

Indulgence 581

Chapter 581: Blushed

Eunuch An turned back and looked at Yun Jinnian, "Does the Fourth Miss have any instructions?"

"Instructions I dare not give. I just noticed that Eunuch An has some bruising under your eyes. Have you been having trouble sleeping at night, with cold hands and feet, and do your knees and lower legs feel so cold that even your bones ache, all while your feet sweat?" Yun Jinnian asked, her voice light and faint.

Upon hearing this, Eunuch An was momentarily startled and then asked in amazement, "Can the Fourth Miss guess my ailment just by looking at my complexion?"

"I'm merely speculating wildly, I don't know if I'm accurate!"

Of course, she could discern illnesses through observation of one's complexion, but she wouldn't be able to detect slight ones. It was only because Eunuch An's condition was rather serious that she could see some signs.

"What the Fourth Miss said is extremely accurate. It's an old ailment of mine. The Imperial Physicians from the Imperial Medical Bureau have prescribed many medicines, but none have worked. I wonder if the Fourth Miss could take my pulse and prescribe a remedy?" Eunuch An asked tentatively.

"If Eunuch An does not mind, please sit in the room for a moment. I will take your pulse first and then consider a prescription. Is that okay?"

"It is, it is!"

Yun Jinnian invited Eunuch An to sit in the parlor and also asked Nanny Ma to join them. Shaoyao was taken aback for a moment, and someone was sent to make tea.

Yun Jinnian asked Eunuch An to sit down and then had Hemei bring the medicine box.

Huanan promptly handed Yun Jinnian a wet cloth to wipe her hands.

Eunuch An watched with mild astonishment.

Previously, when taking the Emperor's pulse in Yangxin Hall, Yun Jinnian had also carefully wiped her hands. "Fourth Miss, I have a question, if I may?"

"Please ask, Eunuch An!"

"Why does the Fourth Miss wipe her hands before taking a pulse? Do you find me filthy and lowly?"

Hearing this, Yun Jinnian glanced at Eunuch An and, unable to help herself, chuckled softly. "You've misunderstood, Eunuch An. I wipe my hands before taking a pulse every time, not because of the status of the person I'm treating, high or low, noble or humble. It's because after wiping, my fingers become more sensitive which helps in more accurately detecting the pulse. Moreover, to avoid rough fingertips, I seldom sew or write, all to keep my fingertips delicate—let alone play the piano!"

"So that's the reason. I'm sorry for misunderstanding the Fourth Miss," Eunuch An said with great guilt.

Yun Jinnian shook her head with a light smile, "No harm done!"

Her explanation was also because, previously, when taking the Emperor's pulse, she had been very meticulous in washing and wiping her hands, harboring no feelings of distaste.

It was simply a habit she had formed.

While taking Eunuch An's pulse, Yun Jinnian was very earnest, and after a moment she said, "Eunuch An's condition is more serious than what I had observed!"

Eunuch An took a deep breath, "Can it be treated?"

He had been experiencing blood in his stool recently, and his private parts were secretly hurting.

"It can be treated. Let's first address the blood in the stool, and then for the next issue..." Yun Jinnian's face turned red, unsure of how to proceed.

Although she had experience, in this room, aside from Nanny Ma, all were unmarried young women.

It really was difficult to speak up.

Eunuch An's old face also turned red, "Fourth Miss, just prescribe the medicine, your servant, your servant will go to the Imperial Medical Bureau to get it!"

He said it somewhat weakly.

Nanny Ma looked at Eunuch An in bewilderment, it was the first time she had seen the old man blush.

But judging from his appearance, Yun Jinnian must have touched upon something that made him feel self-conscious.

And for this old man, aside from his private parts, what else could make him feel self-conscious...

Suddenly, Nanny Ma also realized what was going on and was shocked for a moment.

"Ahem!" Yun Jinnian coughed and then said in all seriousness, "Hemei, bring some warm water over!"

Hemei immediately brought over the warm water.

Yun Jinnian took a porcelain bottle, "Eunuch An, extend your hand!"

Chapter 582: True Kindness and False Kindness

Eunuch An stretched out his hand and spread it open on the table, while Yun Jinnian poured a pill into his palm, "Eat this pill first, and then you won't feel the pain!"

Having said that, Yun Jinnian turned his head and coughed, his small face flushed red.

In the small hall, the fragrance of lotus instantly became intense.

Eunuch An, as a worldly eunuch, naturally understood where this fragrance of lotus came from.

Looking at the elixir in his palm, his hand trembling slightly, "Fourth Miss..."

"Please take it, Eunuch. There's only a little, and you must keep it a secret. You cannot tell anyone I gave you this elixir, and even less about what you smelled!" Yun Jinnian said, his expression very serious.

"I don't have much of this medicine left; it's meant for saving lives, for critical moments. I hope Eunuch An will accommodate this need!"

Eunuch An's eyes had already reddened with emotion, and he immediately threw the pill into his mouth, took a few sips of warm water from a teacup, then knelt in front of Yun Jinnian, "Fourth Miss, rest assured, this servant understands and will definitely not speak of it!"

A man without guilt in harboring a jade invites trouble upon himself; Yun Jinnian had not brought out this pill to save the Emperor but had given one to him, a blessing he must have cultivated over several lifetimes.

Naturally, he would keep Yun Jinnian's secret.

Everyone in Weiyang Palace belongs to the Empress, with Shaoyao and Nanny Ma being utterly loyal to her. Palace maids were not allowed to enter the small hall; they waited outside, ready to run errands as needed.

The people Yun Jinnian brought into the palace, Shi Jiayu knew not many, Ru Yue didn't know at all, while Hemei and Henuan were utterly loyal and would naturally not betray her.

"Eunuch An, please get up. Your kneeling before me is making me feel terribly embarrassed!" Yun Jinnian said, feigning a helping hand to Eunuch An.

Eunuch An stood up with a smile, "It was this servant's lapse in decorum. I hope Fourth Miss won't take offense!"

Yun Jinnian just smiled without a word.

She took up a pen and wrote down a prescription, handing over one copy first, "This is for oral consumption, three times a day after meals, and this one is for soaking in. Pour all the herbs into a big pot of water to boil, then pour it into a medicinal tub. Soak in it every night, and in a month, Eunuch, your health will certainly be greatly improved!"

Eunuch An agreed repeatedly.

He left Weiyang Palace joyfully with the prescription in hand.

Nanny Ma also departed to the main hall to report this matter to the Empress.

"She really knows how to cultivate good relationships!" the Empress exclaimed.

With this development, whatever she wanted to accomplish in the palace was possible with just a word from Eunuch An.

Moreover, Eunuch An was a man who would repay both kindness and grudges in kind.

He would remember those who were kind to him for a long time.

"Empress, that elixir... it seems somewhat inferior to the ones the Empress Dowager sent into the palace!"

The Empress glanced at Nanny Ma, then smiled, "Even if it's somewhat inferior, as long as it cures Eunuch An's hidden illness, it is a good medicine. I didn't expect her to have offended Head Pan earlier, and now she has gained Eunuch An's favor. Just watch, that Head Pan will likely not escape his fate!"

Even if no one else took action, Eunuch An would teach Head Pan a lesson in front of the Empress Dowager, surely slipping in a good word.

"Empress, do you think the Fourth Miss is truly kind-hearted, or..."

"Whether she is truly kind-hearted or pretends to be, in the end, she's not a bad child. Besides, if she has caught mother's eye, it means she is good. Everyone has their limits, even I. On the surface, I appear gentle and kind, but are my tactics really inferior to anyone else's? These are all just façades after all!"

In her heart, the Empress still believed that Yun Jinnian was good.

Someone with a sincere heart.

Before doing anything, one should treat others with sincerity, then consider gains and losses.

Perhaps this way, one would receive even more.

Chapter 583: Pulse Diagnosis Again

Madam Ma pondered and agreed with the reasoning.

Nobody is a fool, easily manipulated at will.

Having suffered so much in the Yun Family, Yun Jinnian would not have been able to leap out of that fiery pit without some skills,

clearly quite shrewd and calculating.

The Empress glanced at Madam Ma and smiled, "Let's go and see what she is up to. It's time to take the Emperor's pulse!"

"Yes!"

The side hall

Although Hemei and Huan did not understand why Yun Jinnian would treat a eunuch, they did not ask further.

Ru Yue also did not dare speak casually; the Imperial Palace was a place of majesty and rules, and she felt intimidated.

Shi Jiayu was also nervous.

Previously just a young lady from a small county town with limited experiences, she now found herself in the exquisite Imperial Palace, treading carefully.

She wanted to ask questions but didn't dare.

Yun Jinnian looked at them, smiled gently, and said nothing further.

Perhaps she felt a need to make amends with Eunuch An from a past life when she had pushed away someone who had come to her for protection, which led to his death, as well as her own.

Or maybe in the previous life, Eunuch An had not sought Zhu Yan's protection and was killed by Zhu Yan instead.

In this life, she met him first and remembered him; seeing him tormented by illness, she helped him. Perhaps in the future, this calculating Eunuch An could be of great assistance to her within the palace.

After all, this act of healing was not out of pure simplicity, but had calculations at its core.

"Fourth Miss, the Empress has arrived!"

Yun Jinnian stood up. The Empress had already entered the small hall, and she quickly kowtowed in greeting, "Greetings to Your Majesty the Empress!"

The Empress nodded slightly, "Rise!"

Yun Jinnian got up, and the Empress sat down on the Arhat bed, signaling Yun Jinnian to sit beside her. After Yun Jinnian was seated, the Empress said, "Clean yourself up and accompany me to Yangxin Hall to take the Emperor's pulse!"

Regardless of the state of their marital relationship, the Empress maintained impeccable public decorum.

Yun Jinnian nodded.

She went to the washroom to freshen up and tidy her appearance, then followed the Empress out of the Weiyang Palace.

By then, the sun was setting, casting a warm and tranquil glow that seemed serenely regal.

Yun Jinnian accompanied the Empress onto the Phoenix Carriage, heading to Yangxin Hall.

Logically, the Emperor's sleeping quarters should be the closest to the Weiyang Palace, but it was strange that the Emperor lived in Yangxin Hall.

Upon arriving at Yangxin Hall, Eunuch Hai immediately greeted them, "This servant pays respect to Your Majesty the Empress and the Fourth Miss!"

"Hmm," the Empress acknowledged before leading Yun Jinnian into Yangxin Hall, proceeding directly to the Emperor's sleeping quarters.

It was not yet dark, but thick candles had already been lit in the corners of the sleeping chamber.

The Emperor lay in bed, eyes closed as if he were asleep.

"Your Majesty, I have brought Jinnian to take Your Majesty's pulse," the Empress said as she approached the Emperor.

The Emperor did not speak but extended his hand.

Hemei immediately handed a pulse pillow to Eunuch Hai, who placed it under the Emperor's wrist, and Huanan passed a damp towel to Yun Jinnian to wash her hands.

After washing her hands, Yun Jinnian sat on a cushioned stool by the bed and carefully took the Emperor's pulse.

"Your Majesty's body has no serious ailments, but you are very weak. You need proper care and treatment!"

Having said that, Yun Jinnian stood up, opened a porcelain bottle, poured one pill onto the jade cup on the table, and handed it to Eunuch Hai, "Crush it, use one-fifth of it with warm water, and have His Majesty take it. His Majesty does not need to drink any other medicine tonight, I will come again early tomorrow!"

"Yes!" Eunuch Hai responded respectfully.

Looking at the pill in the jade cup, he saw the Empress and Yun Jinnian out of Yangxin Hall.

He then personally crushed the pill, divided one-fifth of it, and mixed it with warm water, releasing a sudden, cool scent of lotus flowers throughout the sleeping chamber.

Eunuch Hai exclaimed in surprise, "Could this be a pill made from the Snow Lotus?"

Chapter 584: Lian Ge Appears

The Emperor, upon hearing the news, did not show the same surprise as Eunuch Hai.

He knew that Yun Jinnian had an insect that could locate the Snow Lotus of Tian Mountain and that Yun Jinnian could concoct pills...

Could such a young girl do it?

She probably couldn't, unless she was a genius, otherwise how could it be possible?

Eunuch Hai dissolved the pills in warm water, and the fragrance of lotus filled the chamber even more, deeply inhaling the cool and refreshing scent made one feel clear-headed and extremely comfortable.

Such precious pills, to consume one would definitely prolong life.

He attended to the Emperor and he drank it.

The Emperor waved his hand, signaling him to leave, and Eunuch Hai respectfully withdrew, leaving the Emperor alone.

The Emperor had just lost such a significant figure and wanted some peace and quiet; he certainly did not wish for anyone to attend to him.

When Eunuch Hai left Yangxin Hall, the nine princes were standing to one side, as soon as his eldest son stepped forward, "Eunuch Hai, how is the Emperor now?"

Now, the eldest prince, the second prince, the third prince, and the fourth prince were all married and had established their own households outside the palace, while the fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth princes still resided within the palace.

"The Emperor has taken his medicine and is resting now, the princes should return first, the Emperor is not in a good mood at the moment..."

The rest Eunuch Hai didn't say, but the princes understood perfectly.

When the Emperor was in a bad mood, to seek an audience was simply asking for trouble.

"Thank you for the advice, Eunuch Hai!" The eldest prince said, and giving Eunuch Hai a slight fist salute, he led the other princes out of the palace.

The fifth prince and the sixth prince's mother was Noble Consort, with the fifth prince, Chu Liange, seventeen this year, handsome and refined, elegant and smart, he was very much liked by the Emperor.

And because he lived in the palace, he knew a bit about the affairs of Yangxin Hall and did not hesitate to take his fifteen-year-old brother, Chu Lianzhen, back to their residence.

"Brother Five, do you think that Miss Yun the Fourth is really that amazing?" Chu Lianzhen asked.

He was very curious.

"She saved the Emperor today; that's a fact. Be polite to her when you see her, and don't make trouble, understand?" Chu Liange ordered sternly.

On his handsome face, there was a maturity beyond his years.

Chu Lianzhen was always obedient and nodded immediately, "I know, I'll go to Yangxin Hall early tomorrow. Maybe I'll see her!"

Chu Liange did not reply.

He ruffled Chu Lianzhen's hair, "Let's go, it's time for dinner!"

"I wasn't even feeling hungry until you mentioned it, Brother Five—I'm starving now!"

The brothers warmly enjoyed their dinner together.

In contrast to their warmth, the eldest prince was troubled.

Noble Consort had committed a mistake and was punished by the Empress Dowager to reflect in seclusion and eat a vegetarian diet.

Although the rumors had been contained, the eldest prince was still very concerned.

Weiyang Palace

The Empress and Yun Jinnian got along very well, and the Empress Dowager had bestowed two dishes from the Imperial Kitchen, which made the Empress laugh when she saw them.

"The Empress Dowager hasn't bestowed dishes to anyone for many years!" said the Empress, already laughing herself.

The Empress Dowager, once bitten by a snake, fears the rope for three years.

Because of one dish, she had fallen out of favor and since then, had stopped sending dishes to anyone.

Who would have thought that today she would bestow them on Yun Jinnian; it was like the sun rising from the west.

Yun Jinnian understood.

In the Imperial Palace, the easiest thing to poison was food, but if the Imperial Kitchen was secure, it wouldn't be that easy.

"The Empress Dowager is kind-hearted, I just don't know why she bestowed them on me today!"

"No matter why she did it, since she bestowed it on you, just eat it!"

Yun Jinnian smiled, and together with the Empress they began their meal, very composed.

After dinner, she kept the Empress company for a while before returning to the side hall, changing into a thin undergarment, and sitting by the window to read a book on poisons.

"Miss Fourth, it's getting late, you should rest soon!" Shaoyao said gently.

Chapter 585: The Show Goes On

Yun Jinnian glanced at Shaoyao and nodded slightly.

She knew that Shaoyao was to return to the Empress's side and did not plan to make things difficult for her. Setting aside her book, she washed her hands, applied the cream for her hands, and then lay down on the bed to rest.

Shaoyao waited until Yun Jinnian had fallen asleep before she returned to the Empress's bedchamber.

Yun Jinnian lay in bed, closed her eyes, and emptied her mind to sleep.

Weiyang Palace Main Sleeping Hall

The Empress had removed her heavy makeup, revealing a bare, gentle face.

"Empress, Shaoyao has returned!"

"Let her in!"

Entering the sleeping chamber, Shaoyao greeted the Empress with a bow before speaking softly, "After spending some time with the Fourth Miss, I feel that she is a very intelligent and composed youngster with a detailed mind. She is also polite and amiable towards the servants!"

"Is it her true nature, or is she just pretending?" the Empress asked.

"That, I cannot yet discern. However, today, while being measured for clothes, one of the court ladies accidentally bumped into the Fourth Miss's chest, causing her pain, yet she did not get angry. Instead, she let another lady wait until the clothes were tailor-made and delivered!"

The Empress smiled faintly, "Alright, I have taken note. You can go back now, and be diligent in your service!"

"Yes!"

In the dead of night, when all thoughts are still, only the Imperial Guards continue their patrols within the Imperial Palace, their footsteps light.

A shadow swiftly leaped across the rooftops of the palace, so fast the Imperial Guards couldn't be sure if they had seen a person or were mistaken.

"Commander?"

"Continue the patrol. I will go take a look!" Lan Yichen, gripping his Precious Sword, quickly pursued.

Yet, the harem was a forbidden place, and him, a man, appearing there at night could lead to explanations he could not make if caught.

But as the commander of the Imperial Guards, he believed the Emperor trusted him.

Lan Yichen didn't think he could catch up with the shadow and had even decided to go back when the shadow reappeared.

He hastily gave chase, and after several turns, followed the figure into an abandoned palace that had been deserted for many years.

Upon entering the palace, he was greeted by a chilling aura, and moaning could be heard from within the hall.

Lan Yichen was no green boy. He was married, frequented brothels, and had his affairs with a few young wives outside, including a young widow.

His martial arts were formidable; he was a loyal man but somewhat lascivious.

Especially in the presence of beautiful women.

Hearing the moans inside the room made his head heat up, his heart pounding violently.

His reason told him to leave, but his body uncontrollably stayed put. And having stood outside for quite a while, he did not hear any man's voice, which baffled Lan Yichen.

Go in, or leave?

Go in, or leave?

Lan Yichen hesitated, pacing around the spot several times.

Swallowing, Lan Yichen looked left and right to see no one around. He quietly pushed the door open, tiptoed into the room, and gently closed the door behind him.

He approached the woman while undressing, a starving wolf pouncing on his prey without making a sound, and forced himself upon her...

Chapter 586: Snuggling Each Other

Not far away on the rooftop, a shadow quickly departed, heading straight for Weiyang Palace.

Leaving all this behind.

The defense of Weiyang Palace was very strict, not only for the main hall, but the guards for the side halls were somewhat lax, and those watching the side halls had even dozed off.

The guards were completely unaware as a figure clad in black quietly entered the side hall's sleeping chambers.

Chu Yu's eyes grew cold: if it weren't for Yun Jinnian having to stay in the palace longer and needing the Empress's care, he would have sought an audience with the Empress to question her: was this how she treated a guest who had been brought into the palace by the Phoenix Carriage?

In the corner, a dimly lit oil lamp kept the sleeping chamber from being pitch-black.

On the large bed, Yun Jinnian was sleeping soundly on his side, hands joined and nestled under his face.

Chu Yu crouched down, his eyes intensely fixed on Yun Jinnian, and reached out to lightly stroke Yun Jinnian's nose, "Heartless one, I missed you so much I couldn't sleep, and despite the danger, I came to see you in the palace, yet here you are, sleeping so sweetly. Do you even dream of me?"

"I do, how could I not dream of you!" Yun Jinnian said as he opened his eyes and took hold of Chu Yu's hand.

During the day at Huiquan Tower, they had only been able to look at each other from a distance, without even exchanging a word.

He had felt somewhat stifled in his heart, but he did not expect him to sneak into the palace at great risk late at night. His heart instantly felt full.

Grabbing Chu Yu's hand, he placed it under his face, pressing against his own tender cheeks, "Knowing full well the dangers of the Imperial Palace, why did you still come?"

"I missed you!" Chu Yu said, his eyes shining even more brightly.

Looking at Yun Jinnian's soft, small face, he grinned, revealing his white teeth, looking like a fool with his smile.

Yun Jinnian felt a softness in his heart.

Feeling an itch in his hand to do something, he reached out to touch Chu Yu's face, asking out of curiosity, "Why didn't you wear a mask?"

"With my martial arts skills, how many places can stop me?" Chu Yu asked with a smile, winking at Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian thought about it and agreed.

Chu Yu's martial arts were indeed formidable.

Seeing him crouching by the bed, worried that his legs would soon get sore and cramp, Yun Jinnian shifted his body inward, "Come lie on the bed, let's talk!"

Hearing this, Chu Yu was delighted.

It just so happened that he too had things to say to Yun Jinnian, and immediately lay down beside Yun Jinnian, still fully clothed, grinning from ear to ear.

Without doing anything, both felt blissfully happy.

Lying side by side, both were very nervous.

Chu Yu was trying to find the right words to start the conversation, and so was Yun Jinnian. In their hearts, they were both somewhat reluctant to break the quiet and cosy ambiance of the room.

Yet, they couldn't fall asleep either, their minds somewhat clear but also a little muddled.

"Jinnian!" Chu Yu whispered softly,

ever so gently, as if afraid of waking Yun Jinnian.

"Hmm!"

Yun Jinnian also replied in a low voice.

"You haven't fallen asleep, have you?" Chu Yu asked, and then felt foolish for doing so.

He'd asked such an obvious question.

But at that moment, he felt as if his brain wasn't working properly.

In the hazy dimness, with his beloved right beside him, he wanted to do something, yet he didn't dare to, and shifted slightly, inching closer to Yun Jinnian...

Chapter 587: Settling Down for Life

Yun Jinnian pursed his lips, "Mm!" he responded with a sound, feeling Chu Yu draw closer, and he shifted his body accordingly.

Chu Yu suddenly rolled over and stretched out his hand to hold Yun Jinnian's waist.

He wanted to do something.

Firstly, he didn't dare, not daring to offend the girl he loved.

Secondly, he couldn't bear, couldn't bear her feeling aggrieved, and even less could he bear to take advantage of her before they were married.

Upon hearing this, Yun Jinnian truly didn't dare to move recklessly.

Then Chu Yu reached for Yun Jinnian's hand and settled it in his, lying flat.

He took a deep breath, "Has anyone in the palace been bullying you?"

With such a profound and domineering attitude, Yun Jinnian chuckled, "No!"

But in his heart, he felt warmly embraced.

In this world, how many people would care whether she had been wronged, and how many would stand up for her?

Carefully counting, there were indeed very few.

"Even with me, you needn't be afraid. If anyone dares to bully you, let Hemei and Henuan hit them back, whether they end up dead or crippled, I will support you!" said Chu Yu, tightening the grip on Yun

Jinnian's small hand, "Be careful in the palace too, don't wander around unnecessarily, and don't pay attention to those princes either, none of them are good news!"

Upon hearing his words, Yun Jinnian pursed his lips and silently laughed.

Seeing that Yun Jinnian remained silent, Chu Yu became somewhat annoyed. "I said, are you listening?"

"I am listening. I won't wander off. In the morning I will go to take the Emperor's pulse with the Empress, and then I will return with her. I just stay in the side hall to concoct medicines, at most going to the Imperial Medical Bureau..."

"You're not allowed to go to the Imperial Medical Bureau either. What's there for you amidst a bunch of men? Whatever medicine you want to concoct, just wait until later at the Wang Residence, and you can do as you wish!" As he spoke, Chu Yu leaned over and gently straightened Yun Jinnian's hair.

He looked at Yun Jinnian with a wronged expression.

"Tell me, when can we get married?"

Yun Jinnian's face turned red, "It's, it's still early!"

"I am not willing to wait any longer!"

Yun Jinnian bit his lip, thought for a moment, and then said, "Well, you have to pass three challenges. As long as Tianci, my maternal grandfather, and my mother all agree to my marrying you, you can come to propose!"

After Yun Jinnian finished speaking, his heartbeat accelerated.

When had he become so bold?

Chu Yu felt as if he had just encountered the greatest fortune in the world. Holding Yun Jinnian's face, he kissed it lightly, "This is your promise, you can't back out when the time comes!"

He quickly added another line, "I won't let you back out either!"

Yun Jinnian smiled tenderly and sweetly.

This was the first time he had laughed from the heart.

So joyful, so open-hearted and unreserved.

"If you don't leave, I won't forsake you!" Yun Jinnian gently said.

"I heard it; I really heard it. You said if I don't leave, you won't forsake me!" Chu Yu said, suddenly sitting up, jumping down from the carriage, and kneeling on one knee before Yun Jinnian, "I, Chu Yu, swear that no matter what happens in this life, I will never abandon Yun Jinnian. If I break this oath, may I be struck by lightning!"

Yun Jinnian quickly sat up, covering Chu Yu's lips with his hand, "Don't talk nonsense!"

"But..."

"No buts. It doesn't matter if there are no promises when there is intent; if there's no intent, then no amount of promises mean anything," Yun Jinnian said as he got off the bed and helped Chu Yu up.

"Let's not talk about this anymore. Let's talk about something else. Actually, when I came to the palace today, I encountered quite a few things!"

Chapter 588: Always Worried

Romance is important, but serious matters are even more so.

When Yun Jinnian said this, Chu Yu had no choice but to follow up with, "What all have you encountered?"

In fact, he had already known, and had made arrangements.

He came to the Imperial Palace, still worried Yun Jinnian might suffer losses and feel distressed.

He feared even more that she would not adapt to the life in the royal palace and suffer grievances.

Of course, he also took the opportunity to scheme against Lan Yichen.

Yun Jinnian recounted all of today's experiences, and Chu Yu listened intently, only snorting after she finished, "That old goods got lucky, actually receiving a Snow Lotus Pill from you!"

Yun Jinnian smiled without saying a word.

"However, although that old goods is vindictive, he is also grateful. Since you cured his chronic disease, he will surely help you in the palace in the future. If there is something he can't help you with, go find Eunuch Hai; he is my person!"

Yun Jinnian was utterly astonished.

Eunuch Hai was Chu Yu's person? Yet he served by the Emperor's side?

"He was given to me by the late Emperor. Rest assured, I will speak with him, and he will look after you!"

Yun Jinnian nodded in a daze.

Indeed, the Imperial Palace was filled with hidden dragons and crouching tigers.

However, the fact that Chu Yu was willing to share these matters with her indicated that he deeply trusted her.

"Also, be careful of the Empress!"

"Be careful of the Empress?" Yun Jinnian didn't understand.

The Empress had treated her quite well, although after the incidents with Pan Yuan and Eunuch An, the Empress had some suspicions about her.

"Yes, be careful of the Empress. A woman who entered the palace and became the Empress for over a decade, yet bore no princes or princesses. However, not a single concubine in the harem dares to provoke her, and she manages the harem so well that no one can find the slightest fault!" Chu Yu said, feeling slightly cold and fearing Yun Jinnian might catch a chill, he pulled a thin blanket over her, "The relationship between the Emperor and the Empress is not harmonious, but the Emperor also doesn't dare to easily depose her. The reasons include the influence of the Zhuangyong Marquis Residence and the formidable methods of the Empress!"

Yun Jinnian thought carefully and found it made sense.

Leaning into Chu Yu's embrace, his body was warm and comfortable.

Amidst the gentle warmth and fragrant softness, Chu Yu's heart raced uncontrollably.

Yet he dared not act rashly and continued, "There's another thing. Tonight, I entered the palace just as I had calculated the Imperial Guard Commander Lan Yichen and Princess Zhuang's scheme to bring a woman into the palace. That woman is Xiu Xunxun from Yangxi City, now named Le Xun, and it's because of her the Emperor broke his discipline!"

Yun Jinnian was stunned.

"Is she very beautiful?"

"A bewitching woman, not even fit to carry your shoes. You needn't concern yourself with her. However, one thing is certain, the Emperor will definitely not bear to kill her, but before she entered the palace, she was poisoned by Princess Zhuang and Noble Consort Wei with Barrenwort. I'll find the prescription for Barrenwort another day, and you see if you can develop an antidote. Then we'll rid her of the poison!"

Yun Jinnian was no fool, and instantly understood Chu Yu's plot.

She just didn't understand who Chu Yu wanted to scheme against.

"The Emperor will have no offspring from now on!"

If the Emperor would have no offspring, yet one of his consorts was pregnant, whose child would it be? Whoever got involved would be unfortunate.

Truly ruthless!

"No offspring, then no offspring it is. Anyway, he has so many children already, that's not lacking. But as for me, I am still alone!" Chu Yu said, moving closer to Yun Jinnian, "When will you marry me and bear children for me?"

At his words, Yun Jinnian felt both shy and annoyed. They had been discussing others, and suddenly the conversation turned to her.

She pushed Chu Yu away seriously and said, "I'm still young. Even if we are together in the future, we should wait until I'm seventeen or eighteen to have children..."

Chapter 589: Staying True to Our Original Aspiration

Yun Jinnian was speaking when she suddenly paused again.

She was foolish to have been led astray by Chu Yu.

Angrily, she said, "Quickly leave the palace. If you're discovered at daybreak, there will be trouble!"

Chu Yu also knew that he could not stay long.

"I'm leaving, but you still need to be careful. This side hall is guarded by only one Hidden Guard, who even sneaked off to sleep. Be more vigilant from now on, and let Hemei and Huan either set up a soft couch or make a bed on the floor within the room!"

Fortunately, it was him who came tonight. If it had been another master, and if their intention had been to take Yun Jinnian's life...

Thinking of this, Chu Yu blamed the Empress.

And thinking of that youngster Dai Hanbo, he felt even more that the Empress was not a good person.

With so many Hidden Guards at her disposal, she assigned only one to protect Yun Jinnian, clearly not giving it much thought.

"Don't trust the words of Mama Ma and Shaoyao too much. They both are utterly loyal to the Empress. Whatever they do or say represents the Empress. If you say anything wrong, it will definitely reach the Empress's ears immediately!"

Chu Yu was babbling on like an old woman.

Yun Jinnian thought of her wet nurse, who also liked to babble on like this, yet it was always so warm.

She simply nodded obediently, showing that she had heard and remembered.

"Remember this, I'm leaving now!" Chu Yu said, reluctant to part.

As long as Yun Jinnian asked him to stay, he would definitely stay at all costs.

But Yun Jinnian just sat at the edge of the bed, watching him quietly and tenderly.

Chu Yu sighed, jumped out of the window, quickly climbed onto the roof, and swiftly left the palace.

Yun Jinnian walked slowly to the window, watching the direction in which Chu Yu had disappeared, slowly curving her lips into a comfortable and content smile.

Taking out a small pouch from within her clothes, she untied it, took out a bead, and fondled it gently in her palm, filled with joy so profound it needed no words.

It wasn't until dawn showed its first light and without hearing any other noises within the Imperial Palace that she felt reassured to go back to sleep.

...

***After the intense and entwined pleasure, Lan Yichen's steps were light as he walked.

On the luxurious carpet, a woman lay sleeping soundly.

When daylight came, he saw her appearance clearly, seductively beautiful, the kind that makes one yearn to possess her fiercely.

But, he also remembered that she was the Emperor's woman.

He quietly and swiftly left the abandoned palace.

Luckily, his martial arts skills were formidable, so he wasn't discovered. However, the Imperial Guards knew he had been missing the entire night.

Everyone speculated about what he had been up to but didn't dare to ask.

Yet, seeing his light, overindulgent gait, they were very curious and whispered among themselves.

Weiyang Palace

Yun Jinnian slept so deeply that she felt even more rested when she woke up, especially because of the cool morning.

Shaoyao had already paced several circuits outside, not daring to make a sound.

Hemei and Henuan stood quietly to one side.

"Has the Fourth Miss not yet risen?" Shaoyao asked.

"Mhm, she might be extra tired from yesterday, so she's sleeping longer. Sister Shaoyao, please wait a bit longer," Hemei said softly.

They were afraid of waking Yun Jinnian.

It was rare for Yun Jinnian to sleep in.

"Then let's wait a bit longer!" said Shaoyao, pursing her lips.

Then, from inside the room, Yun Jinnian's voice called, "Hemei, Henuan!"

After getting dressed and eating breakfast, she went to pay respects to the Empress, and then they proceeded together to the Yangxin Hall.

"Did you sleep well last night?" the Empress asked gently.

"Well," was the simple and clear reply.

Chu Yu's assessment of the Empress was not without reason.

However, she was Dai Hanmi's aunt, and Yun Jinnian didn't want to treat her with a heart full of scheming suspicion.

Upon reaching the Yangxin Hall.

Many people were already standing outside Yangxin Hall, men and women, masters and servants. Yun Jinnian looked around, furrowing her brows slightly...

Chapter 590: Thoughts Shift Slightly

Indeed, a virtuous wife, filial sons, and daughters, to have come so early, it somewhat makes her and the Empress seem late.

Since they have all arrived, where is the Fifth Prince, Chu Liange?

Yun Jinnian thought of this, her body stiffened, her footsteps faltered, and she almost fell.

Hemei, following by her side, was quick to support Yun Jinnian. Seeing Yun Jinnian's face turn pale and beads of sweat forming on her forehead, she worriedly called out in a low voice, "Miss?"

Because it was cool in the morning, the Empress had suggested walking over to enjoy the scenery of the Imperial Palace.

Looking back, she would have preferred to ride in a sedan chair.

Upon hearing this, the Empress looked towards Yun Jinnian, "What's the matter?"

Yun Jinnian shook her head and took a silk handkerchief to wipe her forehead, "Thank you for your concern, Your Majesty, I am fine!"

"That's good, if you don't feel well, you must speak up!" the Empress said, pausing for a moment, "Did you not sleep well last night?"

"No, I slept very well last night!" Yun Jinnian said, lowering her eyes.

She decided that later on she would keep her head down and avoid looking at people.

That way, she wouldn't have to see Chu Liange.

In her past life, he had brought her such misery. In this life, she must stay as far away from him as possible.

Thinking of this, Yun Jinnian was astonished.

She no longer harbored such deep resentment.

It seemed she had come to terms with it, and even let it go.

"This subject has seen the Empress!"

Everyone paid their respects, yet their voices were surprisingly uniform.

"Rise," the Empress said warmly.

Her eyes swept over Yun Jinnian, who was keeping her head down, and her puzzlement only increased.

Yun Jinnian bowed her head even further, "This subject has seen all the noble ladies, good evening to you, and has seen all the Princes..."

"Jinnian, no need for such formality, let's go inside and see the Emperor for his consultation!" the Empress spoke softly, stopping Yun Jinnian from continuing to greet the Princes, the consorts of the Princes, and the Princesses.

"Yes!"

Yun Jinnian hurriedly replied and followed the Empress into Yangxin Hall.

The consorts, Princes, and Princesses were all very curious. This Miss Yun, who had dared to talk back to Head Physician Pan yesterday, was keeping her head low today?

It puzzled them greatly.

Chu Liange stood beside the Noble Consort, covering his chest with his hand.

He felt an ache and tightness in his chest since the moment he saw Miss Yun appear, as though he had lost something vitally important, which no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't retrieve.

He was also puzzled. What did this Miss Yun look like? Why was she always keeping her head down?

No one understood.

Yun Jinnian followed the Empress into Yangxin Hall, where the Palace Maids and eunuchs immediately bowed, "We have seen the Empress and Miss Yun!"

The Empress, in her pride, did not spare them an extra glance, and Yun Jinnian kept her head down.

They entered the bedchamber.

The Emperor had already risen and was now leaning against the headboard.

"This consort has seen the Emperor!"

Respectful and indifferent, showing concern on the surface, but not in the heart.

The Emperor saw it clearly and nodded faintly, looking at Yun Jinnian with her head down, "What's the matter? Did you not sleep well last night?"

Yun Jinnian, startled by his voice, quickly gathered her spirits and approached to bow, "I have seen the Emperor! I am fine, and I slept very well last night. It's just that I suddenly thought of the poison in the Emperor's body, perhaps there is another way to nourish the Poisonous Insect back to health, so I was a bit distracted!"

Having said this, Yun Jinnian was somewhat impressed with herself.

When it came to lying, she could do so with an unwavering face.

"It's kind of you to be so considerate!"

Though still quite weak, the Emperor had improved a lot after taking the Snow Lotus Pills given by Yun Jinnian.

Eunuch Hai immediately prepared everything, watching Yun Jinnian as she wiped her hands to take the Emperor's pulse.

After a short while, Yun Jinnian finally said, "Emperor, I need to draw some blood again later!"