

Indulgence 741

Chapter 741: Faint Worries

Yun Jinnian looked back at her, "If it were an adult, they would have self-control, able to restrain themselves, but Agen is just a child, he can't control himself and might move around. I must concentrate fully, not a single mistake can occur!"

"I seem to have thought wrongly," Wa Shuyuan said, and she bowed to Yun Jinnian, "Commandery Princess, please do not blame me!"

"I won't," Yun Jinnian said indifferently, taking a sip of warm water.

Wa Shuyuan smelled a lotus fragrance, and saw Yun Jinnian finish a cup of tea. When a maid passed her a spoon, she even ate the leaves inside the cup.

No, they weren't leaves.

She saw something white, like flower petals.

Lotus fragrance...

Could it be Tian Mountain Snow Lotus?

Wa Shuyuan's gaze at Yun Jinnian changed somewhat.

At first, she thought that this Commandery Princess was proficient in medical skills, but now it seems that she's not only skilled in medicine, she must also be very wealthy!

The Tian Mountain Snow Lotus was such a precious item, something many sought after but could never find, and even if someone got it, they would store it carefully, using it only to save lives, never like Yun Jinnian would, to brew tea with!

Wa Shuyuan remained silent and thoughtful.

After drinking the Snow Lotus water, Yun Jinnian handed the quilt to Hemei, "There should be no issues for now, you should go to sleep too!"

"I'll sleep after Henuan wakes up and takes over for me," Hemei said.

Often, Hemei and Henuan still had their own convictions.

Yun Jinnian had to go along with Hemei.

Agen had already been dressed and was lying on the bed, his breathing extremely faint.

Yun Jinnian stepped forward to take his pulse, "Hot water. Are the towels ready?"

"Everything is ready!" Chu Lixiu said.

"Get ready then, in at most half an hour, he will start to run a fever!"

Chu Lixiu responded and went to instruct the maids and nannies to prepare hot water, while Wa Shuyuan nonchalantly watched the hourglass to keep time.

Yun Jinnian meanwhile discussed with the Prince of Zhong and the Princess which herbs were needed next, as well as the detoxification steps.

"For someone like Agen, detoxification is a long-term matter because it's not merely poisoning; the poison makes people addicted, necessitating a gradual approach. Therefore, during this period, the second lady and Jade should ideally not leave him. Have maids and nannies who are stable, not talkative, and sensible take care of him!"

The Prince of Zhong found Yun Jinnian's advice very sensible, "Commandery Princess, rest assured, we will arrange everything as you have said. We entrust Agen to the Commandery Princess!"

"It's what the younger generation should do!"

With the Prince of Zhong being so courteous, Yun Jinnian didn't dare to act superior.

However, with the new year approaching and no visit to the Duan Family, Yun Jinnian felt somewhat troubled.

Right now, even if she wanted to visit the Duan Family, the Princess of Zhong probably wouldn't let her leave.

Half an hour later, Agen indeed began to heat up, his whole body burning like a furnace, so hot it could scorch one's hands.

Yun Jinnian took Agen's pulse.

"Bring the strongest liquor!"

Once the liquor was brought, Yun Jinnian had people wipe Agen's palms, soles, and armpits.

About half an hour later, Agen's fever subsided.

"Phew..."

Everyone else also breathed a sigh of relief.

A few maids tiptoed around to change Agen into clean clothes, and then Yun Jinnian took his pulse again.

"Very good, he has endured the first trial, but there's still the second and third trial ahead, which are very hard to endure. Give him more care, spend more time with him, let him feel that even if he's hurt his eyes, you still love him and haven't given up on him, let him have the will to live!"

Equally, if one wanted him dead, it would also just be a matter of a few words...

Chapter 742: Who's Outsmarting Whom

However, looking at the expressions of the Loyalty Prince and his wife, it seemed they truly loved this child. Even if he were to lose his sight, they would love him just the same!

As Yun Jinnian thought this, he made sure everything was in order, feeling somewhat exhausted.

So he returned to the side room to sleep.

The Loyalty Prince called for Chu Xinhuan, Chu Xinkai, and Chu Yu to the front courtyard study.

In the study,

The Loyalty Prince handed a letter to Chu Yu, "Ayu, take a look!"

He sat down on the chair, looking incredibly aged.

As if he had aged ten years overnight.

Chu Yu took the letter, brows deeply furrowed, and passed it to Chu Xinhuan, while patting him on the shoulder.

After reading the letter, Chu Xinhuan laughed coldly, "Heh heh..."

A favored consort with no backing, reaching her hand out far too long.

She seemed to have forgotten that it was the Loyalty Prince's residence that brought her into the Imperial Palace. It also seemed to have slipped her mind that without the Loyalty Prince's residence, she would be nothing. Now that she has gained favor, she dares to extend her poisonous hand to the Loyalty Prince's residence.

Chu Xinkai also took a look, and after reading it, he was filled with rage, "Where would a favored consort without any backing get the manpower?"

It was a statement that struck home.

The Loyalty Prince suddenly came to his senses.

Indeed, where would a favored consort with no backing get the manpower if not from the Emperor himself?

And could it really be that the Emperor was unaware that the Noble Consort Le Xun targeted the two children of the Loyalty Prince's residence?

"Very good, very good indeed!" the Loyalty Prince said, wiping his face with hatred.

What grudge or grievance did the Noble Consort have that she would harm A'guo'er and Yuji'er like this?

On that day, although he nearly made a grave mistake, it seemed that Le Xun also had that intention, and considering her dewy eyes filled with moisture, it was likely she too was moved.

Was it for this reason that the Emperor, though not speaking of it, held a jealous hatred in his heart and was seeking revenge?

The Loyalty Prince guessed some of it, but he did not guess the whole truth. The Loyalty Prince's wife and the Imperial Palace's Wei Noble Consort had given Le Xun Barrenwort, which after one bout of ill health, Le Xun discovered she was infertile. After some deducing, she figured out it was the doing of the Loyalty Prince's wife.

The cunning woman she always was, immediately sought death, crying out that if she couldn't bear children for the Emperor, the man she loved, she would rather die.

The Emperor, already in love with Le Xun's body, naturally would not let her die and promptly gave her a few Hidden Guards. With these guards at her disposal, whatever she wanted to do was easily within reach.

This matter was also not concealed from the Loyalty Prince's wife.

"So it was her..." gritted the Loyalty Prince's wife through clenched teeth.

She now understood why the Noble Consort had acted.

She would not let her get away with it, not at all!

Just wait and see... Having harmed her most cherished grandson, she would certainly not let the matter rest. A favored consort without the support of her natal family, she was curious to see how long her favor would last!

Some families rejoiced while others worried.

While dark clouds loomed over the Loyalty Prince's residence, in the Imperial Palace,

After a night of passionate love with the Emperor, Noble Consort Le Xun nestled in his embrace, "Your Majesty, do you think the Loyalty Prince would know?"

The incident at the Loyalty Prince's residence was orchestrated by her alone, and things had unexpectedly gone smoothly. She had thought the child would certainly die, yet unexpectedly, Princess Yijia, with her formidable medical skills, saved the child when the entire Imperial Medical Bureau was helpless.

Perhaps, whether she would have children or not depended on Princess Yijia.

"What does it matter if he knows? He was the one who wronged Us first, and the Loyalty Prince's wife wronged you too. My beloved, don't be afraid, with Us here, We will not let them hurt you again!" said the Emperor gripping the beauty in his arms, his hands not remaining idle.

Le Xun inwardly celebrated that the Emperor did not know of the near tryst between her and the Loyalty Prince that day, nor was he aware of her past murky affairs with several men or that night of pleasure she spent in the abandoned temple with a man.

Speaking of which, he was the real man.

Chapter 743: Who Owes Who

Although she was curious about who the man was and yearned in her heart, she dared not seek him out, not even allowing a whisper of rumor to escape.

"Your Majesty..."

"Hmm?"

"It's better to summon Princess Yijia earlier. I want to bear a child for Your Majesty!"

The Emperor laughed, reached out to pinch Consort Le's cheek, "Do you prefer a son or a daughter?"

"I want both a son and a daughter!"

"You certainly are greedy!"

Consort Le leaned into the Emperor's embrace, "A son as majestic as Your Majesty, a girl as tender as your concubine, soft like a dough of powdered face, would that not be delightful?"

"Good, all shall be as you wish. I shall grant you several children, so even if I am no longer here, you will have support, and no one will dare to harm you!"

Consort Le immediately burst into tears, shaking her head fervently, "Your concubine wants Your Majesty to live a hundred years. I only need Your Majesty's protection, I want no one else!"

She was not foolish.

Having children, it takes so many years for them to grow. With several princes grown up, how could she possibly compete without support?

Naturally, it was best for the Emperor to be alive.

"Alright, alright, I shall live a hundred years, I shall protect you, and I shall protect our children too," the Emperor soothed with a gentle voice.

Only then did Consort Le break into a smile through her tears.

It was inevitable that another round of intimacy followed.

Yun Residence

After a round of intimacy with Xi Auntie.

His body was satisfied, but his heart felt emptily severe.

At some point, he had grown fond of taking a few puffs of smoke, prepared a brass pipe, took a draw, exhaled a ring, watching the smoke disperse, and then taking another draw.

He smoked a bit too eagerly and coughed profusely.

Tears also fell.

"Cough, cough, cough..."

Yun Qi wiped his face, not sure if it was from the coughing or the smoke.

Not until he had finished smoking did Yun Qi stand up. He didn't even put on thick clothes, just draped an old cape over himself and left the courtyard.

Somehow he found himself at Qingjue Academy.

The courtyard had been without a mistress for over a year. Only a few maids and older women left by Mrs. Han were inside. They received their provisions, not through the public coffer. Aside from the essential commodities or fabrics, they never came out.

Just like those in Niannian Garden, they never went out as well.

The gates of Qingjue Academy were closed. Yun Qi could not see inside, nor could he tell if it was as lively as it once had been or as cold and lonely as it had become later on.

"Shu Niang..." Yun Qi called softly.

Now, he did not know whether, in this life, Mrs. Han would ever forgive him?

Perhaps, she would never see him again!

He deserved it!

He owed her so much.

He turned back to Xi Auntie's courtyard.

Xi Auntie sat on the bed, "Second Master, where did you go?"

It had been over a year, and despite all her efforts, she could not conceive. All the medicines she had taken were to no avail.

It was truly aggravating.

"Just out for a walk," Yun Qi replied, taking off his cape.

The room was warm, and soon he felt warm himself.

He went aside, poured some water, and sipped it slowly.

Xi Auntie pursed her lips, the year of exclusive favor made her want more, crave more.

She got up and walked over to Yun Qi, "Second Master, what's wrong?"

"Nothing, go to sleep," he replied.

"This maid will accompany Second Master," Xi Auntie sat beside Yun Qi.

Yun Qi ignored her and continued to drink the warm water on his own.

Sitting up all night until dawn...

Now that court had been suspended, meeting with a few close friends to recite poems, with several dishes and a pot of fine wine, was also one of life's great pleasures.

Imperial Prince's Residence

Yun Jinnian napped briefly before getting up to check Wang's pulse.

But when he saw Mrs. Dai holding Jade, weeping softly, Yun Jinnian was slightly astonished, "What's wrong?"

Chapter 744: See with New Eyes

Mrs. Dai looked up and saw Yun Jinnian shaking his head slightly.

"Grandmother said she wants to send me to the manor!" Jade child's voice was milky and soft.

Yun Jinnian didn't know what the Commandery Princess had in mind, but sending such a small child to the rural manor didn't seem quite right.

He reached out to gently touch Jade child's head, "Do you want to go?"

"I did something wrong, so I should reflect on it at the manor!" Still in her milky voice.

Yun Jinnian felt inexplicably heartbroken for the child, and after considering for a moment, he said, "To err is human, to forgive, divine. Jade child, if you had to choose between going to the manor and learning medical skills with me, which would you choose?"

"If I learn medical skills with you, can it cure my brother's eyes?" Jade child asked earnestly.

Yun Jinnian nodded slightly.

"Then I'll learn medical skills with you, I won't go to the manor!"

What a sensible and obedient child.

She had merely been lead astray by the wet nurse.

If she ever had children, she would surely keep them by her side, unlike what had happened to her and to Momo.

Because of the wet nurse, she had been too busy trying to learn and to please Chu Liange, missing out on the most precious time together, leaving Momo always distant toward her.

Yun Jinnian smiled, "We'd have to ask your father, mother, grandmother, and grandfather if they agree. Also, learning medical skills with me is very tough and tiring, can you persevere?"

"I can!" Jade child declared decisively.

A child who had never suffered, how could she understand what hardship truly meant?

Yun Jinnian glanced at Mrs. Dai, who obviously did not want to and could not bear to let Jade child go.

But she didn't understand why the Commandery Princess suddenly wanted to send Jade child to the manor overnight.

It was strange.

However, these were things Yun Jinnian preferred not to probe into too much.

She simply felt sympathy and compassion for Jade child.

"Shall we go see your brother?" Yun Jinnian asked softly.

Jade child nodded, placing her trust in Yun Jinnian.

She reached out her hand and let Yun Jinnian lead her into the room.

The young master was sleeping, with a maid sitting by his side. Noticing Yun Jinnian's entrance, the maid quickly got up to greet her, staying silent to avoid waking the boy.

Yun Jinnian prepared herself before taking the boy's pulse.

"Get some hot water ready, and call someone over, the young master is about to wake up!"

"Yes!" The maid answered quietly and went to prepare.

The young master's condition was more serious this time than the first, lasting longer too. The Commandery Prince, a man of steel and resolve, had his eyes reddened as well.

Standing aside, silent for a long time, he then looked at Jade child curled up in the corner, a pitiful and trembling figure huddled up, and felt a softening in his heart, walking towards her.

Picking her up, he carried her outside, "From now on, you'll be known as Ru child, and stay by your grandfather's side!"

Fortune and happiness shall follow, and everything will go as wished.

No more such calamities from heaven would befall her, nor would he send her to the manor.

This incident was not her fault to begin with.

How could he blame such a small child!

It was just the young master...

When he reached the study, he called for a maid to look after Ru child and the Commandery Prince wrote a single character on the paper, "An" (Peaceful).

"From now on, the little lord of the mansion will be known as 'An'!"

Removing the king radical from the character symbolized smoothness and peace, joy and safety.

Perhaps life would be plain, but if he were to show his mettle, not to mention just losing an eye, even if he were to be blinded, he would still be stronger than countless others.

Because he was of royal descent and naturally extraordinary.

And for both children, he decided to raise them by his side, turning away from court affairs, focusing solely on educating these two properly.

He had thought that after this incident, the two children would be abandoned, yet unexpectedly, it turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

Upon learning this, Yun Jinnian had a newfound respect for the Commandery Prince.

"Commandery Princess, what are you thinking about?"

Chapter 745: Finally Returning Home

Yun Jinnian had been holding the pen for quite a while, yet he hesitated to write anything down.

Chu Xinkai had been watching for a long while before he finally spoke up and asked.

Everyone has a desire for beauty, and Yun Jinnian, with his exquisite medical skills, was as beautiful as a flower, especially when he was seriously performing acupuncture. Once Chu Xinkai had seen it, he found it difficult to forget.

He had never seen a girl like that before.

How could he not be moved?

Upon seeing Chu Xinkai, Yun Jinnian quickly stood up, slightly bowed and paid her respects before saying, "It's nothing much, just pondering over how to prescribe medicine for Brother An. He's still a child after all; too strong a medicine won't do!"

How to use the medicine had to be thoroughly considered.

Chu Xinkai hurriedly said, "Did I disturb the Commandery Princess?"

"Not at all!"

Chu Xinkai felt slightly relieved.

He wanted to ask a few more questions, but then he thought it inappropriate, "Then you carry on, I'll go and check on Brother An!"

An and Ang, sounding the same but different in writing and meaning.

He was originally destined for a brilliant future, but now with an injury to his eye, the position of the Princely Heir would no longer fall to him.

He always felt an extra measure of pity and affection for this child,

Yun Jinnian nodded, lowering her head to focus on deliberating over the prescription.

Chu Xinkai saw that Yun Jinnian was unlike those ladies from prominent Capital City families who, upon seeing him, showed all manner of coy bashfulness, as if they couldn't wait to cling to him, and they wouldn't even spare him an extra glance.

She was indeed different from those women!

Thinking this, Chu Xinkai entered the room to visit Brother An.

With Yun Jinnian present, Brother An had several times narrowly escaped danger. Yun Jinnian had sent a letter to the Duan Family via Hemei, and Duan Qimeng expressed understanding.

After all, it was well known throughout Capital City that such an incident had happened to the direct grandson of the loyal and righteous Wang Residence.

The 29th day of the twelfth lunar month swiftly approached, with the 30th following the next day.

Yun Jinnian had told the Princess that she would return to the Han Residence early the next day, have the New Year's Eve dinner with them, and then come back.

The Princess, seeing that Brother An had clearly improved, agreed wholeheartedly.

She arranged for someone to personally escort Yun Jinnian home.

The Han Residence had already hung up red lanterns, and Mrs. Han was softly instructing others.

These past two days, Han Tianci had been diligently studying and practicing martial arts, but he had all his meals with Mrs. Han, delighting her so much she couldn't stop smiling. In good spirits, she was also more considerate.

"Granny!"

"Yes?"

"Everything has been put away neatly, and Chaoyang Academy has been thoroughly tidied up. The hot water and the young lady's clothes are all prepared; we're just waiting for the young lady to come back!"

Mrs. Han nodded, "That's good. By the way, have all the servants received their reward money?"

"It has all been handed out, and the fabric as well!"

The maids of Han Family each received eight sets of uniform clothing throughout the year, but this year, Mrs. Han was so pleased that she gave each of them an extra two bolts of durable cloth, much better than the usual fine cloth but not as luxurious as brocade.

The servants would look presentable in these clothes.

And this year, Mrs. Han had given out reward money according to rank, with even the smallest maid receiving fifty taels, not to mention those of higher rank.

They were all brimming with energy and enthusiasm.

"That's excellent!" said Mrs. Han, continuing on to the kitchen with Bai Que.

She personally made a good number of pastries, and by her calculation, they should be ready by now.

Although she wouldn't go to the Yun Family, she would still send some pastries over.

Yun Jinnian left the loyal and righteous Wang Residence for home, and by the time he arrived, it was nearly noon.

He didn't say it aloud, but in his heart, he felt somewhat displeased.

The Princess always found reasons to delay his departure but today was New Year's, and naturally, he wanted to spend it with his family.

"Granny, the young lady has returned!"

Upon hearing this, Mrs. Han happily went to the main entrance to welcome her; upon seeing Yun Jinnian at first glance, Mrs. Han said, "You've lost weight!"

Chapter 746: Mrs. Han Protects Her Daughter

The servants of the Loyal Prince's Residence, upon hearing this, hastened to say, "These past few days, the Commandery Princess has worked hard!"

Mrs. Han waved her hand dismissively, "How is your young master faring now?"

"Madam, the young master has improved a lot!"

"Since your young master has gotten much better, then after the sixth day of the new year, let Jinnian come over again. After all, during the New Year, should one not stay home instead of going elsewhere to attend to someone?" Mrs. Han said, pulling Yun Jinnian forward.

Her own daughter, after all, must be cherished by herself.

The people of the Loyal Prince's Residence cherish their legitimate eldest grandson, but have let her daughter grow noticeably thinner, her complexion worsened, and dark circles formed under her eyes.

With so many maids and old maidservants, why should her daughter suffer?

The face of the Loyal Prince's servant turned very ugly, feeling that Mrs. Han was somewhat unreasonable and also a bit overbearing.

But it was widely known in the Capital City that Yun Jinnian had saved the life of young master An, after all.

Not to mention her, even the Princess Consort of the Loyal Prince had to be polite to Yun Jinnian, otherwise, it would be considered ungrateful.

Saving a life is greater than anything!

"Madam, this... I have no say in the matter, I beg you not to make things difficult for me!"

The one who had brought Yun Jinnian this time was the butler Momo, a person with significant status in the Wang Residence.

On ordinary days, everyone who saw her would flatter and fawn over her, thinking it was a privilege; little did they know Mrs. Han was such a person.

"I know you can't make decisions. When you go back, tell the Princess Consort of the Loyal Prince that, just like her, I also dote on my daughter. Look how much my daughter has thinned after her time at your Wang Residence. Don't you have any maids or old maidservants?" Having finished her piece, Mrs. Han led a somewhat dazed Yun Jinnian into the Han Residence.

Yun Jinnian was still shocked by Mrs. Han's anger.

In the Loyal Prince's Residence, she hadn't done much; it was all about ordering the servants, but indeed, she had trouble sleeping soundly at night.

With restless sleep and unappetizing food, naturally, she lost weight.

"Mother..."

"Jinnian, don't think that Mother is making a fuss over nothing. But in this matter, the Loyal Prince's Residence has acted improperly. If they truly valued you, they would not have just sent a servant to escort you, nor simply an old carriage. You should have been brought back by the vehicle that the Princess Consort of the Loyal Prince uses, accompanied by the second son on horseback. Their behavior clearly shows disdain for you!"

"There are such protocols?" Jinnian asked.

"Of course. Think about it carefully, when you saved the Commandery Princess, who escorted you back? It was the Commandery Princess's own sons and daughters who brought you back, along with Prince Rui!" Mrs. Han continued, pausing for effect, "Even from the palace, the Empress fetched you in the Phoenix Carriage, and when you were sent back, it was also the Phoenix Carriage that took you!"

Yun Jinnian thought about it and indeed it was so.

"Mother, I don't really mind these things!" Yun Jinnian said, holding Mrs. Han's hand and walking on.

"Mother knows you don't mind, but Jinnian, you must establish the rules and make those people respect you. Also, don't readily hand out your medicine to just anyone!"

Yun Jinnian nodded slightly, "Mother is right, 'A man with no guilt in his heart still can be guilty if he carries a jade.' It's just that people often say saving one life is better than building a Seven-Level Pagoda, and I always wanted to accumulate more blessings for our family!"

And for Momo's sake too!

Moreover, the gratitude gifts she received were quite generous, enough to make up for the Snow Lotus Pills.

"You!" Mrs. Han couldn't help but feel helpless.

Yet inside, she was also proud of Yun Jinnian.

Her daughter, so kindhearted it was painful to watch.

"Mother, it's New Year's Day today. I'll go freshen up, change into new clothes, and then come back to join you!"

"Go ahead, go ahead. Mother will also check the kitchen. I've prepared quite a few dishes that you and Tianci like. I wonder if they are ready yet!"

Chapter 747: Attracting Calamity

The mother and daughter went their separate ways.

Each busy with their own affairs.

The nanny returned to the Prince's residence and relayed Mrs. Han's words to the Princess Consort.

The Princess Consort was quite composed, whereas Chu Lilan burst out angrily, "What does she amount to, anyway? I invited her over out of respect. If she..."

"Hold your tongue!" the Princess Consort shouted in anger.

"Mother Consort..." Chu Lilan protested softly.

"Is this how you educate your daughter? No wonder we've been back for so many days yet no one from the Zeng Family has come to fetch her, nor has the son-in-law visited!" the Prince shouted angrily before turning to Chu Lilan, "You, pack up your things immediately and return to the Zeng Family. Since when does a married daughter celebrate the New Year at her parents' home!"

"Father!" Chu Lilan cried out in panic.

She didn't want to return to the Zeng Family; they all looked down on her.

"If you're not going back to the Zeng Family, then go to the ancestral temple. You choose!" the Prince said before turning and walking away.

Upon returning to his study, he immediately sent someone to the Zeng Family.

Soon after, the son-in-law from the Zeng Family came in person to visit.

A very handsome and elegant young man, with the air of a scholar, tall and handsome, with eyes like phoenixes, very affectionate.

But he was too affectionate; he pitied the weak and had already taken several concubines.

Because of this, Chu Lilan had already killed several of them, yet after a few died, more would quickly take their place, each more beautiful and more skilled than the last.

If not for her powerful family background and the fact that she was a Commandery Princess herself, she really wouldn't be able to cope.

Reluctantly, Chu Lilan returned to the Zeng Family, but as it was the New Year period, even if the Zengs were displeased, they would not stir up trouble at this time.

After the Prince had seen his grandson An'er, he agreed for Yun Jinnian to come back on the sixth day of the lunar new year. Learning that the Princess Consort had only sent a shabby carriage to take Yun Jinnian back, he immediately had Chu Xinkai personally make a trip, sending several large boxes of gifts, and a large chest of medicinal herbs as well.

"Your Highness..."

The Princess Consort spoke, her words trailing off.

The Prince looked at her, "I've always thought you were clever, but only today did I discover that your vision is shortsighted. If it weren't for your pettiness today, sending a rickety carriage to take someone home during the New Year, and not even preparing a gift, would their mother have said those things? Have you forgotten that she just saved your grandson? And don't forget, she is the Commandery Princess Yijia, personally titled by the Emperor, with her own Princess Residence and her estates. Moreover, her honorable refusal of the estates, just these facts alone put her beyond comparison with Lilan and Lixiu!"

The more he spoke, the angrier the Prince became.

"Your Highness, there were too many things happening in the residence, and I was so occupied, I simply forgot!" the Princess Consort hurriedly explained.

She felt ashamed, outraged, annoyed, and resentful in her heart.

Blaming Mrs. Han and also blaming Yun Jinnian.

"If there's so much to do that you're overwhelmed, then let the daughter-in-law manage the household affairs, to avoid making such a low-level mistake again!" the Prince said and then strode away.

The Princess Consort remained frozen in place.

This was the first time in many years that she had been scolded by the Prince like this.

Without the slightest bit of courtesy.

She quickly followed, seizing the sleeve of the Prince's robe, "Your Highness, how can you speak to me like this!"

The Prince looked at the still pretentious Princess Consort and asked sternly, "Why do you think I spoke to you this way? If you hadn't colluded with the Noble Consort and wanted to support the Second Prince, would you have brought Le Xun back? If you hadn't made Le Xun drink Barrenwort before entering the palace, would she have fought back?"

The Princess Consort instantly turned as pale as paper.

Her face became deathly white, and she stammered, "I did it because she was indecent..."

Chapter 748: A Fright

If it wasn't for Le Xun seducing the Prince, how could she have lashed out?

"Enough, there's no need for explanations. For the sake of the children's matrimonial matters, I won't pursue this further, but you and Noble Consort Wei must cut ties completely!"

The Emperor was in his prime, how could he possibly allow several princes to grow too powerful.

This time, the Princess Consort of Prince Zhong didn't dare involve Prince Zhong.

But her heart felt ice-cold.

So, it was she who had stirred up this trouble!

New Year's Eve, a time of joy for all families.

Even the poorest households tried to have a satisfying meal, and at this moment, the streets of the Capital City were mostly empty.

Those few who were out were all hurrying home.

Even the shops on the street had closed their doors.

Prince Rui Residence

Chu Yu stared in shock at the child cradled in Princess Jinfeng's arms and couldn't come back to his senses for a long time.

"Did you pick this child up?"

Princess Jinfeng smiled, "Of course not, this is my child, my own flesh and blood!"

Chu Yu took a deep breath to suppress the urge to strangle Princess Jinfeng.

"Who's the father of the child?" Chu Yu asked darkly.

New Year's Eve, so much for the 'pleasant surprise'.

What a 'pleasant surprise' indeed.

"Look there!" Princess Jinfeng puckered her lips towards a spot.

As Chu Yu looked over, Leng Bingham remained silent as usual. Chu Yu bellowed, "Leng Bingham, you're seeking death!"

He made a move with lightning speed towards Leng Bingham.

Leng Bingham did not go easy due to his mistake, but instead engaged in a serious exchange of blows with Chu Yu.

Princess Jinfeng glanced over and knew that once Chu Yu was done with Leng Bingham, he would come for her.

She needed to find a safe place to hide.

At this point, who else could keep her eldest brother, Chu Yu, in check aside from Yun Jinnian?

"Si Ju, Si Qin, let's go to the Han Residence!"

She had already inquired and knew that Yun Jinnian was at the Han Family. By going there now, she could also have a hearty meal.

Princess Jinfeng immediately picked up the child and, taking Si Qin and Si Ju with her, left the Prince Rui Residence and headed straight for the Han Residence.

Han Residence dining hall

Brightly lit

Yun Jinnian was talking to Han Xuzi, Han Tianci was helping Mrs. Han set up bowls and chopsticks, and Mrs. Yuan was arranging the dishes on the table.

The whole family was joyous and harmonious.

For this year's reunion dinner, Mrs. Yuan was going to join the table. Although she was just a wet nurse, during those hardest years, she had stood by Yun Jinnian's side unwaveringly, and thus held a high status in the Han Residence.

"Father, Jinnian, dinner's ready!"

The reunion dinner should be enjoyed slowly, with a bit of wine to drink.

The maids and old women had either gone down to have their meals or had gone home, even the Hidden Guards had mostly withdrawn to have their meals, but they hadn't gone far. They could still appear immediately at the slightest disturbance.

The family sat together, with Han Tianci pouring wine.

Han Xuzi smiled contently and stroked his beard.

"Before we start our meal, let's drink a toast. After so many years, our family is finally sitting together for New Year's Eve dinner. This is also a reunion meal," said Han Xuzi with a hint of emotion.

In the past, there was always someone missing, whether one or another.

Today was good, everyone was here.

"Grandfather, Jinnian toasts to you. From now on, we shall all be together for New Year's every year!" Yun Jinnian said, standing up with his glass towards Han Xuzi.

"Good, from now on, we shall spend every New Year's together!" Han Xuzi lifted his glass and drank in one gulp.

Yun Jinnian just took a light sip.

Han Tianci also raised his glass, "Grandfather, Tianci toasts to you too. Like my sister, I too wish for us all to be together every New Year!"

"Good, good!"

Mrs. Han watched, her eyes slightly reddening as she lifted her glass and knelt before Han Xuzi.

"Father..."

Chapter 749: Taking the Child

Han Xuzi's eyes reddened at the sight.

He took the wine cup from Mrs. Han's hand with one hand, helped her to her feet, and said earnestly, "No matter what happened before, it's all in the past. Don't dwell on it. One needs to look forward to gain more and better things. Look, all your children are here. As their mother, you must be strong and protect them, that's your responsibility!"

Mrs. Han nodded.

She understood all this!

"Alright, go sit down and eat. It's New Year's, we should all be happy and not think about those unhappy things!"

Mrs. Han returned to her seat and sat down, with many things left unsaid.

Yun Jinnian served Mrs. Han some dishes, "Mother, grandfather is right, the past is past, we need to look forward. Now that our whole family is together, it's more important than anything. Let's forget all those insignificant and forgettable things from before!"

"Jinnian..." Mrs. Han called softly.

"Mother, let's eat!"

Yun Jinnian looked down, picked up a dish with a gentle smile, and placed it in Tianci's bowl, "Tianci!"

Han Tianci felt uncomfortable inside, but didn't have the heart to make Yun Jinnian feel awkward, and chuckled softly, "Let's eat, enough of all this fuss!"

Picking up some chopsticks, he served Mrs. Han, "Mother, listen to grandfather and sister, we will all live happily from now on!"

He then served everyone dishes one by one.

Han Xuzi was very satisfied with Yun Jinnian and Han Tianci.

"Let's eat!"

Mrs. Yuan also spoke a few words, and Han Tianci interjected with jokes, quickly warming the atmosphere.

When Princess Jinfeng came holding a child, the Hidden Guard quickly surrounded her.

"No need for violence, I am an acquaintance of Princess Yijia!" Princess Jinfeng said with a smile.

The child in her arms was about five months old, chubby, with eyes that moved around curiously.

The Hidden Guard did not recognize Princess Jinfeng but saw that she was holding a child and was followed by two female guards.

"Please wait!"

Turning, he went to the dining hall and greeted with a fist, "Sir, a lady has come to the back courtyard claiming to be the young lady's friend!"

"My friend?" Yun Jinnian asked.

"Yes!"

Yun Jinnian put down her chopsticks, "Then I will go have a look!"

Han Tianci also hurriedly put down his chopsticks, "Sister, I will go with you!"

"Alright!"

The siblings arrived in the back courtyard and, upon seeing Princess Jinfeng holding a child, Yun Jinnian was taken aback. Still, she stepped forward and gave a small bow, "Princess, what brings you here?"

Princess Jinfeng thrust the child into Yun Jinnian's arms, "I've come to seek refuge with you!"

"..."

Yun Jinnian fell silent.

Holding the child in her arms, she found the little one chubby and very cute.

"This is my son, Leng Nuan!" Princess Jinfeng said, then looked towards Han Tianci and asked Yun Jinnian, "Is that your brother?"

"Yes!"

"How old is he?"

"Ten!"

"He's quite tall for his age!" Princess Jinfeng remarked with a chuckle. "Are you still having your New Year's Eve dinner?"

"Yes!" Yun Jinnian replied.

She was somewhat conflicted.

"Well, that's perfect. I haven't had dinner yet and I'm actually quite hungry. Would it be possible to join you?"

"Of course!"

Yun Jinnian held the child and invited Princess Jinfeng to the dining hall.

"Jinnian, after the New Year, you will have reached the age of 'hairpinning,'" Princess Jinfeng inquired.

"Yes, I'll be fifteen after the New Year!"

"Fifteen, that's a good age to get married!" Princess Jinfeng said, and then she laughed to herself.

As for herself, she was in her twenties, fearless in every way. She had even forced the icy Leng Bingham into marriage and had a son by him. Yet, she was irrationally afraid of her own twin brother!

Chapter 750: Confirming Biological Parentage

At this moment, big brother is dealing with Leng Bingham. Once he's done with Leng Bingham, he'll deal with her.

Now, only Yun Jinnian seems capable of protecting her somewhat.

Yun Jinnian smiled.

Han Tianci followed behind, sizing up Princess Jinfeng.

Is she really a princess?

Where does she come from?

"Jinnian, when my brother arrives later, you must plead for me!" Princess Jinfeng hastily said.

"But what you've done is..."

Childbirth before marriage, and the child is already so big...

Yun Jinnian didn't even know what to say anymore!

"At that time, I wasn't thinking too much, just got carried away, and then did that to Leng Bingham. But then Nuannuan came to be. I couldn't bear to part with him, so I gave birth to him!" Princess Jinfeng said as she reached out to pinch Nuannuan's face.

Yet the child, with a mere glance at her, didn't show any expression at all.

"This child, just like his father, not cute at all!" Princess Jinfeng said and pinched again.

She used more force this time.

However, the child still showed no expression.

Yun Jinnian, holding him, felt pain for him as well.

This child really was a true son of Brother Leng, so silent!

"If I had known, I wouldn't have let his father hold him. Look what he's turned the kid into!" Princess Jinfeng complained.

Si Qin and Si Ju, walking behind, both felt somewhat ashamed.

When it came to Leng Bingham taking care of the child, he just held him, quiet all day long. The Princess often had much to say, but seldom looked after him, only taking him up on a whim.

Yun Jinnian remained silent.

"Right, if my brother doesn't forgive me and insists on punishing me, I'll have to trouble you with the child!"

"Ah..."

Leave the child with her?

"I'm sure you can take good care of the child. I will leave Si Qin and Si Ju with you!"

During her pregnancy, she had cried too much.

Now that she finally had someone to entrust the child to, she didn't want to keep him by her side!

And as for that fellow Leng Bingham, since that one time, he never touched her again, simply hateful...

Thinking of this, Princess Jinfeng stopped and pinched Nuannuan's face again.

She pinched hard enough to hurt for sure, but Nuannuan had no reaction, just gazing earnestly at Princess Jinfeng.

He stuck out his tongue and snuggled into Yun Jinnian's arms.

Princess Jinfeng pursed her lips, "This child..."

Yun Jinnian hugged Nuannuan tightly, "Princess, please don't always pinch his face!"

"I'm being very gentle!"

Princess Jinfeng's words... Yun Jinnian didn't believe them, and neither did she herself.

When they arrived at the dining hall, Yun Jinnian and Han Xuzi explained the purpose of Princess Jinfeng's visit. Han Xuzi smiled and looked at the child in Yun Jinnian's arms.

Mrs. Han hurriedly had someone prepare a set of utensils and asked Princess Jinfeng to sit down.

There was a palace banquet tonight, considered a family feast. By rights, Chu Yu and Princess Jinfeng should have attended the palace, but neither went.

The utensils were set out.

Yun Jinnian continued to hold the child, while Han Xuzi and Mrs. Han felt it wasn't appropriate to pass the child to a maid.

"Jinnian, you can hold him with one hand and eat with the other. Don't worry, he's very well-behaved and won't fuss!" Princess Jinfeng said while slowly chewing her food.

Yun Jinnian smiled faintly, "What does he eat?"

"He will have tiger's milk shortly!"

Leng Binghan had caught a tigress and milked her for the baby.

"..."

Yun Jinnian remained silent.

He couldn't fathom how the child had grown so large.

"You should hire a wet nurse!" Yun Jinnian suggested.

"Oh yes, yes, please help me find one. What kind of wet nurse do we need?" Princess Jinfeng said, continuing her meal.

So, this wasn't her own flesh and blood?

Seeing Yun Jinnian hadn't eaten a bite, Mrs. Han said with a smile, "Jinnian, let me hold the child. You eat."