

Indulgence 801

Chapter 801: Xinmo Tests

Mrs. He truly hated Xu Xinmo.

It wasn't for any other reason except that Xu Xinmo had stolen the affection that rightfully belonged to Yun Musi and Yun Mulan, and had taken many valuable things from the hands of Old Madam Yun. Mrs. He simply didn't like Xu Xinmo.

But she dared not openly make a move against Xu Xinmo.

She had secretly tried several times, but Xu Xinmo had always managed to avoid it.

Mrs. He sighed that Xu Xinmo had good luck and didn't think much more about it.

Niannian Garden

After lunch, the sisters gathered and chatted together.

"Cousin, are you good at embroidery?" Xu Xinmo asked curiously.

"Not really, I'm not very good at it!"

Xu Xinmo was slightly disappointed.

She had thought Yun Jinnian would be very skilled.

"What about other skills?" Xu Xinmo asked again.

"The only thing I'm good at is my medical skills; I'm not particularly good at anything else," Yun Jinnian said with a gentle smile.

She wanted to see what Xu Xinmo was up to.

"Cousin, don't you want to learn some needlework?"

"Not really, Jiayu and Ru Yue are both very good at needlework. I like the things they make, and if I have extra time, I prefer to read Medical Books!"

"Oh!"

Xu Xinmo didn't find out what she wanted to know and couldn't help feeling a little discouraged.

Yun Jinnian lowered her head and smiled faintly, taking a light sip from her teacup.

She paid no attention to Xu Xinmo's little schemes.

Yun Musi and Yun Mulan were particularly fascinated by the customs and practices outside, asking many questions on the topic, while Yun Zuomo, Yun Qingzhi, and Yun Qingqing listened attentively without asking many questions.

The girls, regardless of what they thought in their hearts, got along well at this moment.

Wang Yanran leaned on a soft pillow, gently stroking her stomach.

She had long known that Yun Jinnian had an exceptionally beautiful appearance, but she hadn't expected her beauty to be so dazzling that it made others afraid to look directly at her for fear of desecration.

With her noble status as a Commandery Princess, being in the emperor's favor, extraordinary medical skills, and substantial wealth, which man in the world wouldn't want to marry such a woman?

Thinking of her cousin in her uncle's family, who had become like this because of that one incident, and with her uncle having a new child, her aunt hated Yun Jinnian to the core.

Now that Yun Jinnian had returned, her aunt was unlikely to let it go!

But Wang Yanran had a feeling that Yun Jinnian was not someone to be easily bullied. The events of that year involving her cousin were likely not entirely unrelated to Yun Jinnian, even though she had gone to the Xu Family in advance...

"Princess, it's not good, news came from the front yard that the young master was thrown off his horse and injured!" a young maid ran into the small hall, panting heavily.

"What did you say?" Wang Yanran suddenly stood up.

"On his way back, the young master was thrown off his horse and injured!"

"Is it serious?" Wang Yanran hurriedly asked.

She quickly ordered someone to fetch a cloak and prepare a warmer.

"I didn't ask carefully. As soon as I heard that the young master was injured, I immediately came to report to the Princess!"

Wang Yanran rubbed her forehead, forcing herself to calm down.

As a Commandery Princess who was still pregnant, she couldn't get too emotional.

After taking a few deep breaths, she said, "Dongzhu, go and find out how serious the injury is."

"Yes!"

Dongzhu took the order and immediately went to the front yard.

Wang Yanran's other maid, Zhenzhu, couldn't help but mutter, "Princess, do you think that ever since Princess Yijia came back, the young master has been unlucky? Could it be that Princess Yijia is bringing misfortune to him?"

Wang Yanran suddenly looked at Zhenzhu with eyes deep and cold.

Although she somewhat agreed with Zhenzhu, she still scolded her, "If you talk nonsense again, I'll send you back to the Wang family. You don't learn the good things, instead, you learn to gossip about your masters!"

Yun Jinnian was personally conferred the title of Princess Yijia by the emperor. To openly speak ill of her was simply courting death.

Chapter 802: Yun Zhen's Hypocrisy

Zhenzhu felt wronged, but also realized that she had misspoken. She hurriedly slapped herself a few times. "It was my fault. I will never dare to speak like that again!"

"It's good that you know your mistake. If you speak nonsense again in the future, don't blame me for not forgiving you!"

"Yes!"

Yun Zhen knew martial arts, so the scare and fall didn't cause serious injuries. The Mansion Physician checked him afterward and found nothing major, just some superficial wounds.

Recalling the scene when he fell, he broke out in a cold sweat.

Luckily, he was saved by a brave man; otherwise, he might be crippled if not dead.

"Zhenzhen, what exactly happened?" Mrs. He asked urgently.

"Mother, it's nothing serious. Don't worry. Also, please have Tianmi visit Yanran so she won't be worried!"

"Don't worry, I've already sent someone there!"

As this mother and son continued their conversation, the gatekeeper hurriedly reported, "Madam, the second young master has been shot by an arrow and is unconscious!"

Mrs. He stood up abruptly when she heard this. "What did you say?"

"Madam, the second young master was shot in the chest with an arrow and is now unconscious. He's been carried to the front courtyard!"

Mrs. He's body weakened, and she fell back into her chair. "What's happening? One thing after another..."

Were they all accidents?

Why had there never been accidents before? Since Yun Jinnian returned, accidents began happening. Could it be Yun Jinnian brought bad luck to her sons?

Mrs. He was now extremely worried about her younger son, Yun Xuan.

But worrying about one thing brought more trouble. Before they could even address Yun Yi's situation, the gatekeeper brought more news.

"Madam, the third young master started fighting at Wanhua Building and had his leg broken by the Prime Minister's youngest son. The third young master is also now in the front courtyard!"

Mrs. He's vision darkened, and she trembled as she spoke, "Quick, quickly go to Niannian Garden and call for Jinnian!"

Although Yun Jinnian had been bestowed the title of Commandery Princess Yijia by the Emperor, Mrs. He still felt Yun Jinnian was unworthy and always referred to her directly as Jinnian, maintaining her seniority.

Suddenly, fearing Yun Jinnian might have cursed her three sons, Mrs. He quickly added, "No, don't call for Jinnian, first have the Mansion Physician look at them, then go call for the Imperial Physician!"

She decided to seek far before seeking near; Mrs. He was now desperate.

Yun Zhen hurriedly advised, "Mother, please calm yourself. If only one son had an accident, it might be a coincidence. But with both Second Brother and Third Brother, it is definitely intentional, not accidental!"

"What?" Mrs. He exclaimed.

"Mother, please ask Fourth Sister to examine Second Brother and Third Brother. She neutralized the poison on Prince Yanjun and saved the little prince that the entire Imperial Medical Bureau could not. Her medical skills are renowned for a reason. Why distance her completely from our hearts by ignoring her help?"

He always considered himself well-learned, yet failed repeatedly in the exams.

Many questions he could not comprehend, but hearing Lord Feng's discussion one day was more enlightening than ten years of study.

In life, one must be well-read, but also learn propriety, righteousness, integrity, and shame. These principles inspire one to think before acting.

Self-cultivation, regulating family, governing the nation, and bringing peace to the world.

Self-cultivation comes first.

But he once believed he was a righteous man, only to act like a blind fool, watching Xu Xinmo bully Yun Jinnian, and seeing his grandmother and mother mistreat Yun Jinnian.

Even when Yun Jinnian stayed at Yingci'an for over a year, he never asked or sent any money.

He was a failure as a brother and a scholar.

"But, but..."

Mrs. He hesitated.

She was truly worried Yun Jinnian returning had cursed her three sons.

Chapter 803: Continuous Trouble

"Mother, destiny is a vague and ambiguous thing, it exists if you believe in it, and it does not if you don't. But regardless of its existence, one must strive oneself. If one does not make an effort, even with the best family background and the best assistance, it would be like trying to support a wall made of mud or carve a rotten wood. In the past, your son was foolish and almost walked into a dead end!" Yun Zhen said, holding Mrs. He's hand, "Mother, Fourth Sister is not our enemy, she is our family!"

"How could she be considered our family? She belongs to the second house. Zhenzhen, since you put it that way, I will send someone to Niannian Garden to call her!"

Mrs. He still looked down upon Yun Jinnian in her speech.

In her mind, she only remembered Yun Jinnian's former frailty and helplessness in the manor, completely forgetting that Yun Jinnian was now a Commandery Princess, and an honored guest wherever she went, granted the title of Princess Yijia by the Emperor.

Yun Zhen was momentarily at a loss for words.

"You take a good rest, leave everything else to Mother!" Mrs. He reassured Yun Zhen with a few words.

She stood up and left.

Yun Zhen watched and sighed, realizing that his mother did not understand his meaning at all.

The current Yun Jinnian was no longer the same Yun Jinnian from before.

And whether the three brothers could stand up again depended on Yun Jinnian.

Unfortunately, despite her earnest words, his mother did not listen at all!

Niannian Garden

Yun Jinnian and the others were startled to learn that Yun Zhen, Yun Yi, and Yun Xuan were injured.

"How did they get hurt?" Yun Jinnian asked.

"The maid servant doesn't know the specifics. Fourth Miss, please come with the maid servant. Second Young Master is still unconscious, Third Young Master is also not well!" Tianmi said, slightly raising her head.

Yun Jinnian looked at her, lowered her beautiful eyes, and said nothing.

Yun Musi and Yun Mulan were also extremely anxious, "Fourth Sister, please, go see Second Brother and Third Brother!"

Both were sweating profusely with faces turning pale.

"Hemei, bring the medicine box!" Yun Jinnian eventually spoke calmly.

"Yes!"

Yun Jinnian walked in front, and the group swayed and proceeded to the front courtyard.

All the while, Yun Jinnian did not speak, even when Xu Xinmo tried to speak several times, she made no response.

Xu Xinmo was left embarrassed and could only remain silent.

Upon reaching the front courtyard, Yun Jinnian saw Mrs. He.

Mrs. He naturally saw Yun Jinnian as well.

Hesitating for a moment, she stepped forward, "Jinnian, you're here just in time. Quickly go in and see your second and third brothers!"

"Alright!"

Yun Jinnian followed Mrs. He through the main gate.

Inside the room, she immediately saw Yun Yi lying on the Arhat bed.

His face was pale, an arrow feather stuck in his chest, his clothes around it soaked with blood, and he was unconscious.

"Jinnian, quickly see your second brother!"

"Hmm!"

Yun Jinnian nodded slightly, but slowly took the wet towel Henuan handed over to clean her hands.

Mrs. He watched, anger rising in her heart.

Only after Yun Jinnian cleaned her hands did she sit down to check Yun Yi's pulse.

"How is he?" Mrs. He asked urgently.

"The arrow is poisoned, hence his unconsciousness!" Yun Jinnian replied, withdrawing her hand.

She opened the medicine box, took out a porcelain bottle, and dispensed a pill, "Dissolve this in warm water and give it to Second Brother to take!"

Then, she took out scissors from the medicine box and cut open Yun Yi's chest clothing, revealing a dark purple wound.

"Hemei, prepare to extract the arrow!"

"Yes!"

Hemei responded, immediately ordering people to prepare hot water, cotton, and bandages while Yun Jinnian studied how to extract the arrow with minimal harm.

"Jinnian, how is it? Can the arrow be extracted?" Mrs. He asked worriedly.

"I'm still figuring it out!"

Yun Jinnian paused and then said, "It's best to have a similar arrow feather. I need to check if it has barbs!"

Chapter 804: Seeing the Clues

"But where can I find this arrow feather now?" Mrs. He asked anxiously.

"No need to look for it. I will ponder slowly, so it might be a bit troublesome. Don't worry, Aunt. Once I've removed the arrow feather and bandaged the wound, Second Brother will wake up soon!"

Yun Jinnian's voice was light, yet it made people feel very assured.

Mrs. He nodded.

After Hemei prepared the necessary items, Yun Jinnian carefully washed her hands before starting to remove the arrow.

She cut open the wound with a knife, inch by inch going in, "Fortunately, it didn't hurt the heart!"

It only took a while for Yun Jinnian to pull out the arrow feather, quickly cutting away the purplish flesh, applying medicine powder, and letting Hemei and Henuan bandage Yun Yi.

She then got up and washed her hands aside.

"Is it done?" Mrs. He asked.

"Yes, it's done!"

Mrs. He breathed a sigh of relief.

She had never seen Yun Jinnian in action before today, and now she realized that Yun Jinnian's medical skills were indeed remarkable.

Once Hemei and Henuan finished bandaging, Yun Yi started to slowly wake up.

"Yi'er!" Mrs. He called out joyfully in a low voice.

Yun Yi woke up, looked at Mrs. He, and called out softly, "Mother!"

"Yi'er, you need to rest well. Everything is alright now. Any issues, wait until your father returns and talk to him, okay?"

"Okay!" Yun Yi responded gently and closed his eyes again to sleep.

Mrs. He let out a sigh of relief and looked at Yun Jinnian, "Jinnian, your Third Brother..."

"I'll go see Third Brother right now!"

Yun Jinnian left the room and headed to Yun Xuan's room.

Xu Xinmo stood aside, unable to return to her senses for a long time.

She never dreamed that Yun Jinnian's medical skills were this impressive, completely different from her imagined flower antics.

Yun Musi and Yun Mulan were equally astonished.

Yun Zuomo, Yun Qingqing, and Yun Qingzhi felt overwhelming admiration.

Yun Xuan not only had a broken leg but was also beaten up badly. When he saw Mrs. He and Yun Jinnian come in, his face immediately turned red.

"Mother, Fourth, Fourth Sister!"

Yun Jinnian softly called out, "Third Brother!"

"What on earth happened?" Mrs. He asked. She then thought about how Yun Jinnian was beaten in a brothel like Wanhua Building, causing shame, and quickly urged Yun Jinnian, "Jinnian, check your Third Brother quickly!"

"Alright!"

Yun Jinnian would absolutely not ask any more questions.

"Third Brother, which leg hurts?"

Yun Xuan pointed.

Yun Jinnian raised her hand and gently squeezed it. Yun Xuan was in so much pain that sweat poured down his face.

"The bone is damaged, but whether it's a slight fracture or shattering, we need to undress and inspect carefully. Aunt, it's better to call an Imperial Physician!"

Though they were cousins, there was a difference between male and female, and besides, Yun Xuan's injury was not critical.

An Imperial Physician could also treat him.

Of course, if Yun Xuan's life were at risk, she would certainly assist.

"Alright, alright!"

Yun Jinnian stood up and went to wash her hands.

Hemei cleaned up, and after Yun Jinnian washed her hands, she said to Yun Xuan, "Third Brother, rest well. I'll return to Niannian Garden first!"

"Thank you, Fourth Sister!"

Yun Jinnian nodded slightly.

Regardless if Yun Xuan was sincere or pretending, Yun Jinnian didn't care.

And she would not care.

Leaving the room, she looked at Xu Xinmo, Yun Musi, Yun Mulan, and Yun Zuomo with a slight smile, "I'll return to Niannian Garden first. You all should go back too. I'll invite you over another day!"

"Take care, Cousin (Fourth Sister)!"

"Hmm!"

Yun Jinnian returned to Niannian Garden and immediately called out to the Hidden Guard, "Go investigate, find out who is targeting Yun Zhen, Yun Musi, and Yun Mulan. We just returned today, and this incident happened. What is the intention here..."

Chapter 805: Jinnian Sees Through

Yun Jinnian spoke, extremely calm and composed.

In this residence, they wanted to isolate her and harm the three young masters of the first house, making Mrs. He think that her return was the cause, leading to the injuries of the three young masters of the first house.

This is just the first day, and they are already injured. If this continues over time, wouldn't it be life-threatening!

This openly wanted the first house to hate her, and then deal with her.

And in this residence, there were two people, one was the Old Madam, the other was Xu Xinmo, but the Old Madam didn't have such powerful people behind her, so it must be Xu Xinmo.

Xu Xinmo was foolish, but she had Granny Jin behind her.

There was also another possibility, which was that other enemies wanted to deal with her.

But in this Capital City, she had few enemies, the only ones who hated her deeply were the She Family.

Although the matter of She Hong was not her doing, the She Family had not found any evidence, but it didn't stop Mrs. She from hating her.

"Keep a close watch on the She Family, especially Mrs. She, and don't overlook Madam Wang!"

It couldn't be ruled out that Madam Wang wanted to frame her, even Yun Zhen was not spared.

Looking at Yun Zhen, he was just slightly injured, not very serious.

The Hidden Guard took the order and left.

Yun Jinnian then said to Nanny An, "Nanny An, now that the wet nurse has to stay at the Han Family, this courtyard will be managed by you, let Jiayu and Ru Yue assist you!"

"Yes!"

Nanny An responded calmly, she no longer cared about power.

After thinking for a while, she said, "Miss, during the time you were away, Lady borrowed a few treasures from Niannian Garden and hasn't returned them!"

"Then go and ask her what she says. If she doesn't return them, I will ask her myself. After all, with the Imperial Decree back then, she can't deny it!"

"Yes!"

Yun Jinnian did not want to give things to Mrs. He.

Besides, she planned to renovate the three large houses to grow medicinal plants, which would require a lot of silver.

Xu Xinmo returned to Yicai Garden and asked Granny Jin, "Granny, was it arranged by you?"

Granny Jin smiled without saying a word, patted Xu Xinmo's head and nodded slightly.

Xu Xinmo then laughed out loud, "Aunt must be resenting that mother and daughter now!"

"Did you gain anything from today's visit?" Granny Jin asked.

"Nothing in particular, I just feel that Yun Jinnian is different from before!"

"How is she different?" Granny Jin asked.

"I can't say exactly, but apart from medical skills, she has nothing else to show!"

Xu Xinmo spoke with full disdain.

"Do not underestimate others, Yun Jinnian has several experts around her, and for more than a year, no one could find out where she went or what she did!" Granny Jin said, also worried.

"Experts, who are they?"

"Those three from Niannian Garden: Hongdou, Hongye, Hongxiu, and the ones she always takes out: Hemei, Henuan, these five young girls are all very skilled in martial arts. Another thing, she is the only granddaughter of the Han Family, although the Han Family mysteriously has a young master now, no one knows his background. It's uncertain who will inherit the Han Family in the future, the Yun Family doesn't care, but the Han Family treats her like a treasure!" Granny Jin said, sitting on a stool beside Xu Xinmo.

She continued, "Xinmo, the only way now is for you to closely attach yourself to Yun Jinnian to appear in front of the nobles, otherwise..."

"If only I could enter the palace!" Xu Xinmo said, resenting Wang Yanran.

Wang Yanran's aunt was Noble Consort Wang, every time Wang Yanran entered the palace, she only took Yun Musi and Yun Mulan, refusing to take her along.

Chapter 806: Wild Imagination

"So now that Yun Jinnian is back, your opportunity has also arrived. She will soon enter the palace to give the Emperor a follow-up diagnosis and will also win the favor of the Empress Dowager. By then, you might be able to follow her in. Even if you cannot go with her, during the palace banquet, you can stay by her side and get to know many important people. More importantly, you can use her name to do many things!"

Xu Xinmo listened carefully and nodded firmly.

"Mother-in-law, do you think I should take some gifts over to Yun Jinnian?"

"That would be very good!"

Xu Xinmo got up to find something.

These gifts cannot be too expensive; she was not willing to part with something too costly. But they also cannot be too cheap, as that would seem insincere.

After thinking it over, she found two jade bracelets and a piece of fabric.

But suddenly, Xu Xinmo remembered that Yun Jinnian had too many of these types of things.

Comparing oneself to others indeed leads to anger.

Things that are precious to her flow from Yun Jinnian's fingers effortlessly and are valuable enough to make people jealous.

"What are you thinking about?" Mrs. Han asked.

"Mother-in-law, I'm wondering why Yun Jinnian has so many good things in her hands, while I have none?"

Mrs. Han fell silent at her words.

"The most frustrating thing is that she gets them effortlessly, while I have to rack my brains. In the past, my grandmother used to bring things to appease me, but now it happens less and less. I don't even dare to cry and make a fuss to return to the Xu Family!" Xu Xinmo spoke with great resentment.

She feared that if she made a fuss, she would truly be sent back to the Xu Family.

She was well aware that the Xu Family did not like her.

Mrs. Han also knew very well that if Xu Xinmo returned to the Xu Family, she would never have a chance to stand out again.

Moreover, no one in the Xu Family was as foolish as Old Madam Yun, who dotes on Xu Xinmo as if she's the apple of her eye.

"Now that you are at a disadvantage, you can only remain humble for the time being. Just wait for the day you soar and become a phoenix; dealing with these people then won't be too late!"

Upon hearing this, Xu Xinmo felt a little better.

"Mother-in-law, I'll listen to you in everything!"

Originally, Old Madam Yun planned to have dinner together in the evening, but since her three grandsons were injured, she considered Mrs. Han and Yun Jinnian to be ominous and used Yun Zhen and the others' injuries as an excuse to postpone the meal. However, she instructed the kitchen to distribute the prepared dishes to the various courtyards, including the concubines, illegitimate daughters, and sons of the second house, who each received some.

Yun Jinnian naturally went to Mrs. Han's courtyard to eat.

Yun Qi did not come, reportedly dining in Aunt Xi's courtyard with several dishes specially ordered.

Seeing the extra dishes, the mother and daughter exchanged a smile.

"Jinnian, are you ready?" Mrs. Han asked softly.

Yun Jinnian nodded slightly and asked her, "Mother, are you ready as well?"

"Of course, I'm ready. Once you come of age and get married, my affairs will also be settled!"

Currently, they refrained from separation for Yun Jinnian's smooth marriage.

"Thank you, Mother!"

"Silly child!" Mrs. Han said while adding some food to Yun Jinnian's bowl. She continued, "Soon, bamboo shoots will be in season. I'll make soup for you then!"

"We should send some to Tianci as well; he likes bamboo shoots!"

"Yes, Mother will remember that!"

The mother and daughter ate, the atmosphere warm and harmonious.

Aunt Xi poured wine for Yun Qi, "Second Master, do you think I should go and offer my respects to Madam?"

Yun Qi paused with the wine cup in his hand.

This should be the time for their family of three to dine together, especially since Mrs. Han had just returned. She should have sent someone to invite him, but she didn't.

This indicated that in her heart, he no longer mattered at all.

Chapter 807: Meeting Yunshen Again

And all the resentment, all the bitterness, it's all gone.

With Mrs. Han's return now, it seems likely because Yun Jinnian is about to come of age. After she comes of age, she is to marry. Mrs. Han probably returned to ensure Yun Jinnian's marriage would be legitimate and appropriate.

"Let's see. If she sends someone to summon you, you don't need to go!"

Aunt Xi's face lit up with joy and she asked again, "If it's the Madam, the Madam..."

"Are you afraid she'll reprimand you?" Yun Qi asked nonchalantly.

"No, I'm afraid of not knowing proper etiquette, annoying her!"

"Don't worry. With me here, she won't and doesn't dare to do anything to you!"

Hearing this, Aunt Xi was completely relieved.

What about the proper wife? When she has a child, the Master would surely dismiss Mrs. Han and elevate Aunt Xi to be the proper wife.

"I will listen to what Second Master says!"

Yun Qi glanced at Aunt Xi and continued drinking his wine without saying another word.

The next day, Yun Jinnian sent medicinal herbs to Yun Zhen, Yun Yi, and Yun Xuan, each a piece of ginseng over fifty years old. Whether or not it's valuable doesn't matter.

What matters is the sentiment behind it.

The three brothers, Yun Zhen, Yun Yi, and Yun Xuan, looked at the ginseng Yun Jinnian had sent and remained silent for a long time.

Yun Jinnian did not expect that Zhou Yunshen would send Teng Fei to the Yun Residence.

"Princess Yijia!"

"Guard Teng, why are you here?"

Teng Fei immediately bowed and said, "Reporting to the Commandery Princess, my lord is unwell and requests Princess Yijia to follow me to see him, would that be alright?"

"Is it serious?" Yun Jinnian asked lightly.

"It's quite serious. Once the Commandery Princess sees for herself, she will understand!"

Yun Jinnian remained silent.

After hesitating for a moment, she said, "Wait a moment, I will let Hemei go back to get the medicine chest!"

"Commandery Princess, the carriage is already prepared. You don't need to prepare your own. After my lord's illness is addressed, I will escort you back!"

"Mhm!"

Yun Jinnian responded lightly.

She still trusted Zhou Yunshen to be a gentleman who wouldn't force her or act rashly.

But one can never be too careful.

Once Hemei returned with the medicine chest, Yun Jinnian followed Teng Fei out of the Yun Residence.

Teng Fei's carriage was very opulent. Once inside, it was extremely luxurious.

This should be the carriage Zhou Yunshen usually rides!

Why use it to fetch her? What does it mean?

They arrived at Zhou Yunshen's residence in Tianchu Country.

Yun Jinnian got off the carriage and was invited in by Teng Fei.

"This house was bought by my master, with some modifications made!"

"It's quite good!"

Teng Fei smiled.

He led Yun Jinnian into the main courtyard.

Zhou Yunshen, dressed in white, stood in the courtyard, smiling warmly at Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian looked at Zhou Yunshen and gave a polite smile, "I don't know if I should address you as Crown Prince or Mr. Zhou?"

"It doesn't matter if you call me Mr. Zhou or Crown Prince. To you, I'm just a stranger. If you don't mind, you can call me Brother Zhou!" Zhou Yunshen remained gentle and elegant.

But his eyes were depthless, like a deep abyss.

Yun Jinnian gave a warm smile, "It's my honor, Brother Zhou!"

"Please, come inside!"

"After you!"

Looking at Zhou Yunshen's demeanor, Yun Jinnian realized he wasn't actually ill.

Once inside the small chamber, Zhou Yunshen invited Yun Jinnian to sit, and a maid served tea.

"Please!"

"Thank you!"

Yun Jinnian took a sip of tea and set the cup down.

Then Zhou Yunshen said, "Actually, the reason I invited you today isn't because I'm ill. It's my master who is ill. Many doctors have been unable to help, so I took the liberty of inviting you."

"Your master?"

"Indeed, he is the former Prime Minister of the Great Zhou Kingdom and a renowned scholar, Dou Chengshan. Have you heard of him?" Zhou Yunshen asked quietly.

Yun Jinnian shook her head and replied earnestly, "I have not!"

Chapter 808: What's on My Mind

Zhou Yunshen was momentarily at a loss for words.

Yun Jinnian smiled slightly and continued, "But since he is Zhou Brother's master, he must be extremely knowledgeable and respected by others!"

Indeed, she had never heard of Dou Chengshan before.

However, to be the tutor of the Crown Prince of the Great Zhou Kingdom, one must certainly possess some remarkable abilities.

Moreover, seeing how he taught Zhou Yunshen to appear calm and polite on the surface while being deeply reserved, it was evident that Dou Chengshan was no ordinary person.

"Yes, the master is known as a great scholar of our time, truly admirable. However, he is now old and unwell. That is why I sent someone to bring him from Great Zhou. I wanted to discuss matters with him in detail once you returned, but after sending several invitations and receiving no response, I had no choice but to send Teng Fei to fetch you, even resorting to a lie. I hope you won't blame me!" Zhou Yunshen spoke earnestly.

His sincerity was palpable.

Yun Jinnian smiled gently, "I won't blame you. Please, Zhou Brother, lead the way!"

"Alright!"

Zhou Yunshen stood up, leading Yun Jinnian out of the main courtyard. After walking through several corridors, they arrived at a large courtyard.

An older woman immediately bowed, "Greetings, Your Highness!" She looked at Yun Jinnian and, although she didn't recognize her, made a slight curtsy.

"Where is Jingjing?" Zhou Yunshen asked indifferently.

"Replying to Your Highness, Commandery Princess Jing is attending to the old master's medication!"

Zhou Yunshen nodded and gestured to Yun Jinnian, "Please!"

Yun Jinnian smiled faintly and followed him into the courtyard.

This courtyard was very different from Zhou Yunshen's, being tranquil and elegant.

Just then, a young woman in a pink dress emerged, "Greetings, Your Highness!" She looked at Yun Jinnian with a smile in her eyes, "And this must be Princess Yijia!"

"Yes, it is her indeed!"

Yun Jinnian looked at the young woman before her, dressed in pink, with a delicate face full of confidence and a smile at the corners of her eyes.

As both Commandery Princesses, there was no need for formal salutations. Yun Jinnian nodded slightly as a greeting.

Dou Jingjing was somewhat surprised that such an extremely beautiful woman was a doctor. But considering Yun Jinnian's background and experiences that she had heard about, it made sense.

Without the love of elders, one must find their own path.

Such a woman need not be feared for taking anything away. The Empress would never allow the Crown Prince to take a woman like her as his principal consort.

Collecting her thoughts, she smiled, "Princess Yijia, you are too kind!"

"No need for such courtesy, Commandery Princess Jing," Yun Jinnian replied indifferently.

Although Dou Jingjing hid it well, Yun Jinnian still sensed the hostility and disdain in her eyes.

Hence, she remained distant and had no intention of making friends.

Zhou Yunshen smiled warmly, "There's no need for formalities between you two. Jingjing, has the master had a rest?"

"Not yet. Father heard you were here and asked me to come out and greet you!" Dou Jingjing said, inviting Zhou Yunshen and Yun Jinnian inside.

She was Dou Chengshan's youngest daughter, born to a concubine.

However, her mother had died giving birth to her, and she was raised by the legitimate wife. It's worth noting that she was now married and living elsewhere.

Dou Jingjing was a clever young woman, who made Dou Chengshan happy. Moreover, having a daughter at sixty made him exceptionally doting. Dou Jingjing had also caught the Empress's eye and was titled Commandery Princess Jing, with the Empress planning to marry her to Zhou Yunshen.

Through this, they hoped to secure Dou Chengshan's influence to help Zhou Yunshen ascend to the throne smoothly.

However, Zhou Yunshen did not return to the Great Zhou Kingdom and stayed in Tianchu Country. The Empress used Zhou Yunshen's request to bring Dou Chengshan for medical treatment as a pretext to send Dou Jingjing as well.

The implications were clear!

Chapter 809: Extremely Displeased

Yun Jinnian looked at Zhou Yunshen, then at Dou Jingjing and Dou Chengshan.

Looking at Dou Chengshan, Yun Jinnian felt inexplicably disgusted and displeased.

Seemingly feeling that the man was covered in human skin, somewhat like a beast.

"Mr. Dou has a tumor inside!" Yun Jinnian spoke truthfully.

"Is there a way to remove or treat the tumor?" Dou Jingjing asked.

"If Mr. Dou were young, it could be done. But Mr. Dou is elderly now and cannot withstand the surgery to remove the tumor. However, I will prescribe medicine for Mr. Dou to try and see if the tumor can be treated. But I must be clear, Mr. Dou is already in pain; if he takes the medicine, the pain will be ten times worse, and it still might not remove the tumor. It might even result in death due to the pain. Therefore, you must think carefully!" Yun Jinnian spoke calmly.

Analyzing the pros and cons clearly.

In fact, given Dou Chengshan's age, it is truly not advisable to undergo surgery or take strong medicine.

The safest treatment is more conservative, just to alleviate the pain, perhaps extending life a bit longer.

"Is there any other way?" Zhou Yunshen asked.

Yun Jinnian shook his head, "I cannot think of any other solutions!"

Zhou Yunshen looked at Dou Chengshan, "Master?"

Dou Chengshan then looked at Yun Jinnian, "If I am willing to take the strong medicine, what are the chances of survival?"

"Not exceeding twenty percent!"

Dou Chengshan fell silent.

As it stands, he could live for another year or two, but if he takes the medicine prescribed by Yun Jinnian, he may die!

But he could not refuse immediately, only saying, "Let me think about it!"

"Very well, Mr. Dou, take your time to consider. I will take my leave!" Yun Jinnian said, standing up and slightly bowing in salute.

Dou Chengshan hurriedly said, "Jingjing, help escort the Commandery Princess!"

"Yes, father!"

Dou Jingjing responded obediently.

Accompanying Yun Jinnian out of the room.

Zhou Yunshen looked at Dou Chengshan, "Master, I will also see the Commandery Princess off, and be back shortly!"

Dou Chengshan waved his hand.

As a man, he clearly understood Zhou Yunshen's intention.

But he did not wish for Zhou Yunshen to succeed, his daughter could not marry into the Eastern Palace. For that reason, he had already decided to opt for conservative treatment, no medicine, and no surgery.

Furthermore, he planned to find a way for Zhou Yunshen to marry Jingjing first.

"Princess Yijia, thank you so much!" Dou Jingjing said warmly.

Yun Jinnian slightly shook his head, "As a doctor, this is what I should do!"

Dou Jingjing smiled.

Feeling Zhou Yunshen following them out.

With both hatred and jealousy in her heart, she said, "The Crown Prince is seeing you off, I will return to attend to father. Commandery Princess, take care!"

Yun Jinnian nodded.

After exchanging a few words with Dou Jingjing and Zhou Yunshen, she left.

Then asked Zhou Yunshen, "Brother Zhou, has your body recovered?"

"I haven't had any poison attacks for half a year, I think I have recovered. Can you check my pulse to confirm?"

"Sure!"

"Then let's sit in the front hall!"

Yun Jinnian slightly nodded.

In the hall

Yun Jinnian checked Zhou Yunshen's pulse.

After a moment she said, "Congratulations Brother Zhou, the poison in your body is completely gone, and your health is gradually improving!"

"Thank you for saving my life!"

Yun Jinnian smiled warmly, "I must return home!"

"I will see you to the door!"

"Alright!"

Outside, Yun Jinnian got into the carriage, still driven by Teng Fei, to be taken back to the Yun Family.

Yun Jinnian suddenly asked Teng Fei, "Will we be passing by Xufuji later?"

Chapter 810: Stirring Trouble

"Replying to the Commandery Princess, all is well!"

"Then you can leave us at Xufuji shortly. I want to buy some pastries to take back!"

Teng Fei hesitated and thought for a moment before saying, "Commandery Princess, this might not be appropriate. How about you buy the pastries at Xufuji first, and I will wait outside. Once you're done, I'll take you back!"

Seeing Teng Fei's insistence, Yun Jinnian had no choice but to agree, "Alright!"

The carriage stopped at the entrance of Xufuji. Yun Jinnian personally got off the carriage and entered Xufuji to pick out several kinds of pastries, "Please pack some of each for me, sixteen portions each!"

The servant at Xufuji, seeing it was a large order, immediately called others to pack the pastries.

Each portion contained three or four pieces, which was quite a lot.

The clever servant even separated the flavors into sweet and savory.

"Miss, with this many pastries, should we pack them in brocade boxes for you?"

"Yes!"

Inside the brocade boxes were pure white trays with Xufuji's mark, each tray held a few pieces, clean and neat, ready to serve.

After finishing the pastries, the boxes and trays could be taken back to Xufuji for an exchange of two taels of silver!

Teng Fei was momentarily taken aback when he saw Yun Jinnian buying sixteen boxes of pastries, but he still moved them into the trunk at the back of the carriage.

He escorted Yun Jinnian back to the Yun Residence.

Yun Jinnian first had someone take the pastries to Niannian Garden, then instructed Shi Jiayu and Ru Yue, "The two of you, go and deliver these pastries!"

And she told them who to deliver to.

Shi Jiayu asked, "Are the six people from the second house included?"

Yun Jinnian understood that Shi Jiayu was referring to the three half-brothers and three half-sisters, and nodded slightly.

"Alright, we'll go right away!"

Sixteen portions of pastries were first delivered to Cixin Academy, and the two received rewards from Old Madam Yun.

They then delivered to Mrs. He, who also rewarded the two.

Xu Xinmo, Wang Yanran, Yun Musi, Yun Yi, Yun Xuan also rewarded them, and even the second house with Yun Zuomo, Yun Qingqing, and Yun Qingzhi gave rewards.

As for Yun Kuan, Yun He, and Yun Mu, their concubine helped reward Shi Jiayu and Ru Yue.

After Shi Jiayu and Ru Yue left, three-year-old Yun Mu eagerly grabbed the pastries to eat, mumbling to Concubine Lian, "Auntie, these pastries from Fourth Sister are delicious!"

"Yes, yes, delicious!" Yun He agreed.

Concubine Lian felt a pang in her heart.

"Eat more then. When you see your Fourth Sister tomorrow, recite the Three Character Classic for her. When you were little, your Fourth Sister adored you!"

"Really?" Yun He and Yun Mu asked in unison.

Although they had many sisters, none of the others liked them or bought pastries for them.

"Of course, Auntie wouldn't lie to you. So when you see your Fourth Sister, be obedient. Your Fourth Sister likes well-behaved, sensible, and studious children!"

"Yes, yes!"

The two children responded and focused again on eating the pastries.

Concubine Lian, worried they might overeat and get indigestion, coaxed them for a while before having the maids take the pastries away.

Yun Jinnian spent quite a bit of silver on those boxes of pastries.

Concubine Lian thought of making a pair of shoes for Yun Jinnian but did not know her size and asked her maid Pancai to find out, "If the maid beside Fourth Miss asks, just say I want to make a pair of shoes for her. If they are unwilling to give the size, don't push it, just return."

"Yes!"

Yun Jinnian had Aunt An distribute the pastries, while she personally carried Mrs. Han's portion and slowly walked towards Qingjue Academy.

She saw Concubine Xi, dressed in a rose-red outfit adorned with jewels, walking leisurely.

Yun Jinnian stood still.

This was Concubine Xi, the one who flirted with her father at the main door, and she seemed to be looking for trouble.

Turning to Hemei and Huan, she said, "If she dares to disrespect me, teach her a lesson!"