

Indulgence 911

Chapter 911: Colluding with Each Other

Ming Liu froze upon hearing this.

She understood Xu Xinmo's implication.

"Cousin Miss?"

"One, two, three, take your pick. I will definitely help you achieve what you wish, but on one condition: you must be of use to me!"

Ming Liu's heart was filled with joy.

After thinking for a while, she said, "One!"

She originally wanted to choose the third master, but felt that Master Three couldn't handle it. Master Two had Aunt Xi by his side, a rather formidable woman.

Master Yun Chen was the best choice. Although there were a few concubines around him, none had borne him children. Being a maid next to Grandmother, she just needs to guard against Lady, and there's a chance she'll conceive. Once there's a child...

Thinking of becoming the mistress, not having to serve others, Ming Liu was delighted.

Xu Xinmo laughed, "Wait for my good news then!"

"Thank you, Cousin Miss!"

"No need to thank me. I hope you strive to become the sole mistress of this Yun Family!"

After saying this, Xu Xinmo stepped away.

Ming Liu stood still for quite a while before biting her lip tightly.

Being the sole mistress of the Yun Family meant the family's wealth...

She must go all out!

Late at night

Zhou Yunshen found it hard to fall asleep as the people he sent out hadn't returned.

Teng Fei searched for them but couldn't even find a body.

...

"Teng Fei!"

"Master!"

"It seems we underestimated Chu Yu!" Zhou Yunshen said, his face no longer carrying any warmth and elegance.

"..."

Teng Fei remained silent.

After a long pause, Zhou Yunshen asked, "Have you managed to contact anyone from the Yun Family?"

"Not yet!"

Zhou Yunshen suddenly cast a cold gaze at Teng Fei, "Is this all you're capable of, or were you not trying hard enough? Or perhaps you don't wish to bring Yun Jinnian to the Great Zhou Kingdom!"

Questioned three times consecutively, Teng Fei had no response.

He felt that abducting Yun Jinnian to the Great Zhou Kingdom was unbecoming of a gentleman!

"Teng Fei!"

"Here, Master!"

"Remember your identity, remember your duties. Don't ask too much, just follow orders!" Zhou Yunshen finished speaking and turned into his inner chamber.

Teng Fei stood still for quite a while before responding, "Yes!"

As he exited the room, he saw Dou Jingjing standing outside the palace gates, seemingly having stood there for a long time, the wind chilling her slender figure.

It was late. Though her face wasn't visible, it likely didn't look pleasant.

"Teng Fei!" Dou Jingjing softly called.

"Princess!"

Teng Fei replied, curious about why Dou Jingjing was there so late.

"Has Your Highness slept?" Dou Jingjing asked.

She knew of Zhou Yunshen's passion that night, but it was also heartbreaking.

The man she admired pressed her beneath him, yet called someone else's name—how could that not be heartbreak, painful!

"He's already resting, Princess, you'd best return early!" Teng Fei finished speaking and stood aside without speaking further.

The Master held no affection for Princess Jingjing, this he saw more clearly than anyone, knowing that after that night, the Master genuinely disliked Princess Jingjing. If not for Mr. Dou and the Empress, he would have sent Princess Jingjing back to the Great Zhou long ago!

Dou Jingjing hesitated for a long time before saying, "Teng Fei, could you please tell His Highness that I wish to see him?"

"Alright!"

He responded absentmindedly.

That night had truly made Teng Fei reluctant to pay much attention to Dou Jingjing.

Whether the Crown Prince was truly drunk that night or had been drugged by her, without evidence, it was difficult to say.

Threatening the Crown Prince afterwards by sobbing, demanding to return to the Great Zhou Kingdom to have the Empress take charge, that was indeed displeasing!

Dou Jingjing knew she was disliked, but what could she do...

Chapter 912: Encountering an Assassination

In her heart, she knew his heart belonged to someone else, and he didn't care for her at all. What else could she do but resort to some tricks?

Wait? Until the end of time?

That's why when the man in black proposed a collaboration, she agreed without hesitation!

Wasn't she successful?

Maybe she's already carrying a child...

As long as she's sure of the child, she'd immediately return to the Great Zhou Kingdom to ask the Empress to uphold justice!

But now, she still longed for some affection from Zhou Yunshen.

She knew he liked Yun Jinnian, she could help him, but one thing was certain, she had to be the Crown Princess Consort, the future Empress!

Seeing Teng Fei completely ignoring her, she turned and left.

Teng Fei watched Dou Jingjing's back and couldn't help but sneer.

Talk of love, it was nothing but a love for power and wealth; how could it compare with Yun Jinnian?

Thinking of Yun Jinnian made Teng Fei feel quite uncomfortable.

When he found Teng Mu, he was holding wine.

"What's wrong with you?" Teng Mu asked.

They had grown up together from childhood and shared life-and-death experiences. They weren't blood brothers, but their feelings were very deep.

Teng Mu was a few months older than Teng Fei, so he naturally regarded Teng Fei as his younger brother.

"Nothing!"

"You look like nothing's wrong?" Teng Mu said, taking a sip from the wine jar in Teng Fei's hand before asking with concern, "Did the master punish you?"

Teng Fei shook his head.

"Then why the long face?" Teng Mu continued to ask.

He was a man of few words and didn't want to compete with Teng Fei, so he silently took a back seat.

In terms of martial arts, he wasn't inferior to Teng Fei, perhaps even superior!

Teng Fei glanced at Teng Mu.

He took back the wine jar and continued drinking, but he was drinking too hastily and choked.

Teng Mu's eyes twinkled as he patted Teng Fei's back, "If you encounter something difficult and don't want to do it, then don't do it, I'll do it for you!"

"Teng Mu..." Teng Fei exclaimed in surprise.

He looked at Teng Mu with astonishment.

How could he let Teng Mu go?

If Teng Mu went, Yun Jinnian would really be taken back to the Great Zhou Kingdom.

Teng Mu immediately understood.

Teng Fei had always been cold, his eyes only on his master, but after meeting Yun Jinnian...

Everyone has a love for beauty, it wasn't hard to understand him secretly falling for her.

To be so tangled and lose his composure, it must be that the master asked him to do something unworthy to Yun Jinnian!

And he was unwilling to do it!

He reached out and patted Teng Fei on the shoulder, "Don't forget our identity, and don't forget our duty and oath. When the monarch orders a minister to die, the minister must die. Teng Fei, some things, if you don't do them and let others do, the harm will be even greater!"

He said no more, believing Teng Fei would understand.

Teng Fei knew that if he let Teng Mu go...

But he really couldn't bring himself to do it.

Especially towards someone as gentle as water, who spoke softly and kindly, almost like a Bodhisattva, like Yun Jinnian.

"Think about it yourself!"

Teng Mu didn't persuade him further and drank with Teng Fei.

Silently accompanying him.

But when there was a disturbance in the air, followed by the sound of fighting coming from Zhou Yunshen's courtyard, both of them were shocked, "Not good!" and rushed towards Zhou Yunshen's courtyard.

Zhou Yunshen, dressed in white inner robes, had been stabbed several times by the men in black, blood flowing, the contrast between white and red strikingly alarming.

His martial arts skills were not low, but facing the man in black, it was difficult for him even one-on-one, especially since the man in black had brought several accomplices, making it impossible for all the Hidden Guards to get close and render any help.

Yet the man in black seemed to be toying with him, only injuring him but not taking his life...

Who was this assassin? A person suddenly came to his mind!

Chapter 913: Visiting to Request Help

Just in that flash, a dagger cut across his face, burning with a fiery pain.

Zhou Yunshen immediately understood that the man in black did it on purpose.

By the time Teng Fei and Teng Mu arrived, the man in black shouted, "Retreat!"

He was the first to fly up to the rooftop, and the others quickly followed.

"Chase them..." Teng Fei shouted, about to follow.

"No need!" Zhou Yunshen spoke calmly.

He turned and entered the room.

Teng Fei and Teng Mu immediately followed in. Someone had already gone to fetch the Mansion Physician.

Zhou Yunshen sat on the chair, allowing the Mansion Physician to clean and apply medicine to his wounds. "Your Highness, rest assured, the wound on your body isn't deep, but the cut on your face is quite severe. It needs proper care, or it will leave a scar!"

Zhou Yunshen looked at Teng Fei, "Go to the Yun Family and summon Princess Yijia!"

"Now?" Teng Fei asked in surprise.

"Yes!"

Zhou Yunshen's tone was very certain. Teng Fei swallowed, then exited the room.

He went to harness the carriage to fetch Yun Jinnian from the Yun Family.

Inside the room, Zhou Yunshen looked at Teng Mu, "Teng Mu!"

"Present!"

Zhou Yunshen gestured, and Teng Mu immediately leaned in. Zhou Yunshen whispered a few words, and though Teng Mu's expression remained unchanged, his heart was in turmoil.

As a man, he stood strong and upright.

Killing and arson wouldn't make him bat an eyelid; he could act without hesitation even against the elderly or children if necessary.

But to lay a hand on a woman, especially one who had saved his master's life, he suddenly understood Teng Fei's hesitation and reluctance.

Perhaps Teng Fei harbored no romantic feelings for Yun Jinnian, but rather it was his gentlemanly demeanor at play, too much...

"If Teng Fei can't handle this task, then you will. If you can't handle it either, what use do I have for any of you!" After Zhou Yunshen finished speaking, and after Teng Mu left the room, he slumped gently into the chair.

He closed his eyes.

Thinking of Yun Jinnian's unmatched beauty today, her ethereal grace, the unparalleled elegance of her glance, the dignified demeanor in every move, all were flawless, all were mesmerizing. His body involuntarily reacted, desiring to press her beneath him, to take her fiercely.

Watching her cry, watching her beg for mercy, watching her allure and juiciness...

Thinking of this, Zhou Yunshen clenched his fist, the amorous scene in his mind causing him to hum in response.

A moment later, he exhaled, "Someone!"

"Master?"

"Prepare a bath and change of clothes!"

The servant, though wanting to say it was best not to bathe with an injury, saw Zhou Yunshen's slightly flushed face and dared not speak more, preparing hot water to assist Zhou Yunshen's bath.

Seeing the wetness on the undergarments, the servant was too astonished to speak.

Zhou Yunshen cast a faint glance, causing the servant to immediately lower his head, daring not to think further.

"Thud, thud, thud!"

The sound of horse hooves was especially piercing in the silent night, especially after the curfew.

The patrolling guards stopped the carriage, "Who goes there?"

Teng Fei stuck his head out of the carriage, displaying a Token, "I am Guard Commander Teng Fei beside the Crown Prince of the Great Zhou Kingdom. The Crown Prince has encountered an assassination attempt; I am to fetch Princess Yijia from the Yun Family to consult His Highness!"

The guard captain, having some knowledge, and recognizing Teng Fei somewhat, replied, "So it's Guard Teng. We will escort you through!"

"Very well!"

Teng Fei responded coolly, then returned to the carriage.

The carriage was escorted by the guards to the Yun Residence.

When they knocked on the gate of the Yun Residence, the gatekeeper was startled.

"Please inform Master Yun that Guard Teng from the Crown Prince of the Great Zhou Kingdom requests an audience!"

"I do not know which Master Yun you wish to see?" the gatekeeper quietly asked.

There are three Master Yuns in this residence!

Chapter 914: Unexpected Unexpectedness

Teng Fei was startled, and suddenly understood, "It's Master Yun Qi!"

Yun Jinnian is Yun Qi's daughter, so naturally they were looking for Yun Qi.

"Please wait a moment!"

The doorman immediately went to call Yun Qi.

Yun Qi was in high spirits tonight, after having enjoyed himself several times with Aunt Xi, he still couldn't sleep, and was having a little drink alone in the study.

"Second Master, Teng Guard from the Great Zhou Crown Prince's side requests to see you!"

Yun Qi raised an eyebrow.

In the middle of the night, what could this be about?

"Have him meet me in the main hall!"

After tidying up his clothes, he went to the main hall.

Teng Fei had already been waiting for a while, and upon seeing Yun Qi he politely cupped his hands, "Master Yun, the Crown Prince had an assassination attempt made on him and instructed me to invite Princess Yijia to attend him for a consultation!"

Yun Qi looked at the time; it was the dead of night...

"Please wait a moment, I'll send someone to call her, but it takes a while for a girl to get ready, especially after yesterday's busy day..."

"I understand, but...!" Teng Fei began but then stopped.

Yun Qi feigned ignorance.

Where would you find someone calling a girl in the middle of the night to consult on a case?

Have all the doctors in the Capital City died out?

Or is Zhou Yunshen truly gravely injured, teetering on the brink of death? But if he were, Teng Fei wouldn't have this expression on his face.

Niannian Garden

Yun Jinnian woke up drowsily upon hearing a low call, yawning, "What did you say?"

"The Great Zhou Crown Prince was injured by an assassin, Teng Guard is here to request you to visit for a consultation!"

"An assassination attempt?" Yun Jinnian murmured, inexplicably thinking of Chu Yu.

The hint of blood on Chu Yu today suggested that his journey had not been peaceful.

And then Zhou Yunshen was attacked at night...

She didn't believe these two events were unrelated!

"Understood, go give a response, I'll get ready soon and head over!" Yun Jinnian instructed Hemei.

This time, she decided to bring Hemei and Henuan with her, but if she had a brother accompany her, there would be no room for gossip.

Yet she'd rather not mention her three cousins!

As for her father Yun Qi, she didn't have any expectations at all.

Having rushed to the main hall after getting ready, Yun Qi gave a few instructions and turned to leave.

Yun Jinnian stood still, lips pressed together, hands clenching into fists within her sleeves, finally relaxing.

What was she expecting!

With a sarcastic smile, she suppressed the disappointment and relief and walked outside.

"Jinnian!"

A deep voice called out.

Upon hearing this, Yun Jinnian turned her head, seeing her third uncle Yun Bi hurriedly tidying his clothes, his hair a bit messy.

His steps were somewhat disordered too.

For a moment, Yun Jinnian seemed to find the fatherly love she had longed for in him.

"Third Uncle!"

Yun Bi quickly walked to Yun Jinnian's side and reached out to touch her head, "I'll go with you!"

She suddenly felt her heart didn't ache anymore, wasn't hurt anymore.

Yet her eyes felt slightly sore, nodding with a muffled voice as she followed Yun Bi outside.

Intentionally or otherwise, she moved in closer to him!

Yun Bi was perceptive, how could he not understand Yun Jinnian's little thoughts? He slowed his pace, letting Yun Jinnian walk slowly along.

If, if only he had been a little braver back then, she would have been his daughter, not Yun Qi's ungrateful daughter.

But regardless of whose daughter she was, she bore Shuniang's bloodline, and he shared the same father and mother with Yun Qi, surely Jinnian had his blood in her veins too!

She is naturally also his daughter!

Together they got on the carriage, Yun Jinnian sat beside Yun Bi, with Teng Fei on the opposite side, and Hemei and Huanan across from Teng Fei.

"Teng Guard, is the Crown Prince's injury serious?" Yun Jinnian asked.

"The injuries to his body are not serious, but his face was slashed deep enough to see the bone!"

Chapter 915: Rituals Should Not Be Abandoned

Yun Jinnian understood.

No country would allow their future Crown Prince to have a disability.

Even a facial injury must be treated with utmost caution and importance.

However, Yunshen sending Teng Fei to fetch her in the middle of the night seemed somewhat excessive.

"I understand!" Yun Jinnian said softly.

Yun Bi remained silent from start to finish.

He believed Yun Jinnian could handle it well. He accompanied her just to avoid any gossip.

In the middle of the night, even if Yun Jinnian was really there just for a medical consultation!

Upon reaching Zhou Yunshen's residence and entering the courtyard, Yun Jinnian saw Dou Jingjing waiting worriedly by the side.

"Princess Yijia!"

Yun Jinnian nodded slightly, "Princess Jingjing!"

Dou Jingjing looked at Yun Jinnian, who appeared even more beautiful, and felt a tinge of jealousy that she couldn't help but suppress.

Zhou Yunshen was injured, and she hadn't even had a chance to visit.

She could only wait here, and head inside with Yun Jinnian.

"Princess, please!" Teng Fei understood but didn't expose her.

Yun Jinnian nodded, and with Yun Bi, headed to the courtyard where Zhou Yunshen lived.

Dou Jingjing followed beside, clutching her handkerchief tightly.

She was genuinely afraid that Zhou Yunshen might disregard her dignity and cast her out!

Entering the small hall of Zhou Yunshen's courtyard together, they saw Zhou Yunshen sitting on the Arhat bed, wearing loosely-fitted clothes with a gaping wound on his face.

Dou Jingjing let out a gasp, quickly covering her mouth.

Yun Jinnian, having seen many injuries, did not bother with it at all.

Yun Bi remained indifferent, detached from the situation, focusing only on protecting Yun Jinnian; the rest he couldn't care less about.

Yun Jinnian bowed gracefully, "Greetings, Crown Prince!"

"No need for formalities. It's so late, and yet I troubled you to come over," Zhou Yunshen said gently, his grace unaffected by the injury on his face.

"It's my duty!"

As a doctor, she must make this trip.

Teng Fei invited Yun Bi to sit, and a servant brought in tea. Yun Bi sat quietly sipping his tea while Dou Jingjing sat by his side, distractedly drinking hers.

Watching Yun Jinnian's every move.

After wiping her hands with a damp cloth, Yun Jinnian approached Zhou Yunshen to examine him, asking softly, "Did the wound come into contact with water?"

"I just bathed!"

Yun Jinnian nodded, indicating understanding, "Try to avoid getting it wet in the future!"

Hemei and Huanan had already opened the medical kit.

Yun Jinnian took a medicated solution to clean the wound on Zhou Yunshen's face.

"The injury is indeed quite deep; you'll need proper care to recover!"

Zhou Yunshen nodded mutely.

The scent of Yun Jinnian lingered in his nostrils, and the warmth around her somehow tightened his heart, stirring his mind.

Yun Jinnian, unaware of Zhou Yunshen's thoughts, applied the medicine, left some medication behind, and gave a few instructions, advising him to avoid contact with water and eat a light diet without irritants.

"Jinnian!" Zhou Yunshen called softly.

"?" Yun Jinnian looked at Zhou Yunshen, puzzled.

"Why don't you call me Brother Zhou anymore?" Zhou Yunshen asked mournfully.

Is it disdain?

Or is it for some other reason?

"At times, formalities cannot be forsaken," Yun Jinnian said softly, clearly expressing her stance.

Zhou Yunshen looked at Yun Jinnian, hesitated for a moment, then smiled, "I see, so you can't always call me Brother Zhou from now on, can you?"

Yun Jinnian shook her head.

Indeed, she couldn't.

Zhou Yunshen suddenly laughed, "Alright, as you wish!"

He wanted to keep Yun Jinnian for a while longer but seeing her weariness, remembering she just turned of age yesterday, and had been called out of bed in the middle of the night without a trace of complaint, made him reluctant to let her be too tired.

"Let Teng Fei escort you back!" Zhou Yunshen said gently and elegantly, looking at Yun Jinnian with eyes full of warmth.

Chapter 916: Ruthless Expulsion

They say that a person's eyes can convey all emotions.

Zhou Yunshen hoped that his eyes could express his feelings, allowing Yun Jinnian to see and sense his love, then fall in love with him against all odds, and follow him to the Great Zhou Kingdom to be his wife, lover, and accompany him to become a wise and great Emperor.

But in the end, he was disappointed.

Yun Jinnian only glanced at him indifferently and politely before averting her gaze, "Alright!"

Yun Bi stood up, cupped his hands toward Zhou Yunshen, and walked out together with Yun Jinnian.

The night air was a bit chilly, and Yun Bi took off his outer garment and draped it over Yun Jinnian.

"Third Uncle?" Yun Jinnian was taken aback.

She had long forgotten what it felt like to be doted on by a father, feeling a bit bewildered, surprised, and flattered.

Yun Bi smiled gently, "The night is cold, and you're a young girl; getting a chill is not good for your health!"

"And what about Third Uncle?"

"Third Uncle is a man; what's a little cold? Back in the day, I dared to fish in the river in the dead of winter!"

Upon hearing this, Yun Jinnian's eyes lit up.

She tightly clutched the garment Yun Bi draped on her, inhaling his unique fragrance, and laughed foolishly.

"Did Third Uncle catch any fish?"

"Caught some!"

"Third Uncle is amazing!"

Yun Bi smiled lovingly, "This winter, I'll take you, call Tianci too, and I'll teach you how to fish in winter!"

Yun Jinnian wanted to agree.

But was afraid...

Yun Bi seemed to see through Yun Jinnian's thoughts, patting her head, "Don't overthink it. Third Uncle is not the kind to seize things by force, nor does he intend to disrupt the current balance!"

Tianci is doing well in the Han Family. Even if he is my seed, my son, so what? I've never held him, fed him, or taught him a single word. He was raised by the Han Family and rightfully belongs to them.

"Third Uncle..."

"As you think, as you wish!"

Leaving Zhou Yunshen's residence, by the carriage, Yun Bi extended his hand to Yun Jinnian, who, after a moment of hesitation, placed her hand in Yun Bi's.

It was warm and dry.

"Thank you, Third Uncle!"

Boarded the carriage.

Returning to the Yun Family.

Along the way, Yun Jinnian was quietly delighted, occasionally stealing glances at Yun Bi.

This Third Uncle of hers always brings her surprise and joy.

Yun Bi smiled kindly, as if unaware of Yun Jinnian's secret glances, maintaining his original posture...

Zhou Yunshen watched Yun Jinnian leave, then turned his gaze to Dou Jingjing sitting to the side.

Dou Jingjing felt a tingle in her scalp from his gaze.

She regretted it, regretting the night she schemed against Zhou Yunshen. Without that night, she would still be the Princess Jingjing cherished by Zhou Yunshen.

Respected by everyone in the residence.

And trusted. Although still the Princess Jingjing, now no one in the residence respects her.

"Your Highness..." Dou Jingjing called softly.

Zhou Yunshen lowered his gaze, speaking casually, "Did you drink that bowl of medicine?"

"I drank, drank it!"

The post-event bowl of medicine? She knew it wouldn't let her conceive a child.

She wouldn't drink it!

"Good, once you've drunk it, tomorrow I will send someone to escort you and your teacher back to Great Zhou. You should know how to explain to Mother Empress!" Zhou Yunshen's voice was light, but with a chilling undertone.

It made Dou Jingjing tremble all over.

The future Emperor of the Great Zhou Kingdom, how could he be truly gentle and kind?

He merely hid all his thoughts beneath a gentle appearance, using a mild and refined facade to deceive the world.

"Your Highness!" Dou Jingjing cried out as she knelt on the ground.

Immediately bursting into tears, "Your Highness, I beg you, please don't..."

Chapter 917: Unexpected Trouble

She returned so dejectedly that her sisters would look down on her.

Zhou Yunshen, however, did not call Dou Jingjing to get up, merely cast her a cold glance and turned to enter the inner chamber.

At first, perhaps he would be torn, thinking he had forced Dou Jingjing, but on closer consideration, his alcohol tolerance was good, his self-control was good. How could he lose control after just a few drinks?

Then there was only one possibility, Dou Jingjing had schemed against him.

And her master was also an accomplice!

For the sake of wealth and glory, her father and daughter teamed up to scheme against him.

The master he respected, the sister he cared for; to say he wasn't disappointed would be a lie.

Since they were bent on degrading themselves, let them be!

Outside, Dou Jingjing was taken away crying, Zhou Yunshen closed his eyes and gently touched his face.

"Chu Yu..."

Just wait and see!

Returning to the Yun Family, the sky was already bright.

Fifteen-year-old Yun Jinnian sat at the dressing table, watching Ru Yue braid a beautiful hairstyle for him and put on the gemstone hairpin given by Chu Yu.

"Commandery Princess, which earrings should you wear!"

Yun Jinnian took a pair of earrings from the brocade box and handed them to Ru Yue, "Wear these!"

"Yes!"

Ming Liu entered Niannian Garden.

"Sister Ming Liu, why have you come!" Hemei greeted her with a smile.

"Hemei, has the Commandery Princess risen? The Old Lady asked me to come and invite her over!" Ming Liu said, then approached Hemei and whispered, "The Old Lady's intention is to establish the rules!"

Hemei frowned slightly and hurriedly asked, "Is it just our Commandery Princess, or do all the other young ladies in the residence need to go over?"

"Everyone is going!"

Ming Liu said, glancing towards the small hall.

Yun Jinnian received many congratulatory gifts; a corner of the small hall was still piled up full. It was unknown if they had been opened yet.

Truly wealthy.

With a good appearance, identity, status, and wealth, whoever dared to belittle her as she walked outside, surely someone would soon come with a marriage proposal.

"Sister Ming Liu, please wait. I will check if the Commandery Princess is up!" Hemei said and went into the small hall, heading towards the sleeping quarters.

Seeing Yun Jinnian already tidied up, she whispered, "Commandery Princess, Ming Liu from Cixin Academy is here, saying the Old Lady wants to establish the rules, and all the other young ladies in the residence will go!"

Hearing this, Yun Jinnian curved her lips into a faint smile, "I know, tell her I'll be there shortly!"

The Old Lady's intentions, Yun Jinnian was very clear about.

She wanted to use filial piety and rules as a pretext to torment her!

Yesterday's incident with the bellyband must have infuriated her!

"Yes, I'll go and tell her!"

At this moment, everyone else in the Yun Residence knew the Old Lady wanted to establish the rules, with each having different thoughts. Yun Musi and Yun Mulan were indifferent; they were not favored anyway, so they wouldn't be tormented.

In everything, Yun Jinnian shielded them.

Yun Zuomo, Yun Qingqing, and Yun Qingzhi, however, were a bit scared. They were illegitimate daughters, not favored by their father, and they usually tried to minimize their presence.

Meeting the Old Lady was daunting.

"Don't be afraid; in everything, you have your sister!" Yun Zuomo gently comforted.

Yet in her heart, she was terrified.

Yun Qingzhi and Yun Qingqing nodded, anxious and uneasy, heading to Cixin Academy.

Unexpectedly, the three were the first to arrive, reluctantly paying respects to the Old Lady, "Greetings, Grandmother!"

The Old Lady nodded slightly.

Illegitimate granddaughters, she did not care at all, and only a paltry dowry would be used to marry them off later.

Just like Yun Zihan, even if she severed ties with the Yun Family and didn't maintain contact, the Old Lady felt nothing. She was more fearful that Yun Zihan would frequently return to the Yun Family, demanding this and that!

"Sit on the side and wait for everyone to gather; I have something to say!"

"Yes!"

The three responded, increasingly anxious, eagerly awaiting Yun Jinnian's arrival!

Chapter 918: Posturing

Yun Musi and Yun Mulan, having been advised by Mrs. He, went to find Xu Xinmo to come along, and Yun Matriarch still didn't make things difficult, only asking them to sit and talk.

When Yun Jinnian arrived, her eye corners and brows were adorned with a faint smile, appropriate and graceful, pleasing to the eye.

"Greetings to Grandmother!" Yun Jinnian slightly curtsied.

Yun Matriarch nodded, "Hmm, sit down!"

"Thank you, Grandmother!"

Yun Jinnian was somewhat surprised that she was not troubled, but seeing Yun Matriarch's displeased expression, she scoffed inwardly.

I fear she won't hold back for long!

Sure enough...

"You are all grown girls now, and you come from the Yun Family. In the future, you will marry into prominent families as mistresses, and the most important thing for such families is decorum. I have neglected this in the past, but from today onwards, we must learn the rules!" Yun Matriarch said, sipping tea lightly before continuing, "The rules are nothing more than the Three Obediences and Four Virtues. At home, obey your father; after marriage, obey your husband; if your husband dies, obey your son. The four virtues are female morality, female speech, female appearance, and female labor. Go back now and copy them five times each, and show them to me tomorrow!"

Yun Matriarch appeared gentle and loving, a picture of a good grandmother.

Yet, inwardly elated.

Copying the Three Obediences and Four Virtues five times, Yun Jinnian won't have time to read books, and her wrist will likely ache, over time leading to laxity.

She won't act foolishly like before, outwardly tormenting her.

In the future, she must change methods so everyone sees no fault but praises her kindness.

Yun Jinnian responded with a light smile.

Xu Xinmo and others followed suit, but their individual feelings were only known to themselves.

Yun Matriarch continued, "Jinnian!"

"Present!"

"Now in this family, you are the elder sister, also the Commandery Princess, having traveled far several times. Xinmo and the others are still young; you must take good care of them and be a good example, understand?"

"Rest assured, Grandmother, I will remember!" Yun Jinnian replied obediently.

Grandmother to her was merely a title, without any affection or expectation.

"Hmm, that's good!" Yun Matriarch nodded, then asked, "Yesterday, the child who came with your maternal grandfather... what's his name?"

"Tianci!"

"How old is he?"

"Eleven years old!"

Yun Matriarch was a bit startled, "Eleven years old, yet he looks fifteen or sixteen, quite a handsome fellow!"

Appearing somewhat familiar.

Yun Matriarch pondered carefully but couldn't recall who he resembled!

Yun Jinnian smiled.

Yesterday, Tiansi came over, his face slightly altered, looking somewhat like the third uncle but not quite.

Seeing Yun Jinnian silent, Yun Matriarch smiled, "Alright, you all may go back now!"

They stood up and exited Cixin Academy.

Copying the Three Obediences and Four Virtues five times amounted to quite a number of words indeed.

"Cousin, do you have any Xuan paper?" Xu Xinmo asked.

"I do. Do you want to come with me to get it, or should I send someone to deliver it to you?" Yun Jinnian asked.

She had several boxes of fine Xuan paper, enough to give each person a stack.

It wasn't for Xu Xinmo, Yun Musi, or Yun Mulan since they had silver, and Lady He would sort things out. But Yun Zuomo, Yun Qingqing, and Yun Qingzhi did not have it.

At that time, even the Xuan paper would be divided into grades, making them unable to lift their heads, originally being of a lower birth.

"Then I'll go with Cousin to get it!" said Xu Xinmo, stepping forward intending to take Yun Jinnian's arm affectionately.

Yun Jinnian skillfully evaded, "Then let's go!"

Chapter 919: Mother-in-law and Daughter-in-law Conversation

Pretending not to see Xu Xinmo's friendliness, and also feigning ignorance of her face turning black then white.

Smilingly turned and walked ahead.

Xu Xinmo was so angry, she bit her lip tightly.

Yun Zuomo, Yun Qingzhi, and Yun Qingqing lowered their heads, not daring to look.

Yun Musi and Yun Mulan secretly chuckled in their hearts and hurried to follow.

When they all arrived at Niannian Garden, Yun Jinnian asked Shi Jiayu to fetch some rice paper, "Each of you gets a stack, and everyone gets a Hui ink and a wolf-hair brush!"

She had several boxes of the Four Treasures of Study, all top quality, and didn't want to give any to someone as ungrateful as Xu Xinmo.

"Thank you, sister!" Yun Zuomo, Yun Qingzhi, and Yun Qingqing sincerely thanked her.

"We're all family, no need to be polite. Go back and write; grandmother will check tomorrow!"

"Yes!"

Yun Zuomo and the others obediently thanked her and then left.

Xu Xinmo, Yun Musi, and Yun Mulan did not stay long either; after exchanging a few polite words, they also left.

Nuanxin Academy

Mrs. He thought for a long time and finally decided to visit Wang Yanran.

When Wang Yanran saw Mrs. He coming, she wasn't flustered, "Mother!"

"You're pregnant, sit down!" Mrs. He said, instructing Tianmi to bring the tonic soup, "Have some soup, I have something to tell you!"

"Yes!"

While drinking soup, Wang Yanran naturally understood what Mrs. He wanted to say.

After putting down the bowl, she asked the maids in the room to leave, then said, "Mother, are you here for that maid?"

"Since you know why I'm here, why did you bother to deal with Yun Jinnian, bringing trouble upon yourself..." Mrs. He asked, puzzled.

Wang Yanran remained silent.

She sat quietly.

She was unwilling and resented Yun Jinnian.

Because of her, her cousin became a cripple; because of her, her aunt struggled in the palace, and her eldest cousin warned her several times not to deal with Yun Jinnian.

Why should she?

She had been cherished since childhood and never had anyone stepped on her like this, so how could she swallow this humiliation?

"Alas!" Mrs. He sighed, advising earnestly, "To deal with her, why must you personally act? There are plenty of people in this residence who dislike her. All you need is to nurture your pregnancy well, understand?"

Wang Yanran nodded slightly.

She didn't respond.

Mrs. He knew that Wang Yanran hadn't listened, so she couldn't help but advise again, "Now that she is a commandery princess personally appointed by the Emperor, her status is noble. Just look at yesterday's congratulatory gifts, and you'll know how popular she is in the Capital City. Why oppose her at this moment? Heed my advice; bear with it for now and see what end she comes to!"

The old lady is ruthless.

Moreover, there's Xu Xinmo, who is also not one to be trifled with, and she has Grandma Jin by her side, who seems very eerie.

She was afraid to confront her directly.

"Mother, rest assured, I've listened and won't trouble Jinnian anymore. Now that I'm expecting, I'll treat it as accumulating blessings for the child!"

Let Yun Jinnian enjoy a few days for now.

Thinking this, Wang Yanran felt a bit triumphant and started to smile, then suddenly felt a stomach ache, "Oh no!" she screamed, breaking out in a cold sweat.

"Yanran, what's wrong?" Mrs. He asked hurriedly.

She stepped forward to support Wang Yanran, worriedly furrowing her brows, and hurriedly called out, "Someone, someone!"

The voice was cold yet flustered.

Wang Yanran was in so much pain her face turned pale, she tightly gripped Mrs. He's hand, stammering, "I, I have a stomachache, the c-child..."

Thinking she might have eaten something unclean, which endangered the child, Wang Yanran immediately felt terrible!

Chapter 920: Jinnian Gets Angry

She didn't know who wanted to harm her, her first suspicion being Yun Jinnian or Mrs. Han.

She was even more suspicious of the soup sent by Mrs. He.

Tianmi rushed in with maids and grannies.

Mrs. He sharply spoke, "Call the Mansion Physician, no, no, go and invite Jinnian too!"

The Mansion Physician arrived first, and Wang Yanran was already bleeding profusely.

After checking Wang Yanran's pulse, he shook his head slightly.

"No..." Wang Yanran screamed.

Yun Jinnian was at the doorway, hearing Wang Yanran's sharp scream, he frowned slightly.

Entering the room, Wang Yanran was lying on the bed rigidly, her face pale, with no sign of life.

"Aunt?" Yun Jinnian called quietly.

Mrs. He nodded slightly, "Jinnian is here, help your sister-in-law take a look!"

"Okay!"

Yun Jinnian responded blandly, stepping forward to check Wang Yanran's pulse.

The baby was already miscarried, with no chance of salvaging.

"She ate something she shouldn't have!" Yun Jinnian spoke, withdrawing his hand.

However, Wang Yanran suddenly sat up, looking at Yun Jinnian with sinister hatred, "It was you, wasn't it, you poisoned me?"

Upon hearing this, Yun Jinnian smiled instead of getting angry, "Me? I have no past grievances nor recent enmity with you, sister-in-law, why would I harm the child in your womb? Today you lost your child, feeling upset, it's natural to speak incoherently, I won't argue with you now. But if this happens again, I will definitely ask you to explain clearly, why you accuse me of harming your child?"

After speaking, Yun Jinnian stood up and said word by word, "Sister-in-law suspects me, better to search this room thoroughly from inside out, find those filthy things!"

Then, regardless of Wang Yanran's increasingly pale face, Mrs. He angrily ordered people to search the room, "Search carefully, don't miss a single nook or cranny!"

Mrs. He never expected that someone's reach would be so extensive?

But who is this person? With such malicious intent, striking directly at her eldest grandson!

Soon, a maid found a pouch in the wardrobe, another in the pillow, and several more beneath the flowerpots.

The Mansion Physician looked at each one, nodding to confirm that the pouch contained musk, saffron, and several other abortive herbs.

"So, the person who placed the sachet is the culprit?" Mrs. He asked angrily.

"Yes, Lady!"

Wang Yanran was somewhat stunned.

Indeed, who wanted to harm her like this?

This was her first child, the child she had been anticipating for so long. She thought Yun Jinnian had harmed her child, but it turned out it wasn't Yun Jinnian at all, but someone else.

Yun Jinnian returned to Niannian Garden, sat on the chair, holding the teacup, sipping lightly.

Hemei softly asked, "Commandery Princess, is there really something dirty in the elder sister-in-law's room?"

"Naturally, the bowl of soup was just a lead!" Yun Jinnian said, taking another sip of tea.

Not mentioning that Wang Yanran might find it difficult to conceive in the future.

That person not only placed items but also made Wang Yanran ingest other poisons.

But who is this person? Harmed Wang Yanran, yet she knows nothing?

Must be a deep-seated hatred!

"Hemei, come here..."

Hemei leaned over, Yun Jinnian instructed a few words, and Hemei nodded slightly.

"Be careful, don't alert the person behind them, if she gets discovered, find a way to help her!"

Yun Jinnian temporarily considered this person to be a woman, because only someone serving closely could plant things in the room without being noticed.

So it should be one of Wang Yanran's few Head Maids or the butler matrons.

Others simply cannot enter!

"Yes!" Hemei responded and went to make arrangements.