

Indulgence 661

Chapter 661: Chu Yu Injured

Upon reaching a serene courtyard, Yun Jinnian caught sight of Luoyi.

"Luoyi?"

"Miss Yun from the Yun Family?"

Yun Jinnian was astonished.

If Luoyi was here, could the injured person be Chu Yu?

Instantly, her entire being felt unwell.

Her complexion also turned somewhat pale, "Luoyi, your master?"

"The master has passed the critical period, Miss Yun, please!"

Before Luoyi could finish speaking, Yun Jinnian had already run inside.

Luoyi stood there, smiling for the first time.

The ever-steady Miss Yun, who was like an old lady, actually hastened with an eager trot...

Abbot Wuxin watched with a smile, "Amitabha, the pure land of Buddhism, how good, how good!"

Knowing that Yun Jinnian wouldn't attend to him for a while, he returned to his meditation room to chant scriptures.

Yun Jinnian ran into the meditation room.

It was only a short while, but she was already covered in sweat.

Seeing Chu Yu struggling to sit up in bed, her eyes reddened, and she went forward to support his arm.

Chu Yu looked at Yun Jinnian and smiled.

Having not seen her for half a month, he missed her dearly.

Seeing her with reddened eyes, he felt deeply distressed.

"Jinnian..."

He intended to be strong, but he was still too weak.

"Don't talk, just lie down peacefully, let me check on you..." Yun Jinnian said, aiding Chu Yu to lie back down.

Only then did she seriously take Chu Yu's pulse.

Though Chu Yu's pulse was weak, his life was no longer in danger, allowing Yun Jinnian to finally feel at ease.

"How did you get injured?"

"I..." Chu Yu hesitated.

Thinking of Zhou Yunshen who had been injured as well, Yun Jinnian looked at Chu Yu, "Did you go to assassinate someone from the Great Zhou Kingdom?"

Chu Yu pursed his lips.

Feeling extremely guilty, he dared not meet Yun Jinnian's gaze.

Moving his mouth, he was at a loss for words.

"Why are you so foolish? He came on his own, what does it have to do with you? Why risk your life for it? If something happened to you, what should I do? Should I accompany you on the Nether Road, or should I barely scrape by a living alone, pining for you for the rest of my life?"

As Yun Jinnian spoke, her eyes grew increasingly red.

And the pain became increasingly intense.

Looking on, Chu Yu was filled with immense regret, "Jinnian, I was wrong!"

Upon learning why Zhou Yunshen had come, how could he sit idly by? He immediately attempted to assassinate Zhou Yunshen, never expecting that Zhou Yunshen would be surrounded by numerous experts. He was also lucky that his martial arts had greatly advanced over the past year; otherwise, he truly wouldn't have survived to return.

"Knowing your mistake is good, but if you do it again, I swear, if you throw away your life like that, I will definitely marry someone else, I won't stay for you, I will definitely..."

Chu Yu did not want to hear the rest, raising his hand to cover Yun Jinnian's lips, preventing her from continuing.

Yun Jinnian bit his palm, "Since you don't want me to marry someone else, then live well, live peacefully and take me home to become the Princess!"

She truly yearned for a home, longed to leave the Yun Family.

The Yun Family was truly too desolate, like a hellish place.

She couldn't bear staying there for a moment longer.

Chu Yu smiled, "Alright, I will swiftly bring you home!"

Yun Jinnian held Chu Yu's hand, asking softly, "Then I will wait!"

The two sat quietly together.

Without speaking, yet in perfect harmony.

After a while, Yun Jinnian asked, "Do you still have any Blood Lotus Pills left?"

"No, they're all gone. I've finished them!"

Luckily, there were Blood Lotus Pills; otherwise, he wouldn't have made it.

"I brought some with me when I left, originally meant for the Abbot. I'll give them to you first. As for the Abbot, I will talk to him, let Luoyi go with Henuan to the Han Residence to fetch them. As for the Blood Lotus, I've also boiled some for you to eat!"

Chu Yu burst into laughter, "Please don't, let the Abbot have the Blood Lotus. These past few days, that old baldy has been reciting scriptures by my side all day, nearly annoying me to death!"

Chapter 662: Proactive Disclosure

Yun Jinnian couldn't help but crack a smile.

"What did the abbot find fault with you for?"

"He berated me for wasting the Blood Lotus!"

Yun Jinnian was startled for a moment, feeling utterly helpless, "You eat yours; the abbot will have no shortage!"

"That old baldy has been generous with you!" Chu Yu said, a hint of jealousy in his voice.

Had it not been for Yun Jinnian's sake, Abbot Wuxin would probably have already made his move to snatch it.

"Don't call the abbot that; he's a highly accomplished monk!" Yun Jinnian spoke softly, pulling up Chu Yu's covers, "Rest well, I'll be right here watching over you!"

"You're not leaving?" Chu Yu asked in a gentle voice.

"Mmm!"

Seeing Yun Jinnian nod, Chu Yu breathed a sigh of relief, "I promise I won't do anything foolish again!"

Yun Jinnian remained silent.

This wasn't the first time Chu Yu had encountered danger.

"Since you've said so, I'll believe you, but I hope you keep your word!" Yun Jinnian paused before continuing, "As the Saintess of the Moonwatching Sect, even if it's just for the sake of the sect, I will marry and bear children!"

It wouldn't be with Chu Yu, then it must be with someone else.

It was a promise she made to the Patriarch and others, and she had to fulfill it.

She also hoped that Chu Yu would understand and not do anything foolish. Let Zhou Yunshen come to Tianchu Country if he must, just ignore him!

But considering Chu Yu went to great lengths to attempt Zhou Yunshen's assassination, it seemed like Zhou Yunshen's arrival in Tianchu Country might have touched Chu Yu's sore spot, prompting him to want him dead.

She added, "Next time you undertake a dangerous task, take more people with you. With proper preparation, you won't leave any loose ends!"

Chu Yu nodded with a smile.

"I'll listen to you!"

Closing his eyes, it wasn't long before he fell into a peaceful sleep.

Yun Jinnian looked at him and sighed.

No matter how strong he appeared to be, he couldn't hide his fragile heart.

He must have been restless these days.

Yun Jinnian felt heartache for Chu Yu. She sat by his side, watching him sleep, then got up to open the window, let some fresh air into the room, and then closed it again.

She returned to the bedside, lay down with eyes closed to rest, but soon fell asleep herself.

When they awoke, the rain seemed to fall even heavier, pattering on the glazed tiles. Yun Jinnian stood up, noticed that Chu Yu was still sleeping deeply, and touched his forehead to check his temperature,

which was normal. After tucking him in, she opened the room door. Luoyi quickly approached and whispered, "Fourth Miss, is the master...?"

"He's asleep. Go prepare some porridge, call him for a meal later and then he can sleep again!"

"Yes!"

Luoyi went down to carry out the order.

Turning back, Yun Jinnian saw that Chu Yu had awakened.

Groggily getting out of bed, Yun Jinnian hurried forward, "I'll support you!"

"I'm heading to the refectory; you go freshen up first. We'll have a meal together later!"

Yun Jinnian felt her face flush, hastily agreeing before turning to run off.

Chu Yu watched Yun Jinnian's retreating figure and began to smile with joy.

Upon returning to the monastery, the room had been tidied. "Miss, you're back!"

"What's up?"

"The abbot said to seek him at the Dharma Academy as soon as you return," Hemei spoke earnestly.

Yun Jinnian clearly understood what Abbot Wuxin was implying.

Shaking her head with a chuckle, "Get ready, take the things, and we'll meet with Abbot Wuxin!"

"Yes!"

Upon learning that Yun Jinnian had arrived, Abbot Wuxin smiled from ear to ear, "Yun benefactor, please come in, this old monk has been awaiting you for quite some time!"

Yun Jinnian smiled, handing the brocade box to Abbot Wuxin, "This box holds the Blood Lotus, with twenty Blood Lotus Pills inside, and also thirty Snow Lotus Pills!"

"Good, good, good!"

Abbot Wuxin joyfully accepted them.

Yun Jinnian then spoke solemnly and apologetically, "Abbot, I've done something that wronged you!"

Chapter 663: A Change of Heart

Abbot Wuxin paused upon hearing this, guessed what was being implied, and smiled without speaking.

"Abbot, I can not only copy texts, but I also have a photographic memory. Back in the Scripture Pavilion, I read both the 'Marrow-Cleansing Sutra' and the 'Tendon-Altering Sutra.' When I went to Nanjiang, I taught them to my brother Tianci!"

As Yun Jinnian spoke, he lowered his head.

Abbot Wuxin's smile grew even more warm and kind, "Hmm, the old monk understands!"

"..."

Yun Jinnian was astonished. Shouldn't there be a few words of reprimand?

"It's a trivial matter. Considering that your brother could grasp the 'Tendon-Altering Sutra' and the 'Marrow-Cleansing Sutra,' his natural talent must be good. Whenever you can, bring him to Huguo Temple, and I will accept him as a lay disciple. No matter what Martial Arts he's learned, it won't matter then!"

As Abbot Wuxin spoke, he poured out a medicinal pill and sniffed it.

The rich fragrance of the Snow Lotus was lingering and unforgettable, "Good, very good!"

Yun Jinnian sighed.

Abbot Wuxin didn't blame him, probably because of the Blood Lotus!

But no matter what, she was the one at fault first.

"Abbot, are there any other sutras that you need me to copy?" Yun Jinnian asked.

Abbot Wuxin shook his head, pondered for a moment, and then said, "There's nothing that needs repairing. However, I do have a book here that's many years old, seemingly a Martial Arts Manuscript, but it's missing a few pages. Take it and see if you can complete it or find the latter volume!"

He was a monk.

He could not practice external martial skills, so keeping it was of no use to him, might as well give it to Yun Jinnian.

"Thank you, Abbot!" Yun Jinnian quickly stood up to pay his respects.

She might not need it, but Chu Yu and Tianci could make use of it.

Abbot Wuxin chuckled, "Silly child, if you're free in the next few days, come and recite sutras with this old monk!"

"Yes!"

After leaving the Dharma Academy, Yun Jinnian went to have dinner with Chu Yu, took his pulse, watched him take his medicine, and then returned to her meditation cell to rest.

Meanwhile, Zhou Yunshen had Teng Fei secretly scout the monastery at night, only to be ambushed by Yun Jinnian's four Hidden Guards and wounded!

"Hemei, what happened?" Yun Jinnian sat up, groggily asking.

"Miss, it's that guard from Master Zhou's side; he was injured by Dahan and the others!"

Out of the twenty-four solar terms, twenty went out, leaving four to covertly protect Yun Jinnian. Though Teng Fei was formidable, these twenty-four people were personally trained by the Honorable Law-Master, and while they might be simple-minded, their skills were top-notch.

Even one-on-one, Teng Fei might not have an advantage, let alone four against one.

"Tell him to go back, I'll go check on his master's pulse tomorrow!" Yun Jinnian said and then lay down again.

If a person's heart goes astray, it usually veers off significantly.

Just like hers!

Henuan promptly left to persuade Teng Fei to leave.

Teng Fei returned to Zhou Yunshen's side, hesitating about how to begin.

How should he say it? He could tell that Miss Yun didn't take his master seriously at all.

"Master..."

"I know, go on!"

Zhou Yunshen's voice was faint as he closed his eyes.

There was nothing that needed to be said; he already knew everything.

"Yes!"

Teng Fei withdrew, somewhat worried for Zhou Yunshen.

Being accustomed to high status, suddenly encountering someone who did not like him, he might find it hard to accept.

After Teng Fei had left, Zhou Yunshen spoke softly after a while, "What should I do with you?"

He wanted her person, and he wanted her heart, too.

So this time, no matter what means he used, he had to bring her back to Great Zhou Kingdom.

Be it a concubine or the Crown Princess Consort, if he loved her, even a mere palace concubine would be the most noble in Great Zhou Kingdom.

If he did not love her, what good was it to be the Crown Princess Consort? It was nothing but an empty title.

Chapter 664: Bound to Win

It was barely dawn,

when Yun Jinnian rose from his bed.

Dressed in simple yet refined attire, and forgoing elaborate hair ornaments for a few sandalwood hairpins, he first attended to Chu Yu's wounds, then joined him for breakfast.

"Will you be treating that odious ghost later?"

Yun Jinnian nodded slightly, "Yes!"

"Is it possible for you not to go?" Chu Yu asked softly.

"Impossible!"

Chu Yu was annoyed.

He grabbed the porridge and took an agitated sip.

Watching him, Yun Jinnian sighed and said, "If I didn't know about it, it would be another matter, but now that I do, it would be utterly irresponsible not to go, especially given his status. Don't worry; I will be back soon!"

"You mustn't exceed two hours!"

"Agreed!"

Yun Jinnian did not find Chu Yu's childishness and possessiveness annoying; on the contrary, he found it endearing.

Feeling cared for was heartwarming.

Upon arriving at Zhou Yunshen's meditation chamber, Teng Fei came out to greet him, "Miss Yun!"

"Hm, is your master awake yet?" Yun Jinnian asked indifferently.

"He is, and Masters Yuan and Bai are here too!"

Though Yun Jinnian did not know who these two were, he still nodded and entered the room. Seeing the two scholarly elders, he respectfully executed a junior's salute.

Masters Yuan and Bai were revered figures with many disciples throughout Great Zhou. Seeing Yun Jinnian's young age paired with such exceptional medical skills and his cultured demeanor, they regarded him with heightened admiration.

"Is Young Master Zhou feeling better today?" Yun Jinnian asked, his eyes tranquil, showing only a doctor's concern for his patient.

There were no other emotions.

"After taking the pills you provided, I am much improved!" Zhou Yunshen said, motioning to a stool nearby, inviting Yun Jinnian to sit.

Yun Jinnian nodded and took a seat before suggesting, "Then, Young Master Zhou, let me take your pulse!"

"All right!"

Zhou Yunshen's injuries were serious, but they had improved after taking the Snow Lotus Pill.

"Young Master Zhou's injury is not life-threatening. As long as you rest and recuperate carefully, once the internal and external injuries have healed, I will treat the cold poison in your body!"

"Thank you!"

"Doing this comes with being a doctor; there is no need for politeness, Young Master Zhou. However, for the time being, it's best if you remain in bed. The outside is cold and not suitable for aimless wandering, but also don't keep the doors and windows of your room shut all the time. Breathe in fresh air and maintain a cheerful disposition. Your injuries will heal faster this way!" Yun Jinnian kindly advised.

He hoped Zhou Yunshen would heed his advice and not roam around recklessly,

lest he discover Chu Yu was also at Huguo Temple and subsequently find out Chu Yu was his assailant, causing a scene that would spiral out of control!

"Will Miss Yun come again tomorrow?" Zhou Yunshen asked eagerly,

fearing Yun Jinnian would not return.

"I will, I'll come daily after reciting the morning scriptures, so there's no need for Young Master Zhou to send someone for me!"

"Good!"

"Well then, Young Master Zhou, I should be going now!"

Zhou Yunshen wanted to ask Yun Jinnian to stay, but seeing his detached demeanor, he knew he couldn't force it and reluctantly nodded, "Okay, see you tomorrow!"

"See you tomorrow!"

Yun Jinnian left at a leisurely pace, neither too fast nor too slow.

Once he was out of sight, Zhou Yunshen said, "Such a woman, so serene and unlike a thirteen-year-old girl!"

Masters Yuan and Bai remained silent.

Teng Fei too was silent.

"I'm quite curious as to what kind of family has raised such an exquisite person," Zhou Yunshen mused, playing with the ring on his finger.

"Teng Fei!"

"Present!"

"Send a homing pigeon back. Summon a hundred Elite Guards here!"

Zhou Yunshen gave the carefree command, but Teng Fei was shocked speechless.

"My lord..."

The Elite Guard were meticulously trained by the Empress herself, serving as the lord's final stronghold, never to be revealed unless absolutely necessary.

Chapter 665: Hanmi Gives Advice)

And there were only one hundred Elite Guards!

"What, you won't obey my orders?" Zhou Yunshen asked indifferently.

Teng Fei shook his head, "Your subordinate wouldn't dare!"

"Since you wouldn't dare, go give the orders!"

Yun Jinnian, he was determined to have her.

No matter what it took.

Teng Fei looked on, took a deep breath, "Yes!" He replied, then turned to give the orders.

But his heart was filled with sighs.

It was just about Miss Yun the Fourth, was she really worth all this trouble?

Yes, Miss Yun was beautiful, as stunning as a celestial being, with unparalleled medical skills, unmatched under the heavens. However, she didn't harbor any feelings for his master.

That was the crux of the matter!

For several days in a row, Yun Jinnian first followed Abbot Wuxin to do morning Sutras, then went to feel Zhou Yunshen's pulse, and afterwards returned to accompany Chu Yu.

As one was healing, Yun Jinnian helped copy those tattered Sutras, with Chu Yu grinding the ink on the side; their days were truly comfortable and pleasant.

Capital City

Zhuangyong Marquis Residence

Once Dai Hanmi learned that Yun Jinnian had gone to Huguo Temple, she kept urging Dai Hanbo to go to the temple.

Dai Hanbo held a book, his mind already wandering far away.

"Big brother, are you going or not?" Dai Hanmi asked eagerly.

Dai Hanbo came back to his senses, looked at Dai Hanmi, "If I go, I'll bring troubles to Jinnian. If I don't go, I can't go either!"

Dai Hanmi held her forehead.

Her foolish big brother!

"Big brother, don't blame me for not reminding you in the future. To like someone, if you're not proactive, you'll regret it for a lifetime. Moreover, Jinnian isn't someone who would take the initiative. If you're not more proactive, be careful that she might be wooed away by someone else!"

The thought of Yun Jinnian marrying someone else caused Dai Hanbo profound heartache.

It made him feel terrible.

"But, but, if I take the initiative and she still doesn't like me, and I end up troubling her, what should I do?"

Indecisiveness plagued him.

Dai Hanmi took a deep breath, and then another deep breath, "Then you decide whether or not to go to Huguo Temple. If you do go, I'll accompany you. With me there, you'll definitely get to see Jinnian. More encounters might just make things work out!"

Having said that, she no longer paid attention to Dai Hanbo and clomped away to play.

Dai Hanmi was smart and knew that being a daughter was different from being a daughter-in-law. Besides, the Dai Family had a reputation for integrity, and the men did not take concubines. But how many men in the world could be like the Dai Family men?

There would be none.

So she might as well laugh freely while she could, create as much ruckus as she pleased.

Her family would pamper her, in the future...

"Hehe!"

Dai Hanmi chuckled.

She truly wished she could remain unmarried forever, stay at home, and be the darling of her parents.

After pondering for a while, Dai Hanbo thought there was reason in what Dai Hanmi said. He immediately stood up and went to chase after her.

But he saw Dai Hanmi laughing unrestrainedly in the garden, and he too started smiling, "Little sister!"

"Big brother?"

"Let's go to Huguo Temple together!" he said.

Dai Hanmi covered her mouth and chuckled, "That's more like it. Wait for me, I'll go tell grandmother. We can pretend to go to offer incense and prayers for grandmother and have an accidental encounter. I'll stay with Jinnian, and you'll have your chance!"

"Good!"

Dai Hanmi hopped and skipped away to find the Old Lady Dai, while Dai Hanbo looked on with a warm heart.

He truly hoped his little sister would always be this happy and joyous.

Forever like this.

When Old Lady Dai heard that Dai Hanmi and Dai Hanbo wanted to go to Huguo Temple, she was slightly taken aback, "Why suddenly go to Huguo Temple? It's been raining these past few days!"

Dai Hanmi whispered a few words into Old Lady Dai's ear, and Old Lady Dai laughed, "I see. Then go, make sure you're well-prepared. Bring enough things, and even more importantly, don't skimp on attendants. You must go safely, and return safely!"

Chapter 666: The Grandmother Advises Her Grandson

Dai Old Madam is a very mild and doting elderly lady who adores the younger generations.

At many times, she is very rational and never spoils any of her younger relatives. Even towards herself, she is often restrained.

She is firmly resolved not to do anything that might come across as taking advantage of her age.

She knows and supports Dai Hanbo's feelings, as a grandmother, but when it comes to fate, no one can be completely sure.

Therefore, she is very supportive of Dai Hanbo and Dai Hanmi going to Huguo Temple.

"Grandmother, you're truly kind!" Dai Hanmi said joyfully.

"Go and arrange it. Have your third brother come here; I want to talk to him!" Dai Old Madam said kindly.

"Yes!"

Dai Hanmi went to invite Dai Hanbo. Dai Hanbo quickly came, paid his respects, and said, "I have seen Grandmother!"

"Bobo, sit beside Grandmother. I want to talk to you," she said.

The maids and old women saw this and withdrew from the room.

Dai Hanbo respectfully sat down beside Dai Old Madam, "Grandmother, what are your orders?"

"Silly child, your Grandmother is now enjoying her twilight years, I don't have much to command anymore. However, now that your older brothers are both married, only you remain single, I can't help but worry about you a little more!"

"Your grandson is unfilial!"

Dai Old Madam shook her head, "Nonsense, all of you boys are filial. It's just that you've always been decisive, and our family is enlightened. On many matters, we have sought each of your consents. Your older brothers chose their own brides before your mother went out to propose the marriage. You are naturally the same; Grandmother will absolutely not force you, nor allow anyone else to force you!"

Dai Hanbo listened attentively.

He felt a warmth in his heart.

"Grandmother, thank you!" Dai Hanbo said sincerely, holding Dai Old Madam's hand.

"Silly child, Grandmother knows your thoughts and supports you wholeheartedly. But I also want to tell you that the men of the Dai Family are all responsible and broad-minded. They do not consider gains and losses too seriously but care whether they have fought for it or not. Isn't that right?"

Hearing this, Dai Hanbo already understood what his grandmother wanted to say.

She wanted to advise him not to take it to heart whether he ends up together with Yun Jinnian; what mattered was that he had tried. If it's meant to be, it's fate.

If not, it just means the fate isn't sufficient.

"Grandmother, I understand!"

"I know you are a good child and that you are sensible. But love in this world, although invisible and intangible, can be the most tormenting. I don't want you to get stuck in a dead end in the future!"

Dai Hanbo smiled, "Don't worry, Grandmother, I won't. No matter the outcome, as you said, I have tried. If the fate isn't enough, at least we have met, she has called me 'Third Brother', and even if we can't become husband and wife, I will treat her like a sister, just as I do with Mimi, and care for her for a lifetime!"

But this was only for others to see.

In his heart, it definitely felt different, for deep love and doting are not the same!

Dai Old Madam looked at Dai Hanbo, her heart aching profoundly, "If Grandmother goes to ask her, and she agrees, I really wish..."

Upon hearing this, Dai Hanbo became very anxious and quickly interrupted Dai Old Madam, saying urgently, "Please, don't, Grandmother. Don't force her, and don't embarrass her. She hasn't had it easy these years, she has endured too much hardship, shed too many tears. I can't trouble her under the

guise of love. Even if one day in the future, we could be together, I hope she marries me willingly, with me in her heart, not because of external influences. I can't bear..."

Chapter 667: Going to Wushuang

Dai Elder Madam laughed upon hearing this and felt at ease.

"Good child, Grandmother did not misjudge you. Go on, accompany Hanmi to Huguo Temple. Grandmother has high hopes for you!"

"Thank you, Grandmother!"

After coming out from Dai Elder Madam's courtyard, Dai Hanbo's mind suddenly became clear, but also began to ache.

He had a premonition that he and Yun Jinnian would no longer have a chance to be together.

From now on, he really could only see Yun Jinnian as a sister.

Dai Hanmi was ready and came over to call for Dai Hanbo. Seeing Dai Hanbo's dispirited look, she was taken aback, "Third Brother, what's wrong with you?"

Dai Hanbo smiled, "Nothing!"

"Really, nothing? What did Grandmother say to you?" Dai Hanmi pressed on.

She felt that something was not quite right, but she couldn't tell what it was.

"It's nothing, let's go so as not to be caught by darkness on the way to Huguo Temple!"

"Okay!"

On the way to Huguo Temple.

A carriage braved the rain, pressing forward.

Inside the carriage, Feng Wushuang made a move with a chess piece.

Since childhood, he knew what he wanted, so he never felt inferior and always strived for better.

But in this world, having ambition does not guarantee success.

Coming from his hometown to the Capital City, he saw too much of human fickleness and the world's cold reality.

Yun Jinnian was like a warm ray of sunlight, warming his heart, marrow, and soul in the coldness of those days.

This was something he would never dare to forget in this lifetime.

Learning that she had gone to Huguo Temple, he took leave under the pretext of praying for his mother's blessings and headed to Huguo Temple.

For a woman like Yun Jinnian, he had to employ every trick, exhaust every effort, seize every opportunity to meet her,

hoping to leave behind his shadow in her eyes.

"Sir, the rain is getting heavier. Should we find a place to take shelter?" asked the carriage driver.

"Keep going!" Feng Wushuang uttered indifferently.

He placed another chess piece.

With silver in hand, he quickly started his own business. The restaurant was doing well, and he alongside Liao Shijie opened a bookstore, selling paintings and calligraphy of the poor Scholars who came to Capital City for the examinations. He also painted quite a few pieces for sale, hoping one day Yun Jinnian would come and pause in front of his artworks.

This gave him another chance to get close to her.

That was why he dragged Liao Shijie into doing business together.

Because of Yun Zihan's close relationship with Yun Jinnian, the Yun Family was the only place where Yun Zihan treated her as a sister.

Liao Shijie's fellow townsmen who had come for the exams also had significant expenses. With his bookstore, even if they didn't move out, they could afford to pay for their own writing supplies, and Liao Shijie had more leeway with finances.

Pressing on in the rain was very dangerous.

And indeed, the carriage got stuck in a mud pit, and Feng Wushuang nearly fell out of the carriage, scattering chess pieces all over.

"Fei Nan, what happened?"

Fei Nan was someone he bought from a slave trader, who had sold himself to afford his father's burial, skilled in martial arts and literate, with a clever and quick-witted mind.

He needed someone like that by his side, so naturally, he would take care in cultivating him.

"Sir, the carriage got stuck in a mud pit. Please wait a moment, I'll get us out quickly!" Fei Nan said as he lifted one side of the carriage with force, gave a shout, and the wheels were back on solid ground.

After washing his hands with rainwater and wringing out the water from his sleeves, he continued to drive the carriage forward.

Inside the carriage, Feng Wushuang picked up the chess pieces, lifted the carriage curtain, and looked at Fei Nan's soaked back, noticing the raincoat and straw hat set aside. He pressed his lips together and said, "Let's find a place ahead to shelter from the rain!"

Fei Nan, touched by Feng Wushuang's consideration, promptly responded, "Yes!"

Chapter 668: Cousin's Visit

When the two arrived at the shelter, several carriages were already parked outside the building, which housed quite a few groups of people. However, they each kept to themselves, busily engaged in their own affairs.

There were men and women, young and old.

One group consisted of just a few women, a coachman, and a middle-aged woman.

A few women had stretched out a piece of cloth to shield prying eyes, and behind the cloth sat a woman upright and proper.

Feng Wushuang glanced over once but did not look a second time. "Fei Nan, go get a set of clothes to change into!"

"Yes!"

Fei Nan promptly went to fetch the clothes while Feng Wushuang walked to the eaves, watching the torrential rain. He was anxious inside but showed no sign of it on his face.

He had learned to hide his emotions long ago.

It was only in front of Yun Jinnian that he was cautious, always wanting to show his best side.

After Fei Nan had changed clothes, he brought tea-making utensils from the carriage and lit a charcoal fire to boil water for Feng Wushuang's tea.

Seeing Feng Wushuang standing under the eaves for a long time, Fei Nan felt apologetic.

Once the tea was ready, he poured a cup and offered it forward, "My lord, please have some tea!"

"Hmm!"

Feng Wushuang took the tea and gently sipped a mouthful.

"You've blinded your dog eyes, daring to peep at my mistress. Do you know who she is?" an indignant female voice cried out.

"What nonsense are you spouting? Who's peeping at your mistress? As if she's a fairy, ridiculous!"

The man's voice was tinged with anger.

Perhaps he looked, perhaps he did not, but Feng Wushuang did not care for any of it.

Seeing that the rain had lessened somewhat, he said to Fei Nan, "Let's go."

"Yes!"

After Feng Wushuang and his servant had left, the others also departed one after another.

A woman with a graceful figure walked out leisurely and boarded a carriage heading in the direction of the Capital City.

Inside the carriage

"Commandery Princess, that young master just now was quite handsome, and he seems to have a high status too!" the maid softly said, her cheeks blushing pink.

Qu Mianke smiled slightly, "No matter how handsome, is he more so than Cousin Yan and Cousin Yu? Can his status compare to Cousin Yu's?"

"How can they even be compared? His Highness Prince Rui is so exalted. That young master, at best, might fit to carry His Highness's shoes!"

Qu Mianke laughed.

She felt extremely happy inside.

With the Princess away from the Capital City, Cousin Yu must be feeling lonely and isolated in the Prince Rui Residence.

Now that she was sixteen, Cousin Yu should be ready to fulfill his promise.

The thought of her wishes coming true made Qu Mianke smile with delight.

Huguo Temple

Yun Jinnian found her life simple yet full, and she grew fond of this kind of existence. After reciting sutras and taking Zhou Yunshen's pulse, she could spend time alone with Chu Yu.

As she meticulously copied the sutras, Chu Yu helped grind the ink. Occasionally, they would look up, and their eyes would meet, conveying deep affection.

Without saying much, they knew each other's thoughts.

After dinner, they strolled up the back mountain before returning to their respective meditation rooms to rest.

Chu Yu was getting healthier, and everything appeared so wonderful.

But then Dai Hanmi, Dai Hanbo, and Feng Wushuang arrived.

Feng Wushuang was the first to reach Huguo Temple. Though he did not see Abbot Wuxin, he entrusted a little monk to deliver a message to Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian felt obligated to meet with Feng Wushuang.

"Mr. Feng!"

Feng Wushuang hastily got up. Looking at Yun Jinnian dressed in plain clothes, he bowed respectfully and softly greeted, "Miss Yun!"

"Mr. Feng, what brings you to Huguo Temple?" Yun Jinnian politely inquired, keeping a distance of five steps from Feng Wushuang.

"My mother has not been feeling well lately. I came to Huguo Temple to pray for her well-being. I did not expect to find Miss Yun here. May I presumptuously ask if Miss Yun could examine my mother?"

Chapter 669: Hanbo's Suspicion

"Duty calls!"

Feng Wushuang burst into laughter.

Already extremely handsome and charming, that perfectly timed smile was indeed heart-stirring.

But not to Yun Jinnian.

"Thank you, Fourth Miss!"

"There's no need for formality, Mr. Feng. In fact, I should be thanking you for yielding the private room at Huiquan Tower to me that day, and for also helping my three half-sisters go to Xiaocheng Mountain, then escorting them home!"

"It was but a small effort; Fourth Miss, you should not take it to heart!"

Yun Jinnian laughed, "Mr. Feng, let's not continue with this back and forth of thanks. In a few days, after I return to the Capital City, I will visit your residence!"

"Good!"

After chatting for a while, Yun Jinnian left.

Feng Wushuang watched Yun Jinnian as he walked away, smiling again.

Even though they hadn't exchanged many words, he was quite satisfied; he had to attend court and couldn't linger at Huguo Temple.

As he left and bid farewell to Yun Jinnian, on his way down the mountain, he encountered Dai Hanmi and Dai Hanbo, accompanied by maids and servants, climbing uphill.

He didn't know Dai Hanmi, but he recognized Dai Hanbo.

The two greeted each other, one descending and the others, Dai Hanmi and Dai Hanbo's party, continued upwards.

"Third Brother, was that Scholar Feng just now?"

"Yes!"

"He is so handsome. If I didn't know his past, I wouldn't see any difference between him and those noble young masters from the Capital!" Dai Hanmi said, lifting her skirt to climb further.

"He is no simple man!" Dai Hanbo remarked.

"I'm aware. Such a person, appearing so gentle and gracious – his mind is full of schemes!" said Dai Hanmi, glancing back at the bearers, Minxian, and the young servant.

Taking a deep breath, she continued upward.

"Perhaps you should ride in the sedan chair," suggested Dai Hanbo.

"No need. Since we're here to pray for our grandmother's well-being, sincerity is a must. If I can't endure this little hardship, then what sincerity is there to speak of!" said Dai Hanmi, continuing to climb with her skirt hoisted up.

Dai Hanbo, holding an umbrella, nodded, "Yes, let's go together!"

By the time the two reached Huguo Temple, it had grown completely dark.

The Little Monk arranged the Zen quarters, prepared hot water, ginger soup, and vegetarian meals. After the siblings had eaten,

Dai Hanmi then said, "Third Brother, should I go see Jinnian? It's been quite some time since I last saw her!"

"If you want to go, then go. Ask the Little Monk where her Zen quarters are, and I'll take you there!"

Dai Hanmi smiled.

"Third Brother..."

The two shared an understanding.

"Yes, let's go!"

After calling the Little Monk over and inquiring, they learned of Yun Jinnian's quarters. The Little Monk led the way, with the siblings following at a leisurely pace.

"Third Brother, Huguo Temple is really vast!"

"Yes!"

"Third Brother, do you think Jinnian will be surprised to see us?"

"She will!"

Dai Hanmi laughed.

"I think so too. I'm looking forward to seeing Jinnian!"

Although she had an older sister, her sister had married early, and she only remembered her sister being very affectionate, extremely so.

But she yearned for a younger sister, one she could dote on...

And just then, Yun Jinnian appeared, saving her grandmother.

For various reasons, Yun Jinnian became her sworn sister and also her dear younger sister.

When Hemei saw Dai Hanmi, she was visibly taken aback, then smiled, "Miss Dai, your grandmother has come!"

"Where is your Miss?" asked Dai Hanmi.

"The Miss went out for a walk. Miss Dai, please come inside and wait; I'll have Henuan go find the Miss!" Hemei said, then signaled to Henuan, who immediately went out.

Dai Hanmi was quite astonished, "Is she out alone?"

"The Miss won't go far!"

As Hemei spoke, she brewed tea for Dai Hanmi and Dai Hanbo, "Miss Dai, Master Dai, please enjoy your tea."

Dai Hanmi nodded.

Yet Dai Hanbo felt perplexed.

Yun Jinnian's maids, who usually followed her every step, were not present, which was very strange...

Chapter 670: Feeling Very Good

Suddenly thinking of something, his heart plunged to the bottom of the valley, thoroughly chilled.

He also instantly understood, he had no chance at all!

"Sister Jinnian has become quite daring now, actually daring to walk alone in Huguo Temple. I wouldn't have the courage!" Dai Hanmi said as she took the teacup and sipped lightly, "This tea is so fragrant!"

Looking at Dai Hanbo, she saw he was spacing out and asked in confusion, "Third brother, why aren't you drinking?"

"I'll drink now!" Dai Hanbo hastily picked up the tea and drank.

The tea was indeed fragrant, better than any he had tried, but it was also exceptionally bitter.

With a single gulp, he felt utterly bitter, especially in his heart.

"The taste is good, isn't it!"

"Yes, it's very good!"

Dai Hanmi chuckled as she looked around Yun Jinnian's meditation room, which was bigger than the average one and also more compact. Along the wall, the shelves held Buddhist treasures, all carved from roots or precious woods, yet there were no Buddha statues of any kind.

In the incense burner, the sandalwood emitted a faint fragrance, very pleasant to smell.

The entire room was simple and elegant, yet had a touch of warmth.

On the pathway, Chu Yu was slowly walking, holding Yun Jinnian's hand and carrying a lantern to light the way. Neither of them spoke.

The silence was particularly entwining.

"Miss!"

Upon hearing the voice, Yun Jinnian turned toward Henuan, "What's the matter?"

"Miss Dai from the Zhuangyong Marquis Residence has come, she's currently in the monastery. And with her is the Third Young Master Dai!"

Yun Jinnian looked slightly taken aback, "Sister Hanmi and Third Brother came together?"

"Yes!"

"Could it be that the dowager is ill?" Yun Jinnian muttered, feeling a touch anxious inside.

Chu Yu, however, was listening to Yun Jinnian calling Dai Hanbo 'Third Brother'.

Especially after learning of Dai Hanbo's intentions, Chu Yu found this "Third Brother" quite odd, quite unpleasant to his ears.

"You call Dai Hanbo 'Third Brother'?" Chu Yu asked, his voice sharpening.

Yun Jinnian hadn't thought deeply about it; she didn't think she was particularly likable, "I'm as close as sisters with Sister Hanmi, is there a mistake in calling him 'Third Brother'?"

"There's no other meaning?" Chu Yu pressed.

Inside, he was both nervous and a bit gleeful.

Yun Jinnian didn't like Dai Hanbo, and no matter how many thoughts he had, it was futile.

"What other intentions?" Yun Jinnian retorted, taking the lantern from Chu Yu's hand, "I'm going back first. You should go back too. Let's not meet for the next couple of days, lest Sister Hanmi notices something!"

"I'll miss you!"

Chu Yu felt extremely wronged. Why couldn't he meet openly with her?

"I'll miss you too. Maybe I'll find a chance to come clean with Sister Hanmi, and we'll talk in detail then!"

"Sure!"

Chu Yu nodded vigorously, feeling delighted inside, "It's dark, and the road is difficult to navigate, be careful!"

"I know, you be careful on your way back too!" Yun Jinnian said, then followed Henuan back.

Chu Yu stood there, watching Yun Jinnian walk away.

He sighed deeply, "When can we appear before others openly and honorably?"

By that time, no matter how he treated Yun Jinnian, no one could say anything, they would only envy her for having such a good husband.

To love her, cherish her, spoil her!

Yun Jinnian returned to the monastery. Dai Hanmi, hearing the footsteps, came out of the meditation room, "Sister Jinnian, you're back!"

"Sister Hanmi!" Yun Jinnian called softly, stepping forward to take Dai Hanmi's hand, "Why have you come? Is the dowager ill?"

"Tut-tut, grandmother is well. I came with Third Brother to pray and chant for her good fortune. We heard you were here, and I immediately came to find you, but you had gone out!" Dai Hanmi spoke as she pulled Yun Jinnian into the house.