

Indulgence 731

Chapter 731: The Situation is Not Good

Those are all Scholars and successful imperial examination candidates, each well-versed in poetry and literature. It would be tolerable if their future wives barely recognized a few characters, but they also behave with giggles and laughter, lacking any sense of propriety.

They aspire to become court officials, and no one would want a lady of the inner courtyard who behaves like that.

Chuxi isn't particularly beautiful either.

But what to do?

Xun Chuxi's face suddenly flushed red, "Cousin-in-law..."

Feeling somewhat ashamed, especially in front of Yun Jinnian.

But she also felt that she was dependent on others, particularly since her cousin didn't like her. She wanted to stand firm in front of her cousin-in-law but couldn't muster the strength, so she pursed her lips, "Cousin-in-law, I'll remember this!"

Yun Zihan sighed.

If only Xun Chuxi had a bit more pride, but alas, she was like this.

Witnessing this, Yun Jinnian understood.

Though Xun Chuxi had a nice name, she was really not suitable for the student in the front courtyard, regardless of status, and especially not in the way she conducted herself—there was a pettiness about her.

If she wished for happiness, marrying an honest, unconnected landlord would be better. With a generous dowry and Liao Shijie as her cousin, the husband wouldn't dare to treat her lightly.

But who can predict the future? There might be a student who takes a fancy to Xun Chuxi and is willing to clean up the mess for her.

While they were talking, a servant came to report, "Madam, Prince Rui is here to visit!"

Yun Zihan was astonished.

Yun Jinnian was also taken aback.

Just as she was about to speak, Chu Yu had already barged in, followed by a man, none other than the second son of the loyal Prince's Household, Chu Xinhuan.

Upon seeing Yun Jinnian, Chu Xinhuan hurriedly came forward to salute, "Princess Yijia pays her respects!"

"?" Yun Jinnian was baffled.

"Princess, my son is injured, and the Imperial Physician is at a loss. I implore Miss Yun to save my son!" Chu Xinhuan said, with utmost sincerity.

Seeing that Chu Yu had brought someone directly, Yun Jinnian realized the severity of the situation.

She quickly said to Yun Zihan, "Second Sister, I have to leave first. Please arrange for a carriage for Tianci to take him back to the Han Family."

"Princess Yijia can take my carriage!" Chu Yu said.

Yun Jinnian did not refuse, "Fine!"

In the Capital City, Chu Yu's carriage bore a distinct emblem, and on the road, no one would dare to obstruct it.

She also said to Yun Zihan, "Please convey to Second Sister and Tianci that the matter is urgent, so I won't tell Tianci in person. Let him enjoy himself and then go directly home!"

With Uncle Cheng escorting Tianci, she felt more at ease.

Chu Xinhuan quickly bowed with a clenched fist in salute.

Chu Yu nudged him, "Alright, alright, let's hurry up and go!"

Yun Jinnian followed them out of the door. Henuan had already come over with the medicine chest and got directly into Chu Yu's carriage.

Chu Yu's carriage was large and also very warm, seating five people without feeling crowded at all, on the contrary, it was rather spacious.

"Second son, tell me, how exactly was the child injured?" Yun Jinnian asked calmly.

Chu Xinhuan did not dare to delay, "The two children were playing, and somehow, Jade managed to get hold of a hairpin and accidentally stabbed it into Agen's eye!"

Chu Xinhuan said, his voice already choking.

A perfectly healthy child, and he was the eldest legitimate grandson of the loyal Prince's Household.

Yun Jinnian frowned, "Directly in the eye?"

"Yes!"

Yun Jinnian wanted to ask, what were the maids, old women, and nursemaids doing at that time? To whom did that hairpin belong? Where did it come from?

But these were domestic matters of the loyal Prince's Household.

Most likely, by now, the loyal Prince's Household would already be in turmoil, who knows how many people had been killed.

She sighed, "Ask the carriage to go faster."

Hearing this, Chu Xinhuan's eyes filled with added respect when he looked at Yun Jinnian.

And he felt even more grateful towards Chu Yu.

Chapter 732: Preparations (2)

If it weren't for Chu Yu leading the way, he definitely wouldn't have been able to call Yun Jinnian over so quickly.

That was his eldest son, his legitimate eldest son, whom he cherished deeply.

But with both children, one loves each as dearly as the other, and now any words were too late.

The carriage sped along rapidly; passersby, seeing it belonged to the Prince Rui Residence, quickly dodged out of the way, not daring to block the path.

As soon as the carriage arrived at the Wang Residence, Chu Xinhuan leaped out and quickly invited Yun Jinnian to disembark.

"Princess Yijia requests your presence!"

Yun Jinnian nodded.

He followed Chu Xinhuan towards the inner courtyard.

On the way, Yun Jinnian caught a whiff of the scent of blood. It wasn't particularly strong, but it was enough to understand that someone in the residence had died, and the bloodstains had been washed away with water.

The snow fell heavier, and upon reaching the inner courtyard, Yun Jinnian saw several Imperial Physicians.

The Imperial Physicians came up to him quickly, "Princess Yijia!"

Each was very courteous.

Yun Jinnian gave a slight nod and headed for the room.

Inside the room, there were suppressed cries and an oppressive atmosphere.

As Yun Jinnian entered the room, two women approached him immediately, one was the Princess Consort of the Wang Residence, and the other was Mrs. Dai, Chu Xinhuan's wife.

Mrs. Dai, upon seeing Yun Jinnian, knelt before him, crying her heart out, "Princess Yijia, I beg you, save my son, save little An'er!"

Yun Jinnian looked at her, his brow deeply furrowed.

Chu Xinhuan immediately stepped forward, pulling her away, "Don't cause a scene!" He then signaled a maid to come forward, "Take her away!"

"No, I won't leave. I want to stay with little An'er!" Mrs. Dai struggled.

Yun Jinnian took a deep breath, "It's too noisy, I can't concentrate on the diagnosis!"

Having spoken, Yun Jinnian walked into the room.

"This is little An'er's wet nurse!" Chu Xinhuan hurriedly said.

Little An'er's cries had turned his voice hoarse, and now he lay there spasming, half his face covered in blood, which was also on the front of his clothing.

The hairpin was stuck in his eye, jutting out sharply, horrifying yet heartbreaking to see.

Such a young child, but now held in the nurse's arms, not his own mother's.

The wet nurse wanted to rise, but Yun Jinnian only glanced at her coolly.

Though she was frightened, she wasn't particularly terrified, relying on nothing more than the child's attachment to her.

He made his way to the window, opening it.

"Prepare hot water, boiled rags, bring over two square tables, fetch clean cotton wool, a cotton quilt, bandages..."

Yun Jinnian instructed calmly.

Chu Xinhuan immediately gave the orders.

Once the tables were arranged beneath the window and covered with the cotton quilt, Yun Jinnian approached little An'er, gently taking his hand.

"Little An'er..."

Little An'er spasmed.

Out of pain and fear.

"Little An'er, don't be afraid. Auntie will save you. Can you trust auntie?" Yun Jinnian's voice was very soft and gentle.

Little An'er, with his eyes closed, seemed to take in the words.

"It hurts..." he croaked.

"Auntie knows it hurts Little An'er. Don't be afraid, auntie will give you some medicine soon and you won't hurt anymore. When you wake up, you'll be all better. Little An'er is the strongest and bravest, so there's nothing to be afraid of, right?"

"..."

"Shall auntie hold Little An'er, alright?"

After a silence, Little An'er weakly and faintly responded, "Mm!"

Only then did Yun Jinnian extend his arms to take Little An'er from the wet nurse, with Chu Yu stepping up immediately to help transfer him to the table.

Yun Jinnian first checked Little An'er's pulse, his brow immediately knitting together.

"What's the matter?" Chu Xinhuan asked anxiously.

Chapter 733: Poisoned Again

Yun Jinnian shook his head slightly, "Hemei and Henuan stay behind; all other irrelevant people leave, and stay far away. The injury is to the eye—a fraction of an inch could be fatal..."

Chu Xinhuan immediately ordered the maids and old women to withdraw. Even those who carried water were Hidden Guards from the residence, skilled in martial arts and moving without a sound.

The Princess and Mrs. Dai also wanted to stay, but Chu Xinhuan scowled.

The Princess spoke directly, "Everyone leave!"

The room suddenly quieted down, and the scent of cosmetics also faded.

Only then did Yun Jinnian open the medicine box, took out the Blood Lotus Pill, had Hemei dissolve it in boiling water, and slowly fed it to the little 'Prince' by hand.

"Little 'Prince', don't be afraid; you will get better!"

The child was still small. Yun Jinnian waited a long while before taking out some narcotic medicine and letting him sniff it until he fell asleep.

Then he took a cloth and wiped the blood around the eye.

He spoke softly, "Logically, a child's strength shouldn't be too great. Even if the eyeball was pierced, it shouldn't have penetrated into the socket. I suspect that after the first injury, someone else meddled with it!"

Upon hearing this, the Princess was shocked, dumbfounded, and furious.

"There were several maids and old women serving at that time; it's hard to know which one it was," said the Princess.

Of course, better to wrongly kill a hundred than to spare one—those useless maids and old women had already been sent to the Yellow Springs.

Yun Jinnian remained silent.

The Princess spoke no further but said to Chu Yu, "Ayu, come out with me!"

Chu Yu hurriedly followed, "Uncle?"

"Ayu, now that I and your cousin Xinhuan can't leave, I need your help to take care of the rest. You must find the mastermind behind this. And don't let the wet nurse go either; arrest her family members as well!"

The Princess continued, paused, then added, "As the little 'Prince' was injured, she was by his side. He would definitely have sought her first. If it's as Princess Yijia said, with a second injury involved, she cannot be absolved..."

The little 'Princess' Jade could only exert so much strength.

At most, she could have pierced the eyeball; it's impossible for her to have hit the eye socket.

Moreover, at that time, the maids and old women all said they didn't know why the two children started arguing and suddenly lashed out.

The little 'Prince' was far too reliant on his wet nurse.

"Don't worry, Uncle. I will handle it well," Chu Yu said gravely.

Adult vendettas shouldn't involve children, especially one so young.

At an age where he understood nothing.

The Princess nodded and re-entered the room.

Yun Jinnian was already washing and drying his hands, with many differently colored porcelain bottles set alongside. The lids of the bottles had been opened.

"Can the eye be saved?" the Princess couldn't help but ask.

Although he already knew the answer and the Imperial Physicians dared not operate.

Yun Jinnian shook his head slightly, "To save his life is already a stroke of luck!"

After drying his hands, Yun Jinnian began to apply needles.

It was not only about removing the hairpin but also about cleaning the eye, which meant the child would be left with one eye from now on.

And that wasn't all. Who knew if the nerves had been damaged, and if he would become an imbecile from then on?

Moreover, there was the poison within his body...

Yun Jinnian focused his mind and carefully removed the hairpin.

Then he began cleaning the wound.

Basin after basin of bloody water was carried out. Even the Princess felt faint, and Chu Xinhuan reached out to support him.

"Father?"

The Princess shook his head slightly.

After an excruciating hour and more, Yun Jinnian finally finished, washed his hands, and bandaged the little 'Prince'.

Covering the injured eye.

"It's done!"

Yun Jinnian said as he washed his hands at one side. After thinking for a moment, he instructed, "Where is that wet nurse? I want to see her!"

"Is there something amiss with that wet nurse?" the Princess hastily inquired.

Chapter 734: Ninety-Nine in the Heart

"A'Guang has been poisoned!"

"What?" Prince Zhong incredulously asked.

In this Wang Residence, layered protections are in place. A'Guang's maids, nannies, and even his wet nurse are all meticulously selected.

"The poison must have come through the breast milk. A'Guang is very fond of his wet nurse, right?"

"Yes, he almost never stops crying if he doesn't see her, and no one else can soothe him!"

"That's correct. There is a flower in the Western Region that, when consumed over the long term, causes addiction. After a while, the spirit becomes more and more listless, and it's impossible to quit!"

Upon hearing this, Prince Zhong was also burning with rage.

"Outrageous!"

He stepped out of the room forthwith.

Hemei and Henuan helped A'Guang to clean up and get settled, placing him on the bed.

They covered him with the quilt.

Chu Xinhuan bowed with his hands clasped, deeply saluting Yun Jinnian.

"Why need Second Young Master do so!"

"Saving a life merits a springlike return. Whenever Princess Yijia is in need of anything, just say the word!"

Yun Jinnian looked at Chu Xinhuan, "Let's talk about future affairs in the future. I have used quite a bit of medicine today in treating A'Guang's injury. I will make a list later, and I hope the Second Young Master will follow the list and send the medicinal materials to the Han Residence; I need these to prepare drugs that could save even more people in the future!"

"Of course!"

While all the Imperial Physicians from the Imperial Medical Bureau were at a loss, Yun Jinnian calmly managed to save the child.

Yun Jinnian nodded, "It's just that A'Guang may develop a fever tonight. I will stay over this evening. Second Young Master, please send over a few capable maids and nannies to wait upon him. There must always be hot water available in the kitchen!"

"Princess, aren't you going to prescribe a remedy?" Chu Xinhuan asked, puzzled.

"No need for a prescription. The medicine I gave to A'Guang earlier contains Blood Lotus, which will spare him from taking other medicines for a few days. He will be given another pill tonight. Rest assured, Second Young Master; I am not a greedy person!"

"You misunderstand, Princess; I meant no such thing!"

During the conversation, Mrs. Dai and Princess Zhong rushed in. Mrs. Dai threw herself by the bed, "A'Guang..." she was about to burst into tears.

In his previous life, Yun Jinnian was such a powerless individual, and in this life, he particularly hated such behavior. He spoke in a deep voice, "Don't wake him up!"

Mrs. Dai immediately quieted at his words.

She looked at Yun Jinnian with astonishment and confusion, but in the end, she was still afraid of Princess Zhong and Chu Xinhuan.

Tears fell silently.

Princess Zhong gave a curtsy to Yun Jinnian, "Many thanks to Princess Yijia, but may I ask if the Princess could stay at the Residence for a few days? A'Guang, he..."

"Okay!"

Without hesitation, Yun Jinnian replied, giving a curtsy back to Princess Zhong.

Princess Zhong was instantly filled with joy, "I will have someone prepare a courtyard for the Princess immediately!"

"There's no need. Just set up an Arhat bed here for me. A'Guang might develop a fever tonight, and I can't sleep!"

"Alright!"

Princess Zhong's impression of Yun Jinnian was very favorable.

Noting Yun Jinnian's appearance, she reckoned he was not yet of age for marriage, perhaps an arrangement had not been decided. She had a son of nineteen, and now that Yun Jinnian bore the title of Princess, he would indeed be a suitable match.

Seeing the tearful Mrs. Dai, Princess Zhong felt contempt in her heart.

She seemed alright when they had met earlier, but who knew that after marrying into the family, she would become like this.

"Enough now, A'Guang is fine, why are you crying? It brings misfortune!" Princess Zhong scolded sharply.

Mrs. Dai immediately stopped crying.

She glanced at Chu Xinhuan with grievance, seeing that he was completely ignoring her, she lowered her head.

Chu Xinhuan took a deep breath before speaking seriously, "Princess, may I have a word with you in private!"

Some matters could not be revealed to Mrs. Dai. At the beginning, he was fond of her, but the more unreasonable she became after having the child, the more repulsive she was!

Though taken aback, Yun Jinnian nevertheless nodded slightly, "Alright!"

Chapter 735: Fruitless Conversation

Chu Xinhuan invited Yun Jinnian to the courtyard, as he was a person who observed rules and would also consider Yun Jinnian's reputation.

The courtyard was spacious, making everything clearly visible.

"Princess Yijia," Chu Xinhuan began with a deep bow.

Yun Jinnian nodded, "Speak, Second Young Master, if you have something to say!"

"Does Princess Yijia take on disciples?" Chu Xinhuan asked.

"Take on disciples?" Yun Jinnian was taken aback.

She herself was still but a child.

"Yes!"

Yun Jinnian gave a light, faint smile, "I do not plan to do so now, and even if I were to take disciples, it would not be until some years later!"

She was also curious, for whom was Chu Xinhuan seeking this favor?

"Then what does Princess Yijia think of Sister Yu?"

"Her?" Yun Jinnian couldn't help but laugh, "I have not met Sister Yu!"

"True, but now, having made such a grave mistake, in this household, even if she is dearly loved, there may no longer be a place for her, and how will she face Brother Agen in the future?"

"So, Second Young Master, you intend to abandon her?" Yun Jinnian asked gravely.

Claiming it's for the child's sake? But has he ever asked her opinion?

Has he considered how frightened she must be now, heartbroken, drifting, helpless?

A child just over one or two years of age, growing up in a place like the Wang Residence, learning fear all too well, must by now know she did wrong.

The maids, old women, and wet nurses by her side are probably all disposed of; her parents, grandfather, grandmother, they're all revolving around her brother, does anyone care if she has eaten or is warm?

Having been abandoned before, Yun Jinnian knew all too well the taste of abandonment, truly an unpleasant feeling.

"No, no, that's not it, I just..." Chu Xinhuan stuttered.

"Since Second Young Master can't bring himself to say it, then go see her. It's said that twins share a special bond, and Sister Yu by now should also realize her mistake!" Yun Jinnian spoke, pausing briefly, "I hope you'll forgive my boldness in asking, Second Young Master, but since the incident, has anyone shown any concern for Sister Yu?"

Having spoken, she didn't wait to see Chu Xinhuan's expression, turning instead to enter the room.

The loyal Princess Consort sat by the bed, her fingers nervously clutching a handkerchief, intently watching over Agen.

Seeing her kind and gentle demeanor, who would have thought she could give such a cruel order to Chu Xinchun, who was not her son!

Mrs. Dai stood to the side with swollen eyes, looking timid and shrunken.

Yun Jinnian knew that she and Dai Hanmi were close cousins, but she lacked Dai Hanmi's presence, not to mention her elegance.

In the end, they only shared a surname.

"Princess Yijia," Mrs. Dai greeted with a slight curtsy.

Mrs. Dai knew that Yun Jinnian and her cousin Hanmi were good friends, so she hoped to influence Yun Jinnian into speaking on her behalf, that she might be allowed to stay and take care of the child.

And that the child would stay by her side in the future.

But with her mother-in-law present, she dared not make such a request!

Yun Jinnian nodded to Mrs. Dai and approached the bed, saying to the Princess Consort, "Princess, please step aside a moment; I need to take Agen's pulse."

"Of course, of course!" The Princess Consort quickly stepped aside.

No matter what, Yun Jinnian had saved Agen's life, a favor greater than heaven itself.

The Princess Consort was nonetheless very clear about what was right and wrong.

Yun Jinnian sat down and Hemei passed her a damp handkerchief.

Yun Jinnian wiped her hands, waiting for them to dry before taking Agen's hand to feel his pulse.

"How is Agen now?" The Princess Consort asked anxiously.

"He seems better now, but when he wakes up, his eyes will hurt. The pain here is bearable, but he has been poisoned, and the pain when the poison flares up is the hardest to endure!"

Chapter 736: It's Not Easy to Marry Well (Part 2)

Mrs. Dai, upon hearing the words, retreated several steps in a startled stumble.

The complexion of the Princess of the Loyal King also turned very unsightly.

"Princess Yijia, I beg you to save my son, Anguo!" The Princess of the Loyal King said this with an entire demeanor that was gloomy.

Her tone was cold and harsh.

She did indeed resemble a heartless and ruthless stepmother princess.

"I will do my best!"

Yun Jinnian sent Hemei back to the Han Residence to fetch some medicinal herbs, and to check if Tianci had gone home and to inform Mrs. Han of the situation at the Loyal King Residence; she might not be able to return these next few days, and fetch a few changes of clothes for her as well.

Even her own personal toiletries, she was accustomed to those used on ordinary days.

It was not that those of the Loyal King Residence would be lacking; she just wasn't comfortable using them.

The Princess of the Loyal King immediately ordered someone to ready a horse carriage to send Hemei back to the Han Family, and several maids carefully carried in a large Arhat bed, setting it up in a side study room, with several cotton-padded mattresses and a silk quilt from Jiangnan that was a recent tribute.

Before supper, Hemei returned with the items.

"The young master has already gone home. Knowing that you were dealing with an urgent matter, he told you not to worry, that he would study hard at home. Madame also said that you needn't worry about the household and sent several pastries she made herself with me for you!" Hemei reported respectfully by her side.

"Has my grandfather said anything?"

"The old master said, 'A doctor should thus be!'"

Yun Jinnian gently pursed her lips, her smile soft and gentle.

Her grandfather was a man of indifferent character, not willing to associate with others, but that did not mean he lacked a kind heart.

The Princess of the Loyal King personally kept her company for supper, and her daughter, Chu Lilan, who was married off, also rushed back in a hurry.

And reproached Mrs. Dai for a good while.

Yun Jinnian stood behind the curtains, watching indifferently as Chu Lilan scolded Mrs. Dai like a maid, Mrs. Dai hanging her head low, not daring to utter a word.

This was the plight of marrying above one's station, where, because one's natal family could not match the status of the husband's, carefulness and lack of backbone followed.

Even having given birth to boy and girl twins, one still wouldn't dare to hold one's head high and chest out.

Just like when she married Chu Liange, she too was always cautious and walking on eggshells, afraid of making a mistake.

Yet, even with all the caution, she still made a mistake.

A colossal one!

Yun Jinnian stood in place, looking on indifferently until the Princess of the Loyal King came forward and rebuked Chu Lilan a few times, and only then did Chu Lilan stop talking.

When she turned to see Yun Jinnian standing behind the curtain, her face immediately flushed red, "Who are you? Why are you sneaking around behind the curtain?"

"Lilan, hold your tongue!" The Princess of the Loyal King rebuked.

"But Mother..." Chu Lilan protested.

She considered herself the legitimate eldest daughter of this house, and also a Commandery Princess by title, accustomed to arrogance.

Thinking that others had heard her scolding her sister-in-law, the unpleasant feeling in her heart made her resent Yun Jinnian.

The Princess of the Loyal King, annoyed, glanced at Chu Lilan and approached Yun Jinnian, "This child is spoiled by me, Princess, don't take her words to heart!"

Yun Jinnian's smile carried a hint of amusement as she curled her lips, "No harm done!"

"Hehe," The Princess of the Loyal King forced a dry laugh. "Princess Yijia, supper is ready. Would you like to dine here or go to the dining hall?"

"Here will do!"

"I will have someone bring the meals over here!"

Yun Jinnian nodded slightly and walked over at a leisurely pace, blatantly ignoring Chu Lilan.

Though a princess of the imperial family, Chu Lilan's comportment really was something one could hardly agree with.

Sitting beside the bed and taking Anguo's pulse, Yun Jinnian slightly furrowed her brows, "Hemei, bring me the silver needles!"

"What's wrong with Anguo?" The Princess of the Loyal King asked urgently.

"The poison is taking effect!"

Chapter 737: A Mother's Love is Like a Mountain

Yun Jinnian spoke in a heavy tone.

The poison had taken effect, but the child had not yet awakened.

She had to use a silver needle to wake him.

Although the situation was urgent, Yun Jinnian remained calm and composed, carefully administering the needle.

The child slowly came to.

"It hurts, it hurts..."

The voice was hoarse, softly making one's heart ache.

Chu Lilan finally understood that Yun Jinnian was a doctor, and also realized Yun Jinnian's identity.

So, this beautiful woman was Yun Jinnian, the Princess Yijia, conferred by the Emperor, her brother.

"Little Brother!" Princess Consort cried out in distress.

Yun Jinnian slowly withdrew the needle before standing up and saying, "Second lady, come and hold him!"

Mrs. Dai looked up, her face a mixture of astonishment and joy as she looked at Yun Jinnian.

"Truly, is it really possible?" she asked tentatively.

"You are his mother, you carried him for ten months and gave birth to him. It is said that there is a special bond between a mother and child, and no matter how close he is to his wet nurse, he cannot surpass you. Now, only with your sufficient love can he hold on. No one else can replace a mother's love!"

Yun Jinnian's voice was gentle, yet it struck Princess Consort and Mrs. Dai like a hammer.

The Princess Consort felt that Yun Jinnian was deliberately helping Mrs. Dai.

Mrs. Dai herself had an epiphany.

Indeed, she was the child's mother; she had carried him for ten months and given birth to him. Why couldn't she raise him by her side?

She stepped forward to embrace her son, coaxing softly, "Don't be afraid, don't be afraid, mother is here, mother is always watching over you!"

"Mother, mother, it hurts..."

It was as if he could feel his mother's embrace, a warmth familiar and etched into his marrow.

In those ten months of darkness, it was this soft voice, looking forward to his arrival.

The child leaned into Mrs. Dai's embrace, "Mother, it hurts!"

"Okay, mother will blow on it to make it better, then it won't hurt anymore!" Mrs. Dai gently blew on his eyes.

But how could she possibly blow through the thick bandages to the wound?

Yet, as the bond between mother and child was so profound, the child soon calmed down, "Sister..."

Mrs. Dai's body stiffened.

She also resented her daughter.

A child at home, yet so cruel in her actions, what would become of her when she grew up? But she was also her child.

Even when she committed a grave mistake, Mrs. Dai could not bring herself to speak a harsh word to her.

"Sister has gone to rest, she will come to see you in a while!"

"Not sister, someone pushed her..."

These few words from the child exploded like a thunderclap out of the blue.

Not only was Mrs. Dai shocked, but even the Princess Consort was startled, and Chu Lilan was also immensely surprised.

But Yun Jinnian somewhat sighed.

This child was indeed mindful of brotherly and sisterly ties.

No matter what, his sister definitely held the hairpin and stabbed him. But the way he was speaking now would harm the maids and grannies attending him, as they might all be beaten or killed.

Indeed, those born into the royal family learn to scheme from an early age.

Even a child not yet two years old knew how to exonerate his sister and push the blame onto the maids and grannies.

Yun Jinnian didn't know what to feel, nor was it her place to say whether what he did was right or wrong. She turned and left the room, letting the cold wind dissipate the restlessness in her heart.

"What is the Commandery Princess thinking about?"

Yun Jinnian, hearing the voice, saw it was Chu Yu.

Even from some distance away, Yun Jinnian could smell the scent of blood on him.

"Your Highness, Prince Rui!" Yun Jinnian greeted with a slight bow.

Courteous and polite.

"The Commandery Princess need not be overly formal. To speak truthfully, the Commandery Princess is my lifesaver, and I seem to have not yet formally expressed my gratitude!"

"As a doctor, saving people is part of my duty," Yun Jinnian said, catching a snowflake in her hand, watching it melt away.

It had been snowing since her return two days ago.

"Your Highness, Prince Rui!"

"The Commandery Princess may speak freely, don't hesitate!" Chu Yu said eagerly.

Though he enjoyed her company, he disliked Yun Jinnian's detached tone.

Truly a dilemma.

Chapter 738: Speaking Against One's Heart

Yun Jinnian turned his head to look at Chu Yu and started to laugh.

His act was quite convincing.

Chu Yu also laughed along and stealthily moved closer to Yun Jinnian, "Say it!"

"Nothing much, just calling you to see if you'd dare to respond!" said Yun Jinnian, covering her lips and chuckling softly.

Chu Yu was momentarily stunned but then laughed along as well.

He thought that soon, when Yun Jinnian reached the age of marriage, he would be able to officially ask for her hand in marriage.

It seemed better to prepare the betrothal gifts earlier.

When Chu Lilan came outside, she saw Yun Jinnian and Chu Yu standing quite close and immediately felt that Yun Jinnian was seducing Chu Yu.

"Cousin!"

Chu Lilan called out cheerfully but softly.

She glanced at Yun Jinnian. "Princess Yijia, I really am sorry for earlier!"

Yun Jinnian just smiled.

Chu Yu then asked, "What happened earlier?"

"Nothing much, Cousin, I and Princess Yijia are on good terms!" Chu Lilan hastened to explain.

"Really?" asked Chu Yu, looking at Chu Lilan and then turning his gaze towards Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian smiled slightly, "Indeed, we are!"

She definitely would not openly offend Chu Lilan at this time.

Seeing how arrogantly she had rebuked Mrs. Dai, it was clear this girl was not known for her generous spirit.

She would likely be extremely arrogant in her husband's family as well.

Chu Yu did not pursue the matter further.

To Chu Lilan, he said, "Princess Yijia is my lifesaver, as well as the lifesaver of little Agen; don't you bully her!"

"I know, Cousin, don't worry!" said Chu Lilan, stepping forward to hook Yun Jinnian's arm and flashing a very fake smile.

But no one called her out on it.

Chu Lilan was jealous of Yun Jinnian; her dowry was generous yet all her properties were outside Capital City, some even too far to visit in a lifetime.

She only had one residence in Capital City, and it was just a four-section compound.

Meanwhile, Yun Jinnian had three large five-section mansions, with a small mountain behind each. At this point, she was the unmarried girl in Capital City with the most silver.

Chu Lilan also wanted a five-section mansion, but her mother said there were several illegitimate daughters to marry off, along with illegitimate sons needing wives, her second brother was to marry, and her younger sister also needed to be married off.

Homes for the illegitimate members could be modest, but her mother definitely would not short-change her second brother and younger sister, so she had to swallow this indignation.

Agen's first bout with the poison passed without much suffering and he fell back asleep.

Mrs. Dai rocked him gently, comforting him in a soft voice.

Yun Jinnian was in the adjacent small hall having dinner, accompanied by Chu Lilan, while Chu Yu had gone to the front courtyard to join Prince Zhong and his brothers, Chu Xinhuan and Chu Xinkai, to eat and discuss how to catch the mastermind behind the scenes.

This person surely had a lot of nerve, targeting a child this cruelly.

After dinner, the tired Yun Jinnian took a bath, changed her clothes, and when her hair dried, she did her hair bun and made sure everything was tidy before heading to little Agen's room.

Hearing the low voices of conversation inside, Yun Jinnian entered and saw that apart from Chu Lilan, there were two other girls inside.

"Are you Princess Yijia?" the girl in pink softly asked as she stepped forward.

Yun Jinnian nodded, greeting her with a slight bow.

Chu Lixiu also bowed to Yun Jinnian in greeting.

Chu Lilan quickly said, "This is my second sister, Lixiu!" and pulled the beautiful girl in white towards Yun Jinnian, "And this is my cousin Shuyuan; she is well known for her literary talents!"

Miss Shuyuan, coming from a family whose maternal lineage bore the surname Wa, quickly bowed to Yun Jinnian, "Greetings to Princess Yijia!"

Although Wa Shuyuan was a renowned talent in Capital City, she did not have a title and thus it was proper for her to show respect to Yun Jinnian.

Chapter 739: Full of Worries

Yun Jinnian also bowed slightly in return.

Wa Shuyuan was petite and exquisite, wearing a white dress that made her look exceptionally spirited.

But now, with the new year approaching, was it really appropriate for her to be wearing white?

"Alright, now that everyone is acquainted, let's not stand around here. Princess Yijia, please begin the pulse examination for Brother Ah-Gui," Chu Lilan said.

Yun Jinnian nodded slightly.

This was indeed the purpose of her visit.

She did not take Chu Lilan's haughty attitude to heart.

Seeing Mrs. Dai still holding Brother Ah-Gui, Yun Jinnian sighed softly, "Let him lie on the bed. You can sleep beside him to keep him company. Holding him like this will only make him uncomfortable!"

Upon hearing this, Mrs. Dai hurriedly complied.

Had it not been for Yun Jinnian's words today, she would not have stayed to care for Brother Ah-Gui.

She twisted her sore arms a bit.

"Madam, go refresh yourself and have some food. I will watch over Brother Ah-Gui for a while," Yun Jinnian said indifferently.

The love of a parent knows no bounds, and Mrs. Dai truly cared for her child.

"Yes, cousin-in-law, go ahead. Lixiu and I will help you keep watch for a bit," Wa Shuyuan also said hurriedly.

"Second sister-in-law, please go. If you look like this when Brother Ah-Gui wakes up, he will be distressed," Chu Lixiu said gently.

Chu Lilan did not speak.

Mrs. Dai nodded slightly and left the bed to freshen up and eat something.

She knew she would need her strength tonight to watch over him.

After Mrs. Dai went out, Yun Jinnian took Brother Ah-Gui's pulse.

"Princess Yijia, how is Brother Ah-Gui?" Chu Lixiu asked softly.

"His pulse is stable. As long as he doesn't develop a fever tonight, that's good. If he does, it will be quite troublesome!"

Wa Shuyuan quickly asked, "What should we do then? Is there a way to prevent it?"

"No," Yun Jinnian said plainly, withdrawing her hand.

She walked to the side to wash her hands, dried them, and applied a protective hand cream.

Chu Lilan pursed her lips and remained silent.

Wa Shuyuan, not understanding, asked, "Princess Yijia, why do you wash your hands before and after taking a pulse?"

"It's just to be more precise," she replied.

"?" Wa Shuyuan was still puzzled.

"Because my hands touch many things, and they can pick up dust or other matters."

"I see. It's the first time I've heard of that!" Wa Shuyuan suddenly realized.

Yun Jinnian smiled.

She did not say she was somewhat of a clean freak herself, although that was also a reason.

Chu Yu, Chu Xinhuan, and Chu Xinkai arrived together.

"Cousin..." Wa Shuyuan called out joyfully, advancing to bow, and after taking a glance at Chu Yu, she quickly moved away, "Greetings, Your Highness, Prince Rui!"

Chu Yu waved his hand, saying nothing.

He walked to the bedside and asked Yun Jinnian, "How is Brother Ah-Gui now?"

"His condition is stable for now, but I'm worried he might develop a fever at night. Plus, the poison in his body will act up again tonight."

Chu Lilan and Wa Shuyuan were surprised to learn that Brother Ah-Gui had been poisoned.

This was utterly inconceivable.

From now on, Chu Xinhuan would definitely need to stay. Chu Yu indicated he would stay as well, and there was no need to mention Chu Xinkai.

And Chu Lilan, Chu Lixiu, and Wa Shuyuan also decided to stay.

When Mrs. Dai returned, she was carrying a little girl in her arms, who had swollen red eyes and was sniffing her nose. The child's clothes were clean and her hair neatly combed, but it was obvious that the clothes had just been changed.

Mrs. Dai put the little girl down and gently pushed her, "Yu'er, go see your brother!"

Yu'er looked at Mrs. Dai and then at the people in the room, especially after seeing Chu Xinhuan's encouraging look, she toddled to the bedside. Looking at Brother Ah-Gui lying on the bed with a pale face and his eyes covered, she softly called out, "Brother..."

Chapter 740: Wu Shi Shu Yuan

"I'm sorry, Yuyu didn't mean to do it!" she said, her voice barely forming a choked sob.

Though young, she had come to understand a thing or two.

She knew she'd done wrong today.

For a moment, the room fell silent, as Chu Lilan began to cry.

Although Yuyu hadn't done it on purpose, and knew she was at fault, Chu Xinkai's sight would never be restored.

Whether his other eye would ever see again was uncertain.

A life of splendor and honor came to an abrupt end, and what lay ahead for him, nobody knew.

Mrs. Dai was also in tears, stepping forward to pick up Yuyu, taking off her shoes, "Good girl Yuyu, go lie down on the bed and stay with your brother!"

"Okay!"

Night deepened.

Yun Jinnian dared not sleep, fearing an emergency might arise.

Chu Lilan had already fallen asleep on the chaise longue, with Chu Lixiu and Wa Shuyuan huddled together; Chu Lixiu was drowsy, while Wa Shuyuan was wide awake.

Yun Jinnian leaned on one hand with his eyes closed.

Chu Yu, Chu Xinhuan, and Chu Xinkai sat on one side, all silent.

The air was tense with anger.

While the Prince of Loyalty and his Princess did not remain by the bedside, they sent people to inquire several times.

Yuyu, being just a child, slept soundly.

Mrs. Dai wiped her tears in secret.

"Uh..."

Chu Xinkai let out a groan, began to struggle, and called out for his wet nurse in distress.

"Princess Yijia!" Mrs. Dai exclaimed in shock.

Yun Jinnian suddenly woke up, quickly washed his face with cold water to become alert, then swiftly washed and dried his hands with warm water.

He returned to the bedside to feel Chu Xinkai's pulse, "The poison has started to act, it's just the beginning. Leave two people here to help, everyone else go outside, and also, carry Yuyu out!"

The onset of Chu Xinkai's poisoning was indeed a frightening sight.

Chu Xinkai carried Yuyu to the room next door.

Chu Lixiu, Chu Lilan, and Wa Shuyuan also left the room.

"Hemei, silver needles!"

She quickly grabbed the silver needles and applied them to Chu Xinkai.

But she had underestimated the potency of the poison, and Chu Xinkai's body convulsed uncontrollably.

"Strip him of his clothes, hold him down, don't let him thrash about!"

Chu Yu and Chu Xinhuan immediately let go and swiftly stripped the clothes from Chu Xinkai's body.

Mrs. Dai was also there to hold Chu Xinkai steady.

Yun Jinnian moved quickly and steadily with the needles, though several times she started out right, but Chu Xinkai's struggling caused her to miss.

"I said, hold him down firmly. If you go easy on him because you're worried about hurting him, you're actually doing him harm!" Yun Jinnian said sternly, sweat beading on her forehead.

She didn't want a vibrant life to end on her watch.

Hearing this, Chu Xinhuan glanced at Mrs. Dai and said solemnly, "You go next door to look after Yuyu, let my second brother come help!"

"My lord..." Mrs. Dai exclaimed.

This was her child; how could she not be heartbroken?

Chu Xinhuan didn't speak, but people stationed outside immediately went to call Chu Xinkai.

Meanwhile, Chu Xinkai's painful cries grew louder, begging for his wet nurse, calling out for his mother and grandmother to comfort him.

He was in a lot of pain.

Incredibly uncomfortable!

The three men held him down tightly as Yun Jinnian administered the needles.

The Prince of Loyalty and his Princess hurried over but were kept outside; listening to the cries from inside the room, they too were deeply distressed.

About half an hour later, Chu Xinkai lay exhausted and limp on the bed.

Yun Jinnian put away the needles and let out a breath of relief, "We've managed to get through the first hurdle; he's likely to develop a fever soon!"

She took out a pill from a bottle, "Hemei, dissolve this in water and give it to him to drink!"

Yun Jinnian didn't need to worry about the trivialities of getting dressed.

She went aside to change her damp undergarments.

"Is Princess Yijia very nervous?" Wa Shuyuan asked softly.