

Indulgence 881

Chapter 881: I Support You

Granny Song heard this and couldn't help but tear up.

When Yuwen Ya arrived, Yuwen Ming realized that Granny Song had told Yuwen Ya everything.

"Seventh Brother!" Yuwen Ming stood up and poured tea for Yuwen Ya.

"Mingming!"

Yuwen Ya called softly.

Yuwen Ming smiled, "Seventh Brother, are you here to persuade me to compromise?"

Compromise?

But her dignity would not allow her to compromise!

Thinking of this, Yuwen Ming's eyes reddened.

Yuwen Ya shook his head, "Mingming, are you sure you want to do this?"

"Yes, Seventh Brother, I am sure. What is Ma Wendan? Just a broken scholar, doesn't he realize that in Capital City, what does a scholar count for? If it wasn't for his grandfather's kindness to the Princess Residence, would Grandmother have married me to him?"

As Yuwen Ming spoke, she took a deep breath.

Past events are like smoke, she didn't want to ask what exactly the kindness was.

However, when Mrs. Ma went to the Princess Residence and specifically named her as a bride, Grandmother did not hesitate to agree.

She just thought, let's marry then.

But she never expected, the Ma Family turned out to be such a family.

"Alright, Seventh Brother supports you. I will bring Ma Wenbin over, you can say whatever you want to him. But have you thought about what you want to say?"

Yuwen Ming nodded lightly.

Yuwen Ya glanced at Yuwen Ming and left the room.

He didn't dare look back, afraid of seeing Yuwen Ming cry.

Yuwen Ming, however, remained strong without shedding a tear.

There was no reason to cry, her dowry was abundant, she could live off it for a lifetime and still have plenty left, a much better situation compared to those who couldn't even fill their stomachs.

Yuwen Ya arrived at the Ma Residence and quickly found Ma Wenbin.

He saw the man in blue, holding a wine jar, leaning against a pillar, gazing at the stars.

If he guessed correctly, the direction he was looking at was Yuwen Ming's current residence.

"..."

He believed in Yuwen Ming.

Could it be that Ma Wenbin had feelings for Yuwen Ming...

Yuwen Ya made a slight sound.

"Who's there?" Ma Wenbin shouted angrily.

Since childhood, he followed Ma Wendan, and the residence had invited a martial master to teach Ma Wendan martial arts, he also learned a bit from it.

Not to boast of being very skilled, invincible, but also not too far off.

He was a concubine-born son, if he didn't work hard, he wouldn't have any chances to stand out.

Yuwen Ya stepped out from the shadows, "You are quite alert!"

Ma Wenbin recognized Yuwen Ya, "It's Young Master Yuwen!"

"Second Young Master Ma, I wonder if you have some time now, someone wishes to see you!"

"Who?" Ma Wenbin asked defensively.

Who wanted to see him?

"What's the matter, don't dare to go?"

Ma Wenbin took a deep breath, "Young Master Yuwen, please lead the way ahead!"

"Alright, keep up then!"

Yuwen Ya said, then leapt onto the roof.

Leaving quickly.

He also wanted to test Ma Wenbin's martial arts skills.

Soon, Ma Wenbin caught up, Yuwen Ya suddenly smiled lightly.

Perhaps, this concubine-born son was more suitable for his sister than the legitimate son.

After chasing for a while, Ma Wenbin soon realized, this was leading to Yuwen Ming's residence.

His heart beat fast.

Reached the courtyard.

Yuwen Ya pointed in a direction, "Go ahead, the person who wants to see you is in that room!"

Ma Wenbin took a deep breath and walked slowly.

The room door was half-open, a scent wafted out.

He swallowed.

Stopped at the door, took a deep breath before asking, "Excuse me, is anyone there?"

"Come in," Yuwen Ming spoke softly.

Actually very nervous.

Her palms were sweaty.

Ma Wenbin recognized Yuwen Ming's voice, immediately felt like crying from excitement, "I am just at the door, whatever you want to say, just tell me, or do you want to ask about my brother?"

Yuwen Ming was stunned.

Chapter 882: The Truth Is Like This

He...

Could he tell just by the sound that it was her?

But thinking about it, who else in this residence could invite him so mysteriously, other than her?

Yuwen Ming remained silent.

Ma Wenbin took a deep breath, suppressing the ripples and excitement in his heart, and asked softly, "Are you still there?"

"..."

Yuwen Ming stayed silent.

Not knowing how to answer.

In fact, she hadn't figured out how to persuade Ma Wenbin.

"Are you still there?" Ma Wenbin tentatively asked again.

"I'm here!" Yuwen Ming replied softly.

Ma Wenbin exhaled a breath.

As long as she was still there, it was good.

"Is there anything you need me to do? My elder brother..."

"I don't want to talk about him!" Yuwen Ming interrupted Ma Wenbin's words and gently opened the door.

The two were separated by a threshold.

The room was somewhat dark, with lanterns hanging under the eaves swaying gently in the February night breeze.

Yuwen Ming couldn't see Ma Wenbin clearly.

Only a blurry outline, he appeared very tall and slender, yet blocked the cold wind blowing in.

Ma Wenbin practiced martial arts and had excellent vision.

So he could see Yuwen Ming clearly, just as when they first met, still elegant and pure, unmatched in grace.

He could even smell her scent, so pleasant and refreshing.

But her face now looked more haggard, with an expression quite different from the day he saw her at the Princess Residence, now more resolute and courageous.

"You..."

"I..."

They both spoke at the same time, feeling somewhat awkward and nervous.

Yuwen Ming took a deep breath and stepped aside, "Come in, I have something to discuss with you!"

Ma Wenbin wanted to say that they could talk just like this.

But, as if driven by some force, his brain didn't listen as his feet stepped into the room.

A waft of fragrant aroma, intensely pleasant.

Just like Yuwen Ming's scent, intoxicatingly fragrant.

Once inside, Yuwen Ming gestured to Ma Wenbin, "Sit down!"

"I can stand!"

Yuwen Ming didn't insist, hesitating for a moment before speaking, "Let me ask you, does your elder brother have a woman he loves? Who is she?"

Upon hearing this, Ma Wenbin swallowed.

"My elder brother..."

"Don't lie to me. Since I've let my seventh brother invite you here, it means I already know. I just want to see if you'll tell me or not!" Yuwen Ming spoke softly.

She didn't like Ma Wenden at all.

Now he had a woman he loved, and they had eloped once.

The Ma Family had committed fraud in marriage.

However, she couldn't break off the engagement and return, the Princess Residence couldn't afford to lose that face.

So she'd rather fulfill Ma Wenden and marry Ma Wenbin in front of her.

Like her, he was also a child born out of wedlock.

"I..." Ma Wenbin swallowed, and then said, "My elder brother does indeed have a girl he loves. She is our mother's niece from the Chen Family, named Qingya, fifteen years old, and she often stays at our residence, so..."

"They eloped but were caught and brought back, right?"

"Yes!"

Yuwen Ming took a deep breath, "Where are they now?"

"My elder brother is confined at home, and Chen Qingya has been sent back to the Chen Family!" Ma Wenbin said, carefully observing Yuwen Ming's expression.

Wanting to say something, but afraid it would be inappropriate.

Yuwen Ming took a deep breath before continuing to ask, "Ma Matriarch is not sick at all, right?"

Ma Wenbin didn't say much, just nodded.

The Ma Matriarch was healthy and well-maintained, hardly ever falling ill.

Chapter 883: Agreed Upon

"Indeed, it was a fraudulent marriage!" Yuwen Ming said harshly.

If it weren't for this rush, perhaps Ma Wendan and his cousin might have had a chance to get together.

Or maybe, they had already been involved in an illicit relationship.

"Commandery Princess..." Ma Wenbin murmured softly.

"Second Young Master, do you have someone you fancy?" Yuwen Ming boldly asked.

"Ah..."

Ma Wenbin looked at Yuwen Ming, stunned, shocked, and in disbelief.

Why was she talking about him?

"Do you or do you not?" Yuwen Ming pressed on.

She didn't want to unintentionally break up another couple.

Ma Wenbin wanted to say yes, that the person was her, but he didn't dare, he couldn't.

He slightly shook his head, "No!"

Upon hearing this, Yuwen Ming sighed in relief and tentatively asked, "If... if I were to let you tomorrow..."

"?"

Ma Wenbin looked seriously at Yuwen Ming.

Yuwen Ming was very nervous, her palms were sweaty.

Even though it was a bit cool in February, Yuwen Ming felt hot.

"If I..." Yuwen Ming took a deep breath, "If I help your elder brother and Miss Chen to be together, would you be willing to marry me?"

When Yuwen Ming finished speaking, she was extremely nervous.

Her heart was pounding wildly.

"What did you say?" Ma Wenbin exclaimed.

After the shock and astonishment passed, understanding Yuwen Ming's meaning, he was overjoyed.

This can't be real.

Was he dreaming?

If it was a dream, he wished never to wake up, preferring to stay in this dream forever.

"I said, I said..." Yuwen Ming was still a young girl, well-educated and disciplined.

She had learned and memorized countless principles of female virtue and cautions.

Her face flushed, she couldn't repeat it again.

"I am willing, I am willing!" Ma Wenbin quickly responded.

He was afraid Yuwen Ming would regret it.

He was willing.

Although it seemed like taking advantage of the situation, he really had no other way.

This was the only opportunity.

His elder brother didn't like Yuwen Ming, his elder brother liked the Chen Family cousin.

Ma Wenbin thought of this but didn't feel guilty.

"Are you sure?" Yuwen Ming asked.

"Yes, I am sure!"

Not for glory or wealth, but simply because of that day, that first meeting, her shallow smile, and her entire grace, had already captivated him.

"In books, there is a house of gold; in books, there is a face like jade," but none of that could compare to her by even a fraction.

Or perhaps, she was the Ya Ruyu he had always longed for.

"I know, this might seem unfair to you, but I promise you that in the future, I will work hard to support you in achieving what you want. If you meet a woman you like, as long as it's not the position of the main wife, everything else can be discussed!" Yuwen Ming said calmly.

After Ma Wenbin agreed, she calmed down.

Her reason and intellect returned, and what she wanted to say came out smoothly.

Ma Wenbin wanted to say that he wasn't seeking fame or benefits.

But at this moment, even if he said it, Yuwen Ming wouldn't believe him, right?

Who would believe he fell in love with her at first sight? And grew more infatuated with each subsequent meeting!

"Alright, alright, then how should I cooperate with you?" Ma Wenbin asked.

"Don't worry, I have my ways. After you return, get some rest early. However, to avoid suspicion, try to stay in crowded places, but make sure to stay calm, understand?"

Listening to Yuwen Ming's instructions.

Ma Wenbin nodded, "I understand!"

"If so, you should go back now!"

"Okay!" Ma Wenbin responded and walked out. After a few steps, he looked back at Yuwen Ming and asked, "Commandery Princess?"

"Hmm?"

"If one day in the future, would you... would you..."

Chapter 884: Really?

Do you like me?

Just those three words, Ma Wenbin couldn't say it out loud, nor did he dare to.

"Will it or not?" Yuwen Ming asked, thinking Ma Wenbin wanted to ask her about the promise she had made, "Don't worry, even though I'm a woman, whatever I said I would do, I will definitely accomplish it and do my best to help you!"

"..."

Ma Wenbin wanted to say that he didn't mean to ask that.

But at this moment, he couldn't say anything, "I'm leaving, Commandery Princess, see you tomorrow!"

"Alright!"

Watching Ma Wenbin leave, Yuwen Ming bit her lip tightly and burst into tears.

Who doesn't wish for a lifetime of happiness?

Who doesn't wish to be cherished by others, but the world is just like this.

A man having multiple wives and concubines, she had already prepared herself to accept numerous concubines for Ma Wenbin and to raise his children.

It was a bit dark outside, she didn't know that Ma Wenbin turned to look back.

He heard her crying.

Ma Wenbin heard it.

Standing still, he swore that he would never make her cry again, absolutely not.

"Feeling heartbroken?"

Ma Wenbin was startled, looking at Yuwen Ya who stood not far away, "Seventh Young Master!"

"Haha, today you still call me Seventh Young Master, but after tomorrow, you'll have to call me Seventh Brother!"

Ma Wenbin laughed.

"Sincerely?" Yuwen Ya asked seemingly out of the blue.

But Ma Wenbin understood, "Yes, sincerely!"

"Then I'll wait and see how long your sincerity lasts!" Yuwen Ya said, walking up to Ma Wenbin, "Kid, good luck!"

"Thank you!"

Ma Wenbin returned to the Ma Residence, too excited to sleep in his small courtyard.

He changed his clothes and went to find his cousins to continue drinking.

He didn't know that during this time, Lady Ma had gone to find Ma Wendan, and the mother and son had a huge argument, almost driving Lady Ma to vomit blood.

After Lady Ma left, a man in black entered the Ma Residence, discussed something with Ma Wendan, and took Ma Wendan away.

At the same time, from the Chen Family, Chen Qingya was also taken away.

They met in the outskirts, carrying their bags as they left.

The sky brightened.

Yuwen Ming sat in front of the dressing table. She had already bathed and changed clothes, put on makeup, and was just waiting to wear the Phoenix Crown, veil, and be picked up by the groom.

"Nervous?" Yuwen Ya asked.

"Seventh Brother, I'm a bit nervous!"

Yuwen Ya smiled, "Don't worry, it won't be Ma Wendan, it will certainly be the person who promised you!"

"Seventh Brother, I'm very anxious. Even though I'm marrying someone unfamiliar, but in this way, there's no precedent in history, right?"

Yuwen Ya knew Yuwen Ming's thoughts.

"Mingming!"

"?"

"To be honest, Ma Wenbin is better than Ma Wendan. You are a clever girl, you should know how to find happiness!"

Yuwen Ming was silent, then nodded after a while, "Seventh Brother, thank you!"

"Wait and see!"

"Hmm!"

Ma Residence

It was already a chaotic mess.

Ma Wendan was missing, what about the groom for the wedding?

The bride is the Commandery Princess, not an ordinary family's daughter. It's impossible not to have a groom to fetch her.

"What should we do?" Lady Chen was in a panic, sweating profusely.

Master Chen looked at his sons standing in the hall.

After thinking for a moment, he suggested, "How about letting Wenbin go fetch the bride? Wenbin and Wendan do resemble each other to some extent..."

"But after fetching the bride, what about the wedding ceremony and the bridal chamber?" Lady Chen asked anxiously.

The Commandery Princess is genuinely of royal blood. How could she possibly allow such a good daughter-in-law to be taken advantage of by a concubine's son!

Master Chen thought carefully for a moment, "Let's bring her back first. The rest can be discussed later based on the Commandery Princess's wishes!"

Chapter 885: Only Acknowledging You

Commandery Princess.

At this moment, Yuwen Ming is not the wife of the Chen Family, but the Commandery Princess.

Madam Chen took a deep breath, "Alright then, let Wenbin go to greet the bride first!"

Truly hope we find Wendan soon, otherwise things will get out of hand!

The other concubine-born sons of the Chen Family were really envious of Ma Wenbin.

But Ma Wenbin, though not showing it on the surface, was very happy inside.

However, when everyone saw Ma Wenbin, they were still utterly shocked.

"Isn't it the eldest young master of the Chen Family getting married?"

"Don't you know? It is said that the eldest young master has long had someone he likes and eloped with her!"

"Oh?"

"Could it be that the Commandery Princess insisted on marrying over?"

"Not at all, I heard the Chen Family's ancestors were indebted to the State-Stabilizing Princess. It was the Chen matriarch who personally requested this marriage, and the Princess Residence agreed. But the eldest young master eloped with Madam Chen's niece and was caught back. The Chen Family feared losing the marriage with the Princess Residence, so the Chen matriarch faked illness, and they hurriedly brought the wedding date forward!"

"Isn't that fraud?"

"Not quite, but now the question is, will the wedding be for the eldest young master or the second young master? You see, the one who goes to greet the bride and the one who participates in the ceremony is the second young master. So, will the bridal chamber night also be with the second young master?"

"If it really is the second young master and the Commandery Princess only acknowledges the second young master, then the second young master has really struck gold!"

"Exactly, so everything depends on what the Commandery Princess thinks!"

A group of women were discussing animatedly.

Madam Chen, upon hearing this, trembled with anger.

Impossible, she had begged the matriarch for this marriage for so long.

Could it really benefit that concubine-born son...

"No, no!"

Madam Chen shook her head.

But the bridegroom's party had already set off, it was too late.

Yuwen Ya stood at the gate, watching Ma Wenbin dismount the horse.

Although he was just a replacement, dressed in the red wedding outfit, he still looked very handsome.

"What does the Chen Family mean by this?" Yuwen Ya asked.

Ma Wenbin opened his mouth, but was at a loss for words.

"Where is Ma Wendan?" Yuwen Ya asked again.

Ma Wenbin remained silent.

"Since you are the one to greet the bride today, are you also the one participating in the ceremony?"

"..."

"Good, very good, well done Ma Family!" Yuwen Ya said, turning to the greeters at the gate, "Since today's bridegroom is the second young master of the Ma Family, the State-Stabilizing Princess Residence will regard Ma Wenbin as the husband of the Princess Residence!"

After saying this, Yuwen Ya turned and entered the inner courtyard.

He told Yuwen Ming, "The groom has arrived, put the bridal veil on Mingming!"

"Seventh Brother!" Yuwen Ming called gently.

"Yes!"

"Thank you!"

Yuwen Ya smiled.

He wanted to say that his sister was blessed, because Ma Wendan did not like her and eloped with a woman; she bravely resisted for the first time.

She refused to marry Ma Wendan and chose Ma Wenbin instead.

She found a man who secretly cared for her.

Truly wonderful!

"Let's go!"

Yuwen Ya carried Yuwen Ming out of the large residence, placed her in the bridal sedan, walked to Ma Wenbin's side, and patted him on the shoulder, "Second young master of the Ma Family, Ma Wenbin!"

"Yes!"

"Take good care of my sister, make her happy, do not let her down, and do not bully her. If I find out you bullied her, I will not spare you!"

"Yes, Seventh Brother!" Ma Wenbin said, bowing deeply.

"Lift the sedan!"

In the Ma Family

The whole family learned of Yuwen Ya's decision, and Madam Ma fainted on the spot.

Grandmother Ma was also so shocked that she couldn't recover.

Even Master Ma was surprised and repeatedly asked, "Did you hear it wrong? Did Yuwen Ya really say that?"

Chapter 886: It's a Done Deal

"Replies to Master, they said so!"

Lord Ma, hearing this, closed his eyes heavily.

The Ma Family, a family of poetry and etiquette, has never had a concubine's wife of higher status than the legitimate wife's. Could he have his son marry a princess instead?

But even if he wanted to, no princess would be willing, nor would any dare to.

How could the grandson of the Grand Princess, who cast him aside and did not recognize him, have the qualifications to marry a princess?

Moreover, Wendan already had a woman he admired.

"Master?"

Lord Ma waved his hand, "Forget it, forget it; remember, today we are preparing for the second young master's marriage, not the young master's!"

"Yes!"

The original young madam became the second young madam; although strange, it was indeed true.

And the madam's identity was still that of a commandery princess; the second young master truly found a treasure!

When Madam Ma learned what Lord Ma had said, she spat out a mouthful of blood, "Traitor, traitor, how could I have given birth to such a traitor!"

A perfectly good marriage, a bright future, was handed over just like that.

"Madam, Master sent someone to invite you. The bridal procession is about to arrive!"

Despite her heart being clogged, Madam Ma had to muster up her spirits, put on a smiling face, and went to the front hall to sit.

"First, bow to the heavens and the earth!"

"Second, bow to the parents!"

"Husband and wife bow to each other!"

"Ceremony complete, send into the bridal chamber!"

Watching the newlyweds being sent to the bridal chamber.

Madam Ma regretted why she needed to be cautious and create this new courtyard.

Now, every item in the courtyard was Yuwen Ming's dowry. Not even she, nor anyone from the Ma Family, had the right to touch it.

For now, everything belonged to the concubine son, Ma Wenbin.

In the bridal chamber.

Ma Wenbin felt as if it were a dream.

"Groom, hurry, hurry and lift the veil!"

Ma Wenbin laughed, took a balance rod, lifted the veil, and seeing the unparalleled beauty of Yuwen Ming, he smiled.

"Wow, the bride is so beautiful!"

"Yes, Second Brother is truly fortunate!"

"Congratulations, Second Brother, congratulations!"

Ma Wenbin smiled.

Yuwen Ming also looked up at Ma Wenbin, and the two shared a similar smile.

Perhaps there was no affection at the start, but at this moment, Yuwen Ming felt a trace of gratitude and joy towards Ma Wenbin.

That was enough.

Isn't the beginning of love just a good feeling?

Soon it was February 13th

Capital City

Yun Residence

Yuwen Ming's situation was sent back to the Town State Grand Princess Residence in the Capital City through carrier pigeon with remarkable speed by Yuwen Ya.

After reading the letter, the Grand Princess of Town State remained silent for a long time before saying, "Order it to be spread, the consort-in-law of the Princess Residence is the Ma Family's second young master Ma Wenbin!"

And she sent the Marquess Zhongyi to personally go and change the name on the marriage certificate.

Since Ma Wendan looked down on her granddaughter, she would not force it.

Yun Residence

Yun Jinnian was secretly sent the news by Chu Yu and was taken aback for a long while after learning it, "Sister Ming is such a fine woman!"

After a pause, she continued, "Fortunately, the current brother-in-law is somewhat chivalrous!"

"Maybe this could turn out to be a match made in heaven!" teased Shi Jiayu.

"Perhaps!"

There were two possibilities - either Ma Wenbin sincerely liked Yuwen Ming, or he coveted the power and wealth behind Yuwen Ming.

But no matter which, as long as Yuwen Ming desired, she could control Ma Wenbin firmly.

"Commandery Princess, don't worry about these things. The day after tomorrow is your coming-of-age ceremony, aren't you anxious at all?" Shi Jiayu asked.

Yun Jinnian laughed, "Why should I be anxious? Mother has prepared everything. Even if someone tries to cause trouble, we can deal with it as it comes!"

Chapter 887: Reluctance in the Heart

Since everything is ready, why should she make herself extremely nervous and out of sorts?

After all, in her previous life, she had already been an empress.

Such composure, she should possess.

"Alright, then, I can't argue with you!"

Shi Jiayu said, as she went to help embroider Yun Jinnian's dress.

Originally, she thought the wet nurse, Mrs. Yuan, would return. But now that she hasn't, Shi Jiayu asked Yun Jinnian with a smile, but received no response, so she dared not ask any more questions.

"Cousin?"

Xu Xinmo entered with a cheerful smile.

Yun Jinnian looked at Xu Xinmo, smiling, "Why have you come here?"

"Cousin, the day after tomorrow is your coming-of-age ceremony, have you prepared everything?" Xu Xinmo asked.

She glanced around.

Seeing Shi Jiayu and Ru Yue working on the dress.

"Cousin, why don't you go to Jinshang Pavilion to buy a set? Beautiful and valuable!"

"Although the dresses at Jinshang Pavilion are good, I don't particularly like them. Besides, Jiayu and Ru Yue said they wanted to make one for me by hand, so let them be!" Yun Jinnian said softly.

Xu Xinmo initially wanted to ask if she could be Yun Jinnian's ceremony assistant.

"Cousin, have you prepared for the coming-of-age ceremony that day?"

"Everything is ready!"

Xu Xinmo knew that the people Yun Jinnian had invited were some of the most distinguished in the Capital City, and it was precisely because of this that she wanted more people to see her.

"So cousin, who have you invited as your assistant? And who is the master of ceremonies?"

"The assistant is Sister Chen, and the master of ceremonies is Sister Mi! It was decided long ago, and won't be changed!" Yun Jinnian said gently.

She smiled at Xu Xinmo.

How could she not see through what Xu Xinmo was thinking?

But it was hard for Xu Xinmo too. After all this time, who knew what she was plotting?

"Oh..."

Xu Xinmo responded carelessly.

After chatting with Yun Jinnian for a while, she returned to Yicai Garden in frustration.

"Grandmother!"

"Hmm?"

"Yun Jinnian's coming-of-age ceremony, we can't let it go smoothly, we must throw some dirt on it!"

Granny Jin nodded slightly upon hearing this.

Despite having stolen Yun Jinnian's fate, over the past few years, Yun Jinnian had been rising steadily, while Xu Xinmo had yet to encounter a single esteemed person; it was indeed strange.

Originally, she wanted to take some of Yun Jinnian's used items from Niannian Garden last year, but Niannian Garden was like an iron fortress, impossible to get into.

Although Xu Xinmo could get inside, she couldn't take anything.

"Xinmo, grandmother knows what to do!"

Since there were no proofs, causing a scene to make Yun Jinnian unlucky would also be good.

Study room

Yun Qi had waited for Mrs. Han for many days, but she didn't come to find him.

In the end, he decided to go look for her.

When Mrs. Han saw Yun Qi, she smiled faintly, "You've come, sit down!"

Yun Qi sat down.

Mrs. Han then said, "I had intended to come find you, but I was afraid of disturbing you, so I waited for you to come to me!"

"Shu Niang..."

Mrs. Han smiled, "Hmm?"

"Jinnian is my child too, don't worry, I will definitely attend her coming-of-age ceremony!"

"Then I must thank you!"

Resentment, hatred, they were all gone; now, they were just familiar strangers.

Yun Qi wanted to sit a while longer, but Mrs. Han didn't pay any attention to him, nor did she drive him away, just tended to her potted plants.

"Did Jinnian send this?"

"No, it was Tianci!"

Although Tianci had not come to Yun Residence, he studied martial arts and literature at the Han Family, but he always thought of her, and bought things to send her.

Knowing she liked potted plants, he sent several pots over, all of them rare treasures.

Tianci...

Yun Qi knew who Tianci was, and whose child he was, knowing this made his heart ache even more.

"Shu Niang, why have we become like this?"

Chapter 888: Yun Bi Returns

In the end, Yun Qi couldn't help but ask aloud.

Mrs. Han looked up at Yun Qi and gently put down the scissors.

"Yes, why did we become like this?"

She took a deep breath, poured a cup of tea for Yun Qi, "Do you remember when we first met, Second Master, you were so dashing and witty, able to outmatch so many people on your own. Back then, I thought, if I could marry such an outstanding man, we would surely have a lifetime of love and happiness!"

"Later my dream came true. We got to know each other, understand each other, and fall in love. I lost my mother when I was young and traveled everywhere with my father. I knew how much my father cherished my mother, and I always thought you would treat me the same. And indeed, you have always done well, really, you have always been good. But fate played tricks on us. It wasn't you or me that ruined everything; it was your mother. Once or even twice would have been bearable, but she went so far as to ruin me!"

As Mrs. Han spoke, tears fell.

How could she not hate?

It was precisely because of this deep hatred that she came back. She wanted to see Jinnian married off in a dignified manner.

So no one would gossip about her.

Yun Qi's eyes reddened too. "Shu Niang, I'm sorry!"

"No need to say sorry, truly, you have nothing to apologize for. Other men with multiple wives and concubines were unfaithful, but I know you are not. All these years, I was just holding onto a breath, thinking you would understand me and investigate thoroughly!"

But she was so very wrong.

Yun Qi was a filial son; how could he suspect the Old Madam Yun?

"Shu Niang..."

"Don't say anymore. If you truly remember our past feelings, then properly prepare Jinnian's coming-of-age ceremony, and let her genuinely experience the love of her parents, alright?"

"Alright!"

After seeing Yun Qi off, Mrs. Han stood at the door and laughed coldly.

She took a handkerchief and gently wiped her tears, saying to Bai Que, "Is everything ready?"

"Don't worry, Madam, everything is ready. The Hidden Guards are also watching everyone in the residence. If they make any move, they won't escape!"

"Hmm!"

Mrs. Han responded faintly.

"I wonder if Father will be able to make it back!"

But Mrs. Han never dreamed that instead of Han Xuzi, Third Master Yun Bi would come back.

"Master, Second Master, Old Madam, Third Master has returned!"

The servant ran all the way, running very fast.

When Mrs. Han got the news, she stood there, unable to return to her senses for a long time.

She and Yun Bi met when they were young and got along very well, never imagining that one day they would wake up together in the same bed.

And be seen by so many people.

"Bai Que, he has returned!"

Yun Bi has come back, but why?

Is he back to report to the capital? Or did he come back for Jinnian's coming-of-age ceremony?

Yun Bi knew Tianci's true identity. Could he be back to take the child? That shouldn't be the case; Yun Bi wasn't such a cold-hearted person.

Even back then, when that incident happened, the first person he protected was her!

"Yes, Madam, Third Master is back!"

Bai Que also felt a trace of joy in her heart.

But she dared not show it, fearing she might become the second Concubine Su.

That was not what she sought.

Moreover, she had already done her hair, deciding never to marry anyone again.

"Let's go, let's go see what our Third Master has become after all these years?"

"Yes!"

When Old Madam Yun heard Yun Bi had returned, she was overjoyed, "Really?"

"Yes, Old Madam, Third Master has returned, with so many boxes. From what the servants say, he's here to stay!"

"Good, good, good. Where is he now?" Old Madam Yun asked urgently.

Chapter 889: All is Well

Shouldn't the returning son come to pay respects to his mother?

"The third master and the eldest and second masters are talking in the hall!"

Old Madam Yun laughed, "Never mind, I will go to the hall to see him!"

Now, both her eldest and second sons barely paid her any mind. She did not dare to act up and could only hope that her third son would treat her better.

The Hall

The three brothers remained silent.

Yun Bi didn't speak, Yun Qi didn't speak, and Yun Chen said a few words, which no one paid any attention to.

Everyone knew that with Yun Bi's return this time, his official position would certainly rise. The Left Chancellor and Right Chancellor had recently fallen out of favor with the Emperor, who planned to make an example by demoting one of them.

So, the vacant position was highly likely to be filled by Yun Bi.

"Third brother is back!" Mrs. He entered the hall with a smile.

Yun Bi stood up and slightly bowed, "Sister-in-law!"

"No need for formalities, third brother. Your courtyard is being cleaned up, it will be ready soon. But do you not have a family?" Mrs. He asked with confusion.

Over the years, Yun Bi had scarcely sent letters home and never mentioned if he had married.

"Sister-in-law, I have not married yet!"

He was waiting, waiting for that person, even if it took a lifetime.

He was willing.

Even though he had no descendants in name, he had a son. Though the child bore the surname Han, he was still his son.

Moreover, the child was extremely smart, far exceeding his peers.

He was very fond of him.

"Ah..."

Mrs. He was immensely shocked.

Over thirty and still not married?

"Yun Bi!" Mrs. Han called softly from the doorway of the hall.

Yun Bi turned to look.

Unlike her free-spirited past, the current Mrs. Han was gentle, kind, and warm.

Her appearance hadn't changed, but the feeling she gave others was completely different.

Yun Bi knew the reason why Mrs. Han had changed like this, and his heart ached deeply.

Looking at Mrs. Han, he smiled, "Shu Niang!"

Just like when they were young.

Both of them smiled.

As if that humiliating incident of being caught in the act had never happened.

But everyone understood, it could never be forgotten.

"Third Master is back!" Mrs. Han corrected herself.

Yun Bi felt bitterly disappointed in his heart but still smiled, "Second sister-in-law, long time no see, I hope you have been well!"

"All is well!"

She said it lightly, but to change a person's disposition completely, how could all be well?

"That's good to hear!" Yun Bi said, averting his gaze.

Mrs. Han walked over to Yun Qi and sat beside him, "Second Master!"

"Hmm," Yun Qi responded.

His heart full of jealousy and resentment.

Watching as Old Madam Yun, supported by a group of maids and matrons, walked over.

Yun Qi squinted his eyes.

That was his mother, yet she had cruelly destroyed his happiness, mistreated his daughter, and enjoyed wealth and honor, self-centered and selfish to the point of being detestable and nauseating.

"Bi'er!"

Old Madam Yun called out, walking to Yun Bi and bursting into tears.

Seeing her crying, Yun Bi took a deep breath and reached out to help her up, "Mother!"

"Bi'er, you are finally back. Why haven't we heard any news from you all these years!" Old Madam Yun said, sobbing even more sorrowfully.

Suppressing the hatred and resentment in his heart, Yun Bi finally said, "Mother, now that I am back, don't cry. Take care not to hurt your eyes!"

Then he looked to the maid at the side, "Help the old lady to sit down!"

"Yes!"

It is said that the bystander sees more clearly than the person involved. At this moment, Ming Liu inexplicably felt that this family was very strange.

Truly a case of the son not being a son, the mother not being a mother, the elder not being an elder, and the younger not being the younger.

Somewhat comical.

He stepped forward to help Old Madam Yun to the main seat to sit down.

Ming Liu could feel the stiffness and trembling of Old Madam Yun's body.

Chapter 890: Directly Piercing Through

Mrs. Yun was not only furious but also terrified and frightened.

This was her son, yet today, upon seeing him, there was no longer the intimacy of the past, nor the warmth that once existed.

Back then, she never intended to scheme against him. She didn't know why he became the target later, and the servant involved had disappeared without a trace, his fate unknown. She feared someone might find out.

"Bi-er..." Mrs. Yun softly called after sitting down.

"What does mother need?"

Yun Bi replied gently, looking at Mrs. Yun with a slight smile.

The smile was ambiguous, not reaching his eyes, carrying a sense of distance.

"I have no errands for you. Your courtyard has been maintained over the years, awaiting your return!" Mrs. Yun said with a smile.

"Thank you for your concern, mother!"

He turned to the servant, "Bring up the gifts!"

"Yes, master!"

Each person received the same gifts. Men got a set of writing tools, not particularly valuable.

The women received a set of red gold jewelry, all in identical designs.

"I'm not very good at buying things, so I just picked up a few random items. I'll make up for it with better ones in the future!"

Mrs. Han smiled slightly upon hearing this.

Mrs. He laughed and said, "Third Master, if you marry a wife, your younger siblings will handle these matters!"

"Thank you for the reminder, sister-in-law. But for now, I have no intention of getting married!"

Mrs. He wanted to say more but was interrupted by Xu Xinmo's charming laughter, "Third Uncle!"

Yun Bi looked at Xu Xinmo.

Was she Yun Hui's daughter?

He liked Yun Hui even less.

Although a biological sister, he had no fondness for her.

Due to Yun Jinnian's connection, he couldn't warm up to Xu Xinmo either.

He responded indifferently, "Hmm!"

He handed the gift to Xu Xinmo, which was also a set of red gold jewelry.

"Thank you, Third Uncle!"

Despite the outdated design, Xu Xinmo didn't mind.

She could have it remade into another style.

"Hmm!"

Again, he responded indifferently.

Xu Xinmo felt somewhat displeased. Did he dislike her?

But noticing the same indifferent treatment towards Yun Musi, Yun Mulan, and even Yun Zhen, Yun Yi, Yun Xuan, she felt reassured.

"Where is Jinnian?" Yun Bi asked.

Xu Xinmo was startled.

Mrs. Han smiled gently, "Her Niannian Garden is more secluded; she should be on her way to the hall now!"

A legitimate daughter of the second house, yet residing in the most secluded courtyard, who would believe it?

But it was indeed the truth!

"No matter, it's just that we haven't seen each other for so long. I wonder if she still remembers me, her Third Uncle!"

"Of course she remembers. As soon as she heard Third Uncle returned, she rushed over. Did Third Uncle bring me any good things?" Yun Jinnian said, entering the hall.

Yun Bi smiled at Yun Jinnian, "What I promised you back then, I naturally found for you. Take them back to Niannian Garden later and check if anything is missing. I'll help you find the rest!"

"Thank you, Third Uncle!"

It was clear to anyone observant that Yun Bi treated Yun Jinnian differently.

At first, Xu Xinmo thought Yun Bi treated everyone equally, but seeing his favor towards Yun Jinnian, she became dissatisfied.

"Third Uncle is biased! Why does my cousin get so many things while we only receive a set of jewelry?"

Upon hearing this, Yun Bi looked at Xu Xinmo, "Those were the medical books I promised to find for Jinnian. Do you want to read books too? Then you can borrow them from Jinnian!"

"Books..."

Xu Xinmo murmured softly.

She didn't like reading.

"Yes, what did you think it was?" Yun Bi asked softly.