

Overbearing 71

Chapter 71: Liu Yuchen Who Always Hangs Around II

Feng Ruqing had gone for morning runs these few days. All the other people saw that clearly. So, it seemed that Liu Yuchen was the one who had bothered her.

“Princess.” Liu Yuchen suppressed his anger again and sneered at her. “We have just parted for a few days and now you have found yourself a new lover? Does His Majesty know about it? You have clearly brought shame to our Liu Yun Kingdom.”

Feng Ruqing smiled and said, “First, we have not parted... I was the one who has divorced you. Second, what have you got to do with my business now that we have divorced? Liu Yuchen, don’t tell me you still have feelings for me and now you want to woo me again?”

“Nonsense!” Liu Yuchen was worried that Tan Shuangshuang would misunderstand. He quickly stopped her from speaking. “I, Liu Yuchen, have never liked you, not in the past, not now, not ever.”

Liu Yuchen had never dared to speak like this to Feng Ruqing. But, now he was so angry that his eyes were filled with fury as he glared at her.

“That’s just fine.” Feng Ruqing yawned sleepily. “I’m worried that you have fallen for me and now you want to pursue me again. We can just act like strangers now that we no longer like each other. You don’t have to call after me the next time we meet again.”

Fallen for her?

Liu Yuchen scanned Feng Ruqing’s appearance and sneered at her. “Princess, you’ve thought too much. I have a perfect girl like Shuang’er beside me. Who would fall for you?”

She was so ugly and plump. How could she think that he had fallen for her?

What a joke!

Qin Chen frowned and said, “She is not as beautiful as Qingqing.”¹

This time, Feng Ruqing’s face darkened.

Was Chen’er praising her or criticizing her?

“Are you blind?” Liu Yuchen laughed at Qin Chen.

Qin Chen disregarded Feng Ruqing’s smile. He put on a poker face and said, “Qingqing is just bigger than regular people. But, she is the most beautiful girl I have ever met.”

This time, everybody on the street glance sympathetically at Qin Chen.

They sympathized with him for being blind at such a young age. How on earth was Feng Ruqing beautiful?

They were disgusted with her plump body.

Feng Ruqing's face darkened even more. But, Chen'er was her family and she did not want to embarrass him. So, she smiled slightly and said, "Chen'er, I know that I'm beautiful. You don't have to say it out loud."

Liu Yuchen stared in wonder at Feng Ruqing... Did she really think that she was beautiful? Where did her confidence come from? Was it just because she was a princess?

"Alright." Qin Chen recovered and gazed at Feng Ruqing. "You commoners will never see her beauty. It's enough that I know she's beautiful."

Feng Ruqing was left speechless.

Why did she think that Chen'er was criticizing her?

But, her words were out and she could not take them back.

"Chen'er, let's go home. We don't have to deal with these people."

"Okay."

Qin Chen was obedient to Feng Ruqing. He turned and looked at Liu Yuchen before he left.

That look frightened Liu Yuchen so much that he balled his fists tightly just to suppress his anxiety.

"Yuchen." Tan Shuangshuang tugged at Liu Yuchen's arm nervously. Her eyes were watery and she looked so timid.

Liu Yuchen composed himself and relaxed just a bit. He said gently, "Shuangshuang, you don't have to listen to his nonsense. You're the most beautiful girl in Liu Yun Kingdom. Everybody knows that. He's just blind."

Chapter 72: Liu Yuchen Who Always Hangs Around III

"Yuchen, would it be a nuisance to the chancellor's manor if His Majesty got to know about your feud with the princess?"

His Majesty was overly protective of the princess. There might be a conflict if His Majesty learned about it.

Liu Yuchen frowned and said, "I would willingly accept the punishment if His Majesty punishes me. I don't want you to be treated unfairly."

"Yuchen, you treat me so well..." Tan Shuangshuang's eyes welled up with tears and were filled with emotions. "The love you show me in this life is the best thing that could ever happen to me. But I don't want you to offend the princess and affect the chancellor's manor."

Liu Yuchen's heart softened. "Why do you always put others before yourself?"

Tan Shuangshuang smiled and lowered her eyes. "It's because you're the one I love the most in this life. Besides, the princess was only acting tough just now. She still loves you deep down in her heart. Can't you see that? I don't want... the man that I love to go and hurt other women."

"Aren't you angry at her for flogging you before?"

"I'm angry." Tan Shuangshuang smiled sadly and continued, "But, what could I do? Better let bygones be bygones. I believe that she will sincerely wish us well."

Liu Yuchen kept quiet. He looked in the direction where Feng Ruqing disappeared from his sight.

Was it his illusion? He thought that Feng Ruqing had changed. She was different now.

It seemed that she was no longer infatuated with him now.

In the cellar...

Feng Ruqing sneaked into the cellar after dismissing all the people.

She opened the wine jar slowly after picking it up. Suddenly, a pleasant smell crept into the room and made her feel very energetic.

This spirit wine was good for strengthening the body and healing illnesses. This was just the right medicine for Master Nalan.

"I'll give this spirit wine to my grandfather. Next time, I'll give one to my father too."

The Emperor had been working laboriously in the past few years. It would be beneficial for His Majesty to have either the spirit wine or Divine-Spirit Fruit.

She no longer hesitated when she thought of this. She brought the wine jar out of the cellar.

The general's manor was no longer prosperous and lively after the death of Empress Nalan. It was now serene and quiet.

It was not because the general was no longer favored by the Emperor. The general's manor was still favored by the emperor. But, they chose to not be in contact with others because they hated to do so.

Now, Feng Ruqing hugged the wine jar close to her chest and stood outside the general's manor. She took a deep breath and walked up the stairs slowly.

The imperial guards who were guarding the entrance at the general's manor saw Feng Ruqing from afar. They were soon nervous, their eyes filled with fear.

Why did this villain come again?

But, Feng Ruqing did not walk into the general's manor right away. She stood at the entrance and smiled at the two imperial guards.

"Could you go and inform my grandfather that I've come to visit him?"

The two imperial guards looked at each other blankly.

Inform?

Did they hear it wrongly?

On top of that, this villain princess was smiling at them now. Was the sun rising up from the west now?

“Alright.” One of the imperial guards composed himself and replied quickly, “Princess, please wait here for a while. I’ll go and inform the general and Master Nalan now.”

Then, he glanced at his companion next to him and turned to walk into the manor quickly.

Chapter 73: The First Visit to the Old General I

In the general’s manor.

Nalan Zhangqian was carefully reading a book in his hand in the study room. Suddenly, there was a knock at the door.

“Come in,” he frowned slightly and replied in a deep voice.

The imperial guard pushed the door open and walked inside. He was clearly anxious. He tried but failed to suppress the tremor in his voice as he said to Nalan Zhangqian, “General, the princess... she is here.”

The book in Nalan Zhangqian’s hand fell onto the table with a thud. He clenched his fists tightly and closed his eyes. He was having trouble breathing.

After a short while, he opened his eyes and he smiled sardonically.

“Why did she come again?”

He could forgive what Feng Ruqing had done to General Manor. He could even forgive how she had brought shame to Liu Yun Kingdom.

But, he could not forgive her for making him sick on the day when he was preparing to go into war. He could not even forgive her for giving up all his sister’s efforts to Noble Consort Rong.

The imperial guard looked at Nalan Zhangqian carefully. “She said... she wanted to pay a visit to the old general.”

Nalan Zhangqian scoffed and said, “Does she think that the damage she had done to my father was not enough? Does she really want to make him angry again? You go and tell Feng Ruqing that my father is not in the manor.”

His heart was gentle once. He had forgiven her for so many times that even when she had burnt down General Manor, he could still forgive her.

He pitied her for she had no mother since she was born. He wanted to give her more love and care.

But, she had hurt him so much now that his heart had hardened when it came to her. He would never forgive her.

“Yes, General.”

The imperial guard sighed. If the princess was allowed to go near the old general, she might infuriate the old general again.

The imperial guard turned to walk out of the study room and close the door behind him.

He could see Feng Ruqing who was waiting at the entrance from afar. Suddenly, a shadow appeared from the side as he was about to convey to her the general’s message. The shadow was running toward Feng Ruqing.

“Lady!”

The two imperial guards were frightened to death.

Feng Ruqing had always bullied Nalan Dai’er for the past few years. Now that Feng Ruqing had appeared in front of Nalan Dai’er, they did not know what kind of damage would be done to her again.

However, they were soon relieved when they saw a young man following closely behind Dai’er.

Feng Ruqing could not bully Dai’er now that their young master was accompanying Dai’er.

“Cousin.”

Nalan Dai’er had missed Feng Ruqing so much these past few days but Feng Ruqing had not come to visit her. Her eagerness had turned into disappointment.

Now, Dai’er could not help but rush out to meet Feng Ruqing since she was just right in front of her. Dai’er threw herself into Feng Ruqing’s arms.

Feng Ruqing’s heart softened while hugging her soft and gentle cousin. Feng Ruqing looked upon Dai’er with tender eyes.

Nalan Jing was stunned. His eyes did not leave that plump body which belonged to Feng Ruqing even for awhile. Doubt filled his eyes momentarily.

Feng Ruqing could be this gentle too.

“Cousin... You did not come to meet me.” Dai’er clearly felt sad. “Cousin, you promised.”

Feng Ruqing smiled and stroked Dai’er’s head. “I promised that I’ll come and visit you. I certainly will fulfill that promise. I was just too busy these past few days. Now, I’ve come. Haven’t I?”

“Yes.” Dai’er seemed so obedient and her smile was so sweet. “Dai’er likes Cousin now.”

Chapter 74: The First Visit to the Old General II

The cousin no longer bullied her. It was a pleasant feeling.

“Dai’er, where’s your grandpa?” Feng Ruqing straightened her body, smiled and asked.

That imperial guard was almost frightened to death at that moment. He wanted to stop Nalan Dai'er from speaking. But, Dai'er was fast even though she had a mental disability. She replied swiftly, "Grandpa's tending to the grass in the backyard."

The imperial guard soon paled at this. He remembered what the general had said and his legs shook in fear.

"Young Master..." The imperial guard looked at Nalan Jing anxiously.

Nalan Jing kept quiet for a moment before he replied, "It's alright. I'll guard her behavior. I'll dismiss her from General Manor regardless of her status if she bullies Dai'er again."

It might be because of how she had argued with Feng Rushuang at the beast court. Or... it might be because of the tenderness he saw in Feng Ruqing's eyes that made him want to trust her again.

Nalan Jing laughed at himself when he thought of this.

'How much damage would you allow her to do to you before you hate her for the rest of your life?'

Nalan Dai'er grabbed onto Feng Ruqing's hand and walked toward the backyard. The imperial guard did not hesitate to rush to the study room when he saw what happened.

He had to inform the general before Feng Ruqing made any fuss in the general's manor.

In the backyard.

There was an old man whose hair was white. He was bent forward and was taking extra care of the herbs in the backyard.

He was not as strong as he was before. He had aged faster than the others.

Feng Ruqing felt a tinge of sadness when she saw his white hair from afar.

The old general was still strong and tough a few years back in her past memory. Now, his back was hunched and his hair had turned white. He could only tend to the herbs at home and could no longer serve Liu Yun Kingdom.

For a person like him who had sacrificed his whole life for Liu Yun Kingdom, this kind of life seemed pathetic.

"Jing'er, you're here." Master Nalan smiled and looked up.

Suddenly, a familiar figure appeared in front of him.

Master Nalan's hands shook as the watering can he was holding fell to the ground. The dirt splashed onto his body but he did not seem to care. He still looked at Feng Ruqing in shock.

Master Nalan's frightened eyes made Feng Ruqing feel worse than ever.

No grandfather in this world would be angry at his grandchildren for real.

He was just sad. He was sad that his children did not listen to him when they grew up. He wanted his children to stay by him but he was worried that... she would break his heart again.

“Qing’er, you’re here too?” Master Nalan composed himself, smiled and said, “This place is so messy. Why don’t we go somewhere else?”

He looked worriedly at the herbs in the backyard. Then, he sighed.

These herbs were his efforts. He had used a few months to gather them from all around the country. He did not want them to be destroyed.

In fact, everybody was aware of how Feng Ruqing was before.

Feng Ruqing did not say anything in return. She casually put the wine jar in Nalan Jing’s hands.

Nalan Jing was stunned but he took the wine jar anyway.

By the time he had recovered from his stupor, Feng Ruqing had walked toward Master Nalan. She then picked up the watering can.

Everybody was nervous when they saw Feng Ruqing going near the herbs. Nalan Jing was on the verge of stopping her when Feng Ruqing started casually watering the herbs.

Chapter 75: The First Visit to the Old General III

“Grandpa, there are two types of spirit herbs here among your herbs. There’s a Grade-2 spirit herb, Seven Star Grass, and a Grade-3 spirit herb, Peacebloom.”

Feng Ruqing strongly felt a tension in the atmosphere when she mentioned the Grade-3 spirit herbs. It was clear that a hungry beast had its eyes on the Grade-3 spirit herbs.

Feng Ruqing’s face darkened. These spirit herbs belonged to her grandfather. Her grandfather had clearly put a lot of effort into obtaining the spirit herbs. She would never let that hungry beast get hold of the spirit herbs.

Master Nalan looked at Feng Ruqing in surprise. “You... can recognize spirit herbs?”

“Grandpa, can you tell me how did you obtain these spirit herbs?” Feng Ruqing smiled and asked.

Grade-3 spirit herbs were very special. One would need to put in a lot of effort to obtain them in the first place, even if one had a lot of money.

Master Nalan sighed and replied, “These two spirit herbs had gone bad so I got them at a low price. I just wanted to try and see if I could make them live.”

Spirit herbs were different from normal herbs. The normal herbs could be stored as dried medicine but spirit herbs were only effective when they were fresh. However, some spirit herbs were not available in all seasons and therefore storing them was a difficult task.

These two spirit herbs were clearly rotting and they were no longer fresh. But, they would soon die if her grandfather continued using the traditional way to water them.

Feng Ruqing lowered her eyes and asked Fu Chen through telepathy, "Fu Chen, do you have any way to save these two spirit herbs?"

Soon, Fu Chen's voice replied, "You can plant spirit herbs. So, for sure you can save them. Do you still need to ask me such a simple question?"

Feng Ruqing's face darkened a little more. "Although they're my family, I still cannot let them know about my ability to plant spirit herbs before I'm mature enough in doing so. Do you have any other ways?"

Fu Chen kept quiet for a while before saying, "There's no other way. Why don't you steal these two spirit herbs back for Qing Han and I to eat rather than leaving them here to go to waste?"

He was hungry for so long that he could not wait to eat those spirit herbs.

"You cannot have these spirit herbs." Feng Ruqing's eyes narrowed. "I'll tell you what. If you don't tell me the way, I'll disown you."

"..."

Fu Chen was shocked. He kept quiet for a long time before he reluctantly told her of the way. "You can soak a 100-year-old ginseng in water. Then, you can use it to water the spirit herbs. These are spirit herbs and they cannot be saved with normal medicine. At least you can try with the 100-year ginseng."

"A 100-year-old ginseng is expensive but it is not a spirit herb. My grandpa will surely be able to obtain it with his influence and power." Feng Ruqing now could smile with satisfaction.

Then, Fu Chen's voice was heard again in a careful whisper. "You won't disown me anymore now that I've told you the way, right?"

Where else could Fu Chen find another guardian to tend to his life if he lost her?

Unfortunately, Fu Chen had intended to lie to get the Peacebloom but now all efforts had gone to waste.

"You will always be my good son if you listen to me obediently."

This son came naturally without any effort. He was gullible and innocent. She would be insane if she were to disown him.

Feng Ruqing smiled and looked at her grandfather. "Grandpa, I have heard of a way before. If you soak a 100-year-old ginseng in the water, you can use it to water the spirit herbs. Then, the spirit herbs could live with the spirit from the 100-year-old ginseng."

Master Nalan was stunned. He kept quiet.

Feng Ruqing continuously persuaded them. "The spirit herbs are almost dead. You could try and see if this method could save them."

Chapter 76: The Astonishing Effect of Spirit Wine I

Master Nalan was silent.

In fact, the spirit herbs would die if he did not do anything to save it.

“We have a 100-year-old ginseng in the Nalan family. Jing’er, do what Qing’er has said.”

Nalan Jing slightly nodded and looked at Feng Ruqing in confusion. He returned her wine jar and turned around to walk toward the storeroom.

Nalan Zhangqian rushed home at lightning speed. His forehead was covered in sweat and his complexion was pale.

He could see an old and a young person standing in front of Feng Ruqing. His facial expression shifted, his eyes were filled with anxiety.

But, who knew...

Nalan Dai’er was not as afraid of Feng Ruqing as she was before. Her small body leaned toward Feng Ruqing and her face glowed with an innocent smile.

Even Master Nalan was calm and at peace. He was not furious.

Even so, Nalan Zhangqian did not lower his guard with Feng Ruqing. He took big strides toward Feng Ruqing, stopped in front of her, greeted her, and kneeled on one knee.

“Your Highness.”

Feng Ruqing was shocked. She quickly helped Nalan Zhangqian up. She smiled and said, “Uncle, you don’t have to be like this. We are a family. You don’t have to greet me by kneeling.”

She could accept all the respect given by the other people but not the ones given by the elders in her family.

Nalan Zhangqian stood up but his handsome face was still solemn. “Princess, my father is not feeling well today. He cannot receive any guests. Please leave and I will bring my father to visit you at the princess’s manor when I am free in the future.”

“Zhangqian!” Master Nalan frowned at that. His face sunk. “Qing’er seldom comes to our manor. As her uncle, you not only did not order tea for her, now you want to dismiss her.”

Nalan Zhangqian was shocked. He did not think that his father would be partial toward Feng Ruqing. He suppressed his emotion and replied, “Dad, have you forgotten how she had provoked you and bullied Dai’er? I’m just worried about you.”

Master Nalan smiled and said, “But, she’s still Yan’er’s daughter.”

She was Yan’er’s daughter no matter what. How could he be so strict toward her?

If Feng Ruqing came and irritated him again this time, he would have made her leave without being asked by Nalan Zhangqian.

But, Feng Ruqing did not provoke him and she even treated Dai'er gently. He still could not be cruel toward her.

"I don't want Cousin to leave." Nalan Dai'er pulled at Feng Ruqing's sleeve tightly, bit her lip, and looked at Nalan Zhangqian.

Nalan Zhangqian was astonished.

What had happened? Dai'er was so afraid of Feng Ruqing before and Master Nalan had sworn to never meet Feng Ruqing again.

But, why did they not want Feng Ruqing to leave now?

"Dai'er!" Nalan Zhangqian was nervous now. These people were quick to forgive and forget. Now that Feng Ruqing had treated them in a slightly better way, they had soon forgotten how nastily she had treated them before.

He had also given her many opportunities before but she had never changed.

"Dai'er likes Cousin." Nalan Dai'er grabbed at her tightly as if she was afraid that Nalan Zhangqian would make her leave.

Her cousin seldom came to meet her. She did not want her to leave now that she had come.

Nalan Zhangqian was extremely nervous now. He wanted to say something but stopped short when he saw Nalan Jing walking in slowly with a teapot in his hands.

Chapter 77: The Astonishing Effect of Spirit Wine II

"My son is good. He knows that I'm angry now and he brings me a cup of tea."

Nalan Zhangqian was indeed angry and he needed a cup of tea.

Nalan Jing was quick to hide the teapot behind his back when he realized that Nalan Zhangqian was extending his arm to take the tea. He frowned and asked his father, "Dad, what are you doing?"

Nalan Zhangqian froze and looked at his son. His extended arm stopped midair. He did not know whether to remain like that or to pull his arm back. He felt awkward.

Nalan Zhangqian cleared his throat before he replied, "Jing'er, your grandfather can only take tribute tea. But, there is no more tribute tea in our manor. He couldn't care less about this kind of tea. Just give me that to me."

This kid embarrassed him in front of everyone. Jing'er surely knew that his grandfather took only tribute tea. For whom was the tea for if it was not for him? Was it for Feng Ruqing or Dai'er?

Nalan Jing looked at his father warily. "This is not tea."

"Not tea? Then what is this?" Nalan Zhangqian was stunned. What could a teapot hold besides tea?

“100-year-old ginseng water.”

100-year-old ginseng water?

100-year-old ginseng water!

Nalan Zhangqian’s face darkened. He fixed his eyes on the teapot in Nalan Jing’s hand.

At that very moment, the atmosphere in the backyard was so quiet.

Everyone could hear Nalan Zhangqian’s heavy breathing.

“Is it the 100-year-old ginseng which I have obtained by relentlessly deceiving the second prince of Ye Luo Kingdom?”

A 100-year-old ginseng was a very rare and special medicine in this country where spirit herbs were rare.

Although a 100-year-old ginseng was a regular herb and would never be a spirit herb, it was not easy for the ginseng to grow either since it would take a hundred years.

Nalan Jing nodded and replied, “Yes. It is that ginseng you talked about.”

Wham!

Nalan Zhangqian was outrageous as he grabbed Nalan Jing’s collar and punched him hard.

Feng Ruqing was stunned. She was still hesitating on whether to save or let him be.

A walking stick was seen hitting Nalan Zhangqian hard on his head when Feng Ruqing was still trying to work out a solution.

Nalan Zhangqian’s fist stopped midair. Nalan Jing took a step back to avoid Nalan Zhangqian’s punch.

“Nalan Zhangqian, I will disown you as my son if you dare to lay a finger on Nalan Jing today.”

The anger in Master’s Nalan voice made Nalan Zhangqian freeze there and then. Nalan Zhangqian stroked the back of his head and turned to plead with Master Nalan with his teary eyes. “This son of mine took my ginseng and soaked it in water. Am I not right to punish him for wasting that precious ginseng?”

Master Nalan was furious now. He retorted, “It’s my idea. It has nothing to do with Jing’er.”

Nalan Zhangqian did not dare to say anything anymore.

Nalan Zhangqian missed the time when Old Master Nalan was still around. Old Master Nalan would always defend Nalan Zhangqian whenever Master Nalan wanted to hit him.

“This...” Feng Ruqing stepped forward weakly. “Uncle, don’t be angry with Jing’er. It was I who asked him to do so.”

Although it was Feng Ruqing who told Master Nalan about the method in the first place just to help Master Nalan, Feng Ruqing did not want Nalan Jing to endure all the accusations. If not, she would feel guilty.

“Princess!” Nalan Zhangqian was shocked and furious. He gritted his teeth. “What have I done wrong to deserve this? Why do you always have to hurt me?”

He just knew. Nothing good ever came out of Feng Ruqing’s appearance in the general’s manor.

Chapter 78: The Astonishing Effect of Spirit Wine III

Why did Jing’er and Master Nalan trust her so much? They were ready to give the 100-year-old ginseng up now?

He had put in a few days and nights to deceive the second prince of Ye Luo Kingdom to gain the ginseng. Now, they wanted to give it up?

“Jing’er, you don’t have to bother about your father. Just go on and use that water to water the spirit herbs.” Master Nalan gave a signal to Jing’er.

Nalan Zhangqian’s eyes nearly popped out from their sockets. They had given up his ginseng... just to water the spirit herbs?

Although the dying herbs were spirit herbs, he knew that human force could not recover spirit herbs. It was like a waste.

Master Nalan was always so full of wisdom. Why was he so silly now? Nalan Zhangqian’s ginseng had gone to waste now.

“Alright.”

Nalan Jing listened to Master Nalan’s order obediently by disregarding Nalan Zhangqian’s sad eyes. Jing’er walked toward the spirit herbs slowly and poured the ginseng water onto the spirit herbs.

Ginseng water was good and easily absorbable. It was soon absorbed by the spirit herbs.

There was a wilting petal on the Peacebloom. But, the petal rose slowly when the ginseng water was poured onto it.

Nalan Zhangqian rubbed at his eyes in disbelief.

In fact, the Peacebloom which was on the verge of death was soon coming back to life again.

This opportunity at recovering was not high but it was clearly a good step.

“This... this...” Nalan Zhangqian pointed at the Peacebloom, unable to utter the words.

Master Nalan was all excited. His hand stroked the Peacebloom gently and his heart fluttered.

It lived. It really lived!

“Grandpa, just keep on watering the Peacebloom with the remaining ginseng water every day from now on until the Peacebloom is fully recovered.” Feng Ruqing sighed in relief.

In fact, she doubted the effectiveness of the method given by Fu Chen before. Her uncle would surely kill her if it failed.

Thankfully it worked!

“All is right.” There was a long-lost smile on Master’s Nalan face. Master Nalan looked at Nalan Zhangqian triumphantly. “Kid, now you see that? A 100-year-old ginseng has saved a Grade-3 spirit herb. You still think that the ginseng was wasted?”

Nalan Zhangqian quickly shook his head and said, “No, it’s not a waste. This is indeed a big gain. You are so wise.”

“Do you still want to hit Jing’er?”

“No, I’ll not hit him again.”

“How about Qing’er?” Master Nalan asked with a snort.

Nalan Zhangqian’s lips twisted into a scowl. Who knew Feng Ruqing was really helping General Manor? He was wronged by Feng Ruqing so much before that he could not find himself believing in her again.

“Princess.” He kept quiet for a while then turned to Feng Ruqing.

Feng Ruqing was not angry. She smiled and said, “Uncle, I told you just now. You don’t have to treat me differently. You can call me Qing’er like my grandpa.”

Qing’er?

Nalan Zhangqian laughed bitterly. How long had he not used this endearment? He was scolded for so long a few years back when he accidentally called Feng Ruqing that. If he was the general, he might be punished by his niece at that time.

How could he be so daring as to do that again?

“Uncle, I was insensible before. I met my mother when I fainted not long ago. She taught me a lot of things. I’ve come today just to apologize.” Feng Ruqing handed Master Nalan the wine jar in her hands. “Grandpa, this is a gift for you. I hope you’ll accept it.”

Chapter 79: The Astonishing Effect of Spirit Wine IV

Nalan Zhangqian spoke before Master Nalan could. “My dad was not feeling well and he has quit drinking for a few days now.”

Drinking would still harm one’s body. They prohibited Master Nalan from drinking for the sake of his health.

“Zhangqian.” Master Nalan looked at Nalan Zhangqian in annoyance. “Qing’er rarely gives me things. I can just accept it. You just don’t want me to feel better, don’t you?”

Nalan Zhangqian stopped short. “Dad, I did not mean that. I was just...”

“Then just shut up!”

Master Nalan was quite happy after realizing the change in Feng Ruqing. He did not care it was real or fake. He was contented as long as Feng Ruqing did not infuriate him.

Moreover, it was the first time Feng Ruqing gave him a present.

Feng Ruqing ignored Nalan Zhangqian and handed the wine jar to Master Nalan.

Master Nalan laughed out loud. He opened the wine jar. "Jing'er, go and take my wine glass, I want to take a sip of the wine that Qing'er has brought me."

The fragrance of the wafted out of the wine jar when Master Nalan opened it. He was stunned as his eyes were momentarily filled with doubt.

"This wine..."

Why was the smell of the wine so pleasant? Moreover, he could feel spiritual qi in the wine.

"Qing'er, where did you get this wine?" Master Nalan was serious as he looked up at Feng Ruqing.

"A few days ago, I bought it for you from a street vendor by the roadside when I went for my morning run. I just thought that his wine smelled so good. Why? What's wrong with the wine?"

Her eyes were so innocent that she seemed to not know the problem with the wine.

Master Nalan took a deep breath and seemed serious then. "This wine... is brewed from spirit herbs."

Nalan Zhangqian was shocked as his face turned pale after hearing that. He could smell the special fragrance of the wine at first but the wine was too strong that it covered the presence of the spiritual qi. He could now feel the existence of spiritual qi in the wine after hearing what Master Nalan had said.

A wine brewed from spirit herbs. What a waste!

"Vendor. Vendor again!" Nalan Zhangqian was clearly annoyed. "Why can't I meet this kind of street vendor?"

No one doubted Feng Ruqing. They knew exactly who she was. She would never be able to brew wine. Nalan Zhangqian believed so after what happened to Dai'er.

"What about the vendor?" Master Nalan looked at Nalan Zhangqian suspiciously.

Nalan Zhangqian was more annoyed than ever. "Dad, do you still remember the Divine-Spirit Fruit I gave you a few days ago? Dai'er bought it at a trading store. What do you think about this vendor? The vendor sold Divine-Spirit Fruits like they are regular fruits and now the vendor sells spirit wine like they are regular wine."

But why... why couldn't he meet this street vendor?

Nalan Dai'er blinked and moved closer to Feng Ruqing.

She did not understand. Why was her father and Master Nalan so shocked? Her father even ordered people to go and search for the hawker store. But, all these... were given to her by Feng Ruqing as snacks.

“Qing’er, did you really buy this wine from a street vendor?” Master Nalan looked at Feng Ruqing and asked her seriously.

Feng Ruqing nodded calmly. “Yes, I bought it for you.”

“Do you know the significance of this wine?” Master Nalan took a deep breath and said, “The value of this wine is more than Grade-3 spirit herbs.”

It was still considered spirit wine even if low-grade spirit herbs were used in brewing the jar of wine. How powerful was it to brew spirit wine from spirit herbs? It was indeed more valuable than Grade-3 spirit herbs.

Chapter 80: She Just Could Not be Left Alone I

“Really?”

Feng Ruqing was shocked—her expression went blank. It was as if she just got to know the value of the spirit wine.

“Qing’er, just take the spirit wine back.” Master Nalan intended to give the wine jar to Feng Ruqing. Master Nalan forced a smile and said, “This present is too precious. I cannot take it. You just bring it back to His Majesty.”

Master Nalan could not take the present by disregarding his conscience. He would have gladly accepted it if it was regular wine but now that he knew of Feng Ruqing’s ignorance of its value, he just could not make himself to accept it.

Feng Ruqing looked at the spirit wine but she did not take it from Master Nalan.

“Grandpa, you can just accept this present as it is really a present I bought for you. His Majesty taught me a few days ago that I owe the General Manor a lot. His Majesty would have chosen to give you the spirit wine too if he were to know about this incident.”

Feng Tianyu was loyal to Empress Nalan. He loved Empress Nalan as well as her family. So, the Nalan family always received special treatment because of Empress Nalan.

Feng Tianyu would not have accepted the spirit wine if he knew of this incident.

Master Nalan deserved the spirit wine.

Master Nalan was stunned. His eyes showed a mixture of emotions. “Qing’er, you’ve finally grown up. Good. That’s really good.”

He had waited for this day for so long.

Tears lingered in Master Nalan’s eyes. He discreetly wiped them off. His hand that was holding the wine jar trembled just a tiny bit.

“Dad! Dad! Be careful! Don’t tremble!”

Suddenly, a strict voice came from the side during this warm and touching moment.

Nalan Zhangqian looked at Master Nalan's shaky hands anxiously. He quickly put his hands underneath the wine jar. He was afraid that Master Nalan would break the wine jar.

That was a very precious jar of spirit wine. He would be anguished if it was broken.

Master Nalan's face froze at that remark. This son had really ruined the touching moment. He was so angry that he nearly threw the wine jar at him.

But, Master Nalan changed his mind after some consideration. He was unwilling to give up the spirit wine. He sneered and said, "It's not for you even if I didn't break it."

Nalan Zhangqian laughed out loud. "Dad, you're unwell. You can't be drinking too much wine. It's also too much wine for you to finish it by yourself. I can enjoy it with you."

"Not quite," Master Nalan said sarcastically. "This is not regular wine but spirit wine. This wine can only strengthen my body and heal my illnesses. It'll not harm me. Stop daydreaming here."

Nalan Zhangqian's facial expression changed. Master Nalan was really stingy. How could he take the whole jar of spirit wine without sharing it with him?

"Jing'er." Master Nalan ignored Nalan Zhangqian's sadness that showed on his face. He turned and looked at Jing'er, smiled, and said, "You don't have to bother about your dad. Just come and enjoy the wine with me. By the way, don't tell the old people about this. If not, I won't have enough wine to drink."

Nalan Zhangqian's face darkened. Master Nalan would not share it with Nalan Zhangqian but now Nalan Jing could share it with him?

Why was Master Nalan being so unfair now?

"Grandpa, it is getting late now. I need to return to the princess's manor. I'll come and visit you again in a few days. Is that alright?" Feng Ruqing looked at the sky and thought that she should be heading back.

Master Nalan was stunned. "Qing'er, aren't you staying for dinner?"

Feng Ruqing smiled and said, "No, it's alright. I'm quite busy these few days so I won't be staying for dinner. I'll come next time. Is that okay?"