

Indulgence 671

Chapter 671: Danyan's Marriage Matter

"The Grandmother is fine, then!" Yun Jinnian breathed a sigh of relief.

Entering the room together with Dai Hanmi, upon seeing Dai Hanbo, Yun Jinnian also hurriedly performed a curtsy and greeted, "I see Third Brother!"

Her voice was clear and faint, devoid of the joy and pleasure evident upon meeting Dai Hanmi.

There was only respect and distance.

Dai Hanbo stood up, smiling as he looked at Yun Jinnian.

She seemed to have been doing well in the past days, having grown taller and fuller in the face.

The coolness in his heart had warmed up again at the sight of her.

It seemed unrelated to romantic affection, but simply because he saw her.

"Sister Jinnian!"

"Third Brother, please sit down!" Yun Jinnian said, pulling Dai Hanmi to the side to sit down, and asked softly, "Has Sister Hanmi been well recently?"

"Yes, I have been eating and sleeping well. What about you? You are now Princess Yijia, do you feel any different?"

"There's no different feeling, it's the same as before!" Yun Jinnian replied.

Dai Hanmi laughed, "But why doesn't your family hold a feast?"

"I will invite you over to play once my Princess Residence is ready!" Yun Jinnian said.

She was indifferent to whether the Yun Family hosted a feast or not.

She also did not care whether they gave rewards to the servants.

They did not treat her as a family member, and although it pained her, she could not ask for it.

When the opportunity arose in the future, she planned to leave the Yun Family.

"Great, that'll be fun! By then, everyone will belong to you, and nobody will supervise our play. It'll be more enjoyable," Dai Hanmi said, casting a glance at Dai Hanbo, who quickly stood up.

"I'll go for a walk outside!"

"Third Brother, you can go back. I'll stay with Sister Jinnian tonight!"

Yun Jinnian was genuinely welcoming, "Good!"

Dai Hanbo chuckled, "Then I will head back first."

He left Yun Jinnian's Zen Court, shaking his head with a smile, his heart feeling less gloomy.

He pondered whether he should let go or continue his persistence.

Inside the Zen Room

After watching Dai Hanbo walk away, Dai Hanmi quietly said to Yun Jinnian, "Danyan has her betrothal arranged, did you know?"

"Ah, she hasn't even had her coming-of-age ceremony..."

"That's right, I was quite curious too. But you might have heard of the man!"

Yun Jinnian raised her eyebrows slightly, "Who?"

"The Princely Heir of Hong, the only legitimate son of Prince Kang, the nephew of the current Emperor and Prince Rui, Chu Renzhi!"

Yun Jinnian was utterly surprised.

"He..."

She had seen the Princely Heir of the Kang Prince Residence.

A carefree man, known as a libertine.

She just didn't know whether he, like Chu Yu, was a libertine only in appearance, actually using it as a means to protect himself.

"Sigh, it is said that the Princely Heir took a fancy to Danyan first, sent a matchmaker to formally propose, and the occasion was grand and lively. It seems that the Princely Heir is genuinely fond of Danyan!"

"That so? Then that truly is a cause for congratulations for Sister Chen!" Yun Jinnian congratulated sincerely.

Dai Hanmi also smiled, "So once your Princess Residence is ready, hurry up and set it up, and let's go there to play. If you're short of servants for the tidying, just send a message to the Marquis Residence and I'll send someone to help you!"

"Okay!"

The Emperor was likely to bestow a few palace maids, senior maids, and eunuchs, but Yun Jinnian did not intend to rely on them.

Nevertheless, once she returned, she would need to confer with her wet nurse about going to the slave market to buy some people and have Nanny Rong train them. These people would be the ones she could trust to use in the future.

Dai Hanmi thought back to the conversation between her mother and father the other day and hesitated before saying to Yun Jinnian, "Because you saved Prince Yanjun, I heard that the Grand Commandery Princess has prepared a generous gift for you. Guess what it is?"

Chapter 672: Midnight Conversations

Yun Jinnian was very surprised, "The Commandery Princess has already given me so much!"

"Ah, you don't understand, do you? Like my family, those things we gave you are material, but saving my grandmother, do you know how much that means to us?" Dai Hanmi asked.

Yun Jinnian shook her head slightly.

She rarely ventured into the outside world, how could she know so much?

"Let me explain it to you!" Dai Hanmi took a sip of her tea before continuing, "You know that if an official from the Imperial Court loses a parent, they must observe three years of bereavement leave, right?"

"Mm!"

She did know a bit about that.

"I have three uncles, all serving away from home, and even my three aunts and cousins are not in the Capital City. You understand that if something were to happen to my grandmother, my father and three uncles would all have to observe three years of bereavement leave. Let alone three years, even three months could lead to many problems. Although my aunt is the Empress, she has no offspring, and it's already very difficult for her alone in the palace. If she lost the support of her maternal family, one can hardly imagine the consequences!"

Upon hearing this, Yun Jinnian suddenly understood.

She intended to say that the Empress's situation was not that bad, but saying that would not be believed by Dai Hanmi and might even seem like she was trying to sow discord.

"I see!"

"So, if the Princess Residence has rewards for you, just accept them graciously!"

Yun Jinnian nodded, "Mm!"

"After talking so much, I still haven't told you what the Princess Residence has prepared for you!" Dai Hanmi giggled before speaking seriously, "I heard that the Princess Residence bought two residences, each with five courtyards. Behind those residences there's a small hill, and on the other side of the small hill is a lake. The Princess Residence went to see the Emperor and asked for that small hill, planning to give it to you along with those two residences!"

"..."

Yun Jinnian was utterly surprised, her eyes wide in disbelief.

"Two five-courtyard large houses and a small hill?"

"Yes, these past days you were in the palace, so you didn't receive them, but now that you have left the palace, these large houses will soon be yours!"

"I...!"

She had never imagined owning two large houses with five courtyards.

Previously, she thought about having her own place, anywhere would do, free from scornful glances and maltreatment, where she could live quietly. People would come seeking medical treatment, and she would heal them attentively.

As for the rewards, she had never thought about how much she wanted, but to be given so much made her feel undeserving.

"What's this about 'you'? It's impolite to decline a gift from an elder. The Princess Residence is giving it to you, so just accept it. If it's too much, you could always demolish the houses, tidy up the area, and use it to grow medicinal herbs. That way, you can save even more people, right?"

"Right!"

Yun Jinnian agreed.

She hadn't thought that far ahead.

Having the Princess Residence would also give her an excuse to live outside.

"Alright, after a whole day's journey, I'm dead tired. Let's go to bed!" Dai Hanmi said, smiling mischievously.

This was the first time she would be sharing a bed with Yun Jinnian.

After washing up, the two lay down in bed.

Dai Hanmi already had a small mound on her chest. She turned her head and looked at Yun Jinnian, "Jinnian!"

"Mm?"

"Does your chest hurt?"

Yun Jinnian's face immediately flushed, and she nodded slightly, "It hurts!"

"Mine hurts, too. It's a swollen kind of pain. My mother says once it stops hurting, I'll be a true young lady, hehe!" Dai Hanmi said and puffed out her chest, "But it's so small. I've seen my eldest and second sisters-in-law, theirs are bigger than mine, especially the second sister-in-law; hers have grown much larger than before. She's even had to have several sets of clothes made because of it!"

Chapter 673: Let's Play Together

Yun Jinnian was dumbstruck as she looked at Dai Hanmi.

Such a topic.

How could she speak of it?

"Jinnian, do you think we'll become as big as second sister-in-law someday?" Dai Hanmi asked curiously.

"Perhaps!"

Yun Jinnian answered feebly, truly wanting to skip this topic.

But Dai Hanmi was particularly interested, talking non-stop, her face not turning red, her breath not faltering.

Even comparing with the maids in the residence.

It was really...

Embarrassing to death!

In the end, Dai Hanmi even brought up the subject of monthly periods, asking Yun Jinnian what she used for them. Even though it was a matter for women, being asked so directly still made Yun Jinnian blush.

She stammered that she used cotton, cleaned and dried it, and made it into pieces, and Dai Hanmi became even more excited, incessantly asking how to do it, as if she couldn't wait to get up and try making one herself.

They didn't go to sleep until midnight.

Looking at the sleeping Dai Hanmi beside her, Yun Jinnian smiled.

Although Dai Hanmi was older than her, she lived more unrestrainedly, more freely, more cheerfully, and more spontaneously than herself.

She envied Dai Hanmi.

Having a warm home, parents who loved her, a grandmother who doted on her, a sister-in-law, and a brother who were fond of her.

Yun Jinnian pursed her lips, took a deep breath, and closed her eyes to sleep.

The next day at dawn, Yun Jinnian and Dai Hanmi had their morning meal before taking her to do morning lessons and recite scriptures. When they encountered Dai Hanbo, they invited him to join them.

After the morning lessons, Yun Jinnian had to go and take the pulse of Zhou Yunshen.

"Young Master Zhou? Who's that?" asked Dai Hanmi, wary.

"We met on the way to Nanjiang, he's the Crown Prince of the Great Zhou Kingdom!"

Dai Hanmi was extremely surprised.

Dai Hanbo, however, remained silent.

Could it be that last night Yun Jinnian was with this Crown Prince of the Great Zhou? Was the man in her heart this Crown Prince of Great Zhou?

Thinking of this, Dai Hanbo quickly said, "Then you should hurry over!"

"Yes!"

Yun Jinnian nodded and went with Hemei to take Zhou Yunshen's pulse.

Zhou Yunshen had always instructed Teng Fei to keep an eye on Yun Jinnian and knew that Yun Jinnian had seen Feng Wushuang and Dai Hanbo. As for Dai Hanmi, a woman, he did not take much notice.

He immediately ordered someone to investigate Feng Wushuang and Dai Hanbo!

"Fourth Miss, how is my master?" Teng Fei inquired.

"The wound has begun to heal, take it slowly, and after some time of recuperation, he should recover, don't worry!" Yun Jinnian said as she withdrew her hand.

She then said to Zhou Yunshen, "Young Master Zhou might also walk slowly in the courtyard to breathe some fresh air, this way the wound will heal faster!"

"Thank you, I will!" said Zhou Yunshen in a gentle tone.

Looking at Yun Jinnian, his eyes were filled with a smile.

Yun Jinnian nodded, "Then I'll go back first!"

After exiting Zhou Yunshen's chantry, Yun Jinnian stopped in her tracks, staring at the towering camphor tree, "Hemei!"

"Yes?"

"The new year is coming soon!"

The New Year was a time for family reunion.

But her own family was always shattered and fragmented.

"Miss, it's only October now; the new year is more than two months away!"

"Two months will pass quickly!"

Yun Jinnian said, and went back to the chantry. Dai Hanmi greeted her excitedly, "Jinnian, you're back!"

"Yes!"

"How's the Crown Prince of the Great Zhou Kingdom?"

"His wounds are much better!"

Dai Hanmi nodded, "Who would be so bold as to make an assassination attempt on him?"

"I don't know!"

"It's normal for you not to know. Look, it's not raining today. Let's go out and play. There are a lot of wild fruits in the mountains now. Let's go pick wild fruits. Is that okay? We can invite my third brother; with him protecting us, we won't be afraid of wild animals!"

Yun Jinnian didn't really want to go, but seeing Dai Hanmi so thrilled, she couldn't bear to refuse, "Okay, let's bring Hemei and Henuan. Prepare a few baskets; maybe we'll have a bountiful harvest!"

Chapter 674: Sandstorm Blurs the Eyes

Yun Jinnian found a Little Monk to inquire which direction wild fruits could be found in and, with a basket in tow, set off with Hemei and Henuan.

Dai Hanmi brought Minxian along.

Dai Hanbo, trailed by two young servants, watched his sister Xiaoxiao up ahead, merrily chatting away, and Yun Jinnian, responding with a light smile—his own smile soon blossomed.

He was naturally a person of high talent, courtesy, and mild-mannered demeanor—despite coming for protection, he still extremely observed proper conduct.

With the weather as it was, the mountain was abundant with wild fruits. Hemei picked one and, upon peeling it, found it to be quite sour.

Yun Jinnian tried a taste, and indeed, it was awfully sour.

"Miss, shall we pick more?" Hemei asked, visibly displeased and clearly unwilling to continue.

"Let's pick more. When we get back, we can preserve the orange peels with cane sugar to make dried citrus peels that are appetizing. As for the sour oranges, cook them in a large pot with cane sugar, then store them in a large jar. After about ten days to half a month, the oranges will lose their sourness!"

"Can we really eat them like that?" Dai Hanmi curiously asked.

"Let's give it a try!"

"Then let's try it!"

The group gathered several baskets full of oranges, and the young servants immediately came forward to carry them back to the temple.

Now deep into autumn, nearing winter, flowers had faded, many weeds began to wither away, leaves turned yellow and fell, geese migrated southward, and a cold wind blew. Yun Jinnian stood at the windy spot, gazing into the distance.

"Jinnian..."

Dai Hanmi stood beside Yun Jinnian and called out softly, her carefree laughter subsiding.

"Hmm?"

"Do you long for a warm home?"

Yun Jinnian turned to look at Dai Hanmi, her eyes filled with astonishment, speculation, and confusion.

"Seeing you stand here so lonesome, my heart aches!" Dai Hanmi said, grabbing Yun Jinnian's hand and holding it tight. "Jinnian, my third brother is a good man, don't you think?"

"Ah..."

Yun Jinnian was taken aback.

What does this have to do with Dai's third brother?

"Why don't you marry my third brother? Look at my family: my father and my brothers do not take concubines and haven't even taken secondary wives. My grandmother, mother, sister-in-law, and second sister-in-law are all easy to get along with. You..."

"Hanmi," Yun Jinnian interjected, cutting off Dai Hanmi before she could continue, and looked at her earnestly. "Hanmi, there's already someone in my heart!"

Dai Hanmi was stunned.

"You have someone in your heart? Who?"

How could this be possible...

"It's Prince Rui!"

Yun Jinnian didn't intend to hide it from Dai Hanmi.

"He..."

Dai Hanmi carefully considered Prince Rui Chu Yu: good-looking, of noble status. Though he was a bit of a rake, with his standing, even without doing anything worthwhile for the rest of his life, he wouldn't have to worry about food and clothing.

She had wanted to advocate for her third brother, but Yun Jinnian was her good sister. If Yun Jinnian said there was someone in her heart, then she truly liked Chu Yu.

How could she pressure Jinnian?

"What about Prince Rui then? Does he also..."

"Yes, he has me in his heart as well!"

Dai Hanmi fell silent.

The wind picked up, scattering Yun Jinnian's words, yet they seemed not to disperse.

For someone like Dai Hanbo, a Martial Arts master with excellent hearing, naturally, he also heard Yun Jinnian's admission.

She had someone she liked, and fortunately, that person also liked her.

He was in immense pain, but he had to let them be.

He could not become a burden to her.

If he became persistent and kept professing love and cherished her...

He turned away, unable to look at her, feeling a bit of sting in his eyes, his face feeling somewhat hot.

Dai Hanbo managed a faint smile and wiped his face with his hand.

It turned out the wind was just too strong, and sand had gotten in his eyes!

Looking into the distance, he resolved to protect her in his brother's stead from now on, Dai Hanbo thought.

"Miss Yun!"

Dai Hanmi turned her head and spotted a young man in brocade, followed by two attendants.

He approached slowly.

Looking at Yun Jinnian, she asked in confusion, "Who is he?"

Chapter 675: Don't Want to Deal With It

"That's Young Master Zhou!"

Dai Hanmi suddenly realized.

The Crown Prince of the Great Zhou Kingdom.

Yun Jinnian took a few steps forward and bowed slightly, "Young Master Zhou!"

"Miss Fourth, you're here too, what a coincidence!" Zhou Yunshen said, as he looked into the distance.

This spot was indeed excellent, not only offering a view of the towering mountains but also a faint glimpse of Capital City in the distance.

Should anything happen in the Capital City, Huguo Temple could quickly become aware of it. Perhaps that was why Huguo Temple was established here!

Yun Jinnian smiled.

A coincidence? More likely, there were ulterior motives.

But she did not expose this thought, "Yes, indeed a coincidence!"

"The scenery here is nice, and you can see the Capital City. How did you find this place, Miss Fourth?"

Zhou Yunshen was making small talk.

Especially when he saw Dai Hanbo not too far away, he felt a sense of crisis in his heart.

One Chu Yu was still an unresolved issue, why had another one appeared?

"It was a little monk from the temple who told us there were wild fruits here, so we came over. The scenery here is nice. Take your time to enjoy it, Young Master Zhou, we will be heading back!" Yun Jinnian said, bowing slightly before pulling Dai Hanmi away with her.

Dai Hanmi looked back at Zhou Yunshen.

Dai Hanbo hurriedly followed.

Once they were far away, Dai Hanmi finally said, "So that's the Crown Prince of the Great Zhou Kingdom? He seems quite amiable!"

"Well, that's how it looks on the surface," Yun Jinnian said earnestly.

Dai Hanmi burst into laughter, "I know, you want to say 'It's easy to know a person's face, but not their heart,' but after all, he is the Crown Prince of the Great Zhou Kingdom, which is much more powerful than Tianchu Country. Are we handling this the right way?"

"In Huguo Temple, he did not reveal his identity. To me, right now, he's merely a patient, Young Master Zhou. As for the Crown Prince of the Great Zhou Kingdom, that's for after we return to the Capital City!"

Dai Hanmi laughed.

She tightened her grip on Yun Jinnian's hand.

Yun Jinnian was truly wonderful, strikingly beautiful, extraordinarily enchanting, kind-hearted, and amiable.

Truly a bargain for Prince Rui.

And I felt sorry for Third Brother, having missed his chance with Yun Jinnian.

In this lifetime, it would be hard to say whether the three could find another woman they admired.

Alas...

"Sister Hanmi, why do you sigh?" Yun Jinnian asked softly.

"I won't tell you!"

Yun Jinnian wasn't upset, and just walked slowly with Dai Hanmi.

Her heart was at peace, serene. All the resentment, anger, heartache, and loss seemed to no longer exist.

Once, Yun Jinnian had thought, as long as they did not harm her, she could spend this lifetime minding her own business, not seeking revenge since all those were matters of a past life.

And in her past life, she was largely to blame for the outcome she met.

Foolish, insecure, and lacking ambition.

In this life, all she wanted was to strive for goodness and, with Momo, to mend the bond between mother and son!

Upon returning to the Zen yard, Yun Jinnian saw Han Zhong, "Uncle Zhong, what brings you here?"

"Miss Fourth, your sister has returned to the Han Residence. When will you go back?" Han Zhong asked.

Yun Jinnian thought she would be excited and happy, but unexpectedly, she felt quite calm and responded with a slight smile, "Let's go back on the twelfth. I still have a few scriptures to complete. I'll stay at Huguo Temple for another two days!"

"Good!"

In the afternoon, Yun Jinnian did not accompany Dai Hanmi but instead calmed her mind and diligently copied scriptures.

She wrote another scroll of the Rebirth Mantra to offer in front of the Buddha.

Kneeling before the Buddha with hands clasped together, her devotion was profound.

Abbot Wuxin watched from the side, and only after Yun Jinnian had finished reciting a section of the scripture did he present the brocade box in his hand to her.

"Abbot?"

"Inside this box is a string of Buddha Beads, for you!"

Yun Jinnian opened the brocade box, took out the Buddha Beads, and tried them on her wrist; the beads were round and smooth.

"These were left by Master Micheng, right!"

Chapter 676: Verbal Duel

"Yes, I gave you twelve beads; as for the rest, we shall deal with that in the future!"

Yun Jinnian took a deep breath, "What virtues or abilities do I have!"

"Amitabha, if the master says you can bear it, then bear it carefully and don't lose it!" Abbot Wuxin advised.

"Yes!"

Yun Jinnian nodded in acknowledgement.

She held the Buddha Beads gently, closed her eyes, and concentrated on reciting the scriptures.

Abbot Wuxin watched her and knelt on one side to accompany Yun Jinnian.

Many things, the master never said, but he had said that only with a kind heart could this woman bless the common people; otherwise, it would be a disaster for the whole world, with countless people being displaced and losing their lives to the Yellow Springs.

Although he had some cultivation, it was nothing compared to the master.

The master had waited so many years for her, only to pass away in nirvana after she had come, which showed she must be extraordinary.

Yun Jinnian thought Chu Yu would rest properly within Huguo Temple, but to her surprise, he quietly descended the mountain and headed all the way back to Huguo Temple.

And just coincidentally, Chu Yu, Zhou Yunshen, and Dai Hanbo ran into each other.

"Oh, isn't that...?" Chu Yu said, raising an eyebrow, "I say, Crown Prince of Great Zhou Kingdom, instead of going directly to the capital, why have you come to Huguo Temple?"

"Prince Rui," Zhou Yunshen called softly.

With a smile that didn't quite reach his eyes, he looked at Chu Yu.

This guy, he is up to no good!

"Hehe, why has the Crown Prince come to Huguo Temple? Could it be that you're having a crisis and considering joining the monastic life here?"

"Of course not, it is simply because the person I admire is here in Huguo Temple. Upon learning this, I rushed over at once!"

The person he admires?

Chu Yu silently cursed.

"Is that so? Then the Crown Prince should polish that lie of his. I thought the Crown Prince had come here to seek medical attention!" Chu Yu said, as if he'd just realized something, "Could it be that the Crown Prince is afraid Miss Yun won't treat you unless you tell her some ghostly tales of admiration, tricking the young lady?"

"..."

Zhou Yunshen's eyes grew cold.

Chu Yu, this bastard!

"Prince Rui is thinking too much. With my status, do I need to use anyone?" said Zhou Yunshen, smiling gently, "Besides, Miss Yun has a healer's benevolent heart; she surely wouldn't stand by and let someone die!"

"That's true, Miss Yun is kind-hearted. Not just people, even if cats and dogs were ill before her, she wouldn't hesitate to help, let alone the Crown Prince!" Chu Yu said, his expression feigning enlightenment.

Comparing Zhou Yunshen to cats and dogs.

Chu Yu found it satisfying.

Zhou Yunshen wanted to retort, but seeing Yun Jinnian approaching slowly, he quickly said, "Hehe, Prince Rui really has a sense of humor!"

"I've always been humorous!"

"Then I'm a bit curious, Prince Rui, since Miss Yun has saved you, I wonder what your genuine thoughts about her are?"

Zhou Yunshen dug a quick pit for Chu Yu.

If Chu Yu admitted it, he'd regard him as a real man; if Chu Yu denied it, then his feelings for Yun Jinnian must be superficial.

"Miss Yun has saved my life, and I am willing to face all dangers for her, to climb mountains and dive into oil pots for her. This whole lifetime depends on her word alone; my life, Chu Yu's, is at her disposal without a second thought!"

Dai Hanbo watched the veiled trade-offs between Zhou Yunshen and Chu Yu without saying a word.

But then he saw Yun Jinnian approaching, smiling softly, and called out, "Sister Jinnian!"

No matter how high and mighty these two men were, he had already gained an early advantage.

Though in this lifetime, it was impossible for there to be another kind of relationship between them, she, Sister Jinnian, was also one of a kind.

"Big brother!" Yun Jinnian called back tenderly.

Thinking about what Chu Yu said, she found it both funny and heartwarming.

Without speaking of love, entrusting his life to her was surely more than just gratitude for saving his life.

Chapter 677: Having a Plan

Chu Yu turned around and looked at Yun Jinnian with a smile, "Miss Fourth, it's been many days since we last met, I trust you have been well?"

Acting!

She found it amusing inside, but Yun Jinnian still gave a slight curtsey, "Your Highness Prince Rui, I trust you have been well!"

"Good, very good. This prince congratulates Miss Fourth on being enfeoffed as Commandery Princess; it is said that the Princess Residence has already been bestowed. When will the Commandery Princess take up residence? This prince will surely send a generous gift!" Chu Yu said with impeccable politeness.

He played the part very well.

"When the time comes, I shall definitely invite Your Highness over for a drink; I hope Your Highness will do me the honor!"

"Very good indeed!" Chu Yu said, casting a smug look at Zhou Yunshen.

Zhou Yunshen felt stifled inside and quickly said, "Congratulations to Miss Fourth. May I, too, ask for a drink when the time comes?"

"You are most welcome, Young Master Zhou!" Yun Jinnian replied politely.

Her tone was no different than the one she used with Chu Yu.

But Zhou Yunshen knew that Yun Jinnian treated Chu Yu much better than she treated him.

This had been abundantly clear to him on the snowy mountains of Nanjiang.

Now, Yun Jinnian's impartiality was nothing more than a desire not to be accused of impropriety.

A woman's reputation was of paramount importance; he didn't dare to expose anything rashly to avoid her getting angry and harboring resentment toward him.

It would also backfire, giving Chu Yu an excuse to take responsibility.

He gave a slight bow to Yun Jinnian.

"Miss Fourth, I felt some pain in my chest earlier; I don't know if Miss Fourth could..."

"Ouch!"

Before Zhou Yunshen could finish, Chu Yu cried out.

But his act was obviously just that, an act.

Zhou Yunshen looked at Chu Yu, without a doubt that he was the one who had attempted to assassinate him that night.

"Ouch, ouch, Miss Fourth, my chest hurts so badly, please check on it for me, I can't stand it, it's killing me!" Chu Yu said, reaching out to Luoyi, "Luoyi, help support me, ouch, ouch, it hurts, it hurts so much!"

Luoyi stepped forward to support Chu Yu and asked softly, "My lord, when were you injured? How come I didn't know about it?"

Although he spoke quietly, Zhou Yunshen still heard him.

Teng Fei, who was behind Zhou Yunshen, lowered his head while Zhao Mang couldn't help but laugh, "Ahahaha, to think His Highness Prince Rui would feign illness, quite an eye-opener!"

Upon hearing this, Chu Yu stood up straight and said, word by word, "None of your damn business, you dog servant. Instead of dutifully serving your master, what gives you the right to question this prince, ouch, ouch, it hurts, it hurts!"

Enraged upon hearing this, Zhao Mang was about to speak when Zhou Yunshen sharply ordered, "Zhao Mang, stand down!"

Zhao Mang opened and closed his mouth but ultimately didn't say anything, "Yes!"

And he turned and withdrew.

Teng Fei sighed softly. Zhao Mang's martial arts were strong, but it was true what they said - all brawn and no brain.

Fortunately, he was fiercely loyal to his master, brash yet obedient.

Zhou Yunshen gave Chu Yu a bow, "Prince Rui, it is this palace's fault for not instructing my servant properly, my apologies!"

"Heh heh!" Chu Yu scoffed, ignoring Zhou Yunshen and looking toward Yun Jinnian, "Miss Fourth, can you take my pulse first? It really hurts!"

Yun Jinnian took a deep breath.

"Alright, please follow me!"

Although Chu Yu's tactic was shameless, it dispelled Zhou Yunshen's suspicions.

Who would have thought that the noble His Highness Prince Rui would stoop to playing the fool and acting crazy?

Upon reaching the main hall of Yun Jinnian's cloister, Yun Jinnian wiped her hands and took Chu Yu's pulse. Her expression changed several times, hesitating repeatedly.

"Miss Fourth, is it very serious?"

"This..."

Yun Jinnian hesitated again.

Looking at Chu Yu, "Your Highness, you..."

"Hmm?"

Chapter 678: Kindness in the Heart

Chu Yu was looking at Yun Jinnian very seriously, constantly winking and making faces at him.

Yun Jinnian held a straight face, withdrew his hand, and took a deep breath before saying, "Your Highness, Prince Rui, your injury is not severe, you only need to rest well for a few days, and you will recover!"

"Then, prescribe some medicine for me!"

"There's no need for medicine!" Yun Jinnian said softly.

"Really no need for medicine? It seems like I'm quite seriously hurt!" Chu Yu said as he winked at Yun Jinnian again.

Yun Jinnian took a deep breath, "Alright, I shall prescribe some medicine for you then!"

Zhou Yunshen watched and became even more convinced that Chu Yu was pretending.

At first, he had some suspicions that the assassin that night had been Chu Yu, but now he was no longer suspicious.

Yun Jinnian prescribed some inconsequential medicine for Chu Yu.

The kind that wouldn't matter whether it was taken or not.

After washing his hands and drying them again, he took the pulse of Zhou Yunshen, "Crown Prince, your health is gradually improving, with careful recuperation, it will get much better, and the cold poison in your body has also lessened!"

"No wonder I've been feeling much more refreshed these past few days, Fourth Miss has taken great pains!"

"It's all part of the duty!"

Yun Jinnian said and, withdrawing his hand, turned to clean himself and apply a protective ointment to his hands.

Silently looking at the three men who refused to leave, he pursed his lips.

He just felt a headache coming on.

"You all sit for a while, I'm going out for a walk!"

After finishing his words, Yun Jinnian turned and left.

After Yun Jinnian had left, Chu Yu slowly stood up, "Ah, this prince will go to the monastery to recuperate. Crown Prince, I also hope you recover soon!"

When leaving, Chu Yu glanced at Dai Hanbo sitting to the side and sneered.

Dai Hanbo always felt like he was being seen through.

After Chu Yu left, Zhou Yunshen also stood up, without giving Dai Hanbo a second look, and left directly.

Dai Hanbo sat in his spot for a while, then got up and left to find Dai Hanmi.

"Third Brother, are you saying we're going back tomorrow?"

"Yes!"

Dai Hanmi looked at him, took a deep breath, and also understood Dai Hanbo's implications.

Yun Jinnian and Prince Rui were in love, and now with Prince Rui here, his staying would trouble Yun Jinnian.

"Alright, I will go and speak to Jinnian!" Dai Hanmi said with his eyes slightly reddening, "Third Brother, don't be sad..."

There are plenty of fish in the sea, but Dai Hanmi couldn't bring himself to say such words.

"I'm fine!"

When Yun Jinnian learned that Dai Hanmi was leaving, "So soon?"

"I came to pray for blessings for my grandmother, and now that I have obtained the amulet, I should go back and stay by her side!"

"Good, take care on your journey, and once I return, I will visit the Marquis Residence to see the Dowager Marchioness!"

"Great, I'll be waiting for you!" Dai Hanmi said, clearly delighted.

Although Yun Jinnian couldn't become her sister-in-law, she still remained her good sister, the very best.

When Dai Hanmi and her brother left Huguo Temple, the weather was clear and sunny. Yun Jinnian watched their party slowly descend the mountain, corners of her mouth lightly curling into a smile.

Gentle and serene.

"Amitabha!"

Abbot Wuxin stood beside Yun Jinnian, chanting softly.

"Abbot!"

"Hmm?"

"I'll be returning on the twelfth!"

After returning, she would stay at the Han Residence for one night, and then on the fourteenth, she would return to the Yun Residence; the fifteenth was Yun Musi's eleventh birthday.

Abbot Wuxin glanced at Yun Jinnian and smiled faintly, "Having kindness in one's heart is the key to achieving what one desires!"

Yun Jinnian nodded her head, "Abbot, I will remember that, always remember!"

As long as no one harmed her, she would definitely be the kind and good Yun Jinnian, but if someone were to harm her, then she would settle both new grudges and old scores together.

Chapter 679: Stay True to the Original Aspiration

Yun Jinnian, at the age of twelve, was set to return to the Capital City, but she told no one. She simply took Zhou Yunshen's pulse early in the morning and then descended the mountain.

As the carriage departed.

Chu Yu stood at the spot where he watched Dai Hanmi leave, gazing as Yun Jinnian made her way.

"Amitabha!"

Chu Yu turned back to glance at Abbot Wuxin, "You old bald donkey!"

"Why doesn't Prince Rui leave?"

Chu Yu smiled, "She has carried too much since she was young, lost too much, and received too little. Even though she was granted the title of Commandery Princess today and received countless rewards, she might not truly be happy!"

"I could also use force for many things. For instance, if I wanted to marry her, all I'd need to do is speak up, and no matter what, she would become my wife. But I can't. I wish to ask for permission from the person she cares about, and only then seriously take her into my home, to give her a home, a warm home that will never abandon her!"

Today, she was leaving, and he would not feel embarrassed or distressed.

She had him in her heart, he knew, so he couldn't bear to press her.

"Amitabha, never forget why you started, and you will accomplish your mission," said Abbot Wuxin.

After finishing his words, Abbot Wuxin turned and left.

Chu Yu stood in place for a long time, until the carriage was out of sight, then said, "Luoyi, let's also go back!"

Zhou Yunshen's arrival in Tianchu Country, with the Emperor being what he is, made one wonder what he would do.

"Yes!"

Zhou Yunshen was somewhat surprised to find out that both Yun Jinnian and Chu Yu had left, especially since Yun Jinnian did not even come to bid him farewell and had just gone.

"My lord, I have made inquiries. Prince Rui didn't know about the fourth young miss's departure, and Teng Mu has returned!" Teng Fei reported, then stepped aside.

Approaching, Teng Mu reported everything he had learned, Zhou Yunshen's frown deepened as he listened, "Are you saying that these past years have been very hard for her?"

"Yes!"

Zhou Yunshen fell silent, and after a long time, he finally said, "No wonder her temperament is so subtle, she guards herself against everyone, yet she is kind-hearted and benevolent!"

"Well then, let's also head to the Capital City!"

Some thoughts, perhaps, should be changed.

After traveling for a day and arriving at the Han Residence by nightfall.

At the entrance to the Han Residence, lanterns were already hung up, and the servant boy at the gate greeted Yun Jinnian with the utmost respect, "The servant has seen the young miss!"

"Hmm, are my mother and maternal grandfather here?"

"Both are here, but Aunt seems to be somewhat unhappy..." said the servant boy, then said no more.

Yun Jinnian nodded, indicating she understood.

She entered the Han Residence.

The main hall was empty, but upon inquiring, she found out Han Xuzi was in the study, and Mrs. Han was in the yard where she stayed before her marriage.

Yun Jinnian thought briefly and decided to first visit her grandfather.

Inside the study, Han Xuzi was sorting herbs. When he learned Yun Jinnian had returned, he laughed, "Let her in!"

Han Zhong complied and called Yun Jinnian in.

Yun Jinnian entered the study and saw Han Xuzi carefully selecting herbs. She stepped forward, bowed slightly, and greeted, "I have seen Grandfather!"

Han Xuzi looked at Yun Jinnian. The thin little girl from the past had now grown into a young lady, her medical skills even surpassing his own without a hint of arrogance. At such a young age, her achievements were truly remarkable.

"Come help!" Han Xuzi said kindly.

"Yes!"

Yun Jinnian bowed and went to assist with sorting the herbs.

"Jinnian!"

"Hmm?"

"I heard Tianci went to Nanjiang with the Reverend?" Han Xuzi inquired.

He didn't think it was improper for Tianci to leave home; after all, he was a boy and would inherit the Han Family one day. It was good for him to learn new skills.

"Yes, the Reverend came to the Capital City. He was not accustomed to the climate, so I couldn't let him return alone. If I did, Tianci's Martial Arts would fall behind, so I had Tianci accompany him back!"

Chapter 680: Injured Again

Even with great reluctance, she still let Tianci go to Nanjiang.

Yun Jinnian didn't feel that she was wrong.

Han Xuzi nodded in agreement, "You did the right thing. Girls should be raised delicately, while boys should be raised more strictly!"

"Grandfather doesn't blame me?"

"Blame you for what? So many people wish to be taken as disciples by the legal authority, yet he refuses to teach them even a few moves. It's Tianci's good fortune to be able to train with him!"

Yun Jinnian gave a slight smile.

It's good that he doesn't blame her.

The anxiety she had harbored eased.

"Has the emperor's poison been completely cured?"

"It's all gone, and the emperor even bestowed upon me the title of Commandery Princess and a Princess Residence!"

Han Xuzi laughed, looking at Yun Jinnian's eyes filled with pride and joy, "Good, good, good, when you're older, you can move into the Princess Residence!"

Yun Jinnian nodded slightly.

Yet she knew that it would be somewhat difficult for her to live in the Princess Residence for an extended period.

The grandfather and granddaughter were selecting medicinal herbs as they conversed, inadvertently forgetting about Mrs. Han.

When Mrs. Han learned of Yun Jinnian's return, she expected her to come and pay respects. She wanted to ask whether Tianci could come back, but after waiting and waiting, she saw no sign of Yun Jinnian, which made Mrs. Han anxious and somewhat angry.

"Heh heh!"

She let out two cold laughs.

Bai Que watched from the side, "Madam, Miss is sorting herbs with the elder master!"

"Is that so?"

"Yes!"

Mrs. Han was silent for a long time before she spoke indifferently, "Let her be then!"

If it were before, she might have wanted to prepare some cakes in the kitchen for Yun Jinnian to enjoy, but now, since Yun Jinnian didn't care about her, she couldn't be bothered to make the effort.

Yun Qi and she were truly of the same nature, both with cold and indifferent bones.

Ungrateful, all of them!

Bai Que, seeing Mrs. Han's indifferent appearance, shook her head helplessly.

Therefore, during dinner, when Yun Jinnian saw Mrs. Han, she stepped forward and greeted, "Mother!"

"Hmm!" Mrs. Han responded tepidly and walked away.

Yun Jinnian stood frozen in place.

It took her a long time to come back to herself.

As expected...

Han Xuzi wanted to say something, but Mrs. Han, with a smile, spoke up, "Father, I've instructed the kitchen to prepare your favorite dishes and even arranged for wine. You must eat a lot later!"

Then she looked toward Yun Jinnian, "Jinnian, why are you standing there stunned? Come and sit down for dinner!"

"Hmm!"

Yun Jinnian responded dully.

She walked up to the table and started eating the dishes she picked up with her chopsticks, taking small bites.

Throughout the meal, Mrs. Han didn't serve Yun Jinnian once, and spoke no more than five sentences to her.

After dinner

Yun Jinnian returned to her courtyard, bathed, changed her clothes, and stood under the eaves, gazing at the night sky.

Even though she was shunned, Yun Jinnian still had no regrets about sending Tianci to Nanjiang.

She once thought that not having received maternal love in her previous life, in this life, having obtained it, she cherished it. Yet, she didn't want this maternal love to be like sand in her hand, slipping through her fingers before she could grasp it.

Han Xuzi called Mrs. Han to the study. He looked at the much thinner Mrs. Han and asked in a deep voice, "Shuniang, what exactly is going on with you today?"

"Father..." Mrs. Han exclaimed in surprise.

"Shuniang, Jinnian is your daughter. You haven't seen her since the beginning of September. Now, more than a month has passed. Don't you miss her?"

Mrs. Han pursed her lips, reluctantly admitting, "Of course I miss her!"

"If you miss her, why then did you give her the cold shoulder today when you saw her? Is it because she came back and did not pay her respects to you? Or because she sent Tianci to Nanjiang? Or perhaps you bear resentment towards Jinnian because of Yun Qi?"