

## All Hail 601

### Chapter 601: Imperial Family

In his dream, he held Yu Youyao's hand and she bumped into his arms. Under the dim light, her lips were aromatic and tugged at his heartstrings.

His breathing was strong, and his heart was beating like a drum. He subconsciously lowered his head and pressed the tip of his nose against hers.

This time, he did not pull away.

He was originally aggressive, but when his lips were about to fall, she became careful. She was young and inexperienced, infatuated but gentle. Yu Youyao's eyes were red and moist. She was like an apricot, delicate and innocent, but as gentle as water.

For the first time in his life, Zhou Linghuai had the urge to bully her.

He bullied her until she cried.

Zhou Linghuai suddenly woke up.

Late at night, there was only a small lamp left in the room. It was covered by a lamp shade, making it even darker and hazy.

His hair was drenched in sweat, and his turbid panting was mixed with his messy breathing. It was especially clear in the dark room, and there was an indescribable numbness in his tailbone.

It seemed unbearable but pleasurable.

Zhou Linghuai finally understood why when he was young, he only felt satisfied when he hugged the petite girl. When he grew up, he would instead be unable to satisfy his "desires." Desire arose from temptation!

Desire breeds desire.

Yu Youyao made him aroused.

After panting for a long time, Zhou Linghuai straightened up and sat on the edge of the bed. He picked up the teapot on the small table at the head of the bed, raised it and poured the tea into his mouth.

His Adam's apple rose and fell, and tea slid down his throat.

After drinking most of the pot of tea, Zhou Linghuai felt the heat in his body slowly calm down.

Chang An, who was on duty outside, heard the commotion and called out, "Young Master?"

Zhou Linghuai frowned and glanced at his white pants. His voice was hoarse. "Bring in a basin of water and change the blanket."

After a dreamless night, when Yu Youyao woke up, the room was still a little dark. On the ebony round table, the patterned zither box was bright and glossy.

Perhaps it was because her cousin treated her too well, but she couldn't help but feel a little pampered.

A hazy voice in her heart kept bewitching her—

You call him Cousin every day. Do you really treat him as your cousin?

He's not your cousin at all!

His name was Yin Huaixi, and he was the heir of the King Li of Zhou. He was also the King of the North, Yin Huaixi, Yue Fei.

He had only used Zhou Linghuai's identity to live in the Yu Residence.

He's not related to you.

There was only friendship.

Yu Youyao suddenly did not want to call him Cousin anymore. But if she did not call him Cousin, what should she call him?

Yin Huaixi?

King Yue Fei?

Brother Yin?

Just like that, Brother Jing Zhi was blurted out. She was hazy and happy.

Yu Youyao suddenly felt a little dispirited. She did not even have an appetite for breakfast. She only ate a small bowl of Rogue rice porridge and asked the servants to leave.

It was unknown if it was because the weather was so hot that it was suffocating, but Yu Youyao was frustrated. She leaned lazily against the recliner in the corridor and flipped through her books.

The corridor was built beside the Parasol Tree. It was covered by thick shade and was comfortable.

At this moment, Nanny Xu brought over a stack of gift lists and books. "Young Miss received a lot of birthday gifts yesterday. I've already ordered someone to tidy up the books."

Yu Youyao took a look and held her forehead. "I have a headache."

Every year, on her birthday, just the gift list sent by the Xie family had to be sorted out into a thick book. The other gifts added up to a blur.

Seeing that she was listless, Nanny Xu smiled and asked, "What's wrong? You've received so many gifts. Aren't you happy?"

Yu Youyao liked to receive gifts, regardless of what they were. As long as she received them, she was very happy. If the gift happened to suit her taste, she would be even happier.

After her birthday, she could even open gifts for most of the day without finding it annoying.

Yu Youyao sighed. "Nanny, why do you think people have to grow up?"

After growing up, there were more rules and regulations regarding her body, and she had more scruples. She couldn't do as she pleased.

She did not like this.

Nanny Xu took a closer look at Yu Youyao. There was a green sparrow crown on her delicate eyebrows. Her dark gray eyebrows swept across indifferently, as if they were enveloped in a layer of smoke and fog, adding a hint of worry. The delicate and beautiful little girl seemed to have grown up overnight.

She had something on her mind and felt troubled.

Nanny Xu sighed with emotion. "Only when one grows up can they do what they want and choose the path they want to take. Although there are many restrictions on your body, there are also many choices." Yu Youyao frowned, although she was not wrong.

But those choices were not what she wanted.

What she wanted was too unorthodox for most women.

Nanny Xu said earnestly, "As the daughter of an official, it's true that there are many things that you don't have a choice in. However, in fact, most people in the world don't have a choice. The commoners work hard for money, rice, oil, and salt. Businessmen pursue wealth and glory. Even if you were born in an aristocratic family, you have to work hard to bring glory to their ancestors. In life, you have to work hard to fight for whatever you want."

Yu Youyao's eyes darkened. She would fight for whatever she wanted.

The fraud case implicated some more people. The Imperial Court ordered to reward those innocent students who had been implicated and died tragically in prison.

No one discussed this matter anymore.

Instead, they talked about how two months later, the Imperial Court reopened its examinations.

Song Mingzhao's name was also repeatedly mentioned. Everyone was guessing if the talented heir of the Song family could still amaze the world after experiencing a prison sentence.

The capital returned to its usual prosperity and liveliness. There was an endless stream of invitations to banquets.

Very few people cared. It was already the end of April, and it wasn't raining. It was inevitable that the rice production would decrease.

Many farms stopped their losses in time and planted drought-resistant crops. However, if it did not rain in the future, drought-resistant crops would also be reduced.

The price of food had already increased to 120 copper coins a litre.

More and more people were begging along the streets.

In the market, there were many children being sold as slaves.

In the City God Temple in the suburbs, there were beggars who died of illness, starved to death, or were beaten to death for snatching food every day.

In the mass grave, there were more and more corpses.

The Yu Residence had also received many invitations. However, Old Madam Yu of the first branch was a widow, and Eldest Madam Yang had been sick for three years. The invitations were rejected when they could.

However, one of the invitations was more special.

It was from the Duke Rong's Residence.

There were many idle imperial clans in the Great Zhou Dynasty. There were only a few direct descendants of the great ancestor who were conferred the title of king. The rest had to be demoted and displaced. After a few generations of emperors, many imperial clans had fallen.

Some of them had been conferred nobility, while others had not even been conferred nobility. Most of them relied on their ancestral businesses to survive.

Those who did not have any ancestral businesses could still rely on the intertwined connections of the imperial family to do as they pleased and bully the commoners. Many people died.

Therefore, the reputation of the imperial family was not good..

Chapter 602: Wisdom

A scholarly family like the Yu Residence, which relied on hard work to achieve the status of an official, and the Zhenguo Marquis Residence, which relied on military contributions to earn the status of a lord, looked down on the imperial family.

It was a different story for the imperial family that gained power.

In the past, the Duke Rong's Residence had been the imperial family that had seized the title.

When the current emperor ascended the throne, he had the intention to pardon some relatives who had committed minor crimes, so there was the matter of Duke Rong ordering the reinstatement of his title.

In the early years, Old Madam Yu had some dealings with the Duke Rong's Residence.

Later on, when Old Madam Yu lived as a widow, she no longer went out much, and her relationship with the Duke Rong's Residence completely faded.

This time, even Old Madam Yu was surprised that the Duke Rong's Residence had sent a flower festival invitation to the Yu Residence.

However, although she was surprised, she still had to give them face.

Old Madam Yu frowned. "I heard that the case of cheating in the examination was handed over to Duke Rong for review."

Madam Yao nodded. "It was Third Prince's suggestion. He said that this case involves Ning Yuanbo, who is a distant relative. This case shouldn't be handed over to an external minister to be tried. It should be handled by the imperial family."

The imperial family was in a mess. Most of them were playboys who ate, drank, whored, and gambled. There were not many people who could be relied on. Duke Rong was the most trusted person by the emperor.

If the imperial family wanted to protect their noble title and enjoy wealth, they had to take sides in advance.

Only with these contributions could they recover their ancestral virtue and enjoy all the glory.

When Old Madam Yu thought about this, she recalled that the Third Prince had entered the rice shop under Yao Yao's name earlier. Her eyelids twitched violently, and she had a bad feeling.

As expected, Ning Yuanbo's case involved a conflict for the position of heir. Yu Youyao said, "Due to King Li of Zhou's case, in the past two years, the emperor has indeed been interested in appointing titles to disciples of the imperial family. This year, during the autumn spring hunt, many disciples of the imperial family received praise from the emperor. They were even rewarded if they were good at riding and archery."

In the case of King Li of Zhou, Yin Huaixi had appeared out of nowhere, and the emperor had also taken the Yin family's bloodline seriously.

These words seemed to be without rhyme or reason, but Old Madam Yu and Madam Yao both understood. The imperial family already had an influence in the competition for the position of heir. No matter what, they shouldn't treat this flower festival as a simple flower festival.

Old Madam Yu shook her head. "I haven't been out for many years. It's time for me to exercise."

Madam Yao calmed down. "In the past two years, the capital hasn't been peaceful either. Every time I go out and walk around, I'm worried that I'll make a mistake and cause trouble. This time, as soon as I received the invitation from the imperial family, I couldn't do anything. Fortunately, I have you at home, Matriarch. Otherwise, I really wouldn't know what to do."

Old Madam Yu sighed slightly. "Don't be too nervous. The old princess consort is a straightforward person and has accumulated a lot of good reputation in the capital. Otherwise, do you think that there are thousands of idle imperial clans in the capital? Why would such a great thing like title renewal reach the Duke Rong's Residence before it reached anyone else's family?"

The reason why Duke Rong's Residence could be reinstated was because of the old princess consort.

Madam Yao nodded. "I often hear that the old princess consort is a straightforward person." At this point, she glanced at Yu Youyao and changed the topic. "At the mention of the old princess consort of the Duke Rong's

Residence, I remember that our Yao Yao still has some affinity with her..."

There were only three days left until the Flower Festival. Duke Rong's Residence had already prepared for it, but when it actually happened, they were still a little flustered.

After breakfast, the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence arranged for the servants to explain everything.

By the time she was done, it was already noon.

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence had her hair combed into a high bun, and her hair was combed over her scalp. After being busy for most of the day, she also felt her scalp tighten. As soon as she returned to the house, she asked Nanny Wan, who was beside her, to help remove her jewelry.

"Where's Brother Zhang?" The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence Prefecture relaxed. She remembered that she hadn't seen her son all morning.

Nanny Wan said, "He said that he had an appointment with the Third Prince and left early in the morning."

When the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence heard this, she frowned.

"Two days ago, the royal Prince sent a memorial to the Imperial Court to be conferred the title of heir. Now is the critical moment. How many times have I told him to stay in the residence obediently for the time being? When the imperial edict from the Imperial Court is issued and his status as heir is officially confirmed, the family will be stable."

Nanny Wan comforted her, "It's not easy to reject Third Prince's invitation."

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence sighed slightly. "The memorial to confer the title of heir has been submitted to the Imperial Court two years ago. It's just that the imperial decree has not been issued for a long time. The royal prince and I are both worried that this title will end on us."

Nanny Wan hurriedly said, "Princess Consort, don't worry too much. This time, with Consort Xu's help, Eldest Young Master's request for the title of heir will definitely be appropriate."

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence shook her head. "How can it be as easy as you say? Imperial Consort Xu didn't help for nothing. If I'm not careful, I won't be able to hit the fox and I'll even get into trouble. If it weren't for Brother Zhang, I wouldn't be willing to get involved in this mess."

Nanny Wan understood when she heard this. "Are you worried about the Yu Residence?"

At the mention of this, the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence's expression darkened. "I don't want to do such a wicked thing, but the Old

Consort has taken a fancy to Eldest Miss Yu. She's just waiting for the Flower Festival to invite her into the residence to take a look."

Nanny Wan lowered her head, not daring to speak.

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence sighed softly. "In the past two years, I've also seen Eldest Miss Yu a few times. After all, she's someone who has received the Empress Dowager's praise. Her upbringing is indeed extraordinary. Old Madam Yu has been a widow for many years and has always been famous in the capital. Eldest Miss Yu has a good reputation and keeps a low profile. She's not like Lu Mingyao from Ning Yuanbo's family, who shows off just because she's talented."

Nanny Wan thought to herself, "Other than being a golden phoenix, who else in the capital doesn't like Eldest Miss Yu?"

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence continued, "The old Princess Consort and Yu Youyao's biological mother, Madam Xie, were a little fated. One year, at a banquet in the palace, a young lady couldn't take the heat and fainted on the spot. At that time, Eldest Madam Xie was close by and rushed over first to feed that young lady the secret medicine. That was why she was fine."

Nanny Wan was wondering what this had to do with the old princess consort.

He heard the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence say, "At that time, the old Princess Consort also suffered from heatstroke. In order to prevent herself from losing her composure on the spot, she looked for Eldest Madam Xie.

Eldest Madam Xie was also a straightforward and meticulous person, so she asked about the old Princess Consort's health. After confirming that she had suffered from heatstroke, she generously gave her the medicine. The old Princess Consort liked Eldest Madam Xie very much and always praised her for being an open-minded person. Some of the businesses under the Regional King's Residence also went through the Xie Residence. Back then, when Eldest Madam Xie passed away early, the old Princess Consort personally went to the

Yu Residence to pay her respects."

Being part of the imperial family sounded good, but without a noble title or a proper title in the family, they could only have their ancestral businesses. However, the Great Zhou Dynasty had lasted many generations. No matter how big their ancestral businesses were, they had almost all lost..

### Chapter 603: Duke Rong's Residence

The imperial family looked glorious on the surface, but they were weak on the inside.

It was the same in the past for the Duke Rong's Residence. It was only when the old Princess Consort had made connections with the Xie Residence that the days in the Duke Rong's Residence gradually became relaxed.

Nanny Wan was enlightened.

The old princess consort was old friends with Eldest Madam Xie, and her family also had dealings with the Xie family. Eldest Miss Yu's family background, character, and reputation were all top-notch.

From the looks of it, it was only logical that the old princess consort had taken a fancy to Eldest Miss Yu.

No matter what, it would be a good marriage.

At this point, the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence Prefecture's mouth was a little dry. She picked up her tea and took a few sips. Then, she said, "Eldest Master Yu is the third-grade Assistant Minister of the Ministry of

Official Personnel Affairs, and Second Master Yu is also the second-in-command of the cabinet. Yu Youyao is rich. I'm sure she has a thousand or ten thousand of such families trying to gaim her favor. However, our old county's Princess Consort isn't the only one in this world with discerning eyes. Imperial Concubine Xu has already targeted Eldest Miss Yu two years ago."

Nanny Wan was stunned when she heard this. "Why two years earlier?" At that time, how old was Eldest Miss Yu?

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence sighed softly. "At the Flower Festival in the Marquis of Changxing's Residence, the Yu Residence and the Second Prince's faction became enemies. There's a saying that the enemy of an enemy is a friend. Eldest Miss Yu has a strong

family background and money. To put it bluntly, even the marriages with those first-grade officials' daughters are not as reliable as Eldest Miss Yu."

Eldest Miss Yu had suffered because of the words "equal social status."

Nanny Wan moved her mouth. "The Yu Clan is also a big clan. They don't have a daughter who's a concubine. Even Yu Mengxiang, the daughter of a concubine, married into the Zhenguo Marquis Residence and became the first wife of a concubine's son. The Yu Residence might not...

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence glanced at her. "Are you stupid? The secondary concubine is part of the imperial palace. The secondary concubine will be 'married' like the main concubine. When she goes to the Third Prince's residence, she has a rank. When Madam sees her, she has to bow. How can she be compared to a concubine?"

Nanny Wan lowered her head.

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence sighed slightly. "Eldest Miss Yu is a phoenix with a tail. It's also because our Duke Rong's Residence isn't blessed. I only hope that after the flower festival, our family's heir status can be settled early."

Nanny Wan wanted to say something but hesitated.

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence glanced at her and said, "If you have something to say, just say it."

Only then did Nanny Wan dare to say, "As for Consort Jun..."

Duke Rong's scalp went numb. "The old Princess Consort has a bad temper.

How would I dare to tell her this? I can only hide it from her for now. When the Flower Festival comes, it will be done. I'll push the matter to the Yu Residence and I won't have anything to do with it."

Becoming In-laws was a matter of mutual consent. If the old princess consort insisted on a marriage with the Yu Residence, the prince could not bully her. Otherwise, what was the difference between her and someone snatching the daughter of an official?

However, in this way, it was inevitable that she would offend Consort Xu.

The Duke Rong's Residence did not want to get involved in the battle for the position of heir, let alone stand in other people's way, in case it ruined the future of the family.

On the day of the Flower Festival, Nanny Xu helped Yu Youyao pick out a pine-green dress. It was fresh and elegant, like an empty mountain after a rain. The new buds were green and radiated with vitality.

Nanny Xu smiled and asked, "Are you going to tie your hair today?"

There was a slight difference between the 'Feitian buns' and the 'Feixian buns.' The Feixian buns were divided into two rings, and the Feitian buns were divided into three rings. They looked more grand.

Yu Youyao had no objections.

Nanny Xu combed her hair and picked out a small silver crown.

It was twisted into a pattern with silver threads. There were silver foil leaves, small flowers, and tassel pearls hanging all around. The small crown was put on her head, and the flowers, leaves, and pearls swayed gently.

This was far inferior to how Yu Youyao had dressed up on her birthday, but she was also fresh and elegant.

After working for more than an hour, Yu Youyao finally brought Chun Xiao and Xia Tao to An Shou Hall.

Yu Jianjia had already arrived. She was wearing a white dress with crepe myrtle makeup. Clusters of purple, red, and silver crepe myrtle flowers bloomed gently on the gauze dress. It had a kind of soft and dazzling beauty. She had tied her hair simply and was wearing a side flower with silver and red treasures on the left. She looked very beautiful.

Madam Yao had also brought Yu Shuangbai over early.

Yu Shuangbai's green gauze dress was pure and bright. There were flowers piled up on it like fire. She had combed her hair into a bun and was wearing a small crown inlaid with red treasures, making her look even more beautiful and generous.

Old Madam Yu smiled at her granddaughters and nodded in satisfaction. "Since everything is ready, let's set off!"

The carriage was waiting in front of the flower gate. Old Madam Yu was old, and as Madam Yao's daughter-in-law, she naturally had to serve her. She sat in a carriage with Old Madam Yu.

Yu Youyao and her sisters sat in the same carriage.

When they arrived at the carriage, Yu Youyao took on the responsibility of being the eldest sister and mentioned some personnel of the Duke Rong's Residence. "... When we reach the Duke Rong's Residence, our words and actions are all based on etiquette and rules. The few young misses of the first wife of the Duke Rong's Residence were not conferred titles. Just be as polite as usual!"

Yu Shuangbai hugged Yu Youyao's waist and giggled. "With Eldest Sister around, I don't have to worry about anything."

This wasn't the first time she had gone out with Eldest Sister.

Yu Youyao laughed when she heard this and instructed, "When we reach the Duke Rong's Residence, I have to take care of the grandmothers. I can't stay with you all the time. The Zhenguo Marquis Residence interacts more with the imperial family. When the time comes, you can follow Third Sister Song."

Yu Jianjia nodded. "I understand, Big Sister."

Yu Youyao was a little worried again, so she added, "There will be many relatives of the imperial family participating in the Flower Festival today. There are still very few who have gained power. Just treat them politely. If anyone deliberately makes things difficult for you, stand up for yourself. If they encounter those unreasonable people, look for me to deal with them..." Yu Jianjia lowered her head and smiled.

In the past two years, Yu Youyao had borrowed the Empress Dowager's praise for her and the Graceful Heart Hall to accumulate a lot of reputation in the capital.

She was clearly a “eldest daughter with no mother” , but she had a reputation for talent and virtue in the capital. No matter where she went, with such a reputation, others had to be polite.

Heh, Yu Youyao was the first eldest daughter with no mother that became so glorious.

But what right did Yu Youyao have?

Back then, at the Flower Festival of the Marquis of Changxing’s Residence, she had stepped on the dignity of the Marquis of Changxing’s Residence and won dignity for herself.

To say that she was a eldest daughter with no mother was to doubt the previous emperor, the current emperor, and even the Empress Dowager who had personally praised Yu Youyao.

Look, she even had to rely on Yu Youyao now.

When the carriage arrived at the entrance of the Duke Rong’s Residence, the maidservants and old maids who were welcoming the guests hurriedly went forward and set up a small stool. Madam Yao was the first to get out, and a maidservant wanted to help her.

Unexpectedly, Madam Yao turned around and saw Old Madam Yu coming out of the carriage. She quickly helped her down.

The maidservants and old maids widened their eyes and saw the old Matriarch in a big red sleeved dress getting out of the carriage in an imposing and dignified manner. They immediately shuddered..

#### Chapter 604: The Old Consort

After Nanny Liu handed over the invitation, a servant reported the identities of Old Madam Yu and the others. The servants quickly bowed.

At the Flower Festival held by Duke Rong’s Residence, it was Duke Rong who took care of the male guests in the front courtyard.

The reception of the female guests in the backyard was arranged by the Princess Consort of Duke Rong’s Residence. As soon as Old Madam Yu arrived, the Princess Consort of Duke Rong’s Residence quickly put aside her socializing and rushed over anxiously.

Then, she saw Old Madam Yu wearing an imperial mandate dress.

The Great Zhou Dynasty’s Madams had two sets of outfits. One was a gown, which was used to enter the palace to meet nobles.

The other set of clothes was common clothes. They were usually worn when receiving important imperial decrees and important banquets in the palace.

Old Madam was from a second-grade official family. Her head accessory was a pearl-green cloud crown. Her big red sleeved dress was inlaid with purple edges and had golden embroidery of clouds. There were also golden embroidery patterns on her dress. Without a ceremonial robe, she looked dignified and noble.

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong’s Residence was terrified. She quickly smiled and stepped forward to bow. “What’s going on today? To think that you’re here too. If our old consort finds out that you’re here, she’ll be so happy.”

Old Madam Yu nodded and asked, "Speaking of which, I haven't seen her for many years. Is she doing well?"

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence quickly replied, "Thanks to you, she's still in good health."

With that, she lowered her eyes.

She had originally thought that even if Eldest Miss Yu was brought out by an aunt, she would only be half a mother. How could she compare to her own daughter?

At that time, if anything happened to Yu Youyao, she would be a young lady who had just grown up. If she was lacking in etiquette and rules, she could not blame the Duke Rong's Residence.

She really did not expect Old Madam Yu to come.

Previously, she had always heard that Old Madam Yu was a widow and wasn't in good health, so she rarely went outside. Furthermore, she had been eating vegetarian food and chanting Buddhist scriptures for many years. Her personality was indifferent, and she didn't like to go to events.

Thinking of what she had discussed with Consort Xu previously, she couldn't help but feel a little disheartened.

However, at this point, she had no choice but to shoot her arrow.

Before coming to the Duke Rong's Residence, Yu Youyao had already understood everything about the family, so she naturally recognized the Princess Consort.

This person had her hair combed into a high bun and was wearing a silver and red peony smock. At her waist, there was a long and narrow strip of red silk with bat patterns embroidered on it. On it was also a yellow ribbon with embossed phoenix patterns and red coral flat beads in bright colors.

Only relatives of the Great Zhou Dynasty wore jewelry.

No matter what thoughts the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence had, she did not dare to reveal them in front of Old Madam Yu. She quickly called out to Madam Yao and looked at Yu Youyao, who was standing behind her elders.

It wasn't the first time she had seen her like this, but her fresh and elegant appearance still made her gasp.

"This is..." The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence Prefecture's smile deepened. "She must be your Eldest Miss!"

Old Madam Yu nodded. "She's the eldest daughter of our eldest son."

Yu Youyao quickly walked out from behind her elders and bowed to the

Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence. "Greetings, Princess Consort!"

When the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence saw that she was only 13 years old, she already had some thoughts. Her hair was trimmed to a certain extent, and her shoulders were straight. Her waist was thin and when she extended her neck, she revealed her delicate charm.

The way she followed the rules and etiquette revealed good upbringing.

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence quickly held her hand and helped her up. She smiled and said, "Good child. Our old Consort is old friends with your mother, Eldest Madam Xie. When you come to our family, there's no need to be polite." With that, she turned to look at Old Madam Yu with a flattering expression. "Tsk, what a good girl. No wonder you hid her at home. It's rare to see her. I'm afraid you're worried that someone will snatch her from you."

Yu Youyao was 13 years old this year and was already at the age of marriage. This joke was harmless. Yu Youyao did not hold a banquet on her birthday, so many people in the capital should understand what Old Madam Yu was thinking.

Old Madam Yu's smile deepened. "Isn't that so? How can our family do without her now?!"

It was different for a girl who was engaged. Rules were more important, and even her father and brothers in the family had to avoid her.

Every day, other than embroidering dowry and learning some household manager matters, she could not even interfere in many matters at home.

When the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence heard that Matriarch Yang had simply admitted it, her scalp went numb again, but she could only stiffen and smile. "Of course. Everyone in the capital knows that your Eldest Miss is a capable person. She helped share the burden of her elders at the age of ten. Eldest Madam Yang has been sick for two to three years and she's been taking care of the family. Third Miss Yu isn't in good health and she's also the one helping to take care of her."

Yu Jianjia lowered her head and felt bitter.

In the past two years, she had been staying in the manor to recuperate. She also knew that there were many rumors in the capital about her health.

However, she couldn't refute.

She only hoped that she would show her face at the flower festival later so that others would know that she had already recovered and was no longer a sickly person of the Yu Residence.

Old Madam Yu nodded. Hearing her praise her granddaughter, she was not humble at all.

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence also changed the topic and asked Yu Shuangbai and Yu Jianjia one by one.

Old Madam Yu introduced them with a smile.

Yu Shuangbai was beautiful and generous. The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence's eyes lit up when she saw her, and she did not hide her love.

When the attention was on Yu Jianjia, the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence saw that although she was wearing a crepe myrtle flower dress. Although she looked weak, she did not look sick. She knew that Third Miss Yu had recovered and she wanted to praise her.

However, she couldn't help but praise in her heart. The three legitimate daughters of the Yu Residence were indeed all good-looking. They were also outstanding in etiquette, rules, and temperament.

Yu Youyao was delicate, Yu Shuangbai was beautiful, and Yu Jianjia was gentle.

After the greeting, the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence quickly brought Old Madam Yu and the others to the reception pavilion.

Old Madam Yu was of high status and was invited to the main seat. How could the daughters-in-law in the house dare to be slow? They quickly led the young misses in the family forward and bowed to them.

The old princess consort was sitting on a purple sandalwood chair with bright red hair. When she saw Old Madam Yu, her turbid eyes lit up and she almost got up to pull her along for a chat.

At their age, they had few chances to see the sisters they used to be on good terms with.

It had been many years since she had seen Old Madam Yu.

After greeting them, Yu Youyao and her sister stepped forward and bowed to the old princess consort.

The old princess consort was neither thin nor fat. She was even older than Old Madam Yu. She was wearing a dark purple crane-patterned outfit, and her waist was also embroidered with pine crane patterns.

The old princess consort was already prepared. She held Yu Youyao's hand and praised her non-stop, "... Good child, you take after your mother. Even your personality is as bright as hers. You're really well-mannered. That's great..."

As she spoke, the nanny beside her handed her a palm-sized wooden box with golden silk. She took the box and stuffed it into Yu Youyao's hand without any explanation.

Old Madam Yu watched from the side, and her eyes couldn't help but widen. This gift had clearly been prepared in advance. The more solemn the gift box was, the more extraordinary the gift seemed to be..

#### Chapter 605: Not Knowing What's Good for You

Yu Youyao knew that she couldn't refuse, so she accepted it generously. "I don't dare to decline the gift from an elder. Thank you, Old Consort."

When it was Yu Shuangbai and Yu Jianjia's turn, their gifts were one of the many gifts carried on a tray by a maidservant. Although it was nothing much, anyone with discerning eyes could tell the difference.

However, it was understandable because the old princess consort and Eldest Madam Xie were old friends.

Yu Jianjia lowered her eyes. The gilded flower hairpin made by the Ministry of Internal Affairs was luxurious and dazzling. She liked it very much, but when she inadvertently looked at the gloomy wooden box with golden silk in Xia Tao's hand, she did not feel that there was anything special.

After being polite, there was nothing for the sisters to do.

Yu Shuangbai knew that Yu Youyao had to take care of her grandmother first, so she left with Song Wanhui, Qi Sinian, and Tang Yunxi.

When Madam Yao met someone she was familiar with, she had to say a few words. Old Madam Yu had not gone out for a long time, and Yu Youyao was a little worried, so she took a step back.

The old princess consort took a look and her smile deepened.

The other Madams present did not think that she was rude.

Filial piety was the top priority. Although Second Madam Yu was her daughter-in-law, Old Madam Yu had always been taken care of by the first branch. It was only right that Yu Youyao didn't leave for the time being.

Everyone smiled kindly. Some even praised Yu Youyao for being filial on the spot.

At the mention of her granddaughter's filial piety, Old Madam Yu smiled. She said a lot more, and the barrier after not seeing her for many years dissipated.

Seeing that her grandmother was chatting with someone, Yu Youyao felt much more at ease.

At this moment, Madam Yao finished greeting her and said, "Go out and admire the flowers too. I'll take care of Matriarch."

Yu Youyao couldn't stay any longer.

At this moment, the madam, who was wearing a purple dress, stood up with a smile. "This is Eldest Miss Yu's first time in the Regional King's Residence. I'll bring you out to get to know the place."

She was Second Madam Luo of the Second Mansion of the Duke Rong's

Residence. She had recognized her when she greeted her just now.

The Second Master of the Duke Rong's Residence was the son of a concubine, and he was an imperial relative after all. Madam Luo was more particular about her clothes than others, and her dressing was also more exquisite.

Yu Youyao did not need it.

However, Madam Luo had already held Yu Youyao's hand. "Let's go. Eldest Madam Xie and our old princess consort are old friends. When you come to our house, it's only right for me to take care of you more."

At this point, Yu Youyao couldn't refuse.

As soon as she arrived at the courtyard, Yu Youyao saw the Wishful Peace Gate made of white jade. There was a young miss in a rose silk dress waiting there with a maidservant.

Madam Luo walked over with Yu Youyao and pointed. "This is our Fifth Miss, Jin Wei. She's a year older than you."

Yin Jinwei was generous and cheerful, approaching people without any barriers. When the two of them greeted each other, she held Yu Youyao's arm kindly and called out affectionately, "Sister Yao'er."

After entering the Duke Rong's Residence, Yu Youyao had heard a lot of people in the Duke Rong's Residence mention that her mother was old friends with the old Princess Consort. The Duke Rong's Residence also treated her warmly and thoughtfully.

This seemed to be the reason why Yin Jinwei acted so familiarly.

Yu Youyao smiled and called her Fifth Sister.

As the two of them spoke, they walked up the corridor. The Duke Rong's Residence was very big and exquisitely built. There were carvings of dragons and phoenixes everywhere, showing their status as imperial relatives. The residence was holding a flower festival. There were flowers and trees of the Jin Clan everywhere, and there were many expensive varieties.

Fifth Miss Yin was eloquent. Every time she stopped, she would introduce Yu Youyao to the scenery, flowers, and trees, as well as some interesting things that had happened with her sisters.

This tour was not boring at all.

As Yu Youyao admired the scenery of Duke Rong's Residence, she also used the opportunity to chat and found out that Fifth Miss Yin was the daughter of Second Master Yin.

She was born from a favored concubine and was well regarded in the residence.

At this moment, the legitimate daughters of the residence were all gathered together to admire the flowers. They also entertained the young misses of the various residences. The residence had specially found a concubine's daughter to guide her. There was no greater thoroughness.

From the looks of it, the Duke Rong's Residence had indeed taken special care of her.

After walking for a while, Yu Youyao praised, "Fifth Sister, Duke Rong's Residence is really big. After walking for so long, we haven't reached a place to admire the flowers. When will we reach it?"

Yin Jinwei's eyes flashed as she pointed ahead. "Do you see the fork in front of you? Turn left and pass by the crepe myrtle. Then, you'll reach the place to admire the flowers." As if worried that Yu Youyao would suspect something, she added, "Just now, I saw that Sister Yao'er seemed to be very interested in the scenery of Duke Rong's Residence, so I took a turn and walked into the crepe myrtle garden."

"I see." Yu Youyao nodded.

She had indeed shown that she was very interested in the scenery of Duke Rong's Residence. Fifth Miss Yin wanted to introduce her to the place, so she couldn't dampen her interest and reject her good intentions.

After all, the Duke Rong's Residence was an imperial relative, so it was easy to be exposed if their attitude was perfunctory.

When there were guests, every move, word, and move had to be done according to etiquette and rules. Not only did it show respect for the guests, but it also showed their upbringing.

This was indeed a good excuse.

Seeing that she did not hold it against her, Yin Jinwei secretly heaved a sigh of relief and said with a smile, "Eldest Aunt likes crepe myrtle flowers, so there's a large area planted in the residence. There are all kinds of colors of crepe myrtle including silver, purple and red. They complement each other and are beautiful in the mist. The crepe myrtle flowers have a long blooming period. They bloom from April to autumn and it's also a sight to behold in our Duke Rong's Residence. Since it's the Flower Festival and it's Sister Yao'er's first time in the Dukes Residence, I specially brought you over to take a look."

What a glib tongue. Yu Youyao smiled. "Thank you, Fifth Sister."

The old princess consort was old friends with her mother. When she arrived at the Duke Rong's Residence, it was only right for the people in the residence to take care of her more.

It was also because of this that Yin Jinwei treated her more intimately and even specially brought her to the most beautiful scenery in the residence with crepe myrtle flowers. It made sense.

Moreover, the Duke Rong's Residence was holding a flower banquet.

Flower appreciation was indispensable.

Fifth Miss Yin's actions were not considered rude.

Ever since she entered the residence, the Duke Rong's Residence had already taken special care of her and accommodated her because of her relationship with the old princess consort.

If she was dissatisfied with such a small matter, she wouldn't be too ungrateful.

At the thought of this, Yu Youyao was suddenly shocked.

She suddenly realized that if anything happened to her at the Flower Festival, it wouldn't be blamed on the Duke Rong's Residence, who had been "taking special care of" her and "accommodating" her in every way.

After all, just now, the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence had said in front of the flower gate, "Our old princess consort is old friends with your mother, Eldest Madam Xie. When you come to our house, there's no need to be polite."

The front door of the Flower Pavilion was a place to welcome guests. The Yu Residence was not the only family waiting there. Other families naturally had eyes to see this.

The old princess consort had even given her a boxed gift in front of everyone..

Chapter 606: Hidden Malice

As she was a step too late, Madam Luo, an elder, personally led her out.

She even found a young miss from the residence to guide her.

Everything seemed to be insignificant but the other young misses did not receive treatment.

Yu Youyao couldn't be blamed for thinking too much. Ever since she received the invitation to the Flower Festival at Duke Rong's Residence, she had never treated this Flower Festival as an ordinary one.

Before she came, her cousin had also reminded her to be more careful.

After Yu Youyao entered the Duke Rong's Residence, she subconsciously became cautious.

When it came to other people's houses, there was nothing wrong with being cautious.

But now, she had been left alone. This was the first time she had come to the Duke Rong's Residence, and she was not familiar with it. No matter where she went, she would be in the dark. It all depended on where Fifth Miss Yin brought her.

Just now, Fifth Miss Yin had taken the initiative to bring her into the crepe myrtle garden without her permission.

She did not believe that Duke Rong's Residence would do anything bad to her.

However, if anything happened to her, who could she blame?

Yu Youyao's eyes darkened.

"Sister Yao'er, there's more crepe myrtles in front." Fifth Miss Yin held Yu

Youyao's hand tightly. Although she didn't hurt her, she couldn't break free for a moment.

Yu Youyao turned around and gave Chun Xiao a look. Then, she was pulled towards the white jade arch by Fifth Miss Yin without any explanation.

Looking in from the outside of the cave, she could see that the crepe myrtle was bright and colorful. It was beautiful.

"Fifth Sister, walk slower. I can't keep up with you anymore. Can you pull gently? My hand hurts a little..." As Yu Youyao walked, she bent down with a cry.

She was pulling so hard because she did not want the person to break free easily.

She left quickly and anxiously because she did not want the person who was being pulled to have a chance to escape.

The young misses of wealthy families had all learned how to receive people and treat them well. No one would ignore the wishes of others and force them to go to places they had never been before.

If they did, whether it was unintentional or intentional, it would be against the rules and etiquette, so there was no need for her to cooperate.

She only wanted to lure Yu Youyao to the crepe myrtles. She did not want anything to happen to her because of her. It would be troublesome if there were additional complications.

Yin Jinwei was shocked. She quickly bent down and lowered her head to help her. "Sister Yao'er, what's wrong?"

Chun Xiao slashed her hand, and a maidservant that Yin Jinwei had brought along was silently knocked unconscious.

There was no need for Yu Youyao to pretend anymore. "Knock her out!"

Yin Jinwei was stunned for a moment. Before she could react, Chun Xiao hit her again. Yin Jinwei felt dizzy and swayed for a moment before falling to the ground weakly.

Yu Youyao smiled. "Not bad. You're fast and ruthless. You haven't learned from

Chang An for nothing in the past two years."

Chun Xiao's father knew some moves, so Chun Xiao had learned some from him since she was young. Later, when she became familiar with Chang An, she asked him to teach her proper martial arts.

Her cousin was happy to see this, and Chang An did his best to teach her.

Fortunately, Chun Xiao had some talent in martial arts.

Yu Youyao deliberately pretended to sprain her ankle to divert Yin Jinwei's attention so that Chun Xiao wouldn't cause trouble.

Chun Xiao blushed at the praise.

Xia Tao panicked a little. ‘Young Miss, what should we do next?’

Yu Youyao said calmly, “There was a pavilion on the way here. Leave them there. Yin Jinwei is the young miss of Duke Rong’s Residence. Even if she faints in the pavilion, nothing will happen.”

Chun Xiao received the order and carried her and her maidservant in one hand.

Xia Tao narrowed her eyes and looked around. Seeing that there was no one around, she felt a little relieved. The more she felt that Fifth Miss Yin had led Young Miss to a deserted place, the more she clearly had ill intentions.

Thinking of this, Xia Tao quickly asked, “Young Miss, what does Fifth Miss Yin want to do? Why did she lure you here alone?”

Just now, after following Fifth Miss Yin, she saw that there were fewer and fewer people on the road. She felt that something was amiss and secretly paid attention to the nearby movements.

Yu Youyao stood outside the crepe myrtle garden. The branches of the Purple Myrtle Tree were blooming, and she could see it from afar. The inside of the wall was bright. It was indeed a rare beautiful scene.

If it weren’t for the fact that she was vigilant and did not believe that the Duke Rong’s Residence was really “extraordinarily taking care of” her, she would have thought that Yin Jinwei was kind and thorough to her and never suspected her. Furthermore, she had never seen such a beautiful scenery. Since she was already here, she would have gone in to take a look.

Yu Youyao said calmly, “She only deliberately led me here and made a mistake at the Flower Festival. Along the way, there were fewer and fewer people.

When I arrived at the crepe myrtle garden, there was no movement at all. Even Second Madam Luo wouldn’t have the ability to make such a complicated arrangement, let alone Fifth Miss Yin, the daughter of a concubine.”

Yin Jinwei had said that it was because the Princess Consort of Duke Rong’s Residence liked crepe myrtle flowers that there was a crepe myrtle garden. This was the territory of the Princess Consort of Duke Rong’s Residence.

Xia Tao’s eyes widened. “Could it be the Princess Consort of Duke Rong’s Residence? She has no grudge with Miss. Why would she harm you?”

Yu Youyao shook her head. “Who knows? These royal relatives are all strong on the outside but weak on the inside. On the surface, they look impressive, but they think that they’re superior just because they’re from the royal family. Even if they’re scheming against others, they’re so blatant.”

Xia Tao was so angry that she trembled. “Damn it! Just now, I saw that the Princess Consort of Duke Rong’s Residence was kind and gentle to Young Miss.

She kept saying that the old Princess Consort was old friends with Young Miss’s biological mother. I didn’t expect her to have ulterior motives and scheme against Young Miss.”

Yu Youyao sighed softly. “Isn’t that so? If I suffer after this, it’ll be because I’m still young. It’s inevitable that I’ll overlook some rules and etiquette. I can’t blame the Duke Rong’s Residence.

Without concrete evidence, I can only endure it. Otherwise, it'll be slandering my relatives and looking down on the dignity of the royal family. Once this matter blows up, the entire family will be implicated. ‘i

This was an issue with an imperial relative. As long as they took on the surname of the imperial family, no matter how down and out they were, they would have someone providing legal or political cover for them.

The Duke Rong's Residence was fearless.

This was also the reason why most families in the capital were unwilling to interact with imperial relatives.

It was also the reason why her grandmother had specially worn her imperial mandate dress over today.

However, her grandmother probably did not expect that even an imperial edict would not intimidate them. These imperial relatives who thought highly of themselves and did not treat others as humans.

Xia Tao took a deep breath. "But the person who lured Miss over is the young miss of Duke Rong's Residence. Duke Rong's Residence can't deny it. Isn't this definite evidence?"

Yu Youyao's eyes were filled with mockery. "Fifth Miss Yin is the daughter of a concubine of the Second Mansion, and this concubine is Second Master Yin's favorite concubine. One is a concubine, and the other is the daughter of a

concubine. It's fine if she's sacrificed."

It wasn't that she was scheming. When she received the invitation to the Flower Festival at Duke Rong's Residence, she had privately learned about everyone in the residence.

She had also heard that Second Master Yin had a favorite concubine.

Just now, when they were chatting, she had checked Yin Jinwei's situation.

Yin Jinwei's tone was a little smug. This was definitely not the attitude a concubine's daughter should have..

## Chapter 607: Meeting a Beauty

It wasn't difficult to deduce that no matter how magnanimous Madam Luo was, she probably wouldn't be able to tolerate a concubine relying on the doting of her men to climb over her head.

She could not tolerate the daughter of a concubine surpassing her legitimate daughter.

When the matter was exposed, she would pull this concubine's daughter out to take the blame. Not only would she become an eyesore, but it would also be a blow to Master's favorite concubine. It was simply killing two birds with one stone.

Xia Tao had also thought of this. "So, the Duke Rong's Residence has long planned this. They've even planned the aftermath. They're just waiting for

Young Miss..."

She was not afraid to speculate about others with the greatest malice.

The malice of the Duke Rong's Residence was wrapped in "special care" sugar. It was like arsenic wrapped in frosting. If one was not careful, it would pierce through one's intestines.

Yu Youyao said, "This is just my guess."

However, Xia Tao also knew that Fifth Miss Yin's actions were suspicious. The Duke Rong's Residence clearly had ill intentions towards her. "Young Miss, why did you want to knock Fifth Miss Yin out?"

Yu Youyao said calmly, "Fifth Miss Yin specially lured me here. It's impossible that she doesn't have a backup plan. The situation in the crepe myrtle garden is unknown. Knocking her out will avoid complicating matters and causing trouble. Fifth Miss Yin is in the pavilion and didn't come with me. No matter how this matter develops, Fifth Miss Yin won't be able to implicate me." Xia Tao suddenly understood.

The best way to deal with the enemy was to not even give her a chance to perform.

At this moment, Chun Xiao returned. Yu Youyao continued, "We have to figure out why the Duke Rong's Residence is plotting against me."

Before Xia Tao could react, Chun Xiao had already walked over. "Young Miss, I followed your instructions and threw Fifth Miss Yin and her maidservant into the pavilion."

Yu Youyao nodded. "Go quietly to the crepe myrtle garden and find out why

Fifth Miss Yin led me here. I'll go to the corridor in front to rest."

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence was plotting something.

Along the way, there were fewer and fewer people. When they reached the vicinity of the crepe myrtle, they did not even see anyone. It was obvious that the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence's scheme was shameful. There were definitely not many people in the crepe myrtle garden. Chun Xiao was enough to deal with it.

Chun Xiao nodded and quietly entered the crepe myrtle garden.

The situation in the crepe myrtle garden was unknown, so it wasn't appropriate for Yu Youyao to stay here for long. She brought Chun Xiao back to the corridor and stopped at the corner of the corridor, as if she was looking at the crepe myrtle garden. The crepe myrtle flowers were very bright and colorful.

Chun Xiao had been practicing some moves since she was young, and her foundation was not bad. In the past two years, she had soaked in many medicinal baths to strengthen her muscles and bones. She was a little older, and the effect of the medicinal bath was not as good as when she was young, but she could endure hardship. The stronger the training, the better the effect of the medicinal bath.

In the past two years, although she had not become an expert, it was not a problem for her to fly over the eaves and walk on the walls.

The crepe myrtle garden was filled with flowers and trees, and the environment was quiet. Chun Xiao used the flowers and trees as a cover as she entered the interior of the crepe myrtle garden.

In the courtyard, water was drawn in and a large lake was built. At the center of the lake, there were layers of mountain rocks, of different heights and shapes. There were all kinds of lotuses and water lilies planted. In the middle of the lake, there was a two-story bamboo building. Beside the lake,

there were all kinds of crepe myrtle flowers. The crepe myrtle surrounded the water, and the water surrounded the bamboo building. It was really a rare scene.

Chun Xiao was about to explore the bamboo building when she heard a man's voice on the way.

Chun Xiao's expression changed, and her eyes were filled with shock.

It was true that the crepe myrtle garden was the backyard of Duke Rong's Residence, but there was a man's voice in the backyard. Fifth Miss Yin was really scheming to lure Young Miss into the crepe myrtle garden?!

If Young Miss really had one foot in the crepe myrtle garden, wouldn't it be a private meeting with a man?

Her reputation would be ruined!

Chun Xiao heard the sound getting closer and closer. She ran into the crepe myrtle garden and saw two men walking over side by side.

They were both seventeen or eighteen years old.

One of the men was wearing a python robe and a jade belt.

The purple python robe was embroidered with a golden four-clawed nine-legged python. There were two golden four-clawed python dragon patterns on each shoulder. The python's head was facing the front, and its eyes were wide open. It was facing the front and sitting in a winding manner.

Chun Xiao was shocked.

Five claws meant a dragon, and four claws meant a python. Only those specially bestowed a title by imperial relatives could wear the embroidery of the golden pythons. The court officials only used green and blue colors.

This person's identity was already obvious.

Chun Xiao's heart was beating wildly. She forced herself to calm down and looked at the other person. He was dressed in a four-clawed python robe. He should be the Eldest Young Master of Duke Rong's Residence, Yin Huaizhang.

The man in the python robe and jade belt held a fan in his hand and admired the scenery of the crepe myrtles. "Your family's crepe myrtle is really quiet and elegant.

"As long as Third Prince is satisfied. After all," Yin Huaizhang smiled meaningfully, "It will only be more interesting to meet a beauty in such a beautiful place!"

The Third Prince smiled faintly and knocked on Yin Huaizhang's head with his fan. He scolded jokingly, "What nonsense are you talking about? I'm familiar with the books of the sages and have been taught by the sages. I'm also a polite person. Why would I do such a despicable and shameless thing like meeting a beauty? It will only be a coincidence, do you know?"

Yin Huaizhang couldn't care less about the pain on his forehead and quickly said, "Yes, yes, yes. I said something wrong and offended Your Highness."

Seeing that he was still sensible, the Third Prince smiled and said, “You have to remember clearly that I’ve been busy with school recently. I only attended today’s Flower Festival because I was repeatedly invited by your Duke Rong’s Residence. It’s difficult for me to refuse your kindness, so I made an unprecedented appearance to participate in the Flower Festival.”

Yin Huaizhang was very sensible and immediately said, “Of course. Third Prince is diligent and hardworking. I heard that there’s a kind of beautiful scenery in the Duke Rong’s Residence, so I wanted to come over and relax. As the crepe myrtle garden is in the backyard, in order not to alarm and worry the female guests in the backyard, our family specially made arrangements to expel all the servants near the crepe myrtle garden. It was Eldest Miss Yu who accidentally barged into the crepe myrtle garden and bumped into Third

Prince...”

The Third Prince smiled in satisfaction when he saw that everything had been arranged well by the Duke Rong’s Residence!

Yin Huaizhang said obsequiously, “I’ve already asked around. Eldest Miss Yu usually keeps a low profile and rarely walks around outside. I’ve never seen many men outside. She’s quiet and elegant. Third Prince and Eldest Miss Yu bumped into each other here. His Highness has a noble status, is elegant, and is a good person. Eldest Miss Yu will definitely fall for him.”

She was a woman who had never seen a man from another residence before, so she was the easiest to coax.

With just a few tricks, he could make her face turn red and her heart palpitate. Not to mention that the Third Prince was a noble prince and his mother was a consort.

Not many women could resist such an identity.

Only then would the Duke Rong’s Residence dare to scheme against the daughter of an official openly. This was almost certain. Once it was done, the Yu Residence might have to thank the Duke Rong’s Residence for helping them find a good marriage.

These words flattered him. The Third Prince smiled. “That’s more like it. A private meeting between a man and woman alone will harm Eldest Miss Yu’s pure image. Later on, when I sincerely propose to marry her, everything will be logical. I won’t be that shameless person who destroys her reputation and forces her to marry me..”

Chapter 608: Greed and Vanity

It was a marriage not a feud. Be it the Yu Residence or the Xie Residence, they were both of great help to him. He had to get Eldest Miss Yu to be on his side so that she could be used by him without reservation.

Yin Huaizhang nodded repeatedly.

The Third Prince changed the topic and asked, “Did you find out clearly that Eldest Miss Yu is really the number one beauty in the capital?”

It was always more convenient for him to gather information in the palace than outside.

Since Eldest Miss Yu had a good reputation, her appearance was definitely not bad. Now that he was about to see her, he felt an unbearable itch in her heart.

Yin Huaizhang had never seen Yu Youyao before, but his grandmother wanted him to marry Eldest Miss Yu.

He asked his mother about Yu Youyao.

However, she couldn't tell the Third Prince about her.

Hence, he smiled and said, "I asked Mother. That Eldest Miss Yu is delicate and beautiful. Her figure is slender, and her skin is like fragrant cream and jade fat. She's beautiful and elegant. Lu Mingyao is also inferior to her."

The Third Prince's eyes lit up. "Are you serious? I remember that Eldest Miss Yu is only twelve or thirteen years old. She hasn't even grown up..."

Yin Huaizhang was an old hand at romance. There was nothing he couldn't do in the brothel.

He was also especially good at pretending. His family had no idea that he was fooling around outside. "Inner beauty is what matters. A real inexperienced beauty is already like a flower bud at the age of twelve or thirteen..."

As he spoke, he leaned closer to the Third Prince's ear and lowered his voice.

The Third Prince chuckled when he heard this.

With that, Yin Huaizhang broke off a branch of crepe myrtle flowers. This branch was about to bloom. "Third Prince, do you think the crepe myrtle flowers are beautiful?"

Although the crepe myrtle flowers had not bloomed fully, they were still beautiful. The Third Prince smiled. "Of course they're beautiful."

Yin Huaizhang smiled. "That Eldest Miss Yu is at the same age as these flower buds. When she enters the Third Prince's palace, the Third Prince will take good care of her and water her well. She will be able to bloom into a beautiful woman."

They were both men and had long understood the matters between men and women. How could they not understand the deeper meaning behind these words?

The Third Prince couldn't wait to see this legendary Eldest Miss Yu.

At the thought of this, the Third Prince changed the topic and asked, "What time is it? When will Eldest Miss Yu come?"

Yin Huaizhang smiled. "Third Prince, don't be anxious. My fifth sister's maidservant has already sent a letter previously. Fifth Sister has already taken Eldest Miss Yu to the crepe myrtle garden. In order to avoid Eldest Miss Yu's suspicion, we definitely have to look at the scenery and chat about the daily life on the way. We'll have to delay for a while."

The Third Prince frowned. "This Fifth Sister of yours..."

Yin Huaizhang immediately said, "Third Prince, don't worry. My fifth sister has a deep relationship with you since she accidentally met you. I told her that as she can lure Eldest Miss Yu to crepe

myrtle garden, I'll help her create a chance to meet you. She naturally won't miss this opportunity. This matter will definitely be done well."

Yin Jinwei was brainless and a vain fool. She thought he had taken a fancy to Eldest Miss Yu and that was why he asked her to lure her to crepe myrtle garden.

Now that the Duke Rong's Residence had regained its power, Yin Jinwei, the daughter of a concubine, was flattered by those idle relatives who did not have a title. Her mind was blank. She was not afraid of a little concubine's daughter scheming against the legitimate daughter of an official.

She was just the daughter of a concubine. She wasn't even qualified to be the Third Prince's concubine, but she actually dared to covet the Third Prince. She was really trying to punch above her weight.

In the palace, the Third Prince had seen many women like Fifth Miss Yin, so he was a little disdainful of her. He snorted coldly. "Go and investigate. If Eldest Miss Yu is here, hurry over and report it."

Seeing that the Third Prince and Yin Huaizhang had walked far away, Chun Xiao quietly left the crepe myrtle garden.

Yu Youyao was expressionless as she listened to Chun Xiao report the information she had obtained.

The Duke Rong's Residence had done everything they could to scheme for her to meet a man in private.

This man was none other than the Third Prince of the current dynasty.

Once his scheme succeeded, her reputation would be damaged, and the Yu Residence would be in the Third Prince's hands. She could only marry into the Third Prince's palace as a secondary consort.

Yin Jinwei took the risk and became a guide because she wanted to cozy up to the Third Prince.

Madam Luo might have known about this, but she had deliberately indulged the daughter of a concubine and even created an opportunity to get rid of the favored concubine and her daughter who were threatening her. What about the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence?

What was her goal?

The entire Duke Rong's Residence was filled with dirty schemes. Even Imperial Concubine Xu and the Third Prince were involved. It was really disgusting.

Xia Tao was already stunned. She covered her mouth, afraid that she would scream.

However, Yu Youyao's expression was calm, as if she wasn't the one being schemed against by the Duke Rong's Residence.

After Chun Xiao finished reporting, Yu Youyao asked calmly, "In that case, there's only the Third Prince and Yin Huaizhang left now?"

Young Miss was calm and indifferent. She looked very much like Young Master Zhou. She was like the calm before the storm that made people panic for no reason.

Chun Xiao glanced at her young miss carefully. “The Third Prince has brought his guards, but they’re all guarding the various doors of the crepe myrtle garden.”

There were four gates. Other than this one, the other three were guarded by guards. This was also to facilitate the Third Prince’s secret meeting.

Yu Youyao lowered her eyes and pondered.

Chun Xiao wanted to say something but hesitated. She opened her mouth but stopped.

Yu Youyao glanced at her. “If you have something to say, just say it. Don’t hesitate.”

Chun Xiao asked softly, “The Duke Rong’s Residence and the Third Prince schemed against Young Miss’s reputation together. Young Miss, aren’t you angry?”

“How can I not be angry? Don’t you see that I am burning with anger? I’m so anxious that I’m racking my brains to think of how to return the favor. I’ll return the favor to the Duke Rong’s Residence.” At this point, Yu Youyao gritted her teeth and sneered. “It’s never too early to take revenge! If I don’t take revenge on the spot, do I have to stay for the night?”

It seemed that Young Miss was really angry.

Chun Xiao shrank her neck. On such a hot day, she felt a chill run down her spine.

Xia Tao hurriedly lowered her head and stared at the tips of her toes, looking down.

Eldest Miss had a good personality and a good temper. She was rarely angry. Everyone in the residence said that Eldest Miss was benevolent, but no one dared to be disrespectful to her.

Just like Young Master Zhou, Eldest Miss rarely got angry.

However, just because she didn’t look angry didn’t mean that she wouldn’t be angry on the inside

Yu Youyao was so angry that even her voice was hoarse.. “Who does he think he is? Does he really think he’s someone? Does he think he can scheme against anyone he wants?”

Chapter 609: Ruining Her Virtue

At this point, even Yu Youyao’s eyes turned red. She looked like she was about to cry. “I’ve never suffered such grievances, nor can I stand them!”

Chun Xiao lowered her eyes, not daring to speak. She thought to herself, “That’s right! Ever since Young Master entered the residence, he wouldn’t let any misunderstandings get close to Young Miss.”

Xia Tao lowered her head again and thought to herself, “That’s right! If Young

Master finds out, I don’t know how his heart will ache. Anyone who provokes

Young Miss will not have a good ending.”

Although Yu Youyao sounded aggrieved, she was still clear-headed. “Chun Xiao, did you just say that the crepe myrtle garden has a large lake? Now, Yin Huaizhang must have left the courtyard to

inquire about me. Then, there's only the Third Prince in Ziwei Wan." At this point, she moved closer to Chun Xiao's ear and lowered her voice to give a few instructions. Do you understand?"

Chun Xiao was shocked. She was simply stunned by her young miss's audacity. "Young, Young Miss, is there really no problem with this? The Third Prince's status is precious. How, how, how... That's a death sentence. Moreover, Duke Rong's Residence is also an imperial relative, and it's in someone else's house..."

Yu Youyao sneered. "What's there to be afraid of? No matter what happens, it's still the fault of Duke Rong's Residence. What has it got to do with me? Duke Rong's Residence secretly lured me to see an outsider. They can't wait to cover up such a wicked and ugly matter. How can they dare to cause trouble

outside?"

Chun Xiao shivered, and her mind was in a mess. "If, if Consort Xu blames..."

Yu Youyao's lips twitched. "That's also the Duke Rong's Residence problem. It's the Duke Rong's Residence's fault for instigating the Third Prince to do such a despicable thing. What has it got to do with me? Even if it's for the sake of the Third Prince's reputation, I'm afraid Consort Xu won't dare to implicate me in this matter. I'm also the daughter of an official. My father is a high-ranking member of the Imperial Court, and my second uncle is a second-in-charge Grandmother is a madam, so she also has a respectable background. Even if there's evidence, I'm still a victim."

Chun Xiao was still a little terrified, and she couldn't speak properly. "But, but..."

Yu Youyao interrupted her. "Since Imperial Consort Xu and the Third Prince have designs on me, there will definitely be a next time if their scheme doesn't work this time. They have high statuses, and I'm only the daughter of an external minister. If I escape this time, I might not be able to escape the next time. You can be a thief for a thousand days but you can't hide from a thief a thousand times."

When Chun Xiao heard this, she gradually calmed down. "Young Miss, you're doing this because..."

Yu Youyao sneered. "Since they've already done something despicable and shameless, I'll directly make this matter public. I'll change it from a private matter to a court matter so that others can see what kind of despicable people the house in the Duke Rong's Residence is. Let them see what kind of dog the Third Prince is..."

Want to be emperor? Dream on!

Chun Xiao shuddered and stammered, "I-I understand!"

Xia Tao wished she could dig a hole in the ground. She couldn't help but think of how on the day of the Flower Festival in the Marquis of Changxings Residence, Young Miss had caused the reputation of the Marquis of

Changxing's Residence to be ruined, embarrassed the Marquis of Changxing's wife, and ruined Seventh Miss Cao's reputation.

This time, the person Eldest Miss wanted to mess with was an imperial relative!

She wanted to implicate the Third Prince!

Yu Youyao nodded in satisfaction. "Go there and do it. It's time to let the Duke Rong's Residence know what it means to suffer!"

Chun Xiao walked along the corridor and headed for the crepe myrtle garden.

Xia Tao was shocked and a little curious. "Young Miss, why did you ask Chun Xiao to go back?"

Since Imperial Consort Xu had schemed against her, she couldn't sit back and do nothing. At the very least, she had to plan to settle it once and for all so that no one would dare to target her again.

Yu Youyao did not plan to say anything else. She said calmly, "You'll know in a while."

Xia Tao did not dare to ask further, so she changed the topic. "What should we do now?"

Yu Youyao looked ahead at the seemingly endless corridor. "Of course we'll return back."

The master and servant pair quickened their pace along the corridor and quickly returned to the reception pavilion.

Seeing that she had returned after leaving for a short while, Old Madam Yu quickly asked, "Why are you back again? Didn't you go to the other sisters to admire the flowers?"

Yu Youyao glanced at the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence and hesitated.

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residences head exploded under her gaze. She almost jumped out of her chair on the spot and shouted, "Why are you looking at me!"

Fortunately, she endured it.

Just now, as soon as Yu Youyao entered the house, she knew that this arrangement had most likely failed. She had a bad feeling and couldn't help but curse inwardly, 'Yin Jinwei, this idiot, can't even do a small thing well!"

Even her smile was a little forced.

However!

Eldest Miss Yu was standing here well, so she must be fine. After all, she was an imperial relative. Eldest Miss Yu was a guest, so she probably did not dare to casually bite her.

At most, she would push Yin Jinwei out later to apologize to Eldest Miss Yu properly. She would compensate her with some good things from the palace and show her sincerity. This matter would most likely be resolved.

At the thought of this, the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence felt a little more at ease.

On the other hand, when Old Madam Yu saw her granddaughter looking at the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence, she had a difficult expression. Her heart couldn't help but sink. "Why do you look like you're hesitating? Did you cause some trouble for the Duke Rong Residence?"

Towards the end, even her voice became stern.

Yu Youyao was shocked and quickly explained, "I-I didn't. Second Madam personally led me out and even asked Fifth Miss of the residence to guide me. Fifth Miss treated me warmly and thoughtfully. She specially brought me to the Prince Residence to look at the crepe myrtle flowers. She said that there was a courtyard of crepe myrtle flowers there, but..."

At this point, she bit her lip uneasily and couldn't help but look at the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence again.

The old princess consort's expression darkened. The crepe myrtle flowers in the crepe myrtle garden were blooming beautifully. It was understandable for

Fifth Miss to bring Eldest Miss Yu over to take a look.

However, Eldest Miss Yu's attitude seemed to be hiding something.

No one else in the room was stupid.

Seeing that Eldest Miss Yu was hesitant to speak for a moment, she was afraid that something had gone wrong in the crepe myrtle garden.

Old Madam Yu's mind was buzzing. For a moment, she was anxious and angry. "You, you d\*mned child. Why didn't you stay with your sisters when you're in someone else's house? How can you run around? You..."

Just this sentence made the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence couldn't pretend to be stupid anymore. She quickly said, "Don't, don't be angry.

This is Fifth Miss's fault. It's Eldest Miss's first time at the Duke Rong

Residence and she doesn't know the way. It's also Fifth Miss's own decision to bring Eldest Miss into the crepe myrtle garden..."

Indeed, the older the wiser.

Before the matter was clear, Old Madam Yu had first picked on the fault of the

Duke Rong's Residence..

Chapter 610: Falling Into the Water

This was the first time Yu Youyao had come to the Duke Rong's Residence. If it weren't for the fact that the Duke Rong's Residence had deliberately led Yu

Youyao there, how would Yu Youyao have known that there was a crepe myrtle garden in the Duke Rong's Residence? How would she have known the way?

If anything happened to Eldest Miss Yu, it would be the fault of the Duke Rong's Residence for being rude to their guests.

Yu Youyao was stunned. Seeing her grandmother clutching her chest and panting, she quickly stepped forward and served her grandmother tea.

Old Madam Yu couldn't be bothered to drink her tea. She grabbed Yu Youyao's hand and squeezed out, "B-but what went wrong..."

Yu Youyao was shocked and quickly shook her head. "No, nothing went wrong. Fifth Miss Yin brought me to the entrance of the crepe myrtle garden and said that she wanted to change, so she left without a trace. I waited for a while, but I didn't see Fifth Miss Yin return. Seeing that there was no one nearby, I felt that it was inappropriate and quickly brought Xia Tao back. As I was walking in a hurry, I accidentally slipped and dirtied my shoes. Chun Xiao went to help me get new shoes."

As she spoke, she revealed the shoes hidden under her dress. The tops of the shoes were scraped.

Old Madam Yu finally heaved a sigh of relief, but her anger did not dissipate at all. "What's wrong with you? Instead of admiring the flowers with the other sisters, you went out alone. Why did you go to the crepe myrtle garden? You've forgotten all the etiquette and rules..."

Yu Youyao's eyes turned red from her grandmother's scolding, but she pursed her lips and did not dare to say anything.

At the side, Xia Tao's heart ached for Young Miss. She knelt on the ground with a thud. "Matriarch, please calm down. You can't blame this on Young Miss. This is the first time Young Miss has come to the Duke Rong's Residence, and she doesn't know the way. It was Fifth Miss Yin who took the initiative to bring Young Miss into the crepe myrtle garden. Halfway through, Young Miss saw that there were fewer and fewer people, so she felt that it was inappropriate. She asked Fifth Miss Yin, and she said that she saw that Young Miss was very interested in the scenery of the Duke Rong's Residence. That was why she took a detour and walked to the crepe myrtle garden for her to admire the flowers..."

The eyes of the various Madams present flashed.

To be honest, this was clearly the fault of the Duke Rong's Residence. Eldest Miss Yu could not be blamed at all.

Eldest Miss Yu had sensed it and returned in time. She was already considered smart. If it were someone else who was stupid, they would probably really believe Fifth Miss Yin.

Poor Eldest Miss Yu had almost suffered a loss in the Duke Rong's Residence, but because she was a guest, no matter how aggrieved she was, she couldn't say it explicitly. This caused her grandmother's eyes to turn red on the spot.

No one present was stupid.

Fifth Miss Yin did not bring Eldest Miss Yu to the place to admire the flowers, but only led her to the crepe myrtle garden.

Fifth Miss Yin had led her to the crepe myrtle garden alone, but she had used an excuse to escape. What did she mean?

There were groups of servants in the Duke Rong's Residence. Even if it was the Flower Festival today, there should still be people near the crepe myrtle garden. Only the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence could make such an arrangement.

This was clearly on purpose!

Old Madam Yu's face was ashen as she looked at the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence.

However, the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence's face turned pale.

The old princess consort glared at the princess consort of Duke Rong's Residence. "Tell me clearly, what exactly is going on?"

In the room, the other Madams also looked at the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence.

Under the gazes of everyone in the room, the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence felt like she had nowhere to hide. Now, what should she do?

Yu Youyao was indignant. She had almost been schemed against by the Duke Rong's Residence, so she deliberately put on an act with Old Madam Yu.

It turned out that she had to take into account the relationship with the Duke

Rong's Residence and avoided saying things that were difficult to say. Under Old Madam Yu's pretense of "rigorously" interrogating her just now, she had no choice but to reveal it.

Why hadn't she expected Yu Youyao to be so cunning at such a young age?

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence Prefecture groaned inwardly. "Since it is the Flower Festival today, the residence is very busy. Perhaps it's the steward of the residence who has transferred the servants who were left behind to help out elsewhere. I didn't expect Fifth Miss to be so ignorant as to lure Eldest Miss Yu to the crepe myrtle garden. This is our Fifth Miss's fault. I'll immediately send someone to get Fifth Miss to ask about this and give Eldest

Miss Yu an explanation..."

These words were not vague at all, but they pushed all the blame to Fifth Miss Yin in an attempt to cover up the situation.

Which Madam present wasn't smart?

As soon as she heard this, they knew that there was something fishy.

They wondered what Fifth Miss Yin was scheming by luring Eldest Miss Yu into the crepe myrtle.

The room immediately fell silent

Old Madam Yu stared fixedly at the Princess Consort of the Duke Rong's Residence, as if she wanted to eat someone.

Even though the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence had already thought of the aftermath, she was not afraid. She felt a faint sense of uneasiness. However, when she thought about how the Duke Rong's Residence was an imperial relative, as long as Eldest Miss Yu did not have concrete evidence, no matter what happened, it would not be her fault.

Her heart calmed down again.

The old princess consort was not satisfied with this answer, but family scandals should not be spread in public. No matter what her eldest daughter-in-law was plotting, not only could she not expose it in public, but she also had to help cover it up.

Hence, she looked at Yu Youyao comfortingly. "Eldest Miss Yu, this is the fault of our Duke Rong's Residence. Don't worry, I won't let you suffer for nothing."

Yu Youyao quickly said, "Old Princess Consort, you're being too serious. It's not a big deal. I'm fine anyway. Let's end this matter here, lest it disturbs the

Flower Festival in your residence and I ruin the scene."

As soon as she finished speaking, there was a flurry of footsteps outside.

Then, a maidservant in a navy dress rushed in in a panic. "Princess Consort, bad news. Third Prince, he, he fell into the water..."

As soon as these words were spoken, there was an uproar!

Pairs of incredulous gazes landed on the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence.

The crepe myrtle garden was in the inner courtyard. The Princess Consort of the Duke Rong's Residence had arranged for the Third Prince to be in the crepe myrtle garden and asked the fifth young miss of the residence to guide Yu Youyao to the crepe myrtle garden.

Even the stupidest person would understand what this meant.

Eldest Miss Yu was already shocked. Her face was pale as she stood in the room and trembled. She looked at the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence in a daze. Even her eyes were red. She looked too pitiful.

This Duke Rong's Residence was really lacking in virtue!

Old Madam Yu grabbed the teacup in her hand, her entire body trembling.

She had been on guard, but she had never expected that Consort Xu would use such a dirty trick when she had taken a fancy to Yao Yao. She did not even talk to her in private.

Fortunately, Yao Yao was smart.

Otherwise, Yao Yao's life would be ruined, and even the Yu Residence would be implicated in the battle for the position of heir.

The old princess consort was so shocked that she fell back. The maidservant serving her hurriedly went forward and called out, "Old princess consort, old princess consort..."

The room was in chaos, and the Madams of the various families looked at each other..