

Indulgence 951

Chapter 951: Standing Up for My Sister

Yun Jinnian found it amusing.

After finishing their meal and chatting for a while, they returned to the Yun Family.

Once back at the Yun Family, Yun Jinnian gathered three sets of brushes, ink, paper, and inkstones, along with a few books, and had Hemei personally deliver them to Yun Zuomo and the others.

Yun Zuomo sent back some pastries, Yun Qingzhi brought some fruits, and Yun Qingqing sent a small jade carving, which, though small, was quite beautiful.

The little bunny appeared endearingly innocent.

"It's a pity there's only one!"

Otherwise, it could be given to Mumu and the others to play with.

Thinking of this, Yun Jinnian suddenly said, "Hemei, next time when you go, ask who carved this jade sculpture!"

"Yes!"

Yun Zuomo entered the study and saw Kang Ju seriously reading a book. She smiled slightly, "Did my sister send it?"

"Yes, Auntie sent these wonderful books that I've been searching for everywhere!" Kang Ju said, standing up to let Yun Zuomo sit down, excitedly continued, "Look at this Xuan paper, it's premium Xuan paper. I wanted to buy it earlier, but it was too expensive and hard to find. Auntie sent two sheets over. And this ink; it's genuine Hui Ink, the kind that isn't usually sold in stores. The inkstone is made of top-grade ink jade, which, when touched, carries a slight warmth. Even in winter, the ink wouldn't freeze. This wolf-hair brush is also exceptionally good!"

Yun Zuomo watched Kang Ju speak with excitement.

She knew Kang Ju had great insight; though his family was poor, his aspirations were rich.

"Our sister treats us very well, my husband, so you must work hard. I believe this year's imperial exams will see you succeed!"

Kang Ju smiled, hugged Yun Zuomo, and kissed her before asking, "What if I don't succeed this year?"

"It doesn't matter, we'll strive for three more years!"

Kang Ju gazed at Yun Zuomo.

She was charming and delicate, not as stunning as Princess Yijia, but she possessed a homely beauty and a warm, considerate nature.

Since their marriage, she had managed everything for him meticulously, even when hosting guests, ensuring the meals were bountiful and the drinks fragrant, making him appear distinguished.

Unable to help himself, he kissed Yun Zuomo again, murmuring softly, "Even if I don't succeed, I won't let you down!"

"I naturally trust you, my husband. By the way, do you think our second brother-in-law will succeed this year?"

"I believe so, he's likely to rank in the top three. If I'm correct, he will be the next Master Feng!"

Yun Zuomo was taken aback.

"That impressive?"

"Master Feng has never held back from teaching our second brother-in-law and has imparted much to him. I regret having known Master Feng for a short time, and he doesn't treat me as well as he does our second brother-in-law. But fortunately, our second brother-in-law hasn't kept anything from me either. Even if I can't learn all that Master Feng has taught him, a fraction of it is still immensely beneficial!" Kang Ju said, his eyes filled with warmth.

Without a hint of jealousy.

"Rest assured, my husband, I will accompany my second sister to visit the Feng Residence and spend time with the old lady there as often as possible!"

"That would be good, just don't let yourself suffer!"

"Why would there be suffering? The old lady is kind-hearted, well-versed and insightful, and being with her allows me to learn many things!"

Yun Qingzhi and Yun Qingqing shared Yun Zuomo's feelings.

Qin Xiulian and Mu Hanqi also possessed profound knowledge and were delighted with the gifts from Yun Jinnian, cherishing them beyond measure.

These gifts added to the love for their wives, imbued with newfound respect.

It was evident in their mannerisms and speech.

Yun Zuomo, Yun Qingzhi, and Yun Qingqing felt it deeply, growing increasingly thankful to Yun Jinnian.

Niannian Garden

After bathing, Yun Jinnian sat on a stool, gently drying her hair.

The room was filled with the scent of incense, faint yet fragrant.

There was no one left to attend to her.

She couldn't understand why she felt a sense of apprehension, always sensing that something significant was about to happen, yet she was powerless to stop it...

Chapter 952: This Foolishness

A large hand gently took the silk handkerchief from her hand.

Yun Jinnian didn't need to turn around to know it was Chu Yu.

"Why did you come over?"

"I missed you, so I came!"

Yun Jinnian smiled.

Letting Chu Yu dry her hair.

Quietly enjoying this rare moment.

"Jinnian!"

"Hmm?"

"Nuannuan will return tomorrow, as my son!"

Yun Jinnian slightly nodded, "Have you arranged everything? Will it involve the Princess?"

"No, don't worry!"

"Since everything is arranged, let it be. I will go to Huguo Temple to offer incense tomorrow, and might stay there for a few days!"

"Then I'll pick you up when the time comes!" Chu Yu quickly said.

"Okay!"

No words needed, they understood each other's meaning.

Chu Yu carefully dried Yun Jinnian's hair.

In the blink of an eye, they had known each other for five years, from when he first entered her room for relief from poison.

Though it was the cold winter, her room was extremely cold, without even a basin of burning coal.

But she calmly bandaged his wound, courageously not frightened.

Upon meeting again, he startled her, causing her to weep in his arms, fists pounding his chest in grievance, complaining about being bullied, and now he came to bully her too.

At some point, he stopped seeing her as a child and developed other thoughts.

When he recalls earnestly, he cannot remember, but by then she had taken root and blossomed in his heart.

Soon, Yun Jinnian's hair was dry.

Chu Yu used a comb to smooth it, whispering, "It's getting late, rest early, I'm leaving!"

"Ayu!"

Yun Jinnian softly called out, holding Chu Yu's hand.

Looking at him tenderly, then gently leaning into his embrace, "Ayu, we will be happy, be happy for a lifetime, won't we?"

"Yes!" Chu Yu responded, holding Yun Jinnian tightly.

"You promised me, no matter what happens, we'll be together, no matter how difficult the road ahead, we'll be together, never apart, right?"

"Right, I, Chu Yu, swear, for a lifetime, there's only Yun Jinnian, and if for this oath..."

Yun Jinnian raised her hand, pressing against Chu Yu's lips, "I trust you!"

Then she smiled.

Slowly embraced tighter.

Breaths becoming uneven, body heating up, scorching like boiling water.

Then with Yun Jinnian's laughter, he kissed her fiercely, releasing and walking outside, saying as he walked, "You just wait!"

Watching Chu Yu flee in embarrassment, Yun Jinnian laughed.

First with gentle smiles, then with a hearty laugh.

Laughing until her waist couldn't straighten.

"This fool!"

Laughing, her eyes grew moist.

Raising her hand to wipe, but the tears flowed more...

Her somewhat flustered heart gradually calmed.

No matter the path ahead, with Chu Yu present, she would persist and strive; and if the Yun Family stubbornly harmed her, all emotions at the temple, must be decisively severed.

Chapter 953: Storm in the City

As the sky turned slightly bright, many carriages had already stopped in front of the Yun Family's gate, and the servants quickly carried boxes and moved things into the carriages.

The maids were going in and out, placing various small bundles into the carriages.

Mrs. He assumed Yun Jinnian would sit in the Commandery Princess's sedan chair, unexpectedly she was the same as them.

"What can be done?"

The same carriage, how would others know which carriage Yun Jinnian was in?

Mrs. He was somewhat anxious, but Yun Jinnian didn't give her a chance to change, standing aside with Hemei and Henuan.

"Jinnian, are you only bringing two maids?" Mrs. He quietly asked.

"Yes!"

Openly, she was just bringing Hemei and Henuan, but there must be more hidden.

Yet, she wouldn't explain much to Mrs. He.

As they were speaking, Grandmother Yun slowly came with the support of Xu Xinmo, Yun Musi, and Yun Mulan.

"Grandmother!"

Yun Jinnian softly called out.

"Hmm, everyone get on the carriages!" Grandmother Yun said indifferently, getting on the carriage first, letting Xu Xinmo sit with her, Yun Musi and Yun Mulan also got on the carriage together.

Yun Jinnian was about to walk to the rear carriage when Xu Xinmo lifted the carriage curtain and whispered, "Cousin, aren't you coming up?"

Yun Jinnian initially didn't want to go up. After thinking for a moment, she finally signaled Hemei and Henuan to sit in the rear carriage, and stepped onto the carriage.

Xu Xinmo sat on Grandmother Yun's left, Yun Mulan on the right, Yun Musi sat next to Yun Mulan, and Yun Jinnian sat beside Xu Xinmo, facing Yun Mulan.

Along the way, Xu Xinmo, Yun Mulan, and Yun Musi continuously tried to cheer Grandmother Yun up, only Yun Jinnian sat quietly, neither affected by joy nor sorrow, listening to them laugh like flowers.

She didn't interrupt or speak much, quietly as if she didn't exist.

During this time, Grandmother Yun looked at Yun Jinnian several times, with increasing disgust in her eyes.

Growing ever more displeased with Yun Jinnian, she had been undecided, but now she was determined to ruin Yun Jinnian.

As for the person she chose, she hadn't decided who.

But she believed, since Mrs. He so strongly advocated for her to go to Huguo Temple, she must have arranged something long ago.

At that time, she would support Mrs. He in secret to handle it.

The carriage went clopping ahead, not fast or slow, thus not arriving at Huguo Temple before nightfall, so Mrs. He had someone arrange accommodations early, so they would proceed to Huguo Temple the next morning.

At this moment in the Capital City

At the gates of Prince Rui Residence.

A woman holding her child knelt at the gate and was soon invited inside.

Soon after, gossip began circulating in the streets and alleys, saying Prince Rui maintained a mistress outside who had given birth to a son, and now she had come with the child to recognize his father.

Initially, people didn't believe it, but Prince Rui Residence promptly invited a wet nurse, and news spread that the child resembled Prince Rui by seventy or eighty percent.

So it was true.

Prince Rui had a son, which became the biggest topic in the capital, discussed everywhere, and soon the Emperor learned about it.

"This Prince Rui is really..." The Emperor paused slightly, contemplating the news received that day, then resumed, "Let him be!"

The Emperor originally did not wish Yun Jinnian to marry Chu Yu, but now the Crown Prince of Zhou Nation had sent a letter to him, intending to take Yun Jinnian away.

If Yun Jinnian was successfully taken away, Chu Yu would surely falter miserably.

The Emperor couldn't have imagined that Chu Yu and Yun Jinnian were not like they appeared on the surface; they were already secretly together.

Most likely, they had already been intimate, and the child was quite possibly not anyone else's but Yun Jinnian and Chu Yu's.

"Someone come, go check how old that child is!"

Chapter 954: Self-Recommendation for Glory

If the months match, then...

Thinking of Chu Yu and Yun Jinnian's obvious but hidden affair, and now even having a child, the Emperor was instantly furious.

"Someone, summon Yun Chen!"

Although Yun Qi is more competent than Yun Chen, Yun Jinnian is ultimately Yun Qi's legitimate daughter, and Yun Qi truly cares for Mrs. Han. Previously harsh on Yun Jinnian, now for Mrs. Han's sake, Yun Qi would certainly not harm Yun Jinnian.

However, Yun Chen is different.

"Yes!"

Soon, Yun Chen was summoned to the palace.

"Minister Yun Chen, pays respects to Your Majesty!"

The Emperor looked at Yun Chen, nodding slightly, "Rise, my dear subject!"

"Thank you, Your Majesty!"

"I want to ask you, my dear subject, how much do you know about Princess Yijia?" The Emperor asked directly.

Yun Chen, after a moment of shock, immediately understood, "Replying to Your Majesty, although Princess Yijia is my niece, I feel that she is very clever and highly scheming, and furthermore, she and the Prince Rui..."

Although it's just a suspicion, Yun Chen felt it's not impossible.

The Emperor's disfavor towards Prince Rui is very evident.

And Yun Jinnian, he always felt like a venomous snake watching every move of the Yun Family, making him extraordinarily anxious and fearful.

If Yun Jinnian and Prince Rui are implicated together, with the Emperor dealing with it, it would then be of no concern to him.

Hearing this, the Emperor immediately sat up straight, asking in a deep voice, "Are you saying that Prince Rui and Princess Yijia..."

"I am only speculating, without conclusive evidence, but after Princess Yijia and Prince Rui returned from Nanjiang that year, there was always something different, and later when they went out again, Prince Rui was not in the Capital City. Today, there were rumors all over the streets that Prince Rui favored a woman outside the palace, and that woman is pregnant. I always felt that the child is most likely born from an illicit affair between Princess Yijia and Prince Rui..." Yun Chen said, suddenly kneeling on the ground, "I presume to speculate on Prince Rui's affairs, begging Your Majesty's forgiveness!"

The Emperor didn't expect Yun Chen to think the same.

Nor did he blame him, "Stand up, discussing this matter in front of me is fine, but outside, one must be cautious in words and actions!"

"Yes!"

The Emperor found Yun Chen respectful and remembered his past devoted assistance.

"Your three sons must have grown up?"

"Replying to Your Majesty, they've grown!"

"Hmm, bring them to the palace someday for me to see!"

"Yes!"

When Yun Chen left the palace, his steps were unsteady.

The Emperor finally intended to elevate the Yun Family.

For years, because there was a clueless mother in the family, he dared not ask for any favor in front of the Emperor.

Now the Emperor remembered on his own, it's really great.

Suddenly, Yun Chen felt full of energy again.

His whole demeanor changed as he walked.

Returning to the Yun Residence, Yun Chen was in a great mood, hurriedly calling his three sons to his side and giving them detailed instructions.

Yun Zhen, Yun Yi, and Yun Xuan all showed rare smiles, each determined to make their mark.

They aimed to rise above and not remain confined at home, worth nothing when they stepped outside.

This day was destined to be turbulent.

Mrs. Han heard the news in Qingjue Academy, her eyebrows slightly knitted, "Bai Que!"

"Madam!"

"I feel as if the wind keeps blowing even though the trees want calm, as if a storm is brewing on the horizon!"

Bai Que's eyes turned contemplative.

Mrs. Han quickly said, "Send a letter to my father immediately, asking him to send someone to Huguo Temple, and another letter to the Third Master, asking him to keep an eye on Yun Chen!"

In the Yun Family, if anyone is a hypocrite besides the three brothers Yun Zhen, it's certainly Yun Chen!

Chapter 955: Mrs. Han's Cunning

Bai Que hesitated for a moment before asking, "What about Second Master?"

Yun Qi...

Mrs. Han hesitated for a moment, "You go deliver the message first!"

"Yes!"

Bai Que firmly believed Mrs. Han had her own ways.

Without saying much, she turned to deliver the message.

Mrs. Han instructed the kitchen to prepare several dishes and had someone wait at the gate, so as soon as Yun Qi came back, he could be brought to Qingjue Academy.

Some words delivered by Bai Que would be of no use.

The sky drizzled with rain, Mrs. Han leaned against the window, just staring, eventually lost in her thoughts.

Yun Qi returned, quietly walked to Mrs. Han's side, and silently accompanied her.

After a while, Yun Qi clearly heard Mrs. Han's sobbing.

At that moment, his heart broke with shock.

Back when so many things happened, Mrs. Han never cried; even when she cried afterward, she vehemently blamed him, never this softly sobbing, as if burdened with endless grievances.

Yun Qi hesitated for a long time before reaching out to gently hold Mrs. Han's shoulder, softly calling, "Shu Niang!"

Mrs. Han only felt disgust, and gently pushed Yun Qi away.

She couldn't understand why she suddenly started crying earlier.

Yun Qi wasn't angry, calmly looking at Mrs. Han.

"I told the kitchen to prepare some dishes, let's sit!" Mrs. Han spoke calmly, had someone bring water to wash up.

Then accompanied Yun Qi in sitting.

Raised her hand to pour wine for Yun Qi, Yun Qi glanced at her, slightly pressed his lips.

Thinking back to the peaceful and beautiful times with Mrs. Han; now he had sons and daughters, missed the best opportunity, never return to the past. He just wished whatever Mrs. Han asked, he could fulfill. Holding up the wine cup, looked at Mrs. Han, "Shu Niang, I toast to you!"

"Hmm!"

Mrs. Han lifted her wine cup, took a gentle sip.

Wine entered, Mrs. Han gave a sorrowful smile, "Don't know what's happened today, feeling a bit distracted!"

"Did anything happen?" Yun Qi asked.

Mrs. Han shook her head, "Don't know, since this morning when Jinnian followed the old lady to Huguo Temple, I've been uneasy. Yun Qi, you think the old lady wouldn't harm Jinnian, right?"

Yun Qi stayed silent.

If it were about asking Xu Xinmo, he dared say no, but about Jinnian...

Why are they going to Huguo Temple for no reason?

If he said there wasn't something fishy about it, he wouldn't believe it himself!

To prevent his mother from making a huge mistake and utterly ruining the Yun Family, Yun Qi could no longer sit still.

Yun Qi suddenly put down the wine cup, "I just remembered there's something still unhandled, I'll have to go out, you rest early!"

Without waiting for Mrs. Han's response, hurriedly ran out.

Mrs. Han watched Yun Qi's hurried departure, slowly lifted her wine cup for a sip, "Come!"

"Madam!"

"Send out word, if that old hag dares cause trouble, don't let her come back!" Mrs. Han said with a voice both cold and fierce.

She had endured enough.

"Yes!"

In a rural farm on the outskirts of the Capital City, Yun Jinnian's group settled down, looking at the incessant rain, Yun Jinnian murmured softly, "It's a dark and stormy night; night rain is the time for murder. Hemei, Henuan, you must be on high alert tonight, and for those in the shadows, have them find shelter from the rain, but don't relax your vigilance!"

Since leaving the Capital City, Yun Jinnian felt an uneasy foreboding.

"Commandery Princess, rest assured, sleep peacefully tonight; us servants and Henuan will be vigilant and guard you!"

Yun Jinnian nodded slightly.

The night deepened, Yun Jinnian leaned against the bedhead, fiddling with the beads in her hand.

Hemei quickly entered the room, "Commandery Princess, cousin has arrived!"

Chapter 956: Danger Strikes

Xu Xinmo?

Why is she coming over?

"Cousin, are you awake?"

Yun Jinnian looked at Xu Xinmo, who was dressed neatly, "Not sleeping, how about you, why aren't you asleep?"

"Couldn't sleep, came to chat with cousin!"

Offering help without reason, it's either treachery or theft.

Yun Jinnian hummed and sat up, dressed, and sat with Xu Xinmo under the window.

After all, it's a farmhouse, so there aren't many rooms. The old lady took the best one, Yun Musi and Yun Mulan shared one, Yun Jinnian had one, and Xu Xinmo was supposed to stay with the old lady. But it was unclear why she came over.

"Does cousin like rain?" Xu Xinmo asked.

"No, I don't!"

Just feeling bored, didn't want to talk to Xu Xinmo.

"Since cousin doesn't like it, let's chat!"

Yun Jinnian turned and looked at Xu Xinmo, asking quietly, "What do you want to say?"

"Not much, but it seems cousin doesn't like me. Still holding a grudge from my naive days?"

"Haha!"

Yun Jinnian smiled slightly, watching the aggrieved Xu Xinmo, and countered, "What do you think?"

Do I bear a grudge?

Definitely, I hold a grudge, but to me, Xu Xinmo is like a passerby or a stranger.

Once married, we won't interact much. If Xu Xinmo dares to harm me, I'll return it tenfold.

"I, I..." Xu Xinmo didn't expect Yun Jinnian to disregard their sisterly bond and directly embarrass her. She suddenly stood up and said coldly, "If that's the case, then sleep early!"

Having said that, Xu Xinmo left in anger.

Yun Jinnian watched and laughed coldly.

Who is she pretending for?

The rain was pouring continuously; Yun Jinnian reached out to feel it, cold and chilly, suddenly remembering Chu Yu, thinking of Tianci, thinking of those close to her.

Gradually, her heart calmed down.

Yun Jinnian took a deep breath, "Hemei!"

"Commandery Princess!"

"Rest now!"

"Hmm!"

Yun Jinnian changed into snow-white underclothes, lying on the bed. The window was open, and the cool breeze came in, not feeling hot at all.

Hemei stayed by to watch over Yun Jinnian, while Henuan went out to the kitchen to let the cook prepare something for the Hidden Guard to eat.

Seeing those dozen people all soaked, Henuan whispered, "Go change your clothes!"

"It's fine!"

They were all sent by the Moon Watch Sect, highly skilled in martial arts, but too inexperienced, just secretly protecting Yun Jinnian was all, giving off a simple vibe.

"But you shouldn't catch a cold. I'll go back to serve the Commandery Princess first; eat and dry your clothes before returning, don't delay!"

"Yes!"

Although Henuan was younger, she was the Saintess's personal maid, so was particularly respected.

Henuan smiled and turned to walk outside. Just as she left the kitchen, she felt a fierce palm strike coming at her, quickly dodging, she was surrounded by four people.

Looking back at the kitchen, the dozen Hidden Guards fell to the ground one after another, even the couple trying to hold on couldn't last long.

"You all..."

Hu Nuan wasn't stupid and quickly realized.

This manor had issues, regretting having to make this trip. If she hadn't, if the kitchen made some food, the Hidden Guards wouldn't have come out to eat.

One on one, Henuan could handle, but one on four.

Soon Henuan was hit by a palm strike, her body flew out, landing heavily on the ground, spitting out a mouthful of blood, "Ugh..."

Chapter 957: Calmly Responding

Commandery Princess...

Henuan was thinking of Yun Jinnian, both anxious and worried.

One of them raised a hand to pinch Henuan's neck, slowly tightening their grip to kill her. One of them said plainly, "The master instructed to spare her life!"

After all, she was the most intimate and loyal maid by Princess Yijia's side, and had seen the master several times, there was some regard between them.

Henuan, however, let out a cold laugh, "Spare my life..."

If it were one-on-one, who among these before her could be her match?

Defeat was defeat, but the Commandery Princess...

These people were here for the Commandery Princess.

"Knock her out!"

The leading man ordered, and Henuan only felt a sharp pain in her neck, then lost consciousness.

"Henuan!"

Yun Jinnian suddenly cried out, bolting upright.

"Commandery Princess, what happened?" Hemei immediately stepped forward to ask softly.

"Where is Henuan?" Yun Jinnian asked quietly.

"Henuan went to the kitchen to arrange food for the Hidden Guards, she should be back shortly!"

Yun Jinnian slightly shook her head, "Go and check, I have a bad feeling something's happened!"

"Alright!"

Hemei responded, seeing Yun Jinnian about to get out of bed, she picked up an outer garment for Yun Jinnian to wear, then stepped out of the room.

Upon seeing several black-clad figures coming from the rain, one was carrying Henuan on their shoulder.

"Who are you people?" She shouted angrily, drawing the soft sword from her waist.

Yun Jinnian heard the commotion, walked to the doorway, and looking at the figures in black amid the rain, frowned ever so slightly.

Henuan's life or death was unknown, not a single Hidden Guard appeared.

It was clear something had gone wrong.

Yun Jinnian felt no fear, no terror.

From the moment she left the Yun Residence, she knew this moment would come. Those wretches of the Yun Family were truly ruthless and willing to pay any price.

"What do you intend to do?" Yun Jinnian asked heavily.

"We ask Princess Yijia to come with us. Otherwise, the lives of the ten or so Hidden Guards in the kitchen and those of these two maids, we can't guarantee they'll see tomorrow's sun!"

"How dare you!" Hemei shouted angrily.

Positioning herself in front of Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian remained calm, pulling Hemei behind her, she spoke indifferently, "Bring Henuan out, I'll go with you!"

"Commandery Princess!" Hemei exclaimed in surprise.

Yun Jinnian turned her head, giving Hemei a faint glance, the black-clad men tossed Henuan onto the ground.

Yun Jinnian watched, her heart aching tremendously.

She managed to find a way out for her three half-sisters, Yun Zuomo, and even more so for these two who had been with her for three years, utterly loyal, who saw her as their world—Hemei and Henuan.

"Hemei, fetch me an umbrella!"

"Commandery Princess!" Hemei cried out in alarm.

The black-clad man held out a black oil-paper umbrella, "Commandery Princess, please!"

Very respectfully indeed.

Yun Jinnian took a deep breath, "Hemei, take good care of Henuan, and those Hidden Guards in the kitchen, make sure no harm comes to them!"

Even if Hemei fought with all her might, she wasn't a match for these people, better to stay alive to find her.

"Commandery Princess!"

Hemei cried out in grief, tears streaming down her face, kneeling on the ground.

Yun Jinnian gave her just a light look, turned and headed out, at the manor entrance, several identical carriages were parked.

"Commandery Princess, please!"

Yun Jinnian hesitated for a moment, then stepped onto the carriage. As she did, the leading black-clad man unexpectedly snatched the sachet from her waist.

Yun Jinnian was taken aback for a moment.

The Moon-watching Sect had indeed produced a traitor.

Face turning cold, Yun Jinnian boarded the carriage.

Inside, a woman immediately stood up, respectfully whispering, "Servant Chong Ling greets the Commandery Princess!"

Yun Jinnian glanced at her indifferently and took a seat.

The carriage was large and very clean, and on one side were several sets of clothes.

As soon as Yun Jinnian settled in, the carriage began to speed away.

Chapter 958: Tentative Inquiry

No one knew where this carriage was heading, and Yun Jinnian didn't ask, sitting quietly and indifferently.

Whoever was behind this, it definitely wasn't those fools from the Yun Family.

They lacked the resources, the intelligence, and were unaware that the pouch contained spiritual poisonous insects. If the Chong Ling Sect couldn't find her, they would certainly find the spiritual insects.

With the spiritual insects on her, she would inevitably be tracked down.

Yun Jinnian had a bracelet from Chu Yu on her wrist, with needles as thin as cow hair inside, but she wasn't confident she could hit Chong Ling in one strike.

Even if she managed to hit Chong Ling, what about the people outside?

Several carriages heading in different directions made it like finding a needle in a haystack; she had to rescue herself.

With that in mind, Yun Jinnian lifted her foot as Chong Ling changed her shoes.

"Pour me a glass of water!"

"Yes, does the commandery princess want it hot, warm, or cold?"

"Cold, please," Yun Jinnian replied softly, her clear eyes fixed on Chong Ling.

She was quite angry and didn't want anything hot.

She was, however, quite grateful for Hemei's obedience and hoped these people would keep their word—taking her away was fine, but they shouldn't harm Hemei and the others.

Chong Ling took a kettle from the stove, poured some cold water, and handed it to Yun Jinnian.

After taking a few sips, Yun Jinnian said, "Will my maid be alright?"

"Don't worry, commandery princess. The master instructed us not to harm them. Those from the Yun Family aren't very capable, and as long as Hemei isn't foolish, she can protect them!"

Of course, if Hemei became foolish and followed, it was hard to say.

Yun Jinnian looked at Chong Ling and smiled slightly, "You actually know Hemei. Have we met before?"

Chong Ling gave a light smile, "The commandery princess need not test me, for we haven't met before. I only just learned that the one who left for the kitchen was Henuan, and the one who stayed was Hemei!"

Everything was watertight.

His mind was extraordinarily deep.

Yun Jinnian nodded, "Who is your master, and where are you taking me?"

"Once we arrive, and the commandery princess meets my master, she'll know!"

"Hmm, what you say makes a lot of sense. So does that mean I'm currently safe?"

Chong Ling smiled slightly in surprise, nodding solemnly, "We wouldn't dare to offend the commandery princess. Please eat well, drink well, and rest well. Just treat it as a journey!"

"Alright, I understand. Thank you!"

Yun Jinnian said, then casually reclined on the soft couch, "It's a bit stuffy in here, open the window for some fresh air!"

"Yes!"

Instead of opening a window, Chong Ling opened the carriage door, letting the cool breeze flow inside.

Yun Jinnian slowly closed her eyes.

Hopefully, Chu Yu would soon realize she was gone and come looking for her.

But Yun Jinnian never thought that the first to come looking for her would be Yun Qi, her father.

When Yun Qi arrived in the rain to the estate, Yun Jinnian had just been taken away moments before.

Hemei alone stood against dozens.

Her body covered in wounds.

The people who took Yun Jinnian had spared her, Henuan, and the dozen Hidden Guards but forgot that others in the Yun Family wished her dead and wanted to erase all traces.

However, they all underestimated Hemei's combat skills, her martial arts.

The arriving group thought those who took Yun Jinnian had taken care of everything, never considering there'd be a survivor like Hemei, and she was a fierce mermaid.

When Yun Qi arrived, only Hemei was fighting back, none of the Yun Family members appeared.

And seeing Yun Qi brought reinforcements, those people quickly fled.

Chapter 959: Ruthless and Emotionless (Part 3)

"Where is Jinnian?" Yun Qi asked angrily.

"Second Master!" Hemei called softly.

"Where is Jinnian?" Yun Qi asked again.

Hemei immediately cried, "The Commandery Princess was taken away by a group of people!"

Upon hearing this, Yun Qi was truly enraged. He struck out, and a wall immediately collapsed, scaring Yun Old Madam and the others inside the house into a shiver.

Especially Yun Old Madam, who panicked upon knowing Yun Qi had brought people here.

Her third son had completely abandoned her. If even her second son wouldn't care for her, was she really to depend only on her eldest son?

Yun Qi left the estate, looked at the messy carriage wheel tracks, turned back to the estate, and walked to the tightly shut courtyard door, kicking it open with one blow.

"Second Master..."

A woman exclaimed, and Yun Qi raised his hand, slashed with a sword, and directly cut the woman's throat, sending her to the afterlife.

Just then, a clap of thunder and lightning in the sky made Yun Qi appear exceptionally terrifying.

Especially as he held the sword, with blood still dripping from it, as he walked into the room.

"Ah..."

Xu Xinmo screamed, scared into a corner.

Yun Musi and Yun Mulan also hid in Mrs. He's arms, trembling in fear.

"You, you, you..." Mrs. He stammered, unable to utter a complete sentence.

She knew that Yun Jinnian had been abducted from this estate and that nothing she said would spare her from Yun Qi's wrath.

Yun Old Madam was so terrified she wet her pants.

Frightened by her own son's ruthlessness, she wet herself.

"..."

Opening his mouth to say something, Yun Qi brandished his sword in a flurry, slashing and chopping madly.

Regardless of maids, women, or servants, all perished under his sword. In this moment, he was no longer the elegant and graceful Third Place Scholar or the young and impetuous man who passionately chased after Mrs. Han in his youth.

He had become a demon, a demon from hell.

Knowing that Yun Old Madam, Mrs. He, Yun Musi, Yun Mulan, and Xu Xinmo were in the house, Yun Qi then stopped his hand, "Pack your things and come back to the Wang Residence with me, and also remember, Jinnian will be brought back home by me too. If any rumors about this spread and tarnish Jinnian's reputation, this will be your fate starting today. I will no longer have any regard for kinship, and you better remember this!"

Mrs. He, Yun Old Madam, Xu Xinmo, Yun Musi, and Yun Mulan climbed onto the carriage, crying with runny noses and tears. Yun Qi ordered people to carry Hemei, Henuan, and a dozen Hidden Guards onto the carriage as well and set the estate on fire.

He had to return to the Capital City to discuss with Mrs. Han which direction to search for Jinnian.

"Jinnian..."

Mrs. Han exclaimed, sitting up, rushing to get out of bed, and opened the window, looking at the desolate rain outside, her heart inexplicably aching intensely.

"Madam, what's the matter?" Bai Que lit the lamp and asked urgently.

"Bai Que, go and see if Second Master has returned? Then go to Niannian Garden and call Hongye, Hongxiu, and Hongdou over. I have something to instruct them!"

Even though she wasn't sure whether these three girls could be commanded, considering it's about Yun Jinnian, they ought to listen, right?

"Yes!"

Liao Residence

In the dead of night, Yun Zihan had a dream where Yun Jinnian told her to go to Prince Rui Residence to find Prince Rui.

She woke up in fright.

"What's wrong?" Liao Shijie asked with concern.

Yun Zihan sat there dazedly.

Liao Shijie reached out and embraced Yun Zihan, touching her belly, and asked tenderly, "Is the child bothering you? Or are you hungry? Shall I ask the kitchen to warm up some soup for you?"

Chapter 960: Final Ultimatum

Yun Zihan shook her head slightly, leaning into Liao Shijie's embrace, "No, I just dreamed of my fourth sister, telling me to find Prince Rui!"

"Why go to Prince Rui?"

Yun Zihan shook her head slightly, "I don't know either. Ever since I knew she was going with those people to Huguo Temple, I've been uneasy..."

Now with the curfew outside, she didn't dare let Liao Shijie take risks.

"It's inappropriate for me to rush to the Prince Rui Residence. How about this, I'll first go to the Han Family, Tianci should be home at this time!" Liao Shijie said, hurriedly getting out of bed to get dressed.

Yun Zihan watched, then burst into tears.

"Husband, it was just a dream, and yet you're acting like this, I'm uneasy!"

Liao Shijie paused in his dressing.

Seeing Yun Zihan crying, his heart ached.

He quickly held Yun Zihan in his arms, gently wiping the tears from the corners of her eyes.

"Don't cry. The fourth sister is different to us. We are together thanks to her. Over these days, although you've been overthinking, you've never dreamed of such things. Besides, I also think it's inappropriate for her to go with the Yun Family to Huguo Temple!"

When he was at home before, although his living conditions were good, he felt extremely empty inside.

After marrying Yun Zihan, she took care of everything for him properly, and now she's carrying his child, giving him a real home.

Even if it's just a dream, he's willing to take a trip.

But Yun Zihan clung to Liao Shijie's waist, "There's no hurry to go, let's send someone to inquire tomorrow first, shall we?"

"Alright!"

The couple lay in bed, unable to sleep.

Yun Zihan was worried about Yun Jinnian, while Liao Shijie was concerned for Yun Zihan, watching the night pass until dawn.

As soon as the city gates opened, Yun Qi entered the city with some people from the Yun Family, heading straight back to the Yun Residence.

The older members of the Yun Family were truly frightened, each trembling as they got off the carriage, scrambling back to the Yun family.

"Close the door, close the door!" The old matron of the Yun Family stammered.

Yun Qi ignored her and went directly to the Qingjue Academy.

"Second Master, you're back. Madam has been waiting for you all night!" Bai Que hurried up to him.

Hearing this, Yun Qi paused slightly.

He quickly entered the small hall, where Mrs. Han immediately came forward, "How is it?"

Yun Qi's eyes were bloodshot as he embraced Mrs. Han and softly said, "Shuniang, Jinnian has been taken away!"

Upon hearing this, Mrs. Han's body went limp.

"Shuniang..." Yun Qi exclaimed in shock.

Panic and fear filled Mrs. Han.

She truly regretted letting Yun Jinnian go to the Niannian Garden last year.

Despite knowing the danger, she still let Yun Jinnian go.

After a long while, Mrs. Han deeply asked, "Was it that old hag's doing?"

"It wasn't her, but she has something to do with it. Shuniang, I've come back to ask you which direction to search for Jinnian?"

We couldn't make it public.

Once it became public, Yun Jinnian's reputation would be ruined.

Though panicking internally, she forced herself to remain calm.

"Be it the old hag or Mrs. He, neither could possibly have the ability to abduct Jinnian on their own. They must have someone advising them behind the scenes to successfully carry off Jinnian!"

But who could that person be? Mrs. Han didn't know.

After a few words with Yun Qi, Mrs. Han immediately arranged for someone to go to the Prince Rui Residence.

Now she could only hope that Prince Rui would quickly send someone to search and bring Jinnian back soon.

But she couldn't just sit idly by.

"Yes, don't worry, I've already sent someone to follow them, but after the rain, some traces will be washed away..."

Mrs. Han, hearing this, didn't speak much more, only instructing Bai Que to prepare a carriage.

As she was leaving, Mrs. Han spoke lightly, "Yun Qi, once Jinnian is found and married off, let's get a divorce!"

"Alright!"

Yun Qi responded lightly.

"If we can't find Jinnian this time, Yun Qi, I won't let the Yun Family off!"

"Alright!"

Still a light response.

Mrs. Han's eyes immediately reddened, "I will have someone pack, I won't leave those cheap scoundrels anything from the Niannian Garden!"

With that, she stepped out of the Qingjue Academy.

In the small hall, Yun Qi murmured softly after a long time, "Shuniang, I'll help you!"