

Indulgence 871

Chapter 871: What is Confidence

Xu Xinmo was slightly startled.

She opened her mouth but didn't know what to say.

Yun Jinnian laughed softly. "I wonder what Princess Mianke means by this?"

"Princess Yijia!" Qu Mianke murmured, seriously looking at Yun Jinnian.

It had been some time since they last met, and Yun Jinnian seemed even more beautiful.

And with the light makeup today, she looked even more dazzling.

"What guidance do you have, Princess Mianke?" Yun Jinnian responded calmly, standing up and gazing directly at Qu Mianke.

She was a head taller than Qu Mianke, creating a somewhat superior feeling.

This feeling made Qu Mianke very uncomfortable.

"I have nothing much to say, but I am very curious about this young lady wearing the most expensive clothes from Jinshang Pavilion. Is her family the richest in the world? Or perhaps her father is an official in the court, embezzling money to afford such expensive clothes!"

Qu Mianke deliberately emphasized the word "embezzling."

Yun Jinnian laughed out loud. "Embezzling? Princess Mianke, which department of the court are you an official of? How dare you falsely accuse court officials without any evidence!"

Yun Jinnian reached out and pulled Xu Xinmo to the front. "Let me introduce my cousin Xu Xinmo to Princess Mianke. Her father is indeed a court official, but he is incorruptible and definitely not a corrupt official. As for the clothes Xinmo is wearing, today is her birthday, and my grandmother, who loves her deeply, gave her some silver to buy a beautiful outfit since she lost her mother at a young age and her father is always away on duty. Is it wrong for elders to pamper the younger generation by giving them silver for clothes and jewelry?"

Qu Mianke opened her mouth to speak.

Yun Jinnian loudly interrupted her again, "Or perhaps the silver Princess Mianke uses is all earned by yourself and not given by your elders? If that's the case, I have nothing more to say!"

These words, Qu Mianke indeed could not refute.

Because even for her, as well as the ones present, how many of them have earned their own silver?

Except for Yun Jinnian, not a single one had earned their own silver.

Even a penny, it was all given by the elders.

"Jinnian is correct. I have lived for decades, from childhood to adulthood and marriage, always using silver given by my elders. Nearly every young lady in the family does not use silver they have earned themselves!" Princess Yijia spoke as she was slowly helped by her maid.

Qu Mianke's face instantly turned red with embarrassment.

"Aunt..."

"Mianke, your mother is looking for you. It seemed urgent. I'll have the maid take you to her!" Princess Yijia said casually, but it sent chills through Qu Mianke's heart.

Her mother had arrived in the capital city, but she hadn't reached yet, so how could she be looking for her!

"Yes, Aunt!"

Princess Yijia nodded and looked at Xu Xinmo. "Hmm, this outfit is indeed nice, just a bit expensive!" She then looked at her granddaughters. "Learn this, and when you buy fabric, everyone can make a piece for themselves!"

"Yes, Grandmother!"

Princess Yijia then glanced at Xu Xinmo. "I heard from Jinnian that today is your birthday?"

"Yes, Your Highness!"

Princess Yijia picked a brocade box from the tray held by her maid and handed it to Xu Xinmo. "Happy birthday!"

Xu Xinmo quickly knelt down. "Thank you, Your Highness, for your gift!"

On the tray, there were over ten pouches but only six brocade boxes, and she received one.

She reached out and accepted the brocade box.

Princess Yijia smiled slightly. "Stand up!"

"Yes!"

Xu Xinmo held the brocade box, feeling ecstatic.

Princess Yijia then looked at Yun Zuomo, Yun Qingqing, and Yun Qingzhi. "You three, come over!"

Chapter 872: Coaxing Chen Danyan

Yun Zuomo and the other two, upon hearing this, nervously and excitedly walked in front of the Commandery Princess of the Stabilizing Nation, "Greetings, Your Highness. We wish you health and peace!"

They respectfully knelt and kowtowed.

"Rise!"

Yun Zuomo and the other two thanked the Commandery Princess and stood up.

The Commandery Princess of the Stabilizing Nation handed them three pouches, "Here, one for each of you. Take these to play with, and come to the Princess's residence with Jinnian more often in the future!"

"Yes!"

Yun Zuomo and the other two had mixed feelings in their hearts.

They were very clear about why they were able to come to the Princess Residence and receive gifts.

It was all because of Yun Jinnian.

If one were to say the Commandery Princess came to help Yun Jinnian, it would be more accurate to say she came to give meeting gifts to Yun Zuomo and the other two.

Yun Jinnian had saved the lives of the Commandery Princess of the Stabilizing Nation and Prince Yanjun, and Yun Zuomo and the other two were Jinnian's younger half-sisters, coming together with her; the implications were self-evident.

"Alright, continue to play!" The Commandery Princess of the Stabilizing Nation said, noticing Qu Mianke still standing to one side angrily.

Sighing inwardly, "Mianke, let's go!"

"Yes, Aunt!"

Qu Mianke hated Yun Jinnian deeply.

She had already felt that Yun Jinnian had ruined her relationship with Chu Yu, and now it seemed, because Jinnian had saved Prince Yanjun, the Commandery Princess had a different view of her.

She stomped her feet and glared at Yun Jinnian fiercely before following the Commandery Princess in leaving.

Because of this incident, everyone's attitude towards Yun Jinnian changed. Their words were filled with more respect and fear.

Especially Yuan Siqian and Zhuge Xi.

Yun Zuomo, Yun Qingzhi, and Yun Qingqing also had more people wanting to befriend them, while around Xu Xinmo were those who were scheming and just wanted to take advantage.

Because in the midst of it, Yun Jinnian tasted a pastry and liked it very much. She immediately called Yun Zuomo and the other two, letting each take a piece, while Xu Xinmo was nearby but Jinnian did not call her.

The implications were obvious.

Xu Xinmo, however, was completely unaware of this, entirely immersed in the flattery and compliments she received.

"Jinnian, Mimi!"

Yun Jinnian turned to look—it was Chen Danyan.

"Sister Chen!"

"Danyan!"

The two immediately came forward.

After a period of time, Chen Danyan appeared much thinner. Her clothes were new, but she seemed somewhat spiritless.

"Sister Chen..." Yun Jinnian said worriedly.

"I'm fine!" Chen Danyan smiled faintly, but her smile was a bit forced.

The Elder of the Chen Family was in a critical condition, yet he took the old lady to travel. The other Chen family members started to prepare for a retreat, pushing Feng Wushuang to power.

They only hoped that after the mourning period, Feng Wushuang could still support the Elder Residence. Although it wouldn't reach previous heights, it wouldn't fall too quickly either.

Yun Jinnian held Chen Danyan's hand, silently comforting her, and lightly patted her hand.

She led her to a quiet corner to sit.

"Is there any news about the Elder?" Yun Jinnian asked softly.

Chen Danyan shook her head, "Jinnian, do you think Grandfather might meet an immortal who could give him a panacea to bring him back to life?"

"He will!" Yun Jinnian replied firmly.

Chen Danyan smiled, leaning on Yun Jinnian's shoulder, "Jinnian, you are so kind. I don't even believe in your medical skills, yet you still comfort me!"

"Because you are my Chen sister!"

Chen Danyan smiled, "Alright then, you have to love me more!"

"Yes, as you command!"

Yun Jinnian rarely showed a mischievous side.

Watching this, Chen Danyan felt much more at ease.

"Let's have a gathering someday, shall we?" Chen Danyan asked.

"Sure, how about at my Commandery Princess Residence? You and Sister Mimi have never been. I will also invite Sister Ruan, and in a few months, Sister Hu will return. We can all gather and you can taste the dishes I cook!"

Chen Danyan smiled.

Dai Hanmi asked, "Can you cook anything edible?"

Chapter 873: Left Out

Yun Jinnian smiled.

The things she made indeed couldn't be eaten, but there were some things that could be eaten when made by others.

And being with Chu Yu, although she couldn't let everyone in the world know, she still hoped that her closest sisters could know earlier.

Dai Hanmi saw Yun Jinnian smile mysteriously and immediately understood.

She was happy for Yun Jinnian in her heart but also felt sorry for her third brother.

If it weren't for Chu Yu, her third brother would still have a chance.

"As long as it's made by Jinnian, no matter how bad it tastes, I can still swallow some!" Chen Danyan said, then started laughing herself.

Yun Jinnian and Dai Hanmi also laughed along.

While talking, Yuwen Ming was about to leave, and everyone went over to watch the excitement.

Even from a distance, they could still see Yuwen Ming being led out by the matchmaker in her bright red wedding dress.

"Why can't I see the groom?" Dai Hanmi asked.

Yun Jinnian shook her head.

She wasn't very clear about it either.

Chen Danyan had hardly gone out recently and also didn't know.

While the three were talking, Yuwen Ming had already bade farewell to the State Preserving Princess, the Marquess, and the Marchioness, and was carried out by her elder brother.

The State Preserving Princess sat in the chair, her eyes reddening.

"Mingming, you must be happy!"

Because the Empress Dowager had passed away, many dishes were not served, and the wedding feast was simplified. Everyone knew the reason, so no one dared to say much.

After lunch, everyone returned to their own residences.

Back at the Yun Family

Yun Jinnian accompanied Mrs. Han to Qingjue Academy, sat for a while, and then returned to Niannian Garden. Xu Xinmo went back to Yicai Garden, extremely happy.

"Did you make any new friends today?" Jin Grandma asked.

"Yes, quite a few!"

Jin Grandma smiled, "Did any of them invite you to their homes to play in the coming days?"

The smile froze on Xinmo's face.

Xu Xinmo looked at Jin Grandma in shock and gently shook her head.

Yes, those people had been flattering her all day, but none had invited her.

Not a single one.

"Grandma!"

Jin Grandma looked at Xu Xinmo, took a deep breath, and said, "Tell me everything that happened today!"

"Okay!"

Xu Xinmo recounted everything from the beginning.

Some things she hadn't noticed at all, so her account wasn't very clear.

"Grandma, what should I do now?"

"Don't worry, in ten days, it will be Yun Jinnian's coming-of-age ceremony. Wait till then and see how many people in the Capital City come and how many gifts are sent!"

"She wouldn't care about those gifts anyway!"

Yun Jinnian had many good things in her possession, which had all been moved to decorate the Commandery Princess Residence. Xu Xinmo hadn't been there yet after it was decorated.

She wanted to go, but Yun Jinnian had brushed her off several times.

"It's different. That day is her coming-of-age ceremony, but don't worry, let's wait and see!"

Mrs. He and the Yun Old Madam were just as frustrated.

In the past, it might have been unclear, but today, Yun Old Madam truly understood what it felt like to be cold-shouldered.

At the Princess Residence, from beginning to end, the State Preserving Princess didn't speak to her, not even a word. In a room full of old madams, it was as if the State Preserving Princess didn't recognize her at all. She was utterly humiliated.

"Go, call Mrs. Han here!"

Ming Liu frowned slightly when she heard this, "Old Madam?"

"What's wrong, didn't you hear me? I told you to bring the Second Madam!"

Ming Liu, although puzzled, quickly went to Qingjue Academy. When she saw Mrs. Han, she respectfully saluted, "This servant greets Second Madam!"

"Why are you here?" Mrs. Han asked casually.

While tidying the potted plant in front of her.

This was bought back by Yun Jinnian from outside and had a very nice shape.

She liked it very much and loved to wipe its leaves or trim its branches whenever she had free time.

"Returning to Second Madam, the Old Madam requests your presence!"

Chapter 874: Pretending

Mrs. Han heard these words and gently put down the scissors.

Although she did not witness what Old Lady Yun experienced today, she could guess the gist of it.

"You go back first, I'll change my clothes and come over!"

"Yes!"

Ming Liu responded and returned to Cixin Academy.

Seeing Ming Liu return alone, Old Lady Yun asked, "Where is Mrs. Han?"

"Returning to Old Lady, Second Madam said she would come after changing her clothes!" Ming Liu replied softly.

She knew Old Lady Yun was in a bad mood and did not want to provoke her at this moment.

"Hmm!"

Old Lady Yun responded deeply.

Once, she deceived herself into thinking that the happenings in the Yun Family would not be known outside. Even if known, so what? It was the Yun Family's business.

In the past, when she went out, she thought her status was not high enough, which led to others' indifferent responses. Now, even as the First-Rank Dowager, she still received no attention.

The coldness and mockery she experienced was something she never wanted to endure again in this life.

Mrs. Han slowly arrived at Cixin Academy and entered the small hall, "Old Lady!"

She greeted flatly.

"Sit down!"

Mrs. Han raised her eyebrows and sat on a chair to the side without another word.

Old Lady Yun waited and waited, thinking Mrs. Han would take the initiative to mention Yun Jinnian's coming-of-age ceremony, as there were only ten days left.

But Mrs. Han remained silent, like a mute.

Old Lady Yun took a deep breath before saying, "Jinnian's coming-of-age ceremony is in a few days. Are you prepared?"

"Everything is prepared. If the Yun Family is inconvenient, we can go to the Princess Residence. It's always convenient there!"

"Nonsense!" Old Lady Yun shouted in anger.

In the household now, other than herself, Yun Jinnian held the highest title, yet she could not compare to Yun Jinnian.

"She is a daughter of the Yun Family. Even if she is a Commandery Princess, her coming-of-age ceremony must be held in the Yun Family. How can it take place at the Princess Residence? How will she stand among her sisters in the future? Since you have prepared all the trifles, discuss it with your eldest sister-in-law. Due to the Empress Dowager's passing on February 15, the ceremony cannot be too grand but also must not be shabby!"

Her words sounded good, but she did not offer a single penny.

Mrs. Han laughed coldly before saying, "Rest assured, Old Lady, everything is prepared. As long as no one in the household causes trouble, it will be fine. Of course, if anyone dares to create a disturbance on Jinnian's coming-of-age day, I'll make them regret coming into this world!"

After speaking, Mrs. Han stood up, patted her clothes, and asked, "Old Lady, is there anything else? If not, I will take my leave."

Old Lady Yun was so angry that her heart and lungs ached.

If it were not for the hope of gaining higher regard when going out in the future, she would not bother to deal with Mrs. Han.

"There is nothing else. You may leave!"

Mrs. Han turned and left.

After Mrs. Han had been gone for a while, Old Lady Yun angrily cursed, "A wretched woman, born without a mother's teaching!"

Ming Liu stood by, not daring to make a sound, fearing she would provoke Old Lady Yun's wrath.

This old lady was becoming increasingly unreasonable and frightening.

Mrs. He's intentions were soon known, and after pondering for a long time, she visited Qingjue Academy.

Seeing Mrs. Han making clothes, Mrs. He smiled and asked, "Second Brother's wife, who are you making clothes for?"

"With nothing else to do, I'm making some clothes for Jinnian!" Mrs. Han signaled Bai Que, who immediately prepared tea and snacks. Inviting Mrs. He to sit, she then asked, "Eldest Sister-in-law, what brings you to Qingjue Academy?"

"I came to ask you about Jinnian's coming-of-age ceremony. Who do you plan to invite? How many tables of banquet do you need to arrange? What dishes should be prepared?"

Chapter 875: Mrs. Han's Mind Games

Mrs. Han smiled faintly, "Eldest sister-in-law, there is no need for you to make arrangements. I have already reserved a banquet at Huiquan Tower. On the day Jinnian's coming-of-age ceremony is completed, we shall go there for a meal!"

There is a large hall in the backyard of Huiquan Tower. On days when there are many guests to entertain and the private rooms are not sufficient, it can be reserved.

However, the expense for just one meal is considerable.

Mrs. He never dreamed that Mrs. Han would go to such lengths.

"Why not hold it at home? We can even invite the head chef from the large hall at Huiquan Tower. It would save money, and everyone could enjoy themselves!" Mrs. He suggested sourly.

"What you say is true, sister-in-law. I wouldn't mind doing that, but you know very well how things are for Jinnian and me in this family. I no longer ask for much, I only hope that after Jinnian's coming-of-age ceremony, she can be married off smoothly!" As Mrs. Han spoke, she glanced at Mrs. He, "Sister-in-law, do you think my thoughts are right or wrong?"

Mrs. Han's eyes were calm, yet they made Mrs. He feel a chill down her spine.

She had some guilty secrets and feared that Mrs. Han might know some unsavory details. Avoiding Mrs. Han's gaze, she said nervously, "Look at what you're saying, we are family. Family shouldn't speak as if we are strangers to each other. If you trust me, let's hold Jinnian's coming-of-age ceremony at home, and I'll make sure the head chef from Huiquan Tower comes over to cook. How about that?"

"Would that be appropriate?" Mrs. Han asked.

In her heart, she didn't trust Mrs. He at all.

"Second sister-in-law, I know you hold a grudge against me, but in this family, whatever the old lady says is the final word. If the old lady wants to mistreat Jinnian, how dare I say anything against it!" Mrs. He said, fearing that Mrs. Han would not believe her and added, "Second sister-in-law, let's leave the past behind. Look at Jinnian now, she's been conferred the title of Commandery Princess and even has her own Princess Residence. It's said she's the wealthiest girl in the Capital City. After her coming-of-age ceremony, suitors will line up at our door!"

"Leave the past behind?" Mrs. Han murmured softly.

After a long pause, she laughed, "Sister-in-law, you make it sound so easy!"

Hearing this, Mrs. He stood up angrily, "What do you mean by that? I've kindly offered to arrange Jinnian's coming-of-age ceremony, and yet you dismiss my goodwill. Do you think I have nothing better to do?"

As Mrs. He trembled with anger, Mrs. Han remained composed and asked, "Sister-in-law, are you feeling guilty?"

"I'm feeling guilty? Guilty about what?" Mrs. He retorted sharply.

"If you're not guilty, then sit down, and let's discuss the arrangements for Jinnian's coming-of-age ceremony together!"

Mrs. He, bewildered, looked at Mrs. Han.

She had always been envious of how Yun Qi adored and cherished this sister-in-law.

Later, the old lady personally intervened, and the two concubines destroyed Mrs. Han and Yun Qi's relationship.

Then there was that staged scandal, but no one expected that the adulterer would turn out to be the third lord.

That night, the bed was in disarray and filthy; Mrs. Han and the third lord indeed had a relationship.

She never understood why, after all that happened, Mrs. Han could still hold her head high, and Yun Qi still treasured her like a gem.

But now it was clear that the two had grown apart and would never reconcile. Mrs. Han had returned to the Yun Family because Yun Jinnian was about to come of age and soon to be married off.

She was sure that once Yun Jinnian got married, Mrs. Han would definitely divorce Yun Qi.

"Hmph!" Mrs. He snorted coldly but eventually sat down as suggested.

Mrs. Han then said, "Sister-in-law, there's no need to be angry with me. If anyone's daughter were to suffer such grievances, one would naturally harbor resentment. If I were to say that I have no resentment at all, would you believe me?"

Chapter 876: Infuriating to Death

Mrs. He, upon hearing this, also felt that Mrs. Han's words made sense.

If Mrs. Han didn't harbor any resentment, that would indeed be too terrifying.

"But you can't just speak to me like this, in this residence, everyone sees me as glamorous, yet who knows my grievances!"

Above, there is the old madam who criticizes and commands; below, the concubines are never content and always uneasy; even the master has little true affection for her.

On the surface, he shows respect, but he only stays in her room for a few days each month. When Madam Cui was still here, the backyard didn't have so many unpleasant matters, but since she was gone, the backyard felt eerie.

Mrs. Han watched as Mrs. He complained.

Bai Que brought up tea and pastries, "Sister-in-law, have some tea!"

Mrs. He took the teacup and sipped lightly, "New tea?"

"Yes, it was bestowed upon Jinnian by the palace; she doesn't like tea, so she gave it all to me!" Mrs. Han spoke nonchalantly.

Mrs. He was wildly jealous.

The same daughter, Yun Muyou only took things from her, and what she brought back were worthless trinkets.

She didn't like Yun Jinnian either, who never shared her good things, always keeping them to herself.

But she said out loud, "Jinnian is a good person!"

"Indeed, the hardships over the years have truly molded her. On reflection, enduring some hardship isn't all bad!"

It's just that her daughter suffered more than just a little.

She was tormented for a lifetime!

Mrs. He remained silent, set down the teacup, and changed the subject, "Second sister-in-law, who have you invited for Jinnian's coming-of-age ceremony?"

"There aren't many to invite. I plan to invite the Princess of Zhenguo as the main guest, the young lady from the Zhuangyong Marquis Residence as the ceremonial official, and Miss Chen from the Elder Residence as the assistant. As for the ceremonial robes, utensils, and musicians, I've prepared them all. When the time comes, we'll just decorate the main hall a bit!" Mrs. Han spoke easily.

Mrs. He took a deep breath.

Having the Princess of Zhenguo as the main guest was unprecedented.

"Have you spoken to the Princess about it?"

"The Princess has already agreed!"

In fact, it was the Princess who offered to be the main guest for Yun Jinnian. The ceremonial officials and assistants had long been decided by Yun Jinnian.

Mrs. He was so jealous that she tightly clenched her handkerchief, "Alright, then I will ensure everyone in the residence cooperates with you. How many tables will you set up?"

"Just about ten tables; we plan for fifteen to twenty tables to avoid being short of seats in case many guests arrive."

"That's fine. What about the dishes?"

"All auspicious numbers, six cold dishes, six pastries, and sixteen hot dishes. Huiquan Tower has agreed to these. Do you have any additions?" Mrs. Han said, handing over a menu.

Twenty-eight dishes, what more was needed?

Mrs. He took a deep breath and after looking at the menu, was even more astonished.

This wasn't just dining; it was like consuming silver.

"This menu is perfect; nothing more is needed!"

If anything more was added, what would happen to Mu Si and Mu Lan's coming-of-age ceremonies?

"That's good. I have only Jinnian, and I really don't want to wrong her!" Mrs. Han smiled gently.

"..."

Mrs. He truly couldn't sit still anymore.

Quickly making an excuse, she said a few words to Mrs. Han and swiftly left Qingjue Academy.

Watching her somewhat unsteady steps, Mrs. Han slightly curved her lips into a smile.

This was just the beginning; let's see what happens next.

These years of holding back were all for Jinnian's smooth marriage.

Once Jinnian is married, it will be time to settle the scores.

Taking a deep breath, she asked Bai Que, "Has the second master returned?"

"Madam, he has; he's in the study in the front yard, being attended by Aunt Xi. What do you wish..."

Chapter 877: Obedient on the Surface but Opposing in Secret

Is Madam Xi here to attend?

Mrs. Han thought for a moment before saying, "We should go see him. There are only ten days left. No matter what, he is still Jinnian's father. Both parents must be present for Jinnian's coming-of-age ceremony!"

So, she was willing to step into that filthy place and face that filthy person for the sake of her daughter.

Saying things she didn't mean.

"Yes!"

Bai Que accompanied Mrs. Han to the front yard study.

From a distance, they could hear Madam Xi singing a little tune.

Bai Que didn't know what tune Madam Xi was singing, but Mrs. Han did. She had sung this tune to Yun Qi in the past.

Only she would deliberately sing out of tune each time, and Yun Qi would never say a word, just looking at her with a smile and deep affection.

It all seemed to have happened yesterday, yet it also seemed to be a lifetime ago, as if it were from a previous life.

"Let's go back. It won't make a difference this short time!"

"Yes!"

The two of them came quietly and left quietly.

Yun Qi knew that Mrs. Han had been to the study. He stood alone by the window for a long, long time but in the end did not go to Qingjue Academy.

Qingjue Academy, Qiyue Academy.

Two extremes!

Prince Rui Residence

Chu Yu was winding gold threads, making a phoenix coronet for Yun Jinnian.

The feathers from the nape of a kingfisher, the most vivid and beautiful, required the dispatch of three groups of people to obtain them.

He wanted to personally make a phoenix coronet for Yun Jinnian as a coming-of-age gift.

With countless treasures in hand, countless good things, he still felt it was not enough. Even if he gave them all, he couldn't express his love.

So true, so deep.

"Master, Princess Ning'an has arrived!"

Chu Yu's hand holding the tweezers paused slightly, and he asked nonchalantly, "What does she want?"

Princess Ning'an, Qu Mianke's mother.

Chu Yu's little aunt.

When Chu Yu was young, he did indeed stay by Princess Ning'an's side for two years and did have some affection for her, but compared to the Grand Princess of Zhenguo, it was completely incomparable.

"Commandery Princess Mianke is with her!" Luoyi said.

"Let them wait!"

After saying this, Chu Yu continued with his work.

Luoyi, seeing this, turned to report to Princess Ning'an.

In the hall

Princess Ning'an sat to the side, drinking tea, while Qu Mianke sat next to her. On a nearby table were gifts for Chu Yu.

"Mother!" Qu Mianke softly called out.

Princess Ning'an glanced at Qu Mianke, who immediately lowered her head in guilt.

She knew she was wrong.

If she hadn't acted recklessly and allowed her cousin to catch hold of it, her mother wouldn't have had to lower herself to apologize to her cousin.

Princess Ning'an also felt uneasy.

She had been here for two hours, and Chu Yu still hadn't come out, clearly showing he didn't regard his aunt highly.

Two hours later.

Princess Ning'an had drunk three cups of tea and visited the lavatory several times before Chu Yu finally appeared.

"Aunt, my respects!" Chu Yu said, cupping his hands slightly in a salute.

Princess Ning'an forced a smile, "Ayu, what were you doing, making your aunt wait so long!"

"I happened to be busy with something very important. My apologies!"

Princess Ning'an shook her head, "It's fine, as long as you weren't intentionally avoiding your aunt!"

"Haha, Aunt is not a monster. Why would I avoid you?" Chu Yu said, laughing loudly.

"Ayu!" Princess Ning'an called out heavily.

Chu Yu looked at Princess Ning'an, "Aunt, if you have something to say, please feel free!"

Not a word about Qu Mianke, not even a glance in her direction.

Just like before, when he allowed Qu Mianke to stay in the Prince Rui Residence, it showed he was kind to her.

If Qu Mianke had not stirred up so much trouble, he would not be so disgusted with her now.

Chapter 878: A Bolt from the Blue

Princess Ning'an looked at Chu Yu, then at Qu Mianke, and said, "Ayu, Mianke is immature. Don't take her actions to heart. I have already reprimanded her, and she knows her mistake now. She won't dare to repeat it in the future. Can you give her another chance?"

Princess Ning'an was also frustrated in her heart.

As an aunt, it was humiliating to apologize to a nephew.

But with her daughter's mistakes being caught, what else could she do but bow her head?

Should she let her daughter's reputation be utterly ruined?

"Aunt, you exaggerate. I have already sent the person to the Princess Residence. As for Mianke, it's better for you to teach her properly. After all, she is not a child anymore!" Chu Yu paused, seeing Princess Ning'an's face looking quite displeased.

He continued, "I don't remember what I said when I was a child with Mianke. Those were just children's words, not to be taken seriously!"

When he stayed at Princess Ning'an's residence, he was only six or seven years old, and even later, he was only eight or nine years old. He himself had forgotten what he had said.

Princess Ning'an's face turned even uglier.

Qu Mianke suddenly stood up, "So, you never planned to marry me? You never intended to be responsible for your words back then?"

"What did I say back then?" Chu Yu retorted.

This Qu Mianke is simply a lunatic!

"You said you would marry me when I turned sixteen!" Qu Mianke screamed.

Her face flushed, and her eyes brimmed with tears as she looked at Chu Yu.

After shouting, she felt a sense of relief but also despair!

After all, she was still a Commandery Princess.

"Impossible!" Chu Yu said firmly.

Qu Mianke, spoiled and arrogant since childhood, was deceitful and two-faced. How could he ever consider someone like her?

Qu Mianke looked at Chu Yu and burst into tears, "If you didn't want to marry me, why did you give me hope and let me stay at Prince Rui Residence? Chu Yu, I hate you, I hate you!"

After shouting, she turned and ran away.

Princess Ning'an exclaimed in shock, "Mianke!"

She hurriedly chased after her.

Chu Yu stood in place, taking a deep breath and exhaling, "Lunatic!"

Stupid and foolish, he would be blind to marry her and bring disaster upon himself!

He turned around and continued with his work in the studio.

Before they knew it, the ninth day of the month arrived. After five days, Yuwen Ming and her entourage finally reached the Ma Family.

They freshened up in the already bought and decorated house, waiting to be married into the Ma Family the next day.

Yuwen Ming soaked in a bathtub filled with flower petals and took a deep breath.

"Commandery Princess, we have to bathe again early tomorrow morning, so just wash briefly now and come out quickly!" Song Mo Mo said softly.

Upon hearing this, Yuwen Ming smiled slightly, "Alright!"

She stood up, dried her body, and changed into red undergarments.

Sitting in front of the dressing mirror, she let the maid dry her hair, "Song Mo Mo!"

"Yes!"

"Did you find out anything?" Yuwen Ming asked softly.

She felt a bit uneasy inside.

She had only met her future husband once. He was tall and handsome, but she didn't feel anything for him.

And she sensed that he didn't feel anything for her either.

With neither of them having feelings, how could they live their future days together?

She took a deep breath.

Song Mo Mo hesitated for a moment before saying, "Commandery Princess, it seems that the Ma Family's old lady is indeed ill, but there is something, I don't know if I should say?"

"Mo Mo, whatever it is, just say it!" Yuwen Ming said, but she was actually very nervous inside.

She dearly hoped her speculation was wrong.

After all, her grandmother wanted her to be happy.

And she had to be happy too.

Song Mo Mo took a deep breath and said, "It's said that the Ma Family's eldest young master, your future husband, already has someone he likes!"

Chapter 879: How to Respond

Yuwen Ming's eyes suddenly widened upon hearing this.

She stared straight at Nanny Song, "Nanny..."

"Commandery Princess, don't worry. Let this old servant slowly explain to you!" Nanny Song quickly comforted her.

Yuwen Ming took a deep breath and then forced a smile, "Nanny, I'm not anxious. You can speak slowly, I am not in a rush!"

However, her trembling hands betrayed her emotions.

If he didn't like her and had someone dear to his heart, why did he come to propose marriage?

Is this the conduct of a scholarly and prestigious family?

"It is said that the eldest young master has a beloved lady and even eloped with her. However, the Ma Family found them and brought them back. Now he is confined at Ma's residence. This old servant boldly guesses, he might still try to escape!"

Ma Wendan...

Yuwen Ming quickly calmed down, "Nanny, do you think a person like this could be my ideal match?"

Nanny Song remained silent.

"No, a man with his heart set on someone else can never be my ideal match. He would always think that I have taken the place of his beloved, feeling that it was I who separated them. But he wouldn't consider that they are merely aiming to climb high branches. If I were not the young lady of the Princess Residence, would they marry me? No, they would cancel the engagement without hesitation. Such a person, I am unwilling and unwilling to marry!"

Yuwen Ming spoke resolutely.

Nanny Song knew that Yuwen Ming was serious.

"So, Commandery Princess means we should return to the Capital City?"

Yuwen Ming shook her head, "Nanny, I cannot return. If I go back, my grandmother would be heartbroken and distressed. The Princess Residence cannot afford this shame. Now I think, since Ma Wendan has someone he loves and intends to elope, why not fulfill his wish and let him achieve his dream, while I marry someone who is willing to marry me!"

"This..."

It was too shocking! Marriage affairs are dictated by parents' orders and matchmakers' words. How could someone change the groom at the last minute?

Nanny Song had never heard of such a thing.

"Nanny, would Grandmother be willing to see me marry such a person if she were here? You have seen it yourself, how Madam Ma, my future mother-in-law, spoke that day. She said Ma Wendan was filial and was caring for the Ma old madam at home, which is why he couldn't go to the Capital City. But is there really no one else in the Ma Family?"

"No, there are many people in the Ma Family. Perhaps at that moment, Ma Wendan had already eloped, and the Ma Family, fearing the marriage would fall through, came up with the lie of Ma old madam's critical illness to hasten the marriage!"

Nanny Song nodded.

One must admit that Yuwen Ming's analysis was very accurate.

She had always known that Yuwen Ming was a clever girl, personally taught by the State Princess.

Even as an illegitimate daughter, she was quite capable and not inferior to the legitimate daughters.

Compared to other young ladies in the residence, she was definitely superior.

She just kept a low profile and never showed off.

"So, what do you mean, Commandery Princess?"

"Nanny, instead of Ma Wendan, I will not marry Ma Wendan. I want to marry..." Yuwen Ming thought of the meeting that day.

Ma Wenbin was tall and lean, scholarly with a handsome appearance, looking gentle and pleasing to the eye.

At least at first glance, she didn't dislike him.

Just didn't know his name?

"Who?"

"That person I saw at the Princess Residence that day, he is an illegitimate son of the Ma Family. Nanny, you think about sending someone immediately to find him, bring him to see me, and I will personally ask him!"

Nanny Song saw Yuwen Ming's resolution and finally agreed to her plan.

But she also knew, Yuwen Ming must have other coping strategies and she had to support her.

The night was like a hook.

The Ma Residence was bustling, with a group of Ma Family young men drinking together.

Ma Wenbin sat aside, holding a wine glass but not drinking a sip for a long time...

Chapter 880: Envy and Jealousy

Though the wine is good, it does not dispel sorrow.

That day in the Princess Residence, that person deeply imprinted in his mind.

Unable to be shaken off.

Tomorrow she was to marry in, but into such a pit of fire, how would she cope after marrying in?

Taking a deep breath, Ma Wenbin took a sip of wine.

With all his heart filled with bitterness.

He truly wished he were the one marrying her.

So elegant and gentle, unparalleled in grace, every move exuding the aura of nobility, the woman Feng Wushuang.

In this lifetime, he would never have the chance.

Taking a harsh gulp of wine, Ma Wenbin coughed violently.

"Wenbin, what's wrong?"

Ma Wenbin slightly shook his head, "Nothing, drank too quickly, got my clothes wet, I'll be back in a bit!"

"Go on, go on!"

Ma Wenbin stood up, slowly walked to the wedding courtyard.

This wedding room held the best spot in the Ma Family residence, refurbished ever since Yuwen Ming was arranged.

All the items inside were rushed over from Capital City.

In the wedding room, several maids and older women were guarding, while his elder brother was confined elsewhere. Tomorrow, this wedding room would be more lively.

"Second Young Master!"

Ma Wenbin was born of a concubine, holding little status in the residence.

Moreover, with Madam Ma being quite formidable, none among the children of concubines dared to cause any trouble.

Ma Wenbin nodded slightly.

"I came to have a look, and also to check on elder brother!"

"Second Young Master, you should urge First Young Master a bit more, it's said that Commandery Princess Ming is very beautiful!" one of the older women said with a smile.

Ma Wenbin said nothing, turning to leave the wedding courtyard, walking for a while before arriving at the courtyard where Ma Wendan was confined. Entering Ma Wendan's room.

Ma Wendan glanced at Ma Wenbin, and continued to lie on the bed.

"Elder brother..."

"What are you here for?"

Ma Wenbin remained silent.

He wanted to say, he was jealous, he was envious, he wanted to take her from Ma Wendan, but he did not dare.

Afraid it would ruin Yuwen Ming's reputation.

"If you're here to persuade me, I advise you not to bother. I have someone I care about, even if she were a goddess from the heavens, I wouldn't spare her a glance, definitely not. Even if married, I will ensure she has a miserable time!"

Especially since the things in this courtyard were all part of Yuwen Ming's dowry. His belongings were all in the previous courtyard.

Ha, before she even married in, the family had already fixed up the best courtyard for her, everyone elevating her, where would he have any chance to assert his authority in the future.

Such a woman, he did not wish to marry.

Ma Wenbin suddenly stood up.

His hand clenched tightly into a fist, "Then elder brother, you should rest early!"

Turning to leave the room.

Not knowing the blessing he was in, he was truly ruthless.

He really hoped that Ma Wendan and his beloved would elope successfully, then would he have the chance to step in?

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This time, the ones escorting the bride were Yuwen Ya and several other brothers, but it was primarily up to Yuwen Ya.

Madam Song initially intended to have someone bring Ma Wenbin over, but felt it was inappropriate.

So she found Yuwen Ya, explained the situation.

Yuwen Ya remained silent for a while before saying, "I'll go check on Mingming."

"Seventh Young Master..." Madam Song called softly.

Looking at Madam Song, Yuwen Ya said, "Madam Song, rest assured, I will be a good brother. Given the Ma Family's hypocrisy, if Mingming has such thoughts, I will support her. However, this is a serious matter, I must inform Mingming. This path she chose today, even if it is filled with thorns in the future, she must grit her teeth and walk through it!"

Yuwen Ya took a deep breath, "But I'm still her brother, I hope to genuinely support her while she is still a maiden, letting her understand that Marquess Manors are not merely tangled in interests, there is also family affection!"