

Indulgence 781

Chapter 781: Old Lady Feng

Yun Qi thought for a moment and then left the residence directly.

These two days had been leisurely for Yun Jinnian, free from all affairs. He had no worries about food or clothing, only needing to hold Leng Nuan, play with him, feed him rice puree, and read books on the side.

On the tenth day of the first lunar month, Yun Jinnian went early in the morning to the Prince Zhong's Residence to take the pulse of An Ge'er, and after seeing that he was unharmed, he changed his prescription and left for the Feng Residence.

Feng Wushuang had received the news early and was waiting in the main hall. As soon as he learned Yun Jinnian had arrived, he immediately went out to meet him.

"Commandery Princess!"

"Brother Feng!"

The two exchanged smiles upon seeing each other.

Feng Wushuang led Yun Jinnian into the inner courtyard.

"How has the elder madam been these past few days?"

"She has been taking the medicine you prescribed and has improved a lot. Her spirits are better and her appetite is not bad either!"

"Then after I take the elder madam's pulse later, I'll change her prescription!"

"Thank you!"

The two walked leisurely.

Feng Wushuang was very cultured in conversation and humor, which made Yun Jinnian feel very comfortable.

And he was willing to converse with him.

Upon reaching the elder Madam Feng's courtyard, a matron immediately came forward to greet them, "This servant pays respects to the master and wishes longevity to the Commandery Princess!"

Feng Wushuang nodded slightly, "How is mother?"

"The old madam heard that the Commandery Princess would come, and she is now in the side hall!"

Only then did Feng Wushuang say to Yun Jinnian, "After you, Commandery Princess!"

"After you!"

Together, they entered the side hall where Elder Madam Feng began smiling as soon as she saw Yun Jinnian.

"Elder Madam!" Yun Jinnian greeted softly.

Elder Madam Feng prepared to get up to pay respects, but she was still very frail from her recent illness.

"Commandery Princess, please forgive this old woman for not being able to rise to offer respects!"

"Elder Madam, there's no need for such formalities. In the presence of Elder Madam, Jinnian is but a junior!"

"That's very kind of you!"

Elder Madam Feng smiled and invited Yun Jinnian to sit beside her.

"Why did you come by yourself today? Did your brother not come with you?" Elder Madam Feng asked curiously.

She was very fond of Han Tianci.

He was enthusiastic, lively, good at conversation, and extremely likable.

She had expected him to come along today, so she was somewhat disappointed when he didn't show up.

"He will come to fetch me later!"

"That's wonderful!" said Elder Madam Feng, and immediately instructed the maid to prepare lunch in the kitchen, "Stay for lunch at the residence today!"

Seeing Elder Madam Feng, Yun Jinnian felt embarrassed to refuse.

"Alright!"

Feng Wushuang, hearing this, lowered his eyes, full of joy.

"Mother, Commandery Princess, please continue your conversation. I'll step out for a moment!"

Elder Madam Feng waved him off, "Go on, then!"

Once Feng Wushuang had left, Elder Madam Feng spoke, "He's in his twenties and still refuses to marry, I really don't know what he's thinking about, it worries me to death!"

"Brother Feng is an outstanding man with many ladies willing to marry him. Elder Madam need not worry!"

"It's true that many women are willing, yet he shows no interest at all, and I don't know what type he likes!" Elder Madam Feng said, stealing a glance at Yun Jinnian.

Seeing Yun Jinnian's elegant features, clean and pink jade-like skin, and delicate beauty resembling a painting, she couldn't help but find her incredibly charming.

"Alright, enough about him. What do you usually do at home?"

"I just read some medical books and practice my calligraphy!"

"All from Medical Books?"

"Yes!" Yun Jinnian nodded.

"No wonder your medical skills are so extraordinary!" Elder Madam Feng said, taking Yun Jinnian's hand, "Speaking of which, my daughter and I are truly blessed by the fortune of centuries. When we were in dire straits, we met you, and when my life hung by a thread, we met you again. How in this lifetime should we repay you for your kindness?"

Chapter 782: Unparalleled Joy

"When the old lady talks like that, it makes me feel like an outsider!"

Madam Feng shook her head, "Perhaps for you, it was a simple effort, but for my daughter and me, it meant so much, a thousand words would not be enough to express our gratitude!"

"Madam, it's all in the past; let's not talk about these things anymore," Yun Jinnian urged quickly.

Madam Feng had just recovered; dwelling on past sorrow wouldn't be good for her health.

"Look at me, becoming senile!" Madam Feng thought for a moment before adding, "Does your brother like to study? If he does, would it be good to let Wushuang teach him?"

"That would be wonderful!"

With Wushuang's ability to become the top scholar, his skills were not to be underestimated.

And his ability to adapt from humble beginnings to thrive in the Capital City showed his cunning, which was no small feat.

Although Tianci was clever, he was still somewhat naïve.

If he could be guided by Wushuang, that would be truly excellent!

"Then, when your brother arrives, ask if he would like to. If he does, he can come over whenever he's free. After Wushuang finishes his court duties, he can teach him!"

"Good!"

Once the conversation started, Madam Feng was quite talkative.

Wushuang had been standing outside the door for a while and, seeing Yun Jinnian getting along well with his mother, was delighted. He went to the kitchen and instructed the cook, "Prepare a few more side dishes, something light, and remove the oil from the surface of the chicken soup after it's stewed!"

"Also make spicy diced chicken, braised fish, braised pork, and Meicai Kou Rou, and don't forget the saltwater chicken!"

Yun Jinnian liked light food, but Tianci enjoyed meat.

He had inquired about this long ago.

"Make it clean and refreshing. Do well, and there will be a handsome reward!"

"Yes!"

Having given his instructions, Wushuang left.

Then the cooks began to speculate among themselves, "Why did the master personally come to the kitchen?"

"You're really naive not to see, have you not seen Princess Yijia? She's as beautiful as a celestial being. It's not just the master who would be moved by her; any man would be!"

"Besides, to our master, Princess Yijia is like a deity. If it weren't for her two hundred taels of silver back in the day, where would our master be now? Not to mention that she also saved Madam!"

Everyone agreed that made sense, and they hurriedly went to work.

After leaving the kitchen, Wushuang intended to join Madam Feng and Yun Jinnian but learned that Han Tianci had arrived.

So, he went to welcome Tianci.

"Tianci!"

"Brother Feng!"

The two exchanged smiles. Wushuang spoke first, "Your timing is perfect. I have something to tell you about that land!"

"Have you chosen a good day?" Tianci asked.

"I have, the thirteenth day of the first month; come over, and we'll break ground!"

"Good!"

Tianci was also very happy.

Wushuang was well-read and kind-hearted.

Of course, another reason was his fondness for Tianci's sister, whereas Chu Yu also liked her, but that Qu Mianke was still residing in the Prince Rui Residence.

Tianci was frustrated inside.

"Your sister and my mother are chatting; should we go over there, or would you like to see my study?"

"I'd be very interested to see your study, Brother Feng!"

"Alright!"

Wushuang's study was adorned with many paintings, all his own work.

Varying in styles, the paintings were skillful with profound and boundless artistic conceptions.

"Hermit of the Cold Mountain, so Brother Feng, is this your pseudonym?" Tianci inquired.

"Yes, in the earlier years when my family was poor, your sister, out of her kind heart, gave me two hundred taels of silver. That allowed me to buy the Four Treasures of the Study, sell my paintings, and get by. I will never forget the first time I met your sister, so I captured it in a painting!" As Wushuang said this, he unfurled a scroll, "Tianci, come and see, this was what your sister looked like at that time..."

Chapter 783: Leniency for Those Who Confess

Han Tianci stepped forward and examined the painting closely. The woman in the painting was dressed in brocades, her mother and father by her side, and her beauty was already breathtaking.

But her eyes were cold and clear like water, devoid of the warmth and tenderness of this moment.

That was his sister.

Han Tianci had long understood Feng Wushuang's feelings but still, he looked at Feng Wushuang seriously and asked, "Do you like my sister?"

"Yes!"

Feng Wushuang replied with certainty.

Worried that Han Tianci wouldn't believe him, "I don't know when it started, but she's been constantly on my mind. Maybe at the beginning, it wasn't love but gratitude, but gradually, I found that she's taken up space in my heart, and I can't fit any other girl in there!"

As Feng Wushuang spoke, he looked at the portrait, not hiding the deep affection in his eyes.

"There are many who like my sister. You can't succeed by being so lukewarm!" Han Tianci said indifferently.

"Indeed, the Commandery Princess is so wonderful, there must be many who like her. Someone like me probably cannot catch her eye. I also don't dare to act rashly, for fear of tarnishing her reputation!"

Feng Wushuang said, inevitably feeling a sigh of resignation.

Han Tianci chuckled coldly, "Then you and my sister will probably never have a chance in this lifetime!"

"..."

Seeing Feng Wushuang silent, Han Tianci didn't say more and turned to look for a book.

He himself wasn't fond of Feng Wushuang; it was just that Chu Yu still kept Qu Mianke at the Prince Rui Residence, which annoyed him.

Only by inciting Feng Wushuang to pursue his sister could he make Chu Yu feel the pressure!

To get Qu Mianke out of the Prince Rui Residence sooner.

Feng Wushuang stood still, thought for a moment, then walked over to Han Tianci, "Thank you!"

Han Tianci raised an eyebrow, "Did I say anything? I didn't say anything at all!"

Feng Wushuang smiled without a word.

What a clever child!

The library of Feng Wushuang wasn't vast, nor did it contain many unique texts; most of them were transcriptions he had made himself.

But some were indeed very precious.

"These are all written from memory after seeing them at the Elder Residence; they can be read often in the future, and if the descendants wish to read them, they need not go begging elsewhere!"

Han Tianci picked up a book and flipped through it; feeling it looked familiar, as he had seen it in the Han Family before, he put it back.

Although Feng Wushuang was the top scholar, he came from a family with shallow foundations; still, the fact that he thought to transcribe rare texts for the benefit of future generations showed that he was someone with foresight and strategic thinking.

The lunch was quickly prepared, and a servant came to invite Han Tianci and Feng Wushuang to the Old Madam's courtyard for the meal.

The two talked as they walked.

Han Tianci was quite happy.

Feng Wushuang was learned and broad-minded, and didn't have the pedantic airs typical of scholars.

"Tianci greets the Old Madam politely!"

Madam Feng's eyes crinkled with laughter, "No need for such formalities, no need at all!"

They sat down together for the meal.

Madam Feng kept putting food on the plates for Yun Jinnian and Han Tianci.

She had only one child in her life, Feng Wushuang, who, although filial, was reserved and sparing in his words; he certainly wasn't as lively and endearing as Han Tianci.

Today, upon seeing Tianci and being charmed by him, her heart had melted.

"Thank you, Old Madam!"

"What Old Madam? Call me Auntie!"

"Yes, thank you, Auntie!"

"Eat more, you are at the age of growing, eat plenty and you'll be stronger!"

"The food at Auntie's house is delicious!"

"If you like it, come often. I'll instruct the kitchen to make what you like; you'll surely get your favorites!"

"Okay!"

Feng Wushuang and Yun Jinnian exchanged a glance.

Yun Jinnian pursed her lips into a smile, and Feng Wushuang also smiled.

After the meal, Yun Jinnian took Madam Feng's pulse.

"The Old Madam's body has mostly been cleansed of toxins; she only needs careful conditioning from now on, and she will recover very soon!"

Chapter 784: The Final Ultimatum

"That would be wonderful. We'll go on a spring outing together, watch the Dragon Boat Race on the Dragon Boat Festival, and pick chrysanthemum flowers on the Double Ninth Festival. To be accompanied by a celestial being like the Commandery Princess, even thinking about it makes this old lady want to wake up laughing!"

"Certainly!" Yun Jinnian replied.

Yet when the time came, they would probably only be able to meet once.

She and the Feng Family's elder mistress had no common topics of conversation to begin with, but since the elder mistress was also quite learned, she could introduce her to her mother.

"Then it's settled!"

The Feng Family's elder mistress very much hoped that Yun Jinnian would marry into the Feng Family, especially after learning of Feng Wushuang's feelings.

She was even more intent on making a match.

After all, love could develop through companionship.

Her son wasn't bad at all, exceptionally talented in literature and proficient in martial arts, though few knew that Feng Wushuang was skilled in martial arts.

If it didn't work out, she would have to press her son to get married.

After taking the pulse of the Feng Family's elder mistress, Yun Jinnian and Han Tianci bid farewell and left. Feng Wushuang escorted the two to the door, watching their carriage disappear into the distance before turning to go back to the elder mistress's courtyard.

"Mother!"

The Feng Family's elder mistress smiled and beckoned Feng Wushuang to sit.

"Happy, aren't you?"

Feng Wushuang smiled without saying a word.

"I know what's in your heart, but Wushuang, you're not getting any younger. If by the end of the year it's still not settled, how about you find someone else to marry?"

Upon hearing this, Feng Wushuang's smile froze on his face, stunned and shocked as he looked at the elder mistress.

But he understood why she had made this decision.

His spirits quickly deflated.

The Feng Family's lineage had been passed down through three generations, and it could not end with him.

But he wanted to know if, after having Yun Jinnian in his heart, he could truly live with another woman?

"I won't force you to marry anyone in particular, as long as that person treats you well," she said.

As for the rest, she dared not press for it or ask for too much.

Feng Wushuang was silent for a long time before he cautiously spoke, "Mother, let's follow your suggestion. If by the end of the year nothing is settled, I'll find someone to marry!"

"That's good. If there's anything I can do for you, just tell me, and I'll definitely support you!"

"Thank you, Mother. You should get some rest. I need to get going now!"

"Go ahead!"

Feng Wushuang left the courtyard, suddenly feeling a bit lost.

He paused for a moment before stepping out of the gate...

The Feng Family's elder mistress felt worried.

As a woman, she could see that Yun Jinnian was very graceful and elegant. Even when she saw Feng Wushuang, she was merely polite, with a gentle demeanor and a smile on her lips, but there was no trace of eagerness.

Even her admiration was out of politeness, nothing more.

With this, did Wushuang truly stand a chance?

In the carriage

Han Tianci mentioned Feng Wushuang, "The books in Big Brother Feng's study are quite good!"

"We have many books at home. You should copy a couple of them to give to him. And when you have time, visit your second sister more and mingle with the scholars!"

"Alright, I'll do as you say, Sister!"

When they arrived back at the Han Family's residence, the butler immediately said to Yun Jinnian, "Miss, the Yun Family has sent people!"

"Who?"

"It's the Yun Family's Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth Misses, and your cousin; they're all in the warm living room now!"

Yun Jinnian frowned slightly.

Why had they all come?

"Has Mother seen them?"

"No, the mistress said she wasn't feeling well and had Bai Que greet them."

"Did they come before or after lunch?"

"After lunch!"

Han Tianci arched his eyebrow, "Do they know the Han Family won't serve them lunch?"

Yun Jinnian laughed, "Probably so. You go back first, I'll go see them!"

Since they were here, she couldn't just avoid them.

Chapter 785: Each Harboring Their Own Schemes (2)

"Sister, if they have no shame, don't you give them any either!" Han Tianci instructed.

He really had no positive feelings towards the Yun Family.

"Mhm, got it, don't worry!"

The two of them went their separate ways, with Han Tianci preparing to visit Mrs. Han first to keep her company, while Yun Jinnian headed to the warm hall.

She thought she would hear the sounds of girls frolicking and playing, but it was unexpectedly quiet.

She slowly entered the warm hall.

A few girls stood up at once.

"Fourth Sister (cousin)!"

Yun Jinnian nodded slightly.

After more than a year, they had all grown taller and their appearances had blossomed.

Although all were girls from the Yun Family, one could tell from their clothing and adornment who was the legitimate child, who was born out of wedlock, and who held a higher status in the family.

The girls also sized up Yun Jinnian.

She wore a pink brocade jacket with two jade hairpins in her hair, looking extremely elegant in white.

Her beauty was already exceptional, and with a touch of rouge, her delicate features were highlighted exquisitely.

Her noble demeanor and charm were enviable.

"Don't just stand there; sit down," Yun Jinnian said gently, going over to take a seat.

Then she turned to Bai Que and said, "Aunt Que, my mother is unwell and used to your care, please go ahead with your duties!"

Bai Que bowed slightly, "Yes, I shall take my leave!"

After Bai Que had left, Yun Jinnian then said to Hemei, "Hemei, go to the kitchen and bring over some pastries!"

"Yes!"

Yun Jinnian then asked, "Why have you all come?"

Yun Musi and Yun Mulan were young and still enthralled by Yun Jinnian's elegance, dreaming of emulating her one day.

Yun Qingzhi, Yun Qingqing, and Yun Zuomo were cautious about speaking out of turn with Xu Xinmo present.

Xu Xinmo then said, "Cousin, you've been back for so long, yet you haven't visited home. Grandmother sent me to see you!"

"Is that so? How thoughtful of you!" Yun Jinnian replied faintly.

She had never liked Xu Xinmo, nor would she ever.

Selfish, ruthless, and when in need of you, she would call you 'cousin'. But should she rise to power one day, 'cousin', 'grandmother', she would surely disregard them all.

Yun Jinnian's indifferent expression left Xu Xinmo unsure of how to continue the conversation.

Quick to speak, she said, "Cousin, have you visited the Princess Residence the Emperor granted you yet?"

"Not yet!"

"When will you go, and can you take us with you?" Xu Xinmo asked in what she thought was an endearing manner.

Her eyes were full of schemes.

Thinking she was clever, that no one could see through her.

But she didn't realize that her eyes and expression had already betrayed her.

Yun Jinnian looked at Xu Xinmo's demeanor, then at her three half-sisters and two cousins, and found it amusing.

Despite being the pampered legitimate daughter, she was not as composed and natural as the three less favored illegitimate daughters.

Perhaps because she always had everything she wanted from a young age, she thought the world revolved around her and took everything for granted.

The three half-sisters, from a young age, always had to give much more for anything they wanted, and sometimes even their efforts were not enough to obtain it.

"Once the Princess Residence is ready, I'll take you there!" said Yun Jinnian, then added, "Right now, the Princess Residence is pretty empty; there's nothing much to see there anyway!"

Yun Musi and Yun Mulan's expressions changed slightly.

The Emperor's gifts were indeed stored in Niannian Garden, but their mother had borrowed several items and not yet returned them; two of them had even been taken to the Marquess Yuanshen Residence by their eldest sister.

If Yun Jinnian were to return and take everything to the Princess Residence, and if items were missing that their mother had not returned, what then?

They suddenly understood why their mother had sent them here!

Yun Zuomo, Yun Qingqing, and Yun Qingzhi were very pleased, yet they were still a bit uncertain. Yun Zuomo asked in a low voice, "Fourth Sister, can we really come with you too?"

Chapter 786: Self-righteousness

Yun Jinnian smiled, "Of course!"

Perhaps it was because of the incident a year ago, but regarding these three half-sisters, setting aside the matter of their mother, they had never targeted her, let alone harmed her.

Like their mother, they lived cautiously and carefully.

What had happened back then, she would soon find out from Aunt Kang.

"Thank you, Fourth Sister!" Yun Zuomo said, her eyes sparkling.

She looked at Yun Jinnian, her face reddening as she bowed her head.

Her small hands tightly clenched the handkerchief she was holding, her palms sweaty, her back clammy.

Yet she let out a slight sigh of relief.

Yun Qingzhi and Yun Qingqing glanced at each other and started smiling with pursed lips.

Xu Xinmo secretly resented the three Yun sisters for a moment before saying to Yun Jinnian, "Cousin, could we stay at the Princess Residence for a few days when the time comes?"

"We'll see when the time comes. If it's sorted out, you can stay for a few days. The other two houses are also connected, we can take our time and enjoy the visit!" Yun Jinnian responded indifferently.

Hearing this, Xu Xinmo was so jealous she almost spit blood.

Yun Jinnian was wealthy, she knew that, but she hadn't expected Yun Jinnian to flaunt it so blatantly.

It was simply too annoying.

"Sure!" she replied absentmindedly.

Yun Musi and Yun Mulan, meanwhile, were thinking about the benefits they could gain from staying with Yun Jinnian.

The three Yun sisters, on the other hand, thought about how they had to make a good impression on Yun Jinnian so that she would like them.

Xu Xinmo contemplated seizing everything that Yun Jinnian had for herself.

Their thoughts were diverse.

Just then, Hemei came in with some refreshments.

Yun Jinnian spoke gently, "Try these and see if you like them!"

"Thank you, Fourth Sister (Cousin)!"

They each took some refreshments and ate.

Regardless of the taste, they all praised them as delicious.

Whether it was genuinely tasty or just polite lies, only they themselves knew.

Yun Jinnian simply smiled without speaking, and she did not expose them.

After eating some refreshments and drinking tea,

Xu Xinmo then said, "Cousin, you should head back home, our grandmother isn't feeling well, and with your excellent medical skills, would it not be good for you to take a look at her?"

Upon hearing this, Yun Jinnian looked at Xu Xinmo with a gentle and soft smile, "Did you call for an Imperial Physician? What did the Imperial Physician say?"

"We did, but the Imperial Physicians are simply no match for Cousin's exquisite medical skills!" Xu Xinmo said, secretly resenting Yun Jinnian once again.

Why was it Yun Jinnian who had the exquisite medical skills, and not her?

Why was it Yun Jinnian who was conferred the title of Commandery Princess? How wonderful it would have been if it was her instead.

If only she could snatch the title of Commandery Princess from Yun Jinnian...

At that thought, Xu Xinmo couldn't help but sit up straighter.

But then, considering that Yun Jinnian's title was bestowed by the Emperor, it probably wasn't possible.

But what if she herself was conferred the title of Commandery Princess?

"Your remarks aren't quite right; everyone has their own expertise. The Imperial Physicians of the Imperial Medical Bureau are also quite skilled. I'm just lucky!"

She decisively did not bring up the subject of treating Old Lady Yun.

Xu Xinmo only mentioned it in passing, but she knew better than anyone why Old Lady Yun was unwell.

Especially since Yun Jinnian had exceptional medical skills, if Yun Jinnian found out anything, then all the preparations her mother-in-law had made earlier would be in vain.

"Cousin speaks the truth!"

Yun Jinnian smiled, picked up her teacup, and took a light sip.

The tea was mediocre...

With a helpless smile, she remembered Han Tianci's stern instructions, and she felt her smile deepen!

"Cousin, what are you smiling about?" Xu Xinmo asked, puzzled.

She wanted to guess Yun Jinnian's thoughts, but she simply couldn't figure them out.

Chapter 787: Turbulent Undercurrents

"Nothing!"

Yun Jinnian certainly wouldn't explain so much to Xu Xinmo.

Xu Xinmo felt annoyed inside.

But slowly she put down her teacup, "Cousin, we've been out for a long time, we should head back now!"

"Alright, I'll see you out!"

No insistence to stay, no further talk.

Yun Musi and Yun Mulan didn't dare to provoke Xu Xinmo, and even less so did Yun Zuomo and the others.

Yun Jinnian escorted them out of the Han Residence.

Two carriages.

Yun Musi, Yun Mulan, Xu Xinmo with their maids took the first one, while Yun Zuomo, Yun Qingzhi, Yun Qingqing with their maids took the second one.

The two carriages seemed alright on the surface, but Yun Jinnian knew that inside, things were definitely different.

Mrs. He was just like that—always looking splendid on the outside but vicious and selfish within.

Sweet on the face but not so in the heart.

Watching the carriages depart, Yun Jinnian snorted coldly, "Putting on a show, she really thinks she's the smartest person in the world, and everyone else is a fool!"

She turned and went back into the Han Residence, to Chaoyang Academy to accompany Leng Nuan.

On the carriage

Xu Xinmo looked at Yun Musi and Yun Mulan, "Don't you feel that our cousin is different?"

"Yes, she's more beautiful now, and she seems more approachable!"

Exactly.

The Yun Jinnian of the past was cold-hearted and cold-mannered, and even her smiles carried a coldness that made her seem distant and inherently bitter.

But the current Yun Jinnian smiled warmly, her whole presence was filled with a warm aura, her face had less sorrow and more confidence.

"Yeah, she's changed!" Xinmo murmured softly.

The world really does change, ten years east of the river, ten years west. Five years ago, she could bully Yun Jinnian, and even after pushing her into the Lotus Pond and nearly drowning her, nobody reprimanded her,

But now, if she dares to do something outrageous, her eldest uncle will send her back to the Xu Family.

She doesn't want to go back to the Xu Family, a bunch of detestable people.

From top to bottom, everyone is detestable.

None of those people liked her, and she didn't like any of them either. It's better not to see each other. Once she becomes the Empress, she'll see how she deals with the Xu Family.

The trio of Yun Zuomo were thrilled and excitedly held each other's hands.

"I can't believe Fourth Sister still remembers us, and she even allowed us to visit her Princess Residence!" Yun Qingzhi said, unable to contain her excitement.

"Right, I thought Fourth Sister wouldn't bother with us after she came back this time!" Yun Qingqing was also full of emotion.

"It's a pity we couldn't give Fourth Sister the things we made!" Yun Zuomo sighed.

With Xu Xinmo there, they didn't dare.

"No worries, there will always be a chance in the future!" Yun Qingqing comforted Yun Zuomo.

"Right, right, right, Fourth Sister said she would take us to the Princess Residence to have fun. We'll find an opportunity to secretly give it to Fourth Sister!" Yun Qingzhi said while thinking that she should make two more silk flowers for Yun Jinnian when they got back.

Even though Yun Jinnian had everything, it was still their way of expressing their feelings.

They wondered if Yun Jinnian would like it?

All harboring their own thoughts, they returned to the residence.

Xu Xinmo went straight to Cixin Academy; Yun Musi and Yun Mulan headed to Nuanxin Academy, while Yun Qingzhi, Yun Zuomo, and Yun Qingqing went to Madam Qianwan's courtyard.

"Mother..."

Yun Musi called out softly.

Mrs. He emerged from the inner room, smiling as she asked, "Did you see your Fourth Sister?"

"We did!"

"What did she say?" asked Mrs. He.

"Fourth Sister didn't really say much, but mother, about those things—are we really not going to return them?"

Mrs. He took a deep breath.

Those items were indeed invaluable, and she had specifically borrowed them from Niannian Garden when Yun Zhen and Wang Yanran were getting married.

At first, Nanny Rong did not agree, but for some reason, she relented later on.

Chapter 788: Saying One Thing and Meaning Another

The items were truly exquisite and ornate, each of significant value, with two among them being worth a city's ransom.

How she wished all those were hers, instead of Yun Jinnian's.

"Child, don't meddle in these affairs. By the way, did you go to the Han Family today and see your elder sister?"

"I did, but elder sister seemed different!"

"Different how?" Mrs. He quickly asked.

"It's just, it's just..." Yun Musi began to explain but couldn't articulate herself, turning to Yun Mulan, "You tell it!"

Yun Mulan pouted and said, "How could I explain it clearly!" She thought for a moment then added, "But elder sister seems much nicer to Yun Zuomo and the other two!"

"What did you say?" Mrs. He quickly asked.

"Yun Zuomo and the others asked elder sister if they could go to the Princess Residence together, and elder sister agreed!"

"What else?" Mrs. He asked.

Her mind was racing.

Regarding those three girls from the second mother in the family, she only cared that they were not starved or frozen, sending their monthly allowance on time. Besides, she did not bother with them.

"Xu Xinmo is still so detestable!" Yun Mulan exclaimed with resentment.

Her dislike for Xu Xinmo grew stronger by the day.

Instead of staying in the nice Xu Family, she came to the Yun Family to throw her weight around. Father really should send her back to the Xu Family.

Mrs. He sighed.

Embracing Yun Mulan, she coaxed her softly, "Just bear with it a little longer, we'll eventually drive her out!"

She had hoodwinked the old dowager out of so many things, and those things should rightfully belong to Mu Si and Mu Lan.

It wasn't just Yun Musi and Yun Mulan who detested Xu Xinmo, Mrs. He did too.

"Mother, when can we finally drive that woman out?" Yun Mulan whined and pursued.

Yun Musi also perked up her ears, listening intently.

"Now Jinnian and your second aunt will soon return, and once they are back, there will be no peace in this house, then you'll see what mother can do!"

Yun Musi and Yun Mulan nodded vigorously. Mrs. He thought for a moment and then added, "When you both have the chance, visit the Cixin Academy more often to keep your grandmother company!"

"It's useless to go there; grandmother doesn't need our company, she has Xu Xinmo and that's enough for her!" Yun Musi complained.

"Exactly, exactly!" Yun Mulan hastily agreed.

They were not close to the old dowager at all.

"Even if Xu Xinmo is there, if your grandmother is not close to you, you should visit her more often. Going there frequently, and causing Xu Xinmo some trouble, would be good too!" Mrs. He persuaded.

She always hoped the children would maintain a good reputation to ensure successful matchmaking in the future.

With Xu Xinmo's behavior, not to speak ill, but she might not find a good family to marry into later on.

Just wait and see.

Xu Xinmo returned to Cixin Academy and began crying in the old dowager's arms, "Grandmother, wuu wuu..."

"What's the matter? Did Yun Jinnian upset you?" the old dowager asked with concern.

"No, it's just that when I see how wealthy my cousin is and she doesn't show filial piety to you, I feel so distressed on grandmother's behalf!"

The old dowager felt just as upset, detesting Yun Jinnian to the core.

In other families, the younger generation would show respect to their elders with any good thing they acquired, but Yun Jinnian was the opposite, selfish and only caring for herself.

It was all Mrs. Han's fault for not teaching her well.

But then again, the Han Family's upbringing was no good either, so it was no surprise Mrs. Han wasn't brought up well.

"Why mention her? Do I lack her piety? Besides, I don't want any of her valuable treasures, lest she spreads rumors later that she gave me something precious. I have you, my dear girl, my little padded jacket, and that's enough for me!" the old dowager said, her words not matching her true feelings as she hugged Xu Xinmo and gave her a kiss.

Chapter 789: Too Late for Regrets

Xu Xinmo chuckled.

She felt contempt inside.

She was quite clear about what kind of person her maternal grandmother was.

No one would believe her if she said she didn't care about Yun Jinnian's belongings.

The grandmother and granddaughter then talked about other matters.

Aunt Su had been on tenterhooks from the moment Yun Zuomo left until the three children returned safely.

"Back already!"

"Aunt!"

Yun Zuomo called out joyfully.

Yun Qingzhi and Yun Qingqing also bowed slightly, "Aunt Su!"

"Let's talk inside!"

"Yes!"

They entered the courtyard and the small hall, where Aunt Hua was also present.

Aunt Hua couldn't help but ask, "Today when you went to the Han Residence, did the Fourth Young Miss give you any trouble?"

"Not at all. Fourth Sister was very nice!" Yun Qingzhi said.

She felt that she was at least better than the two from the main branch and much better than Xu Xinmo.

"It's good that she didn't trouble you!" Aunt Hua sighed in relief.

There were many things Aunt Hua didn't know how to explain to Yun Qingzhi and Yun Qingqing, and she dared not say them.

Aunt Su felt the same way.

After asking Yun Piao at length, she finally let her go.

Watching Yun Piao's retreating figure, Aunt Su's tears gradually fell.

It was her fault, her failure had made Zimo's path so difficult.

But now that things had come to this, what was the use of talking so much? She could only try to pave the way for Zimo.

If Mrs. Han could forgive her, Zimo's path might be a little easier...

Han Residence

Yun Jinnian held Leng Nuan, one hand holding a book, softly reading to him.

"Miss, can he understand it?" Mrs. Yuan asked doubtfully.

"He can. Nanny, look, he's so well-behaved when I read to him!" Yun Jinnian replied.

Mrs. Yuan laughed, "He's always like that; he cries only when others hold him. But he's also spirited, isn't he? Why doesn't he cry when he's given a bath, changed, or fed rice paste?"

"That's why I say, though he's still a baby, he understands everything!" Yun Jinnian put down the book and kissed Leng Nuan, "Nuannuan, you agree, right? You're a very smart baby!"

It seemed as though Leng Nuan understood and stuck out his tongue, cooing in response.

Yun Jinnian was even fonder of him.

This child, how to put it, she felt a kismet connection with him.

"Miss, miss..."

Hemei rushed in.

Yun Jinnian raised an eyebrow, "What's the matter?"

"Elder Young Master has sent over an invitation, stating he will come to take you and Mrs. Han back to the Yun Family tomorrow!"

"Did he come himself?" Yun Jinnian asked, pursing her lips, pondering.

"No, it was his servant!"

Yun Jinnian fell silent.

He wouldn't personally make the trip, she thought for a while before responding, "I understand. I'll go ask mother what she thinks!"

She wrapped Leng Nuan in a warm swaddle and held him in her arms, slowly and carefully making her way to Mrs. Han's courtyard.

"Oh my, it's so cold, why did you bring him out?" Mrs. Han said, urging Yun Jinnian into the room.

She also ordered, "Heat up the underfloor heating more!"

"It's not good to always keep him in the cradle. It's fine for a boy to be carried around!" Yun Jinnian said, pausing before continuing, "Mother, father has already sent over an invitation. He will come to take us home early tomorrow!"

Mrs. Han was silent.

After a moment, she said, "It's time to go back!"

Looking at the attentive and sensible Leng Nuan, she said with concern, "What about this child?"

"Let the nanny stay to take care of him. I can only come to see him when I'm free. But with Tianci here, I'm also at ease!"

Chapter 790: Tear Mian Ke by Hand

Leng Nuan pouted and turned her head away.

Yun Jinnian also felt uncomfortable inside.

He was reluctant to leave Leng Nuan, but he had no choice but to go back.

"Leng Nuan, be good, Auntie will come to see you whenever I have time!" Yun Jinnian coaxed softly.

She ordered Hemei to pack their belongings. There was no need to take anything too valuable, just a few things would suffice.

Prince Rui Residence

Chu Yu looked at Qu Mianke who was sobbing uncontrollably, his complexion extremely unsightly.

"Why are you crying?"

"Wuu, Cousin, everyone outside is talking, they are saying..." Qu Mianke said, lifting her head to glance at Chu Yu.

She felt nervous and scared inside.

"Saying what?" Chu Yu asked in a deep voice.

He had long seen through Qu Mianke's little tricks.

He just hadn't expected her to be so brazen as to send someone to spread rumors.

"They say, they say..." Qu Mianke felt scared, but thinking of marrying Chu Yu, she mustered up the courage and said, "Some people are claiming that my cousin and I have, have..."

"Shared flesh and blood? An impure relationship? Or perhaps I barged into your boudoir, you entered my chamber?" Chu Yu said, slamming his palm down and shattering a small table, "Qu Mianke, you're not a three-year-old child, and neither am I. Do you think no one can see through your act?"

Qu Mianke shuddered with fear, "I, I..."

"At such a young age, instead of learning good things, do you think your scheme will succeed? Have you not considered why the people you sent out haven't returned yet? Where have they gone?"

Qu Mianke was immediately terrified.

"No, no, Cousin, it wasn't me, it wasn't me..."

"Regardless of whether you admit it or not, it doesn't matter. Go back and pack your things, I will send someone to escort you to Princess Ning'an's residence shortly!"

"I don't want to go to the Princess Residence, I'm all alone there, I don't want to go, I don't want to go!" Qu Mianke screamed.

It was out of guilt and fear.

Because it was there that she had caused the death of a person, her half-sister Qu Mianmian.

She dared not live alone in Princess Ning'an's residence, she just couldn't.

"You have no say in the matter!"

His patience had all been used up.

Especially after Qu Mianke had played such a cunning move, he didn't even want to see her anymore.

He certainly didn't want Qu Mianke to stay in the Wang Residence, sulling its ground.

"Luoyi, escort Princess Mianke out!" Having said that, Chu Yu stepped out of the Wang Residence.

He felt annoyed.

Inside Prince Rui Residence

Qu Mianke screamed and cried as if she were insane, but Luoyi didn't give her a chance, ordering the maid to pack quickly, and in a few steps, she was chased out of the Prince Rui Residence.

"I don't want to leave, you can't treat me like this, I am a Commandery Princess, I'm the daughter of Princess Ning'an, wuu, you can't bully me like this!"

If it were Luo'er, who might have a soft heart, but it happened to be Luoyi, who would ignore her no matter how loudly she screamed.

Such an incident couldn't possibly be kept from the Commandery Princess.

However, when he arrived at her residence, the atmosphere wasn't quite right.

"What's the matter?"

"It's people from Princess Mianke's fiancé's side who came!"

Chu Yu raised an eyebrow, "Understood, you may leave!"

Yuwen Ming was marrying beneath her status, and she was from the Commandery Princess's household, the other party wouldn't dare to call off the engagement, but the atmosphere was indeed not good.

Walking towards the inner courtyard,

he heard a woman's voice, "The old lady was well until earlier this year, but she caught a cold before the New Year, and since then, her condition has worsened day by day. Therefore, I pleaded with the Princess to let my family's Duanduan and Princess Mianke marry earlier. The old lady is of age now, we fear not the ten thousand things that can go amiss, but the one that just might..."

Upon hearing this, the Commandery Princess fell silent.

She always felt something was amiss, but couldn't pinpoint what it was.

"That's true, but are there any auspicious days coming up soon?"