happy that they have a good relationship, but Jinnian is thirteen this year, and Tianci is eight. It's said that ten-year-olds shouldn't sit together at meals. Although Tianci is not yet ten, he is tall..."

Bai Que understood what Mrs. Han meant.

"Madam, the hardest thing to bet on in the world is the talk of the masses. In the future, the only ones who can accompany the miss and the young master are each other. If they have not grown up together since childhood, isn't it better now to compensate for the pain of being separated when they were young? Madam needn't worry so much. Like the sand in the palm of your hand, the more you try to grasp it, the less you can hold. Letting things take their natural course will actually yield more. Madam does not need to interfere deliberately, just need to keep them in your heart, love them, think of them, worry about them. When you're happy, make them some food, a couple of pieces of clothing, shoes, and you can even prepare a dowry for the miss. If Madam is happy, the miss and young master will naturally grow closer to you!" Bai Que said softly.

Mrs. Han thought about it carefully, and it seemed to be the case.

The more she tried to control everything, the more she would lose. It would be better to be more relaxed, and the children would be closer to her.

"That's true, children grow up beyond their mother's control!"

More importantly, she hadn't raised them, so the bond was always different.

Great Hall

Leng Binghan sat in his chair, upright and proper. The maid brought tea but he didn't drink, while Luo'er thoroughly enjoyed sipping the tea.

The tea Yun Jinnian provided was indeed exquisite, with Snow Lotus leaves and flower foam mixed in. Luo'er finished his cup to the last drop and looked at Leng Binghan, "Young Master Leng, will you drink? If not, can I have yours?"

Leng Binghan had originally not wanted to drink, but considering Luo'er's enthusiasm, he thought about it and took a sip.

After one sip, Leng Binghan looked at Luo'er, finally understanding why he was so shameless about it.

This tea was no worse than the ones served at the Princess Residence and Prince Rui Residence.

In fact, it was even better.

No wonder Luo'er was so unabashed about it.

Luo'er glared at Leng Binghan, thinking that when he saw Yun Jinnian, he'd ask him for some more.

Leng Binghan didn't care about Luo'er's reaction and took small sips to appreciate the flavor. Hearing footsteps, he drank the rest of the tea in one gulp.

Then he stood up and watched Yun Jinnian approaching.

He gave a slight fist salute to Yun Jinnian without saying a word.

"Big Brother Leng, Luo'er!"

"Fourth Miss, Princess Jinfeng is injured, please follow me quickly to see her!" Luo'er said, thinking of Princess Jinfeng's temperament and silently sighed.

Who would have thought that dinner was going so smoothly when the siblings suddenly started arguing and got into a fight, causing the master to flip the table.

The bowls and cups were shattered all over the floor, and the Princess got injured.

Chu Yu left with an expressionless face, and the Princess cried as she returned to her courtyard...

"Hmm, as soon as Tianci brings the medicine chest, we'll leave!"

No sooner had Yun Jinnian finished speaking than Han Tianci came running with the medicine chest, "I'm here, I'm here!"

Luo'er saw Han Tianci arriving, took the medicine chest, and hurried him along, "Hurry, let's go!"

At this moment, the Princess had locked herself in her room, refusing to see anyone and not apologising to her father. The siblings' stubbornness wasn't a solution either.

Chapter 514: Everything Happens for a Reason

Accompanied by Hemei, Henuan, and Han Tianci, they left the Han Residence, got on the carriage, and headed straight for the Princess Residence.

Luo'er and Leng Binghan sat in front of the carriage, with Leng Binghan driving the carriage, remaining silent as always.

When the carriage arrived at the Prince Rui Residence, Luo'er immediately asked Yun Jinnian to get off the carriage.

Once inside the Wang Residence, Yun Jinnian asked, "What's the matter?"

"It's a long story, Princess," replied Luo'er. "Her mood isn't good; you'll have to coax her later!"

Yun Jinnian nodded. "I understand!"

When they reached Princess Jinfeng's courtyard, Si Qin and Si Ju immediately came to greet her, "Fourth Miss!"

Han Tianci wanted to follow, but Luo'er pulled him back, "Little Prince, let's go have fun!"

After thinking for a moment, Han Tianci nodded and went off to play with Luo'er.

Yun Jinnian asked softly, "What happened?"

Si Qin and Si Ju appeared troubled. After a pause, they said, "The Princess and the Prince had a quarrel during dinner, and His Highness Prince Rui flipped the table over!"

Yun Jinnian was taken aback, as Chu Yu's temperament didn't seem like he was someone who would lash out at Princess Jinfeng.

Moreover, he was very fond of Princess Jinfeng.

"I'll go in and have a look!" Yun Jinnian, carrying a medicine box, went forward to knock on the door.

"Get out!"

A hoarse shout of anger.

It was obvious that Princess Jinfeng was still crying, her voice hoarse, which was distressing.

"Sister Xiang, it's me!" Yun Jinnian's voice was gentle.

Inside the room, upon hearing this, Princess Jinfeng's crying paused, and she was just about to speak when she heard Chu Yu's angry roar.

"What are you doing here? Let her cry! She's nineteen, old enough to get married, and should be a mother of two by now. Yet here she is, growing in age but not in wisdom!"

Yun Jinnian was startled and turned to look at Chu Yu.

Utterly astonished.

Chu Yu reached out his hand and pulled Yun Jinnian, walking her outside.

Si Qin and Si Ju lowered their gaze, not daring to breathe too loudly, let alone to intervene.

Hemei and Henuan wanted to speak up, but seeing Chu Yu's expression, they too were shocked. Just as they were about to step forward, Si Qin and Si Ju held them back with one hand each, "His Highness won't harm Fourth Miss!"

Hemei and Henuan knew that, but one can never truly understand what lies in a person's heart.

Seeing Chu Yu walking away with Yun Jinnian without hesitation, they immediately lashed out at Si Qin and Si Ju.

Si Qin and Si Ju were shocked, but they knew they had to hold Hemei and Henuan back, as His Highness was currently enraged. They only wished for Fourth Miss to calm His Highness's anger.

Otherwise, the Princess would suffer more.

"Chu Yu, let go of me!" Yun Jinnian pushed against Chu Yu, whose strength was so great, it was hurting her.

Her voice had also grown much louder.

Chu Yu paused for a moment, then suddenly bent his waist and carried Yun Jinnian sideways, heading directly towards Kangsong Garden.

Yun Jinnian was overwhelmed with shock, forgetting to struggle, her face blushing as she let Chu Yu carry her. It took a while before she regained her voice, stammering, "You, you..."

Chu Yu remained silent, carrying Yun Jinnian to Kangsong Garden, and directly entered the bedroom. Yun Jinnian turned pale with fright, "Chu Yu, have you gone mad!"

Before she could finish her sentence, she was thrown onto the bed by Chu Yu, and then he pressed her beneath him.

Yun Jinnian was terrified, stuttering, unable to utter a complete sentence.

"Don't move, I'll be fine in a moment!" Chu Yu spoke out, his voice a bit hoarse, his eyes filled with deep passion, glowing red as he looked at her, seemingly ready to devour her.

And the burning sensation between her legs, startled and puzzled Yun Jinnian, who had experienced such matters before.

Chu Yu wasn't a frivolous man. During the days they had spent together, he had always been polite and methodical, never stepping out of bounds. At most, they held hands or embraced each other; they hadn't even kissed.

Chapter 515: Chu Yu Proposes

Something was amiss, heralding the presence of demons.

Just as Yun Jinnian intended to twist his body a little, Chu Yu began to move.

"..."

Chu Yu grasped Yun Jinnian's waist with one hand and the nape of her neck with the other.

He leaned down and captured her lips with a kiss.

Yun Jinnian's face flushed red, and her eyes grew somewhat moist.

"Huff, huff!" Chu Yu breathed heavily.

He reached out to hold Yun Jinnian tightly in his embrace, "I'm sorry!"

Upon hearing his words, Yun Jinnian took several deep breaths, thinking she would cry, but in the end, she did not.

"What on earth is going on?" she asked softly, pushing at Chu Yu's chest, trying to push him away.

But Chu Yu held her tight and spoke solemnly, "Jinfeng slipped an aphrodisiac into the soup she gave me and even prepared a woman for me!"

"..."

When he heard Jinfeng mention it casually, he was so angry that he could have exploded.

If he had wanted a woman, he could have sought pleasure immediately after getting rid of the poison, once his body was well, but because he had Yun Jinnian in his heart, he did not want to face her with a defiled body. He distanced himself from any woman who approached him, fearing that a bad reputation would make Yun Jinnian look down on him.

This sister of his really stepped out of line by managing the affairs of his bedroom.

"She..."

Yun Jinnian was also at a loss for words.

Regardless of whether Chu Yu was right or not, if he truly had another woman, could she remain indifferent?

No, burdened by her past life and her parents' broken vows because of a concubine, she was determined not to share a husband with another woman.

"Don't plead for her. Let her think it through herself. If she doesn't understand, she's not to leave the house!"

Chu Yu was fiercely angry.

If she wanted to get married, no matter to a tradesman or a commoner, as long as she liked him and he liked her, and they were devoted to each other and lived a good life, he would agree.

He would allow her to be whimsical in all things, but sending a woman to his bed was not acceptable.

After a moment of silence, Yun Jinnian pushed at Chu Yu, but still couldn't move him, and said softly, "Let me feel your pulse!"

"It's alright, I'm feeling much better now. Just leave me a pill later to clear the heat and calm the fire!" Chu Yu said, hugging Yun Jinnian a little tighter.

"Jinnian..."

"Hmm?"

"How about tomorrow, I ask the Emperor to grant us a marriage?"

Yun Jinnian was shocked, "Grant us a marriage?"

"Yes, grant us a marriage. Jinnian, is it alright if we marry first? After getting married, I'll wait for you to grow up!" Chu Yu promised fervently.

Yun Jinnian's face turned red.

She fell silent.

Seeing Yun Jinnian's reaction, Chu Yu knew she did not wish to marry him, and it pained him deeply.

He understood that Yun Jinnian was fond of him, but the idea of marrying no one but him was probably still a far cry away.

He gently stroked Yun Jinnian's hair, "It's okay, take your time to think. If you don't agree, I won't act rashly!"

Even if he were to propose, he would first inform Princess and Mrs. Han with Yun Jinnian's consent, and only with Mrs. Han's approval would he then enter the palace to request an Imperial Decree.

Chapter 516: Wish Fulfilled

Because of love, he cherished her deeply and couldn't bear to wrong her.

He wouldn't make Yun Jinnian feel uncomfortable.

There was a moment when Yun Jinnian almost agreed, but her rationality prevailed, she had many things yet to do, "Give me some time to think, I'm still young, I don't want to get married so early!"

She was only thirteen now, and would turn fourteen after the New Year.

Chu Yu's intentions were good, but once she married Chu Yu, it wouldn't be too convenient for her to go out anymore.

"Then don't you dare marry anyone else, don't agree to any marriage proposal, and if the Emperor arranges some match, just refuse it. I have my ways to make him take back his word!"

Yun Jinnian gave a slight nod and took a deep breath, "You better let me go now, I need to check on Sister Xiang. You overturned the table, and there's broken crockery all over the floor, she must be hurt!"

"Don't mind her, lest she remains unrepentant!"

Yun Jinnian took a deep breath, "Actually, it's not unjustified what she did!"

Chu Yu was already nineteen, and if he'd married early, he could have had children calling him father.

It's understandable that Princess Jinfeng was anxious.

"Don't speak for her, don't plead for her, and certainly don't..."

Chu Yu kept saying 'don't', and Yun Jinnian, feeling annoyed, didn't think twice before raising her hand and kissing his lips.

That finally silenced him.

However, Chu Yu's eyes went wide, soon turning to delight.

Bewildered, just as he thought to kiss her back, Yun Jinnian pushed him away and ran out blushing.

"Hehe!"

Chu Yu chuckled to himself, stood up, and shouted toward the outside, "Luoyi, take Jinnian to Jinfeng Academy!"

The joy in his voice couldn't be hidden, not to mention anger, even the shadow of irritation was gone.

He then returned to the inner room, quickly took off his clothes, swam a few laps in the big bathtub, slapped the water a few times, then dressed, rapidly dried his hair, and planned to apologize to Jinfeng as soon as Yun Jinnian left.

Because of her unreasonable antics today, he had tasted something wonderful.

It could be considered a balance of faults and merits.

Yun Jinnian left the courtyard with a blushing face, and Luoyi immediately greeted her with respect, "Fourth Miss!"

"Hmm!"

Yun Jinnian acknowledged softly.

She felt that her entire body was burning hot.

In her past life, she had been married to Chu Liang for over a decade, but she had never initiated a kiss with him.

Even if he kissed her, she felt stifled, domineering, without a trace of feeling cherished.

The wedding night was nothing more than pain, and nothing else.

But the kiss from Chu Yu had left her mind muzzy, her entire being in a daze, unable to find her bearings.

Luoyi led the way in front, also daring not to look back at Yun Jinnian.

Chu Yu had been drugged with an aphrodisiac, and at first, he lingered alone in the room for a while, while the woman sent to his bed was now a corpse.

Luoyi didn't know how Yun Jinnian had pacified Chu Yu, but the furious Chu Yu indeed held Yun Jinnian as he brought her in, and Yun Jinnian, with a blushing face coming out after, seemed to be in a better mood.

Exceptionally good.

Luoyi didn't understand love between men and women and had no girl he fancied, making Chu Yu's joy even more incomprehensible to him.

Before reaching Princess Jinfeng's courtyard, Yun Jinnian already heard the sounds of fighting and the angry shouts of Hemei and Henuan.

Si Qin and Si Ju were strong in martial arts and had been through a hundred battles. Hemei and Henuan were not bad either, but they still lacked actual combat experience and were somewhat at a disadvantage in the fight.

Hearing the noise, Yun Jinnian quickened her pace, turned the archway, and saw four people paired off, shadows flickering back and forth under the dim lanterns, she hurriedly said, "Stop fighting!"

Chapter 517: Princess' Introspection

Yun Jinnian's voice was somewhat urgent.

Si Qin, Si Ju, Hemei, and Henuan heard him and immediately stopped.

"Miss!" Hemei and Henuan called out softly, cupped their hands towards Si Qin and Si Ju, and swiftly walked to Yun Jinnian's side, asking with concern, "Miss, how are you?"

"I'm fine!" Yun Jinnian replied softly, comforting them.

Facing Hemei and Henuan who were protecting her, she felt a warm feeling in her heart and said, "You all wait for me outside, I will go see the Princess!"

"Yes!"

Hemei and Henuan complied.

They quickly found the medicine chest and handed it to Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian took a deep breath.

In her heart, she was repelled by Princess Jinfeng stuffing women at Chu Yu, but she couldn't rest easy without checking.

If she really married Chu Yu in the future, Princess Jinfeng would be her sister-in-law, and she couldn't ignore her well-being.

As a doctor, she had to set aside any prejudices.

Carrying the medicine chest, she stepped forward and knocked on the door. This time, she did not hear Princess Jinfeng's angry outburst. Yun Jinnian hesitated for a moment, then pushed the door open, which creaked ajar.

The room was pitch dark; not even an oil lamp or candle was lit. Yun Jinnian, not familiar with Princess Jinfeng's room layout and not daring to move around at will, did not hear Princess Jinfeng's voice and called out, "Si Ju, could you please light the lamps?"

Hearing this, Si Ju immediately entered the room and lit the oil lamps and candles.

The Princess didn't make a sound, apparently taking the face-saving out given by Miss Yun.

The room instantly brightened, and Si Ju, not daring to linger, immediately left the room.

Before leaving, she glanced around and caught sight of Princess Jinfeng in the corner of the bed, which put her at ease.

Yun Jinnian gently closed the door and surveyed the room's furnishings.

Everything was lavish and refined; any item here was worth a fortune, the gauze curtains danced lightly, and a subtle fragrance filled the air—clean and orderly, very much in Princess Jinfeng's style.

Yun Jinnian didn't see Princess Jinfeng in the antechamber, and recalling Si Ju's expression as she left, she relaxed.

That meant Princess Jinfeng was in the room.

Yun Jinnian stepped into the bedroom.

A quick glance revealed Princess Jinfeng curled up tidily at the foot of the bed.

Her head was buried in her knees; her body was shuddering, and there was blood beneath her knees. Yun Jinnian took a deep breath and moved to squat beside Princess Jinfeng, remaining silent.

Initially, Princess Jinfeng did not think she was wrong until Chu Yu got angry and told her to return to her fief, which shocked her.

What was wrong with her brother having a woman by his side at his age?

It was certainly better than being called a homosexual.

But after being yelled at by her brother and crying in her room, she thought it over and realized the seriousness of the situation.

If her brother really fell in love with women, and beauties kept being sent to his residence, how many of them were actually good? Who stood behind them? She had indeed been foolish.

Now, with her brother still angry, she did not dare to apologize, but thankfully, Yun Jinnian had come.

Yet Yun Jinnian had been in the room for a long time without offering any words of comfort, making her anxious.

Looking up at Yun Jinnian, she saw that Yun Jinnian was even quieter than herself, utterly flabbergasted,
"..."

After waiting and waiting, still not hearing Yun Jinnian speak, Princess Jinfeng finally spoke softly,
"Jinnian, are you angry with me?"

Upon hearing this, Yun Jinnian looked up at Princess Jinfeng, took a deep breath, and said, "Let me take a look at your wound for you, Princess."

Princess Jinfeng nodded.

Yun Jinnian then lifted Princess Jinfeng's skirt and observed the blood seeping through the pristine white undergarment.

She opened the medicine chest, took out a pair of scissors, and cut open the undergarment to reveal several bloody wounds on the leg.

"I will clean it with medicinal alcohol, which might hurt a bit, so please bear with it!"

Chapter 518: Heartfelt Words

Her voice was faint as Princess Jinfeng pursed her lips, "Jinnian, are you angry?"

Yun Jinnian remained silent.

It wouldn't be true to say he wasn't angry.

He took the medicinal wine to clean Princess Jinfeng's wounds, "I'll help you to the stool to sit, and then apply the medicine!"

"Oh..."

Princess Jinfeng sighed softly.

She let Yun Jinnian help her up and sit on the stool, watching him bring over a candle to carefully examine the wound, wary of any splinters that might have been embedded in the flesh.

"Jinnian, I didn't do it on purpose!"

"I know, a princess becomes flustered with concern, I understand," Yun Jinnian said as he took a damp cloth to clean his hands.

"Are you angry?"

He was already addressing her as princess.

Definitely angry.

"Angry, how can I not be angry? In this world, if a woman truly fancies a man, who wouldn't want to keep him all to herself? To share him with another woman, one might appear nonchalant, but the pain inside must be immense. Princess, you too are a woman..." Yun Jinnian said, looking towards Princess Jinfeng, "I don't know if there is a man you fancy, Princess, but if there is, would you give another woman to him?"

If it wasn't a matter of last resort, who would willingly bring a concubine for the man she loves?

"I..."

Princess Jinfeng fell silent.

She had never expected that the wife of the Prince Zhongqin would dare to scheme against her like this.

It was brought up casually at the time, that some men liked to frequent those lowly entertainment houses, places of *** and thus developed a preference for the same sex.

At the time, someone casually mentioned something that she couldn't recall at the moment.

Then she thought of her own brother and had someone procure an aphrodisiac from outside and even found a woman to bring over.

"I'll never dare to do it again!"

The wife of Prince Zhongqin, this grudge Chu Xiangzhao remembered well.

Yun Jinnian took a deep breath, "The world is already harsh on women, and as a princess, Xiang sister..."

"Wrong is wrong, there's no excuse for her, Jinnian. You needn't defend her," Chu Yu said as he walked into the room.

He coldly looked at Princess Jinfeng, his voice grave, "Do you have any idea where that woman came from, or her relationship with the wife of Prince Zhongqin? And whom does the wife of Prince Zhongqin serve? You are really foolish! If the wife of Prince Zhongqin were good, why is Brother Xin Chuntang still unmarried at twenty-seven? She parades herself as humble and virtuous, yet she instigates Uncle King's dislike for Brother Xin Chuntang, even sending assassins to kill my cousin. It's said my cousin was gravely injured and whether he is dead or alive is unknown. And here you are, getting cozy with such people. Perhaps you find life too comfortable and seek suffering!"

Chu Yu gave a severe scolding, causing Princess Jinfeng's face to turn deathly pale.

Yun Jinnian quickly said, "Stop, Xiang sister already knows she was wrong, and she won't do it again!"

"Hmph!" Chu Yu snorted coldly and continued, "Behind the wife of Prince Zhongqin stands the Noble Consort Wei. I heard she found two beauties from outside, one of whom she strategized to bring before you, and the other is intended for the Emperor!"

And the one intended for the Emperor was none other than the daughter of Xiu Bingsheng from Yangxi City. She really had the skills. Amidst all the people who perished, she alone survived and caught the eye of the wife of Prince Zhongqin, who went to great lengths to secure her a status as a lady from a respectable family. The Wei Family spared no effort in this matter either.

Princess Jinfeng's face turned white.

She had thought of this as well, just not that Chu Yu would spell it out so directly.

And she, being the Emperor's most favored daughter, was used to everyone deferring to her, even the Emperor would give her some leeway. Yet, she never expected to be outwitted by a mere wife of her father's vassal. Now she would see how to retaliate.

"Brother, I was wrong. I swear I'll never dare to do it again!"

Chu Yu took a deep breath, after all, she was his own blood sister, and he couldn't truly harbor ill feelings towards her.

Chapter 519: Never Afraid of Him

"Enough, this once—and not to be repeated. Today it's Jinnian pleading for you, but if there's a next time, no one will be able to save you. Take good care of your injuries. Tomorrow, I'll get revenge for you at the Mid-Autumn Palace Banquet!"

Daring to scheme against Princess Jinfeng is courting death.

Let alone a Wei Family, a Noble Consort of the Wei family, or a second Prince, if they really infuriate her, she'll wipe them all out at once.

Uncle Wang is becoming more confused by the day. He doesn't cherish his legitimate son but dotes on the children born of his second wife—each one more arrogant and overbearing than the last, and not a single good one among them.

Sooner or later, he will regret it.

Princess Jinfeng nodded repeatedly.

She looked up and smiled at Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian also stood up. "Princess, now that your wounds are properly dressed, I'll take my leave!"

"Jinnian..." Princess Jinfeng called out softly.

Yun Jinnian looked at her.

"I've taken to heart what you said. I won't ever do something so foolish again. Can you believe me?"

Yun Jinnian nodded, "Mm, I believe in you, Sister Xiang!"

Chu Yu couldn't properly see Yun Jinnian out, but he followed her for a while before grabbing her arm, every word deliberate and serious, "Jinnian, you're the only one in my life!"

Upon hearing his words, Yun Jinnian looked up, gazing into Chu Yu's gleaming dark eyes under the lantern light in the night, sparkling like stars, and she believed him deeply.

Ignoring Hemei and Henuan, and even Si Qin following behind, she reached out and wrapped her arms around Chu Yu's waist, "I believe you. Just give me some time. Once I have settled everything, I will accept you, will accept everything you ask!"

Chu Yu was overjoyed at her words.

He held Yun Jinnian tightly, his voice trembling as he said, "Okay!"

With that, it was as if their mutual affection was confirmed, their hearts knowing each other's minds.

Attaining a proper union was only a matter of time, and he, too, could rest easy.

"I can't escort you out myself, so I'll have Si Qin take you back to the Han Residence. Get some rest early tonight. Tomorrow, you will first go to Princess Jinfeng's residence, and I'll bring Jinfeng with me, so we can enter the palace together!"

Yun Jinnian nodded slightly, pushed Chu Yu away, and walked towards the outside.

Chu Yu stood in place, smiling like a fool, watching the figure of Yun Jinnian leave the Prince Rui Residence and vanish into the distance with the speeding carriage, unwilling to take his eyes off her.

He truly wished she were returning home, that he would be waiting here for her, watching her dismount the carriage, then taking her hand to walk through the door together, before heading back to the main courtyard.

That day wouldn't be too far into the future, not too far at all.

In that moment, Chu Yu's heart was full of joy, yet little did he know, the path ahead for him and Yun Jinnian would be fraught with countless tribulations and hardships...

In the carriage, Han Tianci looked at Yun Jinnian, who had her hands over her face and seemed dazed, wondering what she was thinking. Han Tianci felt curious and also a bit worried.

Luo'er had called him out to play, and Luo'er had taken him out, making him wait in the carriage. After a while, Yun Jinnian came out, but...

Looking at Hemei and Henuan with their heads lowered, Han Tianci furrowed his brows, "Sister, what's wrong with you?"

Yun Jinnian shook her head, "It's nothing!"

Her voice was hoarse.

Han Tianci didn't believe her, "Is it really nothing?"

"It's nothing, don't worry about me!"

Han Tianci nodded, "Then okay, I won't worry!"

The carriage clattered its way to the Han Residence. As soon as they dismounted, they saw a splendid carriage marked with the Yun Residence's insignia. The doorman immediately approached, "Miss Cousin, Young Master, Yun Qi has come!"

The doorman called Yun Qi 'Young Master' rather than 'Uncle Lord.'

It was clear where the doorman's sympathies lay.

Yun Jinnian was taken aback.

Why had he come?

She turned her head to look at Han Tianci, "Tianci?"

Somewhat reluctant to let Yun Qi see Tianci, Yun Jinnian didn't know why she felt this way.

"Don't be afraid, Sister, I'll go see him!"

No matter if he was his father or not, he had to meet him.

He, Han Tianci, was not afraid of Yun Qi.

Chapter 520: Tianci Exposed

Yun Jinnian also felt that it wasn't right for Han Tianci to keep hiding and avoiding the issue; he would have to proudly face the public sooner or later.

Therefore, he fully supported Han Tianci's decision, "Tianci, let's go in!"

"Hmm!"

The siblings exchanged a glance, tacitly and firmly holding each other's hands, their hearts filled with love and fearless.

Facing the tempest, they would walk hand in hand, caring for one another, an unbreakable unity against any assault.

As the two entered the hall

The hall was brightly lit, with Han Xuzi seated in the place of honor; to his right was Yun Qi clad in azure, his garment adorned with bamboo leaves stitched in silver thread—elaborate and pleasing to the eye.

Yet it gave off an illusionary and unfathomable impression.

Just like Yun Qi at that moment, his facial expression light, his eyes even more insipid.

Yun Jinnian and Han Tianci appraised him, and he also gazed back at the siblings, speechless with shock when he clearly saw Han Tianci's face.

At that moment, Yun Qi understood everything.

Speaking of divorce, insisting on moving out; he must have known he was with child, intending to go to the villa to give birth, very quietly and effectively keeping it a secret.

Yun Qi initially was angry, but after the anger subsided, he gradually calmed down, his expression not betraying any trace of emotion.

Yun Jinnian frowned slightly, leading Han Tianci forward to perform a salute, "Jinnian pays respect to grandfather and to father!"

Han Tianci also saluted with a fist, "Paying respects to grandfather, and to..." he paused, then, as if realizing for the first time, whispered, "Tianci pays respects to Uncle!"

Han Xuzi smiled.

Following his astonishment, Yun Jinnian also pursed his lips.

Mrs. Han, at the corner, also hesitated.

Upon hearing the words, Yun Qi's hands clenched into fists, then slowly relaxed.

"Such sense!" Yun Qi spoke faintly in praise, unfastened the Jade Pendant from his waist, and handed it to Han Tianci, "It's nothing valuable, but you can play with it!"

Han Tianci approached with a smile, "Thank you, Uncle!"

He reached out to receive it, examined it in his hand, and it was indeed fine jade, the carving exquisite as well.

Han Xuzi, however, furrowed his brows.

This Jade Pendant was what Mrs. Han gave to Yun Qi when he and Shu Niang were betrothed. Why would it be given to Tianci today?

Mrs. Han, stepping into the hall, appeared quite indifferent to it all.

"Paying respects to mother!" Yun Jinnian bowed.

Han Tianci also gave his respects, "Paying respects to Aunt!"

Being called 'Aunt' by her own son was painful for Mrs. Han but, at this moment, she had no time to dwell on her discomfort.

Yun Qi had personally come to fetch her. To safeguard Yun Jinnian's reputation, she must take her back to the Yun Family.

"Good, good!" Mrs. Han spoke and turned towards Yun Jinnian, "Jinnian, your father has come to take us back. Jiayu has packed everything, let's go!"

Yun Jinnian was taken aback but did not ask further, obediently nodding her head.

She reached out to hold Mrs. Han's hand.

Mrs. Han's eyes heated up, nearly bringing tears.

Tears glittered in her eyes, but she held them back in the end.

"Then let's go!" Yun Qi stood up, bowed to Han Xuzi with clasped fists, and stepped out.

He didn't wait for Mrs. Han and Yun Jinnian.

The mother and daughter exchanged glances, seeing confusion in each other's eyes. Han Xuzi, too, was anxious.

But Han Tianci said, "Sister, Aunt, you go ahead first. Tomorrow, I will come to the estate early to fetch sister!"

Yun Jinnian nodded, spoke a few words to Han Xuzi, and, still holding Mrs. Han's hand, left the Han Family.

Two carriages, the first belonging to Yun Qi, followed by the carriage driven by Uncle Cheng. Yun Jinnian, concerned about Mrs. Han facing Yun Qi alone, asked Bai Que to follow the other carriage, as she helped Mrs. Han into the carriage.

An oil lamp hung inside, brightly illuminating the carriage.

Yun Qi sat in the center, looking at Yun Jinnian and Mrs. Han, "Jinnian, you take the back carriage. I have something to discuss with your mother."