

Indulgence 891

Chapter 891: Petty-Minded

"I thought, I thought..." Xu Xinmo said.

Her face turned bright red.

She couldn't possibly say that she was jealous because Yun Bi gave Yun Jinnian extra things!

"Uncle, Xinmo didn't mean anything by it, thank you for bringing back books for me!"

Yun Bi smiled, "Hmm, I'll have someone send the books over to you later!"

"Thank you, Uncle!"

Yun Bi smiled and said to the Old Madam Yun, "Mother, I will head back to my courtyard first!"

"Go on, go on, you've had a long journey, you should rest well, and we'll host a welcome dinner for you in the evening!"

"Thank you, Mother!"

After Yun Bi finished speaking, he left.

The Old Madam Yun watched, took a deep breath, "Alright, you all should go back to your own affairs!"

She also said to Mrs. He, "Bi'er just came back, pick some clever and steady maids and older servant women to serve him, I see he brought back some young men, so no need to send more over, also make the welcome banquet tonight a bit more lavish, Bi'er hasn't been back for years!"

"Mother, rest assured, your daughter-in-law will arrange everything carefully!"

"Hmm, you're always dependable in handling matters!" The Old Madam Yun said, waving her hand, "Let's all disperse now!"

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Xu Xinmo was still uneasy, always feeling that Yun Bi gave good things to Yun Jinnian, so she followed Yun Jinnian to Niannian Garden, and called upon Yun Musi and Yun Mulan, as well as Yun Zuomo, Yun Qingzhi, Yun Qingqing.

As soon as they arrived at Niannian Garden, Yun Bi's people had already followed the maids to lift two chests into Niannian Garden.

"Fourth Miss, these are the books my master sent for you!"

"Put them there!" Yun Jinnian responded flatly, signaling Hemei to reward them.

Hemei handed each one a pouch, the four young men accepted happily and cheerfully left Niannian Garden.

Yun Jinnian signaled to Hemei, "Open the chests!"

"Yes!"

Hemei opened the chests.

Inside were stacks of books.

There were medical books, miscellaneous notes, and all sorts of things.

Yun Jinnian picked one up, looked at it, and then said to Xu Xinmo, "Xinmo, see if there's anything you like, you're welcome to read them first!"

"Cousin, I don't like reading, you keep them and read them at your leisure!" Xu Xinmo said, turning away to look elsewhere.

She didn't want to read books.

She just felt uneasy, always thinking that her third uncle gave Yun Jinnian something good, only for it to be two boxes of books.

Now that she's sure, she didn't want to stay long at Niannian Garden.

Looking at the bustle and luxury of Niannian Garden, her heart felt stifled.

Yun Jinnian smiled, but didn't say much.

Everyone knew what was on Xu Xinmo's mind, there was no need to point it out.

After sitting for a while in Niannian Garden, drinking tea and having some snacks, Xu Xinmo was the first to say goodbye, Yun Musi and Yun Mulan followed suit.

Yun Zuomo looked at Yun Jinnian, "Sister!"

"Is there something?" Yun Jinnian asked.

"After your coming-of-age ceremony, will you be discussing marriage?" Yun Zuomo asked.

She wondered, after Yun Jinnian gets married, will there still be someone in this family to look after them?

"I suppose so, if you have any issues, just speak up!"

The three of them were half-sisters with no support, Yun Jinnian understood.

So where she could help, she did.

"Sister, we will also come of age next year, we..." Yun Zuomo's face turned red as she spoke.

Yun Jinnian thought for a moment and then understood what her three half-sisters meant.

"Do you have any thoughts?"

The three remained silent.

Yun Jinnian thought for a bit and then said, "How about this, I'll give you a few options, and you can decide what to choose!"

"Thank you, Sister!" Yun Zuomo thanked her sincerely.

Chapter 892: Genuine Intentions

Yun Jinnian nodded, "The first type, children from noble families but born of concubines. These people either have great talents or are particularly useless. The second type, legitimate sons from small families. Even if these families are small and undistinguished, they tend to be very status-conscious and have various requirements when marrying a wife. The third type, impoverished students who come to the Capital City for exams. These people have always been poor. Even if they pass, it is mostly to be assigned as officials outside the Capital, because not everyone has good luck and abilities like the top scholar Feng, who was highly valued by the Emperor!"

"But the third type also has an advantage. Even if you are daughters born of concubines, you are still superior to them. At least you have grown up in Capital City and understand its customs and regulations well. Even if you marry into their family, they would respect you. If you are lucky and meet someone who values emotions and righteousness, even if you do not rise step by step, living harmoniously and respectfully with each other, sharing a deep bond, would be excellent too. If I were you, I would definitely choose the third type, find an impoverished student. As long as he passes the exam for provincial graduates, with the family's help, he can at least become a Magistrate. With talent, his future promotion would be just around the corner!"

Yun Jinnian spoke as she looked at her three younger sisters born of concubines.

"Think about it carefully, discuss with your mothers, then come tell me. I'll strive to marry you off before I get married, to repay the friendship you have shown me by informing me about things!"

"Sister..." Yun Zuomo suddenly cried.

She really didn't want this to happen.

"Don't cry, just because I say this, it doesn't mean we are not sisters. On the contrary, spending these days together, I know you are all good sisters worth caring for, that's why I am willing to say so much!" Yun Jinnian said, wiping Yun Zuomo's tears.

Unexpectedly, Yun Zuomo cried even harder.

Even Yun Qingzhi and Yun Qingqing began to cry.

Yun Jinnian felt utterly helpless and sighed, "I wanted to comfort Zuomo, but instead, I didn't expect to make you two cry too!"

"Haha!" Yun Zuomo laughed out loud.

Laughing and crying at the same time was indeed quite strange.

Yun Jinnian asked someone to get water for the three of them to wash their faces, and after tidying up, the three returned to their respective homes to discuss with their mothers about what kind of husband they would want.

It wasn't unheard of to marry before coming of age.

Take the second sister of the family for example, Yun Zihan married before coming of age.

Watching them leave, Yun Jinnian sighed deeply.

"Why does the Commandery Princess sigh?" asked Nanny An.

"Powerless to change one's fate. Looking at them, I think of my past, unable to choose my own life..."

So one wrong step leads to another.

Ultimately ending up in such a dire situation.

Zhu Yan will soon come to Capital City.

She is waiting, waiting!

Concubine Su saw Yun Zuomo coming over with red-rimmed eyes and was startled, "Did the Commandery Princess punish you?"

"Mother, don't say that, sister treats me very well, how could she punish me!" Yun Zuomo swiftly responded.

Upon hearing this, Concubine Su breathed a sigh of relief, "That's good, that's good. But why were you crying?"

Yun Zuomo held Concubine Su's hand and sat down, "Mother, back then you owed my mother, and now I owe my sister. In fact, I did nothing, yet sister remembered the kindness. Earlier she said I should come back and discuss with you about what kind of husband I want to marry. She hopes to marry the three of us off before she gets married!"

Concubine Su heard this, fell silent for a long time, and then said, "Yes, I wronged the lady back then. But Zuomo, now the lady doesn't care about me at all, and I don't know how to make amends!"

Chapter 893: Brothers Argue

If Mrs. Han merely bullied her and tormented her for no reason, it might be tolerable, but Mrs. Han simply paid her no mind.

Nor did she pay any mind to Concubine Hua.

To the three illegitimate daughters, Mrs. Han only maintained appearances, never offering anything substantial.

On the contrary, Yun Jinnian is much better than many legitimate sisters who pretend one way in front and act another behind.

"Concubine, there must always be a way!"

Concubine Su smiled, "Well, Zimo, tell me, what kind of person do you wish to marry?"

"As my sister said, marry a scholar from a humble family. But concubine, if I marry far away, what will you do?"

"It's easy for me. Once you get married, Hua Concubine and I will go to the nunnery, living peacefully and quietly. You can rest assured outside; as long as you are happy, Hua Concubine and I will be fine wherever we are!"

Yun Zuomo leaned into Concubine Su's arms, "Concubine, if only I could take you with me!"

"Silly child, you can't have both fish and bear paw. Remember, when you marry, don't bring any sisters into your home or act superior. Don't compete with your mother-in-law either. You must win your husband's heart, but most importantly, win your mother-in-law's heart so she stands on your side and doesn't set traps for you. Even if she's wrong, you must endure it!"

Mrs. Han should have known this years ago.

Had she not clashed with Old Madam Yun, thinking that as long as Yun Qi loved her, everything would be fine, she would not have been mixed up with Yun Qi drunkenly for a night, nor would there be Concubine Hua.

All these are Old Madam Yun's tricks.

Even if she told Mrs. Han, what good would it do?

When Yun Bi returned, truly happy were Mrs. Han and Yun Jinnian. One is glad for an old friend's return, despite the past incident, their years of friendship remain, even if awkward, happy that he can finally return to the Capital City.

Yun Jinnian is happy because Yun Bi is genuinely good to her.

The medical skills he brought back are rare and out of print, the miscellaneous notes are very well written and exciting.

Some places are marked, indicating Yun Bi has read them.

The ones not suitable for children to see, Yun Bi has crossed out with a pen.

"Haha!"

Yun Jinnian laughed out loud.

Her third uncle really surprised her.

Yun Qi was in the study, sitting alone, not wanting to see anyone or be seen.

The best friend of the past slept with his wife and had a son; he couldn't say, dare not say, said nothing.

He owed Mrs. Han, owed Jinnian too much.

How could he say, how dare he...

"Second Master, Third Master is here!"

Upon hearing this, Yun Qi closed his eyes.

What is he here for?

After a moment, he opened his eyes, "Let him in!"

Yun Bi entered the study, glanced around before he spoke, "I didn't expect your study to change so much from back in the day!"

"Really??" Yun Qi asked.

He hadn't noticed any change at all.

"Didn't you notice?" Yun Bi retorted, walking to a particular spot, "I remember there used to be rites, righteousness, honesty, and shame here. Now it's all absurd!"

"..."

Yun Qi said nothing.

He looked at Yun Bi coldly.

"Speechless?" Yun Bi mocked.

"What do you want me to say?" Yun Qi asked back.

Changed, everything has changed.

The brother changed, he changed, Shu Niang changed as well.

"I don't want to say anything; I just came to see what becomes of you when your mind and eyes are blinded, yet I didn't expect this. I'm disappointed; I thought you'd be worse off!"

Anyone who can ignore even his own daughter is unworthy of being his second brother!

Chapter 894: Fight to the Death

Yun Qi looked at Yun Bi and laughed coldly.

"Haha!"

He knew perfectly well what was in the mind of his third brother.

Yun Bi stared at Yun Qi, "You're quite pleased with yourself, aren't you?"

"I never dare to be pleased, but no matter how unwilling you are, the one marrying Shuniang is me, Yun Qi, not you, Yun Bi!"

"Yun Qi, you should die!"

Yun Bi cursed angrily and quickly lashed out at Yun Qi.

He has hated all these years, not daring to return to the Capital City. Now that Jinnian has come of age, he dares to return.

He knows, Shuniang stayed with the Yun Family for Jinnian, and now that Jinnian has come of age, after which she would be betrothed and married, she could finally leave home.

But, she certainly won't be willing.

Those people should be punished!

He's come back to help her!

Call him unfeeling, or disloyal, or unrighteous.

But he has waited all these years, yet those who committed grave wrongs haven't repented...

So the brothers started fighting in the study.

To each other, there's resentment and anger, brotherly affection has long faded, and at this moment they wish to kill each other.

The study was quickly thrown into chaos by their force, books scattered all over the floor.

Though they didn't draw swords, their martial skills are not weak.

As children it was playful scuffles, stopping short, but now they wish to kill each other.

Until they each delivered a heavy blow to one another, and both fell to the ground.

Yun Bi got up, glanced at Yun Qi, and turned to leave the study.

Yun Qi lay on the ground, laughed, but it was exceedingly desolate.

Once, they were good brothers, even after he married Shuniang, the brotherly bond never changed.

But after that incident, Shuniang went to the estate, then he entered the palace to request a transfer, gone for many years.

Coming back, no more brotherly bond.

After Yun Qi and Yun Bi had a brawl in the study, Matriarch Yun quickly learned of it.

"Alas..."

After thinking a bit, she said, "Brothers sparring, don't take it to heart!"

Saying so, but couldn't help feeling worried and very anxious.

Yicai Garden

Xu Xinmo fiddled with the jewelry Yun Bi gifted her, "Mother-in-law, what style do you think I should choose?"

"Whichever style you like, make that set!"

"Mm!"

Xu Xinmo responded.

Yun Bi sent two more boxes of books to Yun Jinnian, yet she wasn't jealous at all.

Then she asked, "Mother-in-law, is everything arranged?"

"Rest assured, everything is arranged!"

"That's good!"

Xu Xinmo smiled mischievously.

Yun Jinnian, even if it's not you, being so disrupted on your coming-of-age ceremony, ruining your reputation, you won't marry into any good family in the future.

"Xinmo!"

"Hm?"

"Hide the gloating on your face, today you are her cousin, this expression is inappropriate, even if you are smug in your heart next day, think of her in everything so the crowd sees your virtue!" Jinfeng said.

Xu Xinmo nodded obediently upon hearing that.

Jinfeng stroked Xu Xinmo's head, "Good child, you must understand, you are destined to be the Empress, and the child you bear will be the future Emperor, in the past it was youthful ignorance, but henceforth it must never be, understand!"

"Mm, Xinmo listens to Mother-in-law!"

In comparison, Xu Xinmo listens more to Jinfeng, and is closer to her.

What Matriarch Yun teaches her is all arrogance and bossiness, while the mother-in-law is better, making her more liked by people.

Jinfeng smiled.

Full of love and affection.

Prince Rui Residence

Chu Yu looked at the letter in his hand, silent for a long while before saying, "Is this the letter Jinfeng sent?"

Chapter 895: Our Siblings

Luoyi responded softly.

He was somewhat worried about Princess Jinfeng.

Having been with Chu Yu for more than ten years, he naturally had known Princess Jinfeng for the same duration. She was the master he had watched grow up, and his feelings were naturally special.

Chu Yu took a deep breath, "Nonsense, she is a dignified princess; how can she become a concubine to someone!"

A concubine is but a mistress.

His sister, how could she!

Leng Bingham is detestable!

"Luoyi, you must personally go and, no matter what, bring her back. If she refuses to return, tell her that from now on, I will consider her dead, and I will no longer have this sister!"

Chu Yu did not oppose Princess Jinfeng being with Leng Bingham, but he absolutely would not allow Jinfeng to willingly degrade herself and become someone's concubine.

Moreover, if Leng Bingham truly likes her, how could he possibly let her be a concubine?

Leng Bingham, acting so, never really cared about her!

Even more detestable is Jinfeng, who returned to the Capital City but did not return home!

"Yes!"

Luoyi also did not agree with Princess Jinfeng's decision and was naturally willing to make the trip.

Though it might not be pleasing.

Princess Residence

Princess Jinfeng took a deep breath, looking out the window, lost in thought for a long time.

"Princess, Luoyi is here!" Si Ju spoke softly.

Upon hearing this, Princess Jinfeng turned her head to look at Luoyi and urgently asked, "Luoyi, what did my brother say?"

"His Highness disagrees with the Princess's actions, and he said that if the Princess does not return home, from this day forward, he will no longer consider you his sister!"

Princess Jinfeng was so shocked that she stumbled backward several steps, "No, it can't be, my brother wouldn't treat me like this!"

She was her brother's most beloved sister; her brother wouldn't treat her this way, absolutely not.

Luoyi was silent.

He didn't know what to say, but he understood that when Chu Yu spoke of severing the sibling relationship, he truly meant it!

"Luoyi..." Princess Jinfeng called softly.

Luoyi replied, "Princess!"

"Tell me, is my brother sincere?"

"Princess, you should come back to the Prince Rui Residence with me. If you return and talk to His Highness clearly, it will be the best choice for you and for Young Master Leng!" Luoyi advised.

Go back?

Princess Jinfeng shook her head.

Once she returns, she would never be able to come out again.

But if she doesn't go back?

"Luoyi, my brother must be very disappointed in me!"

As a dignified princess, yet she willingly degraded herself, became pregnant before marriage, and now wants to be a concubine.

Luoyi remained silent.

After a long silence, Princess Jinfeng finally spoke, "Let's go, back to the Prince Rui Residence!"

Family, love, in the end, she still chose family.

Even without Leng Binghan, she still had a child.

A child belonging to her and Leng Binghan, this is how her life would be!

"Please, Princess!"

Prince Rui Residence

When Chu Yu saw Princess Jinfeng walking slowly towards him, significantly thinner and with a weary expression, all the words he wanted to say turned into a sigh, "It's good that you're back; go wash up and have a good sleep. I can't go to Jinnian's coming-of-age ceremony, you go on my behalf!"

"Brother!" Princess Jinfeng called softly.

"Hmm?"

"I'm sorry!"

Upon hearing this, Chu Yu smiled.

"We are siblings, no need to be so formal, go rest!"

"Alright!"

Chu Yu watched Princess Jinfeng's retreating figure, "Spread the word, keep an eye on the Princess, absolutely do not allow her to leave the Capital on her own!"

Such a man as Leng Bingham, who always wears a cold expression, is of no use!

On February 15th, Yun Jinnian's coming-of-age ceremony was held.

Due to the Empress Dowager's passing, not too many people were invited, but no one expected that when the doors of the Yun Residence opened, the Capital City's dignitaries would send their household butlers to present gifts.

There were even double portions, one from each family's mistress and one from each family's young lady.

Xu Xinmo watched, seething with hidden resentment...

Chapter 896: Full of Bitterness

The congratulatory gifts were truly many, carried into the hall one by one, and families with more daughters had several boxes tied together with silk ribbons.

Xu Xinmo pursed her lips.

She turned and went to Niannian Garden.

Early in the morning, Yun Jinnian got up. Last night, Dai Hanmi and Chen Danyan stayed at Niannian Garden. The three chatted and spoke for a long time.

They practiced the ceremony together, with Dai Hanmi and Chen Danyan teaching Yun Jinnian a lot.

"Jinnian, are you nervous?" Dai Hanmi asked.

Yun Jinnian shook her head slightly.

"There's really nothing to be nervous about; Danyan and I will both help you!" Dai Hanmi said, dressing Yun Jinnian and combing her hair.

Xu Xinmo came over quickly, "Cousin!"

"Hmm?" Yun Jinnian looked at Xu Xinmo indifferently.

She was very curious, how did Xu Xinmo manage not to feel guilty? After doing so many things against her conscience, why didn't she blush and still appeared so justified in front of her?

"A lot of people have sent gifts, cousin, I'll help you open them later!"

Yun Jinnian laughed out loud, "Alright, we'll open them together later, and let Nanny Rong register them. Now that people have given gifts, we'll have to return the favor someday. Xinmo, you agree, right!"

Karma always arrives in the end, it's not that it won't come, just that the time hasn't arrived.

She was waiting for Xu Xinmo to mess up.

"Cousin is right!" Xu Xinmo responded awkwardly, walking to Yun Jinnian's side, "Cousin, these clothes are really beautiful!"

"You'll look even better next year when it's your ceremony!"

"Will I receive as many gifts then?" Xu Xinmo asked.

Yun Jinnian was truly stumped by the question.

With Xu Xinmo's personality, how many people would actually want to come?

Dai Hanmi and Chen Danyan exchanged a smile and turned to prepare other things.

The two of them didn't like Xu Xinmo at all, but had to force a smile because of Yun Jinnian.

If Yun Jinnian wasn't at the Yun Family, they definitely wouldn't set foot in it.

Just looking at Xu Xinmo's stingy demeanor for a moment made them disdain her.

"Cousin?" Xu Xinmo called softly.

She knew, there definitely wouldn't be so many gifts, but she hoped that many would come because of Yun Jinnian.

"Let fate decide, matters of this world are unpredictable; don't you agree?" Yun Jinnian spoke lightly.

Very perfunctory.

Xu Xinmo pursed her lips, "Cousin is right!"

She knew Yun Jinnian didn't like her; in this family, no one truly liked her.

But it didn't matter; she didn't like the people in this family either. When she becomes Empress, she'll make them pay.

After Yun Jinnian was dressed, they went to the hall together.

Xu Xinmo looked at Dai Hanmi, who was also dressed beautifully and exquisitely, rivaling the protagonist Yun Jinnian of today, to her puzzlement.

Yet, she held back from asking.

At the Yun Residence entrance.

The congratulatory gifts had already filled the hall, even occupying the small adjacent hall.

This was the first time a girl's ceremony had so many gifts.

The Old Madam of the Yun Family sat in the main seat, smiling absentmindedly.

Thinking back to her own ceremony, only a few people came, and the gifts were few, without anything valuable.

Today's gifts for Yun Jinnian's ceremony were so numerous; she hadn't seen such a scene in decades of life.

She sipped some tea.

Watching the endless stream of gifts, and seeing Mrs. Han and Yun Qi greeting guests at the door, they seemed perfectly matched, like a pair of jade beings. Yet, strangely, they seemed not like it, for they

smiled but didn't communicate, almost like familiar strangers, and the Old Madam found the tea terribly bitter!

Chapter 897: Testing the Waters

She sat there for a long time, with three sons, two daughters-in-law, several grandsons, granddaughters, and granddaughters-in-law, yet none came to ask her a word, nor did anyone come to talk with her.

"Old Madam, are you alright?" Ming Liu asked softly.

The Old Madam of the Yun Family was brought back to her senses upon hearing this.

She looked at Ming Liu and shook her head, handing over her teacup to him, "Get me a new cup of tea, this one doesn't taste right!"

"Yes!"

Ming Liu hurried off to change the tea.

He sniffed the teacup, puzzled and frowning.

This tea was one the Old Madam of the Yun Family adored, she usually had several cups a day, so why was it suddenly bitter?

Ming Liu didn't dare delay and quickly replaced it with a different tea, bringing it back to the Old Madam of the Yun Family.

At the main entrance.

Mrs. Han smiled gently, politely thanking the butlers from various residences. Regardless, today was Jinnian's coming of age ceremony, and having so many gifts was a blessing for Yun Jinnian.

Yun Qi also had a smile on his face.

He chatted with those who came bearing gifts, whether he knew them or not, and inquired about the hosts of their residences.

After seeing off another group bearing gifts, Mrs. Han let out a sigh.

"Shun Niang!"

"Hmm?"

"Are you tired? Do you need a break?"

Mrs. Han shook her head, "I am a bit tired, but I am happy!"

With Jinnian coming of age, she planned to settle her marriage arrangement swiftly, even if it couldn't be a grand affair, she wanted her to get married soon.

This Yun Family, she couldn't stay here anymore.

Yun Qi looked at Mrs. Han, smiling without speaking.

Tenderness and lingering, when Mrs. Han looked over, he quickly turned his head, indifferent and placid.

"Second Master!"

"Hmm?"

"Thank you today!"

Yun Qi nodded.

Looking into the distance!

He wasn't a good husband, nor a good father.

The Old Lady Feng was personally sent over by Feng Wushuang, who also prepared generous gifts. For today, Feng Wushuang specially took a leave.

"Lord Feng!"

"Lord Yun!"

The two had regular contact, but Yun Qi didn't expect Feng Wushuang to rise so quickly to a prominent position as one of the six ministers.

It took only a short time.

"Madam Yun!" the Old Lady Feng slightly bowed.

Mrs. Han quickly returned the salutation.

It must be noted, the Old Lady Feng's ladyship was higher than hers.

"I should have visited earlier, but my health hasn't been great; I hope Madam Yun won't hold it against me!"

"Not at all, not at all, Old Lady Feng, please come inside!"

Mrs. Han personally welcomed the Old Lady Feng towards the main hall.

The Old Lady Feng observed the Yun Residence and naturally saw the Old Madam of the Yun Family seated at the main seat in the hall.

She hadn't known about the Yun Family's affairs before, but Feng Wushuang did and had told her many things about Yun Jinnian's childhood.

Her heart ached for Yun Jinnian, and she wanted to fight for her son, thus she naturally didn't like the muddle-headed Old Madam of the Yun Family.

"Old Madam Yun!"

The Old Lady Feng called out gently, but did not bow.

She was also a lady of rank one; she didn't wish to acknowledge the Old Madam until Feng Wushuang had children, only then would she be the true grandmother.

The Old Madam of the Yun Family smiled and stood up to say, "Old Lady Feng is here, please have a seat!"

"Hmm!"

Slightly nodding, the Old Lady Feng sat down.

Just then, more guests arrived outside, and Mrs. Han went to greet them after exchanging a few words with the Old Lady Feng.

The Old Lady Feng held her tea, unmindful of the Old Madam of the Yun Family.

The Old Madam suddenly felt her face turn crimson with anger.

Watching Yun Qi and Feng Wushuang deeply engaged in conversation, the Old Madam felt a surge of frustration, wishing she could just faint or dig a hole to bury herself.

It's said to be humiliating to the outside world, but she was embarrassed in her own home.

The Marchioness Zhuangyong brought the Crown Princess, along with grand gifts, and upon seeing the Old Lady Feng, they chatted together while the Crown Princess quietly drank tea, rarely speaking.

"Lady Feng, is Lord Feng considering marriage yet?" the Marchioness Zhuangyong asked.

These days, apart from Prince Rui, the most sought-after bachelor in the Capital City is Feng Wushuang.

Chapter 898: Malicious Intent

However, more people wish to marry Feng Wushuang, because Feng Wushuang comes from a modest family, with a simple household, and Feng Old Lady is very kind. Moreover, Feng Wushuang is self-respecting, without any scandalous rumors.

Even she has a mind to betroth Dai Hanmi to Feng Wushuang.

Only she fears Feng Wushuang might already have a marriage agreement.

Feng Old Lady laughed, "Wushuang is not yet engaged, but what he thinks in his heart, I am not sure!"

"It is said that in matters of marriage, it's the parents' orders and the matchmaker's words. Old Lady being like this, I truly admire!" the Marchioness Zhuangyong said with a smile.

"Alas, as mothers, we all wish for our children's happiness. Wushuang has had a tough journey all the way, how could I bear to force him!"

"Indeed, that's true!"

The two then talked about other matters.

Leaving Yun Old Lady sidelined, paying her no attention.

Until Countess Xuanping, Mrs. Chen Family, and Mrs. Dai from the Wang Residence personally delivered gifts and exchanged a few words with Mrs. Han before hurriedly departing.

Losing two children at once, yet Mrs. Dai could still make this trip, was indeed difficult.

For her, there is both lament and sympathetic pity.

Lady Chen from the Elder Residence brought generous gifts with Countess Xuanping, and Mrs. Han welcomed them to the hall.

Very soon, Mrs. Ruan and Ruan Wanrong came, bringing many more gifts, making Yun Old Lady and Mrs. He exceedingly envious.

Truly, those genuinely happy for Yun Jinnian all came today.

Only the Princess Residence had yet to send anyone.

Yun Old Lady secretly rejoiced in her heart, even silently praying, hoping the Princess would not come!

So that Yun Jinnian's coming-of-age ceremony would become the greatest joke in the Capital City!

"The Princess from the Princess Residence is here!"

Everyone quickly stood up to greet her.

Yun Old Lady was very disappointed, but she had no choice but to follow suit.

Before anyone could salute, the Princess smiled, "Today, no need for too many formalities!"

"Thank you, Princess!"

Everyone responded in unison.

The Princess smiled as she looked around at everyone, her face showing kindness, so regal and noble that no one dared to look directly at her.

Behind her were four marchionesses, followed by maids carrying congratulatory gifts.

Stretching out in a long line.

Yun Old Lady felt very unbalanced, and said, "Ming Liu, go see if Jinnian is ready. All the guests have arrived, and she is not here yet; what a state of affairs!"

The atmosphere suddenly became tense.

Mrs. Han's face darkened.

Looking at Yun Old Lady, there was a deep-seated fury suppressed in her eyes.

The Princess chuckled and said, "No matter, today Jinnian is the star, she should indeed dress beautifully. It's normal to be a little late; we can wait and chat, it's rare that we can all meet, even wanting to talk is hard!"

The Princess deftly shifted the topic and took her seat in the main position.

Everyone sat according to their status, but those who came here today were all top-ranking noblewomen, so they seated themselves by age.

Although Yun Old Lady was the host, she did not dare sit next to the Princess.

So she sat a bit lower down.

Yun Jinnian then arrived in a pink dress, gracefully appearing.

Everyone looked and couldn't help but take a deep breath.

This child, even in earlier years was thought to be beautiful, and as she grew up, certainly a peerless beauty, but at that time she was still a child, young and yet to mature, no matter how beautiful she wouldn't make one's head spin.

But today, dressed in splendid attire and with rouge on her cheeks, truly all her beauty was completely brought out.

Like a fairy descending to the mortal world, captivating everyone's gaze.

"Jinnian pays respects to all the elders!" Yun Jinnian slightly curtsied, respectful and courteous.

The gesture fluid like flowing water, beautifully pleasing to the eye.

That grace, truly few can match!

Chapter 899: Empress's Thoughts

"No need for too much formality, please rise!" The Princess who stabilizes the nation, as the one present with the highest rank, naturally has the right to speak.

"Thank you, Your Highness!" Yun Jinnian stood up, accepting everyone's kind blessings.

Of course, there were also malicious ones.

"People from the palace have arrived!"

Yun Qi, originally chatting with Feng Wushuang and others in the garden, was also invited over.

Yun Jinnian bowed and received the decree, "This subject's daughter receives the decree!"

"By the grace of Heaven, the Emperor decrees, Princess Yijia, excellent in appearance and intelligence, gentle and elegant, on today's coming-of-age ceremony, is specially granted a pair of Jade Ruyi, thirty-three Gold Hairpins Stepping Shakes, sixty-six bolts of Yunyan Soft Brocade..."

Following that, a string of items was read.

Yun Jinnian gave thanks for the grace, and Hemei immediately handed a pouch to Eunuch Hai, who happily accepted it, "Well, Princess, this servant will return to the palace to report!"

"Please, Eunuch Hai!"

Eunuch Hai nodded and looked towards the Princess who stabilizes the nation, "Your Highness, this servant takes his leave!"

"Go ahead!"

Once Eunuch Hai left, Eunuch De arrived with the Empress's decree for rewards, even bringing things left by the Empress Dowager for Yun Jinnian, dozens of large chests, not yet opened, seemingly bursting with wealth.

The Empress Dowager's years of collection, all given to Yun Jinnian.

Many people initially thought it was just a legend, but it turned out to be true.

Yun Jinnian looked at those dozens of large chests, feeling somewhat oppressed.

Marchioness Zhuangyong was also puzzled, why did the Empress send the chests today? Couldn't she wait a few days? Or maybe send them a bit earlier?

Today is Yun Jinnian's coming-of-age ceremony, what does the Empress mean?

Yun Jinnian still expressed gratitude, letting Hemei give a pouch to Eunuch De, who then left to return to the palace.

Even Eunuch De was unsure about the Empress's intentions, let alone Yun Jinnian.

Mrs. Han stepped forward to hold Yun Jinnian's hand, "Jinnian, the auspicious time is approaching!"

Giving silent consolation.

Yun Jinnian smiled at Mrs. Han, "Mother!"

Yet felt a little anxious inside.

There were still guests yet to arrive, such as Tianci, her grandfather.

Such as Chu Yu.

They all haven't arrived yet.

A carriage stopped at the Yun Residence entrance, Han Tianci, dressed in fine clothing, jumped off the carriage, happily saying to someone inside, "Grandfather, we've arrived!"

Han Xuzi followed off the carriage, tapping Han Tianci's forehead, "Today is your sister's coming-of-age ceremony, be steadier!"

"Got it, got it!" Han Tianci finished speaking, grabbed a gift from Han Zhong, and ran towards the hall.

No matter his height, he was still a ten-year-old child.

At a lively and bright age, not to mention he hadn't seen Yun Jinnian for quite a while.

"Sister!" Han Tianci called softly.

Yun Jinnian and Mrs. Han looked at Han Tianci and immediately smiled brightly.

"Greetings to Aunt!" Han Tianci paid respects to Mrs. Han.

Mrs. Han's eyes immediately reddened.

He was her biological son, yet could only call her Aunt.

But for Tianci, for Jinnian, she could only force a smile, "Good, good!"

Han Tianci handed the gift box to Yun Jinnian, "Sister, this is my gift for your coming-of-age ceremony!"

"Thank you, Tianci!" Yun Jinnian accepted the gift, handed it to Hemei, then reached to grab Han Tianci's sleeve, "Tianci, come greet the Princess and all the ladies and sisters!"

"Yes, Sister!"

Han Tianci, looking very handsome and smiling, greeted each one and then walked up to Feng Wushuang, "Brother Feng, how have you been lately?"

"Good, how about you?"

"I am good too, just too much to study and can't come out to play, otherwise I would have gone to find Brother Feng earlier!" Han Tianci complained, smiling with white teeth, yet his demeanor was gentle and courteous.

"No worries, when you have some free time, I'll come pick you up!" Feng Wushuang responded softly.

Chapter 900: Chu Yu Assassinated

Han Tianci was Yun Jinnian's most cherished, beloved, and valued brother, naturally he would treat Han Tianci well.

Moreover, Han Tianci was indeed a good child worth being treated well.

Mature, obedient, cute, polite; all virtues could be seen in him.

"Thank you, Brother Feng!" Han Tianci smiled, but looked towards the door.

It's strange, why hasn't Chu Yu arrived?

The auspicious time is near, isn't it?

Unexpectedly, after Han Xuzi arrived, a few more people came: Marquess Zhuangyong, Duan Qimeng, and Prince Yanjun all came together.

Because Yun Jinnian saved his mother Lady Dai, Marquess Zhuangyong showed great respect to Han Xuzi, "Mr. Han!"

"Marquess, there's no need for formalities. I am unworthy!"

"Worthy, indeed worthy!"

No matter how many grievances Yun Qi, Yun Bi, and Yun Chen had in ordinary days, they were harmonious at this moment, accompanying the male guests for conversation.

Adding in those uncles and cousins from the Yun Family, it was indeed quite lively.

The female guests were extra cautious because the Princess of the Nation was present. The Yun Family girls usually had no chance to meet the Princess, and now they were carefully observing, not daring to breathe.

They wanted to befriend Yun Jinnian, but Yun Jinnian utterly ignored them.

People want respect, and trees want bark; they also disliked putting their warm faces against cold shoulders.

Sitting aside, they looked at the boxes of items, their eyes filled with envy.

"His Highness the Crown Prince of Great Zhou arrives!"

A voice sounded at the door.

Yun Jinnian was slightly stunned.

Zhou Yunshen, why had he come?

Since that day at the Princess Residence, there had been no further contact.

Today, whoever comes is a guest, whether with good intentions or bad, they are still guests.

Mrs. Han and Yun Qi quickly went to greet him.

"Your Highness the Crown Prince, I salute you!" Yun Qi cupped his fists, and Mrs. Han followed, bowing.

Zhou Yunshen smiled, "No need for formalities. Today is Princess Yijia's coming-of-age ceremony. She is my benefactor, so I should come bearing generous gifts!"

As Zhou Yunshen finished speaking, Teng Fei led dozens of guards carrying boxes into the Yun Family, placing them in the courtyard.

Then they opened the boxes, revealing pearls, luxurious fabrics, gold and silver jewelry, jade, and gemstones, dazzling everyone's eyes.

"Wow..."

Xu Xinmo led a group of girls who exclaimed.

The older guests remained more composed, watching with smiles.

The Princess of the Nation slightly frowned, looking at Yun Jinnian, who was silent and showing no visible joy or displeasure, yet still concerned for Chu Yu.

Zhou Yunshen spoke with Yun Qi and Mrs. Han for a while, then looked at Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian slightly curled her lips and walked over, "Greetings to His Highness the Crown Prince!"

Your Highness the Crown Prince?

Zhou Yunshen felt bitter inside.

That day, she should have started calling me Brother Zhou, but now the title has changed.

"Princess Yijia, no need for excessive courtesy. Today you are the main character, let's skip these formalities!"

As Zhou Yunshen finished speaking, Yun Qi quickly said, "Your Highness the Crown Prince, this way please!"

"Lord Yun, please!"

The auspicious time was near, yet Chu Yu hadn't arrived.

Yun Jinnian wasn't worried that Chu Yu wouldn't come, but feared he encountered trouble and couldn't make it.

Yet he had to come.

At this moment, on Chang'an Street, an overt assassination took place. Chu Yu faced dozens of men in black, coldly snorting, "Protect the Princess!"

Then he drew his sword and charged forward.

Soon he was amidst the assassins' ranks.

The long sword swung and fell, already stained red with blood, which dripped, spreading ominously on the ground.

Luoyi and Luo'er quickly joined the fray, with many Hidden Guards joining from the shadows.

"Kill without mercy!"