

## All Hail 611

### Chapter 611: Retribution

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence's mind was buzzing. She couldn't care less about her mother-in-law and stared at the maidservant. "What, what did you say just now? Say it again."

Third Prince fell into the water?!

This was impossible!

She must have heard wrongly just now.

The maidservant was also listless. Just now, when she was walking on the road, an unfamiliar maidservant appeared out of nowhere. She did not take a closer look, but the maidservant said to her in panic, "The Third Prince fell into the water. Hurry up and report to the Princess Consort. I still have to look

for Eldest Young Master..."

As soon as she finished speaking, she had already run away.

She stood rooted to the ground in shock.

She was Master's maidservant. Although no one in the residence knew that the Third Prince was coming to the residence to admire the flowers, the capable people around Master knew a little.

The Third Prince had a noble status, so no one dared to joke about him.

These words did not seem to be fake. How could she dare to delay? "Third Prince fell into the water..."

Something had really happened to the Third Prince?!

When the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence heard this, she couldn't lie to herself anymore and almost fainted on the spot. "How's the Third Prince? Is he alright..."

The maidservant was stunned by the question and subconsciously shook her head. "I don't know. I was carrying snacks and was about to send them to the Fangfei Courtyard when I met a maidservant. She asked me to come here and make a report..."

"You don't know?!" The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence was furious. She raised her arm and waved it forward. She slapped the young maidservant's face.

In her anger, she did not control the severity of her actions. The young maidservant's body tilted and she fell to the ground with a bang.

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence was still angry. She ranted, "You didn't even investigate such a big matter clearly and came over to make a report..."

All the Madams and Madams present were also very shocked.

Indeed, after displaying a lack of virtue, wasn't this retribution?!

The Third Prince had a noble status. Now that he had fallen into the water in the Duke Rong's Residence, regardless of whether he was fine or not, the Duke Rong's Residence would definitely be implicated. It was impossible for Consort Xu to let him off easily.

Yu Youyao's lips curved up.

As the daughter of an external minister, she did not suffer a loss today. Even if there was conclusive evidence, because of the royal family's reputation and the dignity of the royal family, she could only pinch her nose and admit that she was unlucky.

If they did not blow things up and Duke Rong's Residence could not cover it up, they would most likely just apologize and compensate her. The big matter would be reduced to a small matter, and the small matter would be brushed off.

Logically speaking, the proper way would be for Imperial Consort Xu to send a messenger to her maiden family to investigate the Yu Residence first before matchmaking. When it was agreed, she would report it to the emperor and ask him to issue a decree.

However, Consort Xu had even skipped this step and directly used such a despicable move. It was obvious that she was determined to get her.

Such a thing could be avoided for the first time, but not forever.

As the eldest daughter of the first wife of the Yu Residence, there were some occasions that she couldn't avoid even if she wanted to.

In that case, it was better to cut off Consort Xu's thoughts quickly.

Yu Youyao directly took action against the Third Prince and asked Chun Xiao to change into the maid servant's clothes of Duke Rong's Residence. She returned to the Purple Myrtle Garden and pushed the Third Prince into the lake.

Meanwhile, she returned to the reception pavilion, pretending to want to say something but hesitating. It was enough to arouse her grandmother's suspicion.

They put on a good act. Xia Tao was loyal to her master, so she revealed how the Duke Rong's Residence wanted to scheme against her.

Indeed!

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence had pushed all the blame to Fifth Miss Yin. Without concrete evidence, Yu Youyao wouldn't be implicated so the Duke Rong's Residence was fearless.

In the crepe myrtle garden, after the Third Prince fell into the water, he would definitely call for help and alarm the guards guarding the door.

Chun Xiao had disguised herself as a maidservant of Duke Rong's Residence and deliberately found someone on the way to report that the Third Prince had fallen into the water at the crepe myrtle garden.

She wanted everyone to know about this.

It was impossible for the Duke Rong's Residence not to know that the Third

Prince was in the crepe myrtle garden. However, they had spent a lot of effort lure Yu Youyao into the crepe myrtle garden. No matter how stupid they were, they should understand what they were up to.

There was no need for any evidence Yu Youyao had directly brought this matter to light and publicly executed it. The Duke Rong's Residence could not deny it even if they wanted to.

As for the prince...

Wasn't it a serious crime for someone from the Duke Rong's Residence to be suspected of murdering a prince?

Murdering someone from the royal family was a serious crime. The emperor would definitely send someone to investigate this matter thoroughly, so the matter of the Third Prince's "disgraced personal virtue" could not be hidden.

Concubine Lu had been sent to the cold palace. Although Consort Xu had gained power in the palace, she did not control everything. The battle for the position of heir had just begun. This matter was enough to give Consort Xu and the Third Prince a head-on blow.

She had also thought of knocking the Third Prince out and placing Yin Jinwei, who wanted to harm her, beside the Third Prince, ruining their reputation.

However, Yu Youyao did not want to use such a move to ruin a woman's reputation. At this point, Yin Jinwei would not be able to escape responsibility and her outcome would not be good.

Moreover, so what if the Third Prince and Yin Jinwei caused a scandal?

Yin Jinwei was just the daughter of a concubine. It was not enough for the Third Prince to travel all the way to the Duke Rong's Residence to do such a despicable thing.

The Third Prince could just say that Yin Jinwei had deliberately seduced him, set him up, and framed him.

With the help of the Duke Rong's Residence, Yin Jinwei was just a piece of white silk with a cheap life. However, to men, she was just a topic of conversation after dinner and was not worth mentioning.

After that, because of the reputation and the dignity of the royal family, no one dared to mention this matter again.

The Third Prince would not suffer any losses.

Everyone in the room was discussing softly about the Third Prince falling into the water.

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence Prefecture panicked completely and wanted to go to the crepe myrtle garden to take a look.

At this moment, Old Madam Yu grabbed the teacup on the table and suddenly stood up from her chair, throwing it at the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's

Residence.

With a crash, the teacup fell to the ground and shattered.

“Ah” The Princess Consort of Duke Rong’s Residence screamed. She felt a sharp pain in her forehead, as if something wet and slippery had flowed into her eyes. She reached out to touch it, but saw that her hand was covered in blood.

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong’s Residence had never seen such a scene before. She immediately screamed in fear, “Ah! Blood, blood, so much blood...”

“You dirty thing...” Old Madam Yu used all her strength to curse. Immediately, her eyes darkened and she fell to the ground with a bang.

“Grandmother, Grandmother...” Yu Youyao exclaimed and quickly squatted on the ground to check on Old Madam Yu.

“Matriarch.” Madam Yao was also shocked. She saw that Old Madam Yu’s face was ashen and she was lying on the ground without moving. She said,

“Someone, quickly get a doctor...”

Only then did everyone, who had already been stunned by the consecutive movements, react—

“Ah, Old Madam Yu fainted... “Oh my god, quickly get a doctor...”

“Someone, someone...”

Chapter 612: Anger

The reception pavilion was in chaos!

Before the Princess Consort of Duke Rong’s Residence could recover from her shock, she was shocked by Old Madam Yu, who had suddenly fainted.

Old Madam Yu’s health wasn’t good, so she fainted...

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong’s Residence’s eyes darkened, as if someone had drained all her strength. She spun around and fell to the ground) trembling. She was already so shocked that her body turned cold.

Just now, Old Madam Yu had used all her strength to smash a teacup on Princess Consort of Duke Rong’s Residence until her head bled.

However, at this moment, no one cared about the miserable state of the Princess Consort of Duke Rong’s Residence.

Everyone was shocked and frightened by Old Madam Yu’s sudden fainting.

Old Madam Yu’s health wasn’t good, and this wasn’t the first time. Previously, they saw that Old Madam Yu looked good, and she chatted with them happily.

Unexpectedly, the Duke Rong’s Residence had lost their conscience and morals. They actually wanted to ruin Eldest Miss Yu’s reputation.

Eldest Miss Yu was Old Madam Yu’s lifeblood. She had grown up in front of her.

Who could tolerate such a thing?

Wasn't this anger?

After suffering a blow, the old Princess Consort finally caught her breath. She glared at the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence and shouted, "What are you waiting for? Hurry up and get an imperial physician."

In public, in front of everyone, it was impossible to deny that her eldest daughter-in-law wanted to lure Eldest Miss Yu to meet the Third Prince privately and ruin Eldest Miss Yu's reputation.

At this point, they did not even want evidence. Everyone in the reception pavilion was a witness. Not only was the Duke Rong's Residence completely embarrassed, but they also had to suffer the anger of the Yu Residence!

Eldest Miss Yu was not the daughter of an ordinary official.

This matter involved the Third Prince again. The emperor had not been in good spirits recently, and his health was not as good as before. There was also a hidden turbulence in the struggle for the position of heir. This was a huge matter in the court.

This incident was still considered light!

Seeing Old Madam Yu's ashen face, she was shocked and afraid.

If anything happened to Old Madam Yu in Duke Rong's Residence, it would be completely over.

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residences mind was blank. She gave an order and moved quickly. Ignoring the injury on her head, she quickly got up and rushed out.

In the backyard of Duke Rong's Residence, a courtyard had been built.

The courtyard was connected to the crepe myrtle garden, and water flowed into the garden. May was approaching, and layers of sleeping lotus flowers floated on the surface of the water, blooming leisurely.

There were clusters of wooden hibiscuses planted by the lake. They were beautiful and charming, complementing the lake light.

In addition, there were also many peonies, orchids, camellias, and other expensive flowers and trees in the courtyard. The entire courtyard was filled with flowers and brocades. It was beautiful.

In the past two years, Yu Jianjia had been recuperating in the manor, unlike Yu Shuangbai, who often went out with her mother, or Yu Youyao, who did not have a mother. As the eldest daughter of the first wife, she had to attend some important events, so she had naturally seen the world.

Yu Youyao had an eldest sister's responsibilities. Before she left, she held Song Wanhui's hand. "My grandmother is old. I'm usually the one taking care of her, so she can't leave for a while. My third sister hasn't been outside for the past two years, and my second sister has a lively personality. I'll have to trouble

Sister Wan to take care of them more."

This was her first time in the Duke Rong's Residence, so Yu Jianjia couldn't help but feel a little nervous. She consciously walked with Song Wanhui.

Song Wanhui was polite to her and could be considered to have taken care of her. There was no problem with that, but the Song and Yu families were family friends. If she was too polite, it would seem distant.

After Song Wanhui finished being polite to her, she turned around and said to Yu Shuangbai, “Grandmother Yu hasn’t been out for many years. She dressed in an imperial mandate dress in her first appearance in years. She’s really scary.”

Yu Shuangbai smiled and said, “My grandmother’s health wasn’t good in the beginning. It was only in recent years that she had the energy to come out and walk around. She hasn’t come out for a long time. She definitely has to put on airs as an elder.”

Otherwise, others would think that there was no one in the Yu Residence.

Qi Sinian agreed deeply, so it wasn’t appropriate for him to say too much about his elders, so he asked Yu Youyao, “Why wasn’t there a banquet at home on your big sister’s birthday previously?”

In the past two years, the court had not been peaceful, and the banquets of the various families had decreased a lot. However, it was common for the sisters who were on good terms to interact and invite each other to small gatherings.

However, the Yu Residence did not have a madam in charge, and Old Madam

Yu was not in good health. As the eldest daughter of the first wife, Yu Youyao had to be filial to her elders and teach her younger siblings. It was not appropriate for her to go out often.

Yu Youyao was still an eldest daughter without a mother. Even though no one questioned her upbringing anymore, her words and actions were more cautious than theirs.

Yu Youyao rarely joined such small gatherings.

Yu Shuangbai puffed up her cheeks. “This was Grandmother’s idea. However,

Eldest Sisters birthday was very grand. Do you still remember the Green

Parasol Tree in the Jade Courtyard that had its branches cut off?”

Tang Yunxi nodded repeatedly. “The first time I went to the Jade Courtyard, I heard you mention that it was your cousin who cut off the branches on the Parasol Tree and wanted to make a zither for your big sister.”

The Green Parasol Tree in the Jade Courtyard was very rare.

Previously, her mother wanted to ask Yu Youyao for a piece of wood to help her make a good zither. There was no Sun Paulownia but the other parts of the Parasol Tree were also precious zither materials.

She had rejected her.

The older the Parasol Tree was, the more elegant and expensive it was. With her relationship with Yu Youyao, there was naturally nothing to say if she wanted a piece of wood. However, she couldn’t use this relationship to take advantage of Yu Youyao.

Song Wanhui’s interest was also piqued. “In that case, Cousin Zhou’s zither is ready?”

Yu Shuangbai looked surprised. “It took three years for him to be finally done.

Cousin Zhou treated it as a birthday gift and gave it to Eldest Sister. Eldest Sister named it Shaoyu. The five strings of the zither are excellent and have nine virtues. My father said that this zither will be the most famous in the world.”

The few of them widened their eyes. The only famous zithers were clock, burnt tail, and the green leaves.

Elder Yu was talented in literature. He was in a high position and was knowledgeable. Naturally, his judgment was not wrong.

“Cousin Zhou is too amazing...”

“I’m so envious of Yao Yao for having such a talented cousin...”

“I have to go to your house another day and see this famous zither...”

Yu Shuangbai looked a little smug. “Cousin Zhou even made a lacquered zither box to store the zither...”

In that case, even after Yu Youyao’s birthday, Yu Jianjia had heard a lot of discussion in the residence. After hearing the same thing, she became tired of it.

She really did not know what Yu Shuangbai was showing off.

What was he so smug about?

No matter how impressive Zhou Linghuai was, no matter how good and rare the zither was, it was still Yu Youyao’s alone. Yu Shuangbai wasn’t the one who had benefited!

Yu Shuangbai naturally did not feel anything in the Second Mansion.

However, as the young misses of the main mansion, they were both his cousins. Zhou Linghuai shouldn’t favor one over the other but he didn’t care.

Not only did he show favoritism, but he also did not hide his preference for Yu Youyao and coldness to her.

It was very awkward..

Chapter 613: Really Noble Girl

Yu Jianjia couldn’t stand it anymore. When she saw that a pavilion had been built not far away, she said, “Second Sister, I’ll go sit in the pavilion in front.” The pavilion was in front. At a glance, she could see a few young misses sitting in twos and threes and having fun.

Yu Shuangbai nodded. “I’ll send you there.”

Yu Jianjia shook her head. “It’s only a few steps. I’ll go over myself. Second

Sister, don’t worry about me. Just admire the flowers with Third Sister Song and Seventh Sister Qi!”

“Alright, be careful. I’ll look for you later.” Yu Shuangbai did not force her. Yu Jianjia had a maidservant with her, so she did not plan to go far. If she paid more attention, she would not be worried.

Yu Jianjia was more scheming than her, and she was familiar with flowers and plants. It was not a problem for her to deal with such an occasion, and she did not need to follow her.

Yu Jianjia brought Ai Ye and Bai Ye to the pavilion.

As soon as she entered the pavilion, a fourteen or fifteen-year-old girl immediately welcomed her and warmly held her hand. “Are you Third Miss Yu?”

The young lady was wearing a cloud veil and was dressed elegantly.

Yu Jianjia subconsciously recalled that on Yu Youyao’s birthday, she was also wearing such a bright cloud-like veil.

She was really beautiful.

Yu Jianjia was stunned for a moment. She did not recognize this young lady. She nodded slightly and asked apologetically, “May I know who you are?”

Before the young girl could say anything, there was a young girl beside her who was wearing a green dress. She was holding a round fan with two-sided peony flowers, and there was a jade tassel on the handle.

She covered her mouth with her fan and smiled sweetly. “This person will give you a shock if I tell you.” Her smile deepened. “She’s the second daughter of the first wife of the Xu family, Xu Linlang. She’s a noble lady of a distant imperial relative.”

She didn’t know if it was intentional or not, but she emphasized the words “noble lady” as if it had a deeper meaning.

Yu Jianjia was shocked. The first thing she thought of was that Yu Youyao had been rewarded and praised by the Empress Dowager previously. She also had the reputation of being a “noble lady” in the capital.

However, Yu Youyao, a pseudo-noble lady, was a little insignificant in front of Xu Linlang, a real noble lady.

The Xu Residence was Imperial Consort Xu’s maiden home and the Third Prince’s external family.

Concubine Lu had entered the cold palace and the Empress Yuan had been sick for a long time. Now, the person in charge of the phoenix seal in the palace and the power of the harem was Consort Xu, the leader of all concubines.

Yu Jianjia reacted and quickly apologized, “I wasn’t in good health in the past, so I came out to walk around. I didn’t recognize Sister Xu. Don’t blame me.”

Xu Linlang did not mind either. Yu Jianjia did not recognize her, so she smiled kindly and said, “Don’t listen to Jinrou’s nonsense. She’s a proper daughter of a noble family. In front of her, how would we dare to call ourselves noble ladies?!”

She also sized up Yu Jianjia imperceptibly. She saw that Yu Jianjia was weak and looked pitiful, but she did not look sick.



Perhaps her body had recovered.

It turned out that the girl who had spoken just now was the Third Miss of the Duke Rong's Residence, Yin Jinrou.

Yu Jianjia quickly bowed. "Sister Yin, greetings."

Seeing that she was generous and polite, Yin Jinrou smiled and said, "Your big sister is quite close to our family, so there's no need to be too polite." She changed the topic and sized up Yu Youyao with her beautiful eyes. She asked with concern, "I heard that you were born weak and have been recuperating in the manor for two years. Are you feeling better now?"

Without bothering to explain anything, Yu Jianjia smiled gently. "It's also because Imperial Physician Hu used medicine to strengthen my foundation and nurture my essence. I became fine after recuperating for two to three years."

The main purpose of the medicine was to nourish her body. It seemed that other than her bones being a little weak, Third Miss Yu did not have any other illnesses.

The Xu Residence and the Duke Rong Residence often interacted with Imperial Physician Hu, so they naturally admired his medical skills very much. After hearing Yu Jianjia's casual words, they believed her.

Xu Linlang held her hand and smiled. "In that case, Third Sister Yu's health has improved greatly. Congratulations."

Yin Jinrou also said, "You've just recovered and have come out to walk around.

Why don't you come with Sister Xu and me to admire the flowers and meet the others?"

Yu Jianjia couldn't ask for more and thanked her repeatedly.

Yin Jinrou was the legitimate daughter of Duke Rong's Residence, so it made sense for her to treat her well.

However, Xu Linlang was Consort Xu's niece and the third prince's biological cousin. She was really a relative of the emperor. Why was she taking the initiative to get close to her?

Using the excuse of admiring the flowers, Yu Jianjia quickly became familiar with Yin Jinrou and Xu Linlang.

Xu Linlang seemed to be very interested in Yu Youyao and asked a lot about her. "I've long heard that your big sister is the number one beauty in the capital. She has a reputation for being virtuous, but I haven't had the chance to see her. Third Sister, you have to introduce us later."

Yu Jianjia lowered her eyes and agreed gently. Xu Linlang wanted to get close to her so that she could help introduce her to Yu Youyao?!

However, with Xu Linlang's family background, why was she still trying to get close to Yu Youyao?

Yu Jianjia was puzzled.

At this moment, Xia Tao rushed over anxiously. "Third Miss, Eldest Miss wants you to return to the reception pavilion immediately."

Yu Jianjia pursed her lips and was a little unhappy.

No matter what Xu Linlang's motive was for approaching her, it was rare for her to befriend noble ladies like Xu Linlang and Yin Jinrou. Naturally, she did not want to leave so quickly.

At the thought of this, Yu Jianjia was in no hurry to leave. She asked gently, "Big Sister, why are you looking for me?"

Xu Linlang and Yin Jinrou were also a little curious.

Xia Tao lowered her eyes. "Matriarch fainted in the reception pavilion. When

Second Miss received the news, she immediately sent someone to look for you. I didn't expect Third Miss to have walked far away to admire the flowers and didn't see you for a moment. Second Miss was worried about Matriarch's health, so she returned to the reception pavilion first and asked me to come and look for Third Miss."

Yu Jianjia was stunned on the spot, and her eyes turned red. "W-what?"

Grandmother fainted? What's going on? How's Grandmother? It's all my fault.

I know that Grandmother's health isn't good, so I shouldn't have left Eldest Sister alone to take care of her. I-I'll go back immediately..."

However, Xia Tao's gaze turned cold.

What did Third Miss mean? It was as if anyone wanted to hold it against her. Why was she blaming herself for the Matriarch's fainting?

Yin Jinrou had a bad feeling.

Xu Linlang was also stunned for a moment before she quickly comforted her. "Third Sister Yu, don't panic. This isn't your fault. As the eldest sister, you should take care of her more in front of her elders. You've just had a chance to go out, so you should take this opportunity to see more of the world and get to know more people..."

Yu Jianjia was flustered. She bit her lip tightly, and tears welled up in her eyes. She bowed casually to Yin Jinrou and Xu Linlang and hurriedly followed Xia

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Chapter 614: The Less Harmful of Two Bad Outcomes

Old Madam Yu's sudden fainting really frightened everyone in the room.

After leaving the messy house, the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence calmed down a little and quickly instructed the maidservant in front of her, 'Quickly go to the front courtyard and invite the imperial physician who came to admire the flowers today. I remember that Imperial Physician Hu is also here. You...

Her voice suddenly stopped!

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence suddenly remembered that the Third Prince had fallen into the water at the crepe myrtle garden. She felt dizzy again and was lucky to be supported by the maidservant in front of her to stabilize herself.

There was a wound on the princess consort's head, and blood flowed down her cheek. The maidservant was very worried. "Princess Consort, the wound on your forehead..."

Only then did the Consort of Rong remember that she had been hit by Old Madam Yu's teacup and bled. No wonder she kept feeling a headache and a little dizzy.

It would have been better if she hadn't mentioned it, but at the mention of her numb wound, she felt another sharp pain.

"Ah—" The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence immediately pinched her handkerchief and covered her head tightly. However, she did not forget to instruct, "Send Imperial Physician Hu to see the Third Prince in the crepe myrtle garden..." As she gave the instructions, the Princess Consort of Duke

Rong's Residence had a terrible headache and could not help but curse softly, "Damn old woman, your grip is so strong. You even said that your health isn't good and you fainted just like that. I'm afraid you're pretending!"

However, at this moment, on one side, the Third Prince had fallen into the water. She did not know how he was doing.

On the other side, Old Madam Yu had fainted and was also in the dark.

No matter what happened, the Duke Rong's Residence would be in trouble.

The situation was critical, so she had to invite the imperial physician over first. The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence couldn't care less about her head injury for the time being and planned to return to the reception pavilion to take a look at Old Madam Yu's condition.

However, she was still worried about the Third Prince. "Go and invite the imperial physician first. I'll go to the crepe myrtle garden personally."

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence looked back at the reception pavilion, gritted her teeth, and left.

Of the two bad outcomes, she chose the less harmful one.

How could Old Madam Yu's life be more precious than the Third Prince's?

If something happened to Old Madam Yu, there was still room for the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence to find a way out. If something happened to the Third Prince, the Duke Rong's Residence would really be accused of "conspiring to murder the prince."

There was still the old princess consort here, and the imperial physician had been invited over.

However, she did not know what was going on with the Third Prince. If she did not make a trip personally, how could she feel at ease?

In the reception pavilion, the old princess consort arranged for servants to lead all the Madams and Madams present to the Fangfei Courtyard. Other than

the people from the Yu Residence, only the Marquis of Zhenguo's wife and Eldest Madam Qi stayed behind to support them in the huge reception pavilion.

A few old maids moved a few partition doors over and surrounded Old Madam Yu, creating a small room.

The old princess consort had taken out all her secret medicine, as well as precious medicinal herbs like ginseng and lingzhi. Whether they were useful or not was secondary. She had to show her sincerity.

Yu Youyao's eyes turned red as she pinched Old Madam Yu.

Old Madam Yu still showed no signs of waking up.

The atmosphere became even more solemn.

Madam Yao's eyes turned red as she forced herself to calm down. She sent someone to inform the old masters in the front courtyard, as well as Yu Shuangbai and Yu Jianjia, who were admiring the flowers in Fangfei Courtyard.

All the necessary arrangements had been made, but Matriarch had yet to wake up.

Madam Yao couldn't help either. She could only stand at the side and watch anxiously.

The Marquis of Zhenguo's wife and Eldest Madam Qi were also very worried. They sat on Madam Yao's left and right and comforted her softly.

Yu Youyao lit a Musk Medicinal Fragrance Pill and took off the heavy crown on her grandmother's head. She loosened her bun and undid her imperial mandate dress.

She instructed Nanny Liu, "Grandmother has fainted. You and I will press on her left and right hands at the same time. Do you remember where the acupuncture points are?"

Nanny Liu said calmly, "Eldest Miss has taught me before. I remember!"

Her grandmother was old and often fainted in the past. After learning the acupuncture points from Nanny Xu, she had memorized the five acupuncture points emergency method and taught her grandmother's servants to be safe.

Today, it came in handy. Yu Youyao instructed Qing Xiu, "Go and press Grandmother's acupuncture point."

Qing Xiu immediately agreed.

There were a total of four acupuncture points on her left and right hands. In addition, there was the Ren Zhong pressure point. One would press all the acupuncture points at the same time to save an unconscious patient.

Seeing that Yu Youyao was very calm and did not panic at all, the people in the room felt more or less stable.

At this moment, chaotic footsteps sounded outside the door.

Outside, Madam Luo's voice sounded. "The old princess consort and the royal prince have brought the imperial physician over. Eldest Master Yu and Second Master Yu are worried about Old Madam Yu, so they're also here. They're waiting outside the reception pavilion."

They did not enter directly. They were probably worried that she would offend the women in the inner courtyard, so they asked Madam Luo to come over and report first.

The old princess consort's heart relaxed, and her straight back collapsed. She said anxiously, "Quickly invite the imperial physician, Eldest Master Yu, and Second Master Yu in."

All the women in the reception pavilion had gone to Fangfei Courtyard, and the backyard had been cleared. Eldest Master Yu and Second Master Yu were worried about Old Madam Yu, so it was understandable that they had followed the imperial physician over.

The group quickly entered the reception pavilion and arrived at the door.

Old Madam Yu lay on the ground, unconscious.

Yu Youyao knelt on the ground and helped Old Madam Yu massage her acupuncture points.

Yu Zongzheng's expression did not look good. He quickly turned around and invited Imperial Physician Hu in to treat Old Madam Yu.

The smile on Yu Zongshen's face disappeared. In the past two years, his mother's health had improved a lot, so she wouldn't suddenly faint after attending a flower festival.

Duke Rong's scalp went numb. He looked around the room but did not see the princess consort. His heart was beating like a drum. Clearly, he did not know that the Third Prince had fallen into the water.

When Madam Yao saw Master coming over, she immediately wiped her tears and called out hoarsely, "Master!"

Yu Zongshen asked in a low voice, "How's Mother's condition?"

Madam Yao's eyes welled up with tears again. She said hoarsely, "Mother has already been unconscious for the time it takes to burn an incense stick. There was no reaction when she was pinched. She used the Musk Medicinal Fragrance Pill, and the effect wasn't that fast. Yao Yao helped Mother perform first aid by pressing her acupuncture points..."

After Imperial Physician Hu entered the door, he was in no hurry to take Old Madam Yu's pulse. Instead, he first checked the incense used, then observed Yu Youyao's first aid.

After that, Imperial Physician Hu nodded. "The Musk Medicinal Fragrance Pill is very thorough." He walked up to Old Madam Yu and checked her eyelids. After confirming Old Madam Yu's condition, he said, "Eldest Miss Yu, you can stop now. Let me take her pulse."

"Thank you, Imperial Physician Hu!" Yu Youyao quickly stood up and bowed to him. Her legs felt sore and numb, and she almost collapsed to the ground.

"Young Miss!" Chun Xiao quickly supported her young miss with a worried expression.

Only then did Yu Youyao realize that Chun Xiao was nearby. "I'm fine. I won't disturb Imperial Physician Hu from taking Grandmother's pulse." The reception pavilion was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop..

Chapter 615: Invited Her into a Trap



Yu Zongzheng and Yu Zongshen were filled with questions, but Old Madam Yu's situation was unknown, so they were not in the mood to ask.

Yu Youyao looked blankly at Imperial Physician Hu taking her grandmother's pulse, not understanding why her grandmother had suddenly fainted.

It had been a long time since her grandmother had fainted.

Before scheming against the Third Prince, it wasn't that she hadn't thought that her grandmother would be furious, but she hadn't suffered a loss. She had even set up a counterattack. Although her grandmother was angry, she wouldn't faint from anger.

After Imperial Physician Hu finished taking her pulse, he stroked his goatee. "Old Madam Yu has been sick for many years and her body has suffered too much damage. Fortunately, she has recuperated well in the past two years, but when she's old, it's inevitable for some old people to fall sick. Old Madam Yu suddenly was so anxious and angry that she suddenly fainted. Fortunately, Eldest Miss Yu burned the Musk Medicinal Fragrance Pill in time and combined it with the first aid method on her five acupuncture points. Otherwise, she would have had a stroke at best...

Imperial Physician Hu did not continue.

However, everyone present understood the illness of having weak Yin and a strong Yang while having sudden anger. Blood qi would surge and they would fall to the ground. After that, most of them were either paralyzed or dead.

Old Madam Yu was also very lucky to have a filial granddaughter who knew pharmacology and first aid. Even the servants in front of her had been taught such methods to ensure her safety.

The old princess consort broke out in a cold sweat.

Fortunately, she was saved.

Otherwise, regardless of whether he was paralyzed or dead, the Duke Rong's Residence would not be able to escape punishment.

Yu Zongzheng also felt a lingering fear and quickly asked, "Imperial Physician Hu, how's my Matriarch now? When can she wake up?"

Imperial Physician Hu said, "Although she's unconscious, she received first aid and her pulse is calm. She's fine for the time being. I'll give Matriarch a few injections and she'll wake up in a while."

Yu Zongshen also heaved a sigh of relief and nodded. "Thank you, Imperial Physician Hu."

Imperial Physician Hu wanted to perform acupuncture on Matriarch Hu, so the group left the room, leaving Nanny Liu and Qing Xiu to assist.

Yu Youyao's eyes turned red as she stood there in a daze.

Eldest Madam Qi's heart ached when she saw this. She pulled her into her arms and gently patted her shoulder. "It's all thanks to you that your grandmother is fine."

Yu Youyao's suppressed tears rushed out. "It's all because of me that Grandmother..."

If she hadn't schemed against the Third Prince for falling into the water... Eldest Madam Qi stroked Yu Youyao's head and said bluntly, "Don't take all the responsibility on yourself. Someone's heart is dirty, and they've lost their conscience. How is it your fault?"

The Marquis of Zhenguo's wife handed her a handkerchief and advised, "Fortunately, you're a smart person. You didn't really let anyone scheme against you. Otherwise, your grandmother wouldn't have just fallen unconscious."

If Yu Youyao really let the Third Prince ruin her good reputation, Old Madam Yu would rather die than be a disgrace. Even if she gave up her life, she had to protect her granddaughter's good reputation and not let her granddaughter fall into a fire pit. It was also to prevent the Yu Residence from being implicated in the battle for the position of heir.

If Old Madam Yu had lost her life, Eldest Master Yu and Second Master Yu could use her death as an excuse and observe mourning for three years to temporarily evade the commotion in the royal court.

No matter how bold and presumptuous the Duke Rong's Residence and the Third Prince were, they did not dare to be aggressive anymore. Otherwise, once they fought to the death, the Third Prince and the Duke Rong's Residence would not have a good time.

Yu Youyao couldn't help but feel a chill run down her spine. If even an outsider like the Marquis's wife could think of it, how could she not?

Her grandmother was unconscious not because she had schemed against the Third Prince.

Instead, it stemmed from the fact that Duke Rong's Residence wanted to harm her.

Regardless of whether she had schemed against the Third Prince or not, after her grandmother found out that the Duke Rong's Residence was plotting against her reputation, she would definitely faint from anger. Logically, Yu Youyao knew that all of this was not her fault.

However, her grandmother had indeed...

Yu Youyao couldn't let it go. She choked and said, "But I don't know why Duke Rong's Residence wanted to... scheme for me to go to crepe myrtle garden and meet the Third Prince privately. I have no grudge with them..."

Eldest Madam Qi lowered her eyes. "Although Duke Rong's Residence has been reinstated for many years, the title of heir of his eldest son, Yin Huaizhang, has never been given to him. A while ago, I heard Master mention it. He said that Duke Rong had sent another memorial to the Imperial Court to be conferred the title of heir."

The matter of conferring the title of heir had to go through the Imperial Court first.

What else did Yu Youyao not understand?

It turned out that the Duke Rong's Residence wanted their eldest son to be an heir. They followed Imperial Consort Xu's instructions and held this flower festival to invite her into their trap.

Yu Youyao was furious. These royal relatives could sacrifice others unscrupulously and scheme against others for their own interests. It was simply disgusting.

Eldest Madam Qi hugged Yu Youyao and sighed softly. "You've already done very well just now. Don't let your imagination run wild."

Old Madam Yu fell to the ground. Adults like them couldn't help at all. They could only watch helplessly. However, Yu Youyao was still able to calm down and give first aid. Her hands didn't tremble, her heart didn't panic, and her eyes didn't panic.

Such a shrewd and magnanimous girl was the blessing of any family.

Who wouldn't want her?

It was she who had thick skin a year earlier and relied on her friendship with the Yu Residence to make a request for her eldest son. Old Madam Yu didn't say anything, so she just let it go.

Imperial Consort Xu also knew that Yu Youyao's family background and character had even aroused the interest of the Duke's Residence.

Such a family background was only enough for a secondary consort in the palace. However, if she entered the Dukes Residence, she would definitely become the first wife.

There was a Yu Clan ancestor who had entered the palace as a concubine, but there was no precedent of her being a secondary consort to a prince.

The difference in status was inevitable.

However, the marriage of a prince needed the approval of the elders of the woman before the emperor could bestow the marriage.

For daughters of the Yu Residence, there was a rule that they were not to be concubines. If they were given a concubine status, it would be an insult to the officials of the court. Any smart emperor would not do this.

Imperial Consort Xu wanted this marriage. She was worried that the Yu Residence wouldn't say anything, but she was also afraid that the others in the imperial family would strike first. She could only start with Yu Youyao's reputation.

After a while, Imperial Physician Hu left the room. "She'll wake up in about the time it takes to burn an incense stick. I can arrange for someone to move Matriarch Yu."

Before Madam Yao could speak, the old princess consort immediately said,

"The side room has been tidied up and a couch has been placed inside."

There were also other rooms in the backyard, but Old Madam Yu was not awake yet, so it was more appropriate to arrange for her to lie there.

No matter how angry Madam Yao was with the Duke Rong's Residence, she couldn't joke about Old Madam's health. She let Nanny Liu carry Old Madam Yu into the side room.

Outside, Imperial Physician Hu prescribed a prescription and handed it to Yu Youyao. "The liver stores blood, the kidneys stores essence. The liver and kidneys come from the same source. The blood and essence fuses together. Only when the blood from the liver is abundant can the blood transform into essence. Only then can the kidney essence be filled. Matriarch was so anxious that her heart was attacked by anger. She was so angry that her liver was injured and she suddenly fainted, causing her essence and blood to suffer a loss and her foundation to be damaged. In the future, she must not be too angry. Otherwise, such a fainting will happen again. When the old matriarch faints once, her blood essence will suffer a loss. After a few times, her life will be lost.."

## Chapter 617: Cut the pretense

The old princess consort lowered her head and took a sip of tea. She watched coldly as Madam Luo's forehead turned red.

After a while, the old nanny brought out a wooden tray. There was a piece of snow satin that was rolled into the shape of a peony.

The old princess consort picked up the snow satin. It was long, snow-white and pure, like a high-grade pearl emitting a lustrous luster.

Madam Luo remembered that Yin Jinrou had such a snow satin shawl that the old princess consort had given her.

Indeed!

The old princess sighed slightly. "The snow satin made by the best snow silkworms is thin and bright. It's only available in the palace. This was even rewarded by the palace when Duke Rong's Residence was reinstated back then. I've never been willing to take it out. I cut out a portion some time ago to make a piece for Jinrou."

Occasionally, it could be seen outside the palace, but it was all inferior. Naturally, it could not compare to the gifts given by the palace.

Madam Luo, who was clueless, panicked, and her eyes were filled with tears.

Then, she heard the old princess consort sigh with emotion. "Imagine a long shawl hanging in the crook of her arm. It wraps around her arm and drags her to the ground. When she sits, it's thin and flimsy. When she walks, it's like the wind brushing against a willow tree. Her movements complement each other."

There were no embroidery patterns on the long piece of snow satin, but it was more beautiful than the thousands of roses in the world. There were small flowers inlaid on it with white, pink, and gold pearls, and there were pearl tassels hanging along the edge.

It was much more exquisite than Yin Jinrou's.

Madam Luo could almost imagine how beautiful and elegant the silk was on her. The small pearl flowers on it shone brightly and reflected the snow satin. The pearl tassels at the side swayed gently, making her look delicate and elegant...

The old princess consort's finger gently slid across the snow satin shawl. "Fifth Miss was very envious when she saw it. She talked about it in front of me a lot and asked me for it openly and secretly, but I never relented." There was a difference between the first wife and the second wife that the elders cared about. She was the daughter of a concubine, but she wanted to compare herself to the first wife's daughter in every way. Furthermore, even she couldn't bear to use such an expensive material. "There's only this piece left. I made this shawl a while ago to give to Eldest Miss Yu."

There were more than 300 pearls on the silk. All of them were round and even in size. White pearls were good, pink pearls were rare, and light golden shark pearls were even rarer.

A piece of cloth that used all the good beads that she had accumulated.

This showed her sincerity.

Unexpectedly, before she could take it out, the ones who held her back were her family members.

Hearing the old princess consort mention Yin Jinwei, the fear in Madam Luo's heart dissipated a lot.

"What a pity." The old princess sighed slightly. She stole a look at Madam Luo. "I'll reward this snow satin silk to Fifth Miss." There was a hint of pity in her turbid eyes. Her body collapsed against the back of the bed, as if she had aged more than ten years. 'You were the one who caused the mess. You can handle the rest yourself.'

The old nanny carried the wooden tray and walked up to Madam Luo with a wooden face.

Madam Luo took a deep breath and stood up from the ground with a trembling body. She took the tray with trembling hands. "On behalf of Fifth

Miss, I thank the old princess consort for her reward."

The old princess consort's face turned slightly ashen. "In that case, it's all thanks to our grandmother-granddaughter relationship. Go ahead!"

Madam Luo's hand, which was holding the wooden tray, trembled slightly.

The old princess consort did not mention that Yin Jinwei's mother was a concubine at all. Clearly, she did not plan to deal with her.

However, she had schemed against Yin Jinwei today and wanted to deal with her. Concubine Yang probably hated her. How could she live a peaceful life in the future?

The old princess consort deliberately did not let her have an easy time.

Madam Luo carried the wooden tray out of the reception pavilion in a daze. She saw the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence, whose head was wrapped in gauze, rushing over.

As soon as the two of them met, the Princess Consort of Rong County immediately saw that the long piece of snow satin in the tray was like a white silk that could kill someone with a gentle strangle around the neck.

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residences face suddenly turned pale. She gently stepped into the reception pavilion and looked around the room. After a while, the old princess consort found out that the Third Prince was fine and had already returned to the palace. "There's no need to look. The people from the Yu Residence will leave soon."

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence was delighted and quickly asked, "Then Old Madam Yu, she..."

Since she could take the carriage back to the residence, she should be fine.

She knew it. Previously, when she hit her, her grip was heavy and ruthless. She did not look like someone who had been sick for a long time. The old woman might have deliberately fainted to scare her.

The old princess consort saw her changing expression. "Old Madam Yu overreacted to the situation. She's fine for the time being, but she's also injured her body." She said coldly, "I remember your mother. Two years ago, she suddenly fainted due to an overreaction. As soon as she fell to the

ground, everyone in the house panicked. Before the imperial physician could enter the residence, she was already dead...”

“This, this...” The princess consort’s heart turned cold.

Looking at her eldest daughter-in-law’s face, sparks appeared in the old princess’s heart.

After Old Madam Yu was sent to the side room to settle down, Yu Zongzheng couldn’t wait to denounce the person who triggered her.

Yu Youyao’s eyes turned red as she knelt on the ground with a thud. Her delicate figure trembled slightly. She was really gentle and elegant. Her figure was light and slender.

“Father, it’s all my fault...” Eldest Miss Yu only said this.

Madam Yao quickly said, “Yao Yao isn’t to blame for this incident. It’s because the Duke Rong’s Residence went too far and wanted to harm our Yao Yao...” Then, she recounted everything in detail.

Eldest Madam Qi and the Marquis of Zhenguo’s wife also chimed in. Eldest Miss Yu knelt on the ground and cried her heart out. She admitted her mistake, so naturally, someone spoke up for her.

In the side room, Old Madam Yu’s face was sallow as she asked Nanny Liu to help her out. “Go and call Second Sister and Third Sister back. We’ll return to the residence.”

The old princess consort quickly said, “You’ve just woken up. How can you withstand the bumpy carriage? Why don’t you rest again? I’ll get someone to prepare a soft sedan chair to carry you back...”

Old Madam Yu said coldly, ‘You don’t have to worry about that. Even if I die, I have to die in my own family. I can’t be tainted by your family.’

These words implied that she wanted to cut the pretense.

What the old princess consort was most worried about still happened. “What happened today...”

Her granddaughter knelt on the ground and cried. Even her eyes were red from crying. Old Madam Yu’s heart ached. She quickly bent down and wanted to help her granddaughter up.

Yu Youyao was shocked. She quickly stood up and supported her grandmother.

Old Madam Yu patted her hand and turned to look at the old princess consort. “Since your family doesn’t care about your face, why should I? Otherwise, there will always be people who think that the eldest daughter of the Yu Residence is easy to bully.”

Recalling what Old Madam Yu had said before she left, the old princess consort’s body went limp. “Go back and put on your makeup. Go apologize to the Empress Dowager yourself..”

Chapter 618: An Eye for an Eye

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong’s Residence fell to the ground with a thud. “I was wrong. I know my mistake. Please spare me this time...”

Yin Jinwei's lowly life was not enough, and the old princess consort even had to abandon her to survive.

The old princess consort was indifferent and continued, "You took a fancy to Eldest Miss Yu and wanted a marriage alliance with the Yu Residence. Worried that Old Madam Yu wouldn't say anything, you asked Fifth Miss to lure Eldest Miss Yu to the crepe myrtle garden to meet Brother Zhang'er privately. You didn't expect that Brother Zhang would actually lure Third Prince to the crepe myrtle garden without knowing anything. It almost harmed the Third Prince and tainted Miss Yu's reputation..."

The crepe myrtle garden was the best place in the residence.

Brother Zhang did not know about his mother's arrangements in advance. Seeing that the crepe myrtle garden was cleared and there was no reason to be afraid of having an encounter with a girl, he brought the Third Prince to the crepe myrtle garden to admire the scenery. It made sense.

It hadn't been a day or two since Yin Jinwei had coveted her legitimate sister's snow satin shawl. Not many people in the residence knew that she had lured Eldest Miss Yu to the crepe myrtle garden for a snow satin shawl.

Yin Jinwei had no evidence so this excuse was reasonable.

As a result, the Third Prince had suffered an undeserved calamity. Brother Zhang knew nothing about it, and all the fault was on the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence.

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence collapsed to the ground and said miserably, "This, this is all the Prince's idea. I was doing as he wanted. It was the Prince who was worried that if he wanted to marry into the Yu Residence, he would offend Consort Xu. He wanted to walk on the same path as Consort Xu and inherit the throne. He wanted to take the opportunity to please Consort Xu..."

Ning Yuanbo's residence was sealed, and Concubine Lu was sent to the Cold Palace. Although the second prince was very valued by the emperor, without his mothers planning and the help of an external family, it was difficult for him to become a Marquis.

Imperial Consort Xu was the "head of the concubines." The Xu family was an old noble family. The Third Prince was smart and the emperor liked him very much.

Comparing the two, it was obvious.

Although the Duke Rong's Residence had been reinstated, it did not have any real power. Only by making contributions to the imperial family could they gain power. If they stood on Imperial Consort Xu's side early, they would be able to enjoy endless wealth in the future.

"I know." The old princess consort's tone was very calm, and her eyelids did not even move. "A woman should stand by her man. You're a woman of the inner residence. If it weren't for Eldest Son's approval, you wouldn't have had the guts to scheme against the daughter of an official."

Fire lit up in the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence's eyes as she looked at the old Princess Consort excitedly.

The old princess consort looked at her pitifully. "But so what? You're husband and wife. If you push this matter to Eldest Son, if anything happens to him, it'll be the fault of the entire Duke Rong's Residence. What good will happen to you? Think about it again. The person who brought Third Prince to the crepe myrtle garden is Brother Zhang. If no one takes the initiative to bear this sin, he won't be able to escape responsibility."

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence felt a chill run down her spine and her mouth trembled...

The old princess consort knew what she wanted to say. "Yin Jinwei is just an insignificant daughter of a concubine. How can she send away all the servants in the crepe myrtle garden? How can she arrange for Eldest Miss Yu to meet another man in private? Previously, everyone who was present saw the scene.

You can't deny it even if you want to."

It was only now that she understood!

Previously, when Yu Youyao returned to the reception pavilion, her words in public were heart-wrenching. With just a few words, she had pushed the blame to the Duke Rong's Residence.

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence fell to the ground and cried miserably. "Isn't Yu Youyao fine? Isn't Fifth Miss's life enough?"

"How can an insignificant daughter of a concubine be compared to the eldest daughter of the first wife who was meticulously raised?" The old princess consort did not expect her eldest daughter-in-law to have such a naive thought. "If I compare Yin Jinwei to Sister Rou, do you think it is fair? The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence subconsciously shook her head, her face pale.

The old princess sighed slightly. "Eldest Miss Yu is fine, but it's precisely because she's fine that the Yu Residence dares to pursue the matter fearlessly."

If Yu Youyao's reputation was really ruined, the Yu Residence would be wary and not dare to make a fuss.

The Princess Consort finally understood that she was at her wits' end. "I'll apologize to Eldest Miss Yu and kowtow to Old Madam Yu. I know my mistake..."

She was her daughter-in-law for more than ten years and Brother Zhang's biological mother. The old princess consort couldn't bear to see her like this. "It's useless. Eldest Miss Yu didn't plan to settle the matter nicely from the beginning."

The Princess Consort did not believe it. "She's just a young lady..."

The old princess consort also said, "That's right. She's just a young lady, but

Eldest Miss Yu keeps saying that Fifth Miss brought her to the entrance of the crepe myrtle garden and left. You don't know that it was an old woman who discovered Fifth Miss and her maidservant unconscious in the pavilion." The Princess Consort's eyes widened. "Eldest Miss Yu did it?"

The old princess consort did not answer and only said, "Eldest Miss Yu has a maidservant called Chun Xiao in front of her. Previously, when Eldest Miss Yu returned to the reception pavilion, she



did not return with her. As soon as the matter of the Third Prince falling into the water blew up, she returned silently without even alarming anyone...”

The Princess Consort began to feel dizzy again, and even her teeth chattered. “Eldest Miss Yu was the one who instructed Chun Xiao to push the Third Prince into the water?” At this point, she suddenly raised her voice. “How dare she? The Third Prince has a noble status. It’s a capital crime to harm the royal family. She...”

The old princess consort looked at her arrogantly. “Do you have evidence? Do you dare to tell anyone about this?”

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong’s Residence understood that she was accused of trying to ruin Eldest Miss Yu’s reputation.

Yu Youyao dared to openly return the favor.

As there was no evidence in court, there was no way to accuse Eldest Miss Yu. However, Eldest Miss Yu did not need evidence to accuse Duke Rong’s Residence of ruining her reputation.

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong’s Residence’s body went limp. “But she pushed Third Prince into the water. Consort Xu won’t...”

The old princess consort sneered. “I can already guess the truth. Imperial Consort Xu has lived in the palace for a long time, so how can I not know?

What do you think Imperial Consort Xu can do to her?”

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong’s Residence’s face was ashen.

Yu Youyao was the daughter of an official. Even if Consort Xu wanted to punish her, she couldn’t do it for no reason. However, under everyone’s gaze, everyone already knew that Eldest Miss Yu had almost ruined her reputation because of the Third Prince.

Of course, the Duke Rong’s Residence had a plan.

However, the Third Prince was also a suspect.

The crepe myrtle garden was in the inner courtyard. There was nothing inappropriate for Yu Youyao to go to the crepe myrtle garden to admire the flowers. However, as a man, the Third Prince did not avoid it. It was already

rude.

The old princess consort was a little breathless. She coughed hard. “If anything happens to the Third Prince, Consort Xu definitely won’t let it go. However, now that the Third Prince is fine, Consort Xu has to think about how to deal with the aftermath so that she won’t implicate him.”

Yu Youyao had already calculated all of this before she schemed against the Third Prince..

Chapter 619: Bloodshed

No matter how the situation developed, Yu Youyao was still a victim.

The Duke Rong's Residence had done something dirty and was in the wrong, so they would not dare to slander her.

Consort Xu cared about the Third Prince's reputation and wanted to settle the matter, so she would not dare to do anything to her.

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence felt suffocated.

The old princess continued, "Once the ugly matter of ruining someone's reputation is exposed, not only will it damage the face of the royal family, but the reputation of the royal family will also be ruined. The person who wants to settle the matter the most and not make a fuss is Consort Xu." At this point, she stared at the princess consort of Rong Prefecture with her turbid eyes. "In order to appease the Yu Residence's anger, Consort Xu will only push all the blame to Duke Rong's Residence."

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residences lips trembled.

The old princess consort looked exhausted. "If you take the initiative to apologize to the Empress Dowager, she might still care about the face of the imperial family. If Consort Xu takes the initiative to jump out and denounce you, you will have to suffer the anger of the Empress Dowager, the Yu Residence, and Consort Xu."

She closed her eyes. What a smart girl. When it came to scheming, she was really ruthless.

The Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence crawled on the ground and cried.

The old princess consort sighed softly. "I suddenly remembered that three years ago, at the Flower Festival in the Marquis of Changxing's Residence,

Seventh Miss Cao wanted to ruin Yu Youyao's reputation. In the end, it was Seventh Miss Cao whose reputation was completely ruined. It was the Marquis of Changxing's wife who lost all her dignity, and it was also the Marquis of Changxing's Residence who lost all their reputation. Everyone said that the Marquis of Changxing's Residence had reaped the consequences of their own actions. Now, isn't the situation in the Duke Rong's Residence also reaping the consequences of their own actions?

From this, it was obvious that Yu Youyao was really not to be trifled with.

Yongning Palace

Consort Xu was lying on her side on the chaise longue. Her snow-white skin was smooth, and her peach lips were pink. Her peach blossom eyes were misty, and her eyebrows were slightly raised, exuding an unapproachable coldness. She was wearing a snow satin tube dress. The thin and soft material of the dress outlined her delicate figure vividly.

The main palace maid who was serving her was kneeling in front of her and helping her paint her nails. The red Phoenix Goddess Flower nail polish was applied to her sharp nails, and her jade fingers were beautiful and charming.

Imperial Consort Xu's voice was gentle. "How long has Rui'er been out of the palace?"

Auntie Ye looked at the side and said, "It's been more than two hours."

Consort Xu frowned. "It's been so long, but there's still no news from outside the palace?"

Auntie Ye shook her head. "It will take at least an hour to come and go. The news from outside the palace won't be sent in so quickly. Consort, don't be anxious. I'll get someone to investigate."

Imperial Consort Xu rubbed the space between her eyebrows. "I don't know why, but after Rui'er left the palace, my left eye twitched."

"The twitching in your left eye is a good sign. Empress, don't worry. Your wish will definitely come true." After painting her nails, Auntie Ye took a leaf and gently tied up her nails.

The Phoenix Goddess Flower nail polish had to be applied three times. Every time she finished applying the first layer, she had to apply the second layer every night. It would take three days.

Her left eye and eyebrow seemed to be the same. Imperial Consort Xu relaxed her eyebrows. "I heard that Yu Youyao took over Madam Xie's dowry business early in the morning. She's been managing it very well in the past few years. Old Madam Yu even transferred most of the businesses under her name to Yu Youyao. Every quarter, merchant ships enter the capital from the Xie

Residence. The rare things from overseas are extremely valued by others. Yu Youyao can't even fit them in the storeroom, so she used them to reward the servants." At this point, she couldn't help but smile. "My left eye might have twitched because of this fortune that is coming."

Auntie Ye smiled and said, "It's all because you have good taste."

Imperial Consort Xu sighed slightly. "There are expenses everywhere in the palace. How much money do I have? It's not even enough for a box of brow powder from the Western Region."

"The Xu Residence is also a big family, but their expenses are also high. Just showing them filial piety takes up all my allowances in the palace. I can't do anything else."

Auntie Ye narrowed her eyes. The "anything else" that the Noble Consort was talking about referred to competition for the position of heir.

Concubine Lu had been in charge of the harem for many years, and the

Imperial Concubine had just taken over the phoenix seal. If she wanted to manage her connections in a short period of time, she needed a large sum of money.

Although Concubine Lu had been sent to the cold palace, the Second Prince was the head and was deeply trusted by the emperor. Recently, the emperor had become more and more obsessed with alchemy and often summoned the Second Prince to the imperial study to help with the court affairs. There were many people in the court who supported the Second Prince.

Money talks. The Noble Consort wanted to win people's hearts. Fame and fortune would come later. Money was the benefit that was obvious.

Imperial Consort Xu continued, "The emperor wants to refine pills, build a training hall, and worship sorcerers. Which one of them doesn't require money?"

The emperor trusted the Second Prince because the eldest son of the Empress had died at an early age. The eldest son of the first wife was different from other children. There were high hopes for him.

After the Second Prince was born, the emperor placed all his hopes and expectations on him.

However, no matter how important the Second Prince was, could he be more important than “immortality”?

After Rui’er married Yu Youyao as his secondary consort, all the businesses under Yu Youyao’s name would belong to Rui’er. Not only that, but the Xie family’s connections could also allow Rui’er to have endless wealth. At that time, he could help the emperor hire a Daoist master and build a training hall. It could also let the emperor know who was the most filial son.

Consort Xu continued, “After April, different degrees of drought were reported to the palace from all over the world. The emperor ordered officials from all over the world to do their best to help the refugees, but the treasury was empty. Unless it was absolutely necessary, the Imperial Court would not allocate money to disaster relief. If the Imperial Court did not allocate money, which official from all over the world would do their best to help?”

When it came to court affairs, Auntie Ye did not dare to speak.

Fortunately, Consort Xu did not plan to let her talk. She revealed a sympathetic expression. “The rice was already planted at the wrong time.

Drought-resistant crops also need rain to be harvested. In the second half of the year, the disasters everywhere will become more and more serious. I wonder how many people will die.”

If anyone else heard this, they would think that Imperial Consort Xu cared about the world and pitied the people.

However, Consort Xu changed the topic. “Once the calamity erupts, everything is useless. Only money is the most useful. This is the best time for Rui’er to accumulate fame.”

With money, there would be an endless supply of food. Everything was logical. Now, everything was ready. They only needed Yu Youyao.

After Auntie Ye wrapped the Imperial Concubine’s nails, she smiled and said,

“Don’t worry, Imperial Consort. Third Prince’s status is noble. It’s Eldest Miss Yu’s blessing that you like her. When Eldest Miss Yu sees Third Prince, the matter will be settled.”

Consort Xu frowned. “Although that’s the case, Old Madam Yu is a fierce person. Eldest Miss Yu has been raised by Old Madam Yu since she was young.. I’m worried that Eldest Miss Yu will take this matter to heart...

## Chapter 620: Ruined Virtue

Auntie Ye smiled and persuaded, “Didn’t you arrange for Miss Linlang to befriend Eldest Miss Yu? When the two of them get closer, get Miss Linlang to tell Eldest Miss Yu more about Third Prince’s kindness. Eldest Miss Yu will then feel the generosity of the three palaces and your love for her. No matter how uncomfortable she feels at the start, it will slowly fade away.”

When the Noble Consort was determined to scheme against Eldest Miss Yu’s reputation, she had already considered all of this.

Only then did Consort Xu smile.

At this moment, there was a flurry of footsteps outside. Imperial Consort Xu perked up and immediately sat up straight, thinking that there was news from outside the palace.

An eunuch lowered his head and bent his back. He hurriedly entered the side hall and reported, "Noble Consort, bad news. The Third Prince fell into the water in Duke Rong's Residence and received a shock. He has just returned to the Jingyang Palace."

Imperial Consort Xu's expression changed. "Go to Jingren Palace."

Auntie Ye called a palace maid in to freshen Consort Xu up and change into luxurious clothes.

By the time she was done, two incense sticks had already passed.

Imperial Consort Xu quickly went to the Jingren Palace. The palace maids and eunuchs knelt on the ground.

At this moment, the Third Prince was leaning against the bed with a pale face. The imperial physician on duty in the palace was taking his pulse.

After taking his pulse, Noble Consort Xu couldn't wait to ask, "Is Third Prince's body injured?"

The imperial physician hurriedly bowed. "Your Highness, His Highness's health is fine. He was just a little frightened. I'll prescribe a calming medicine."

"He'll be fine after taking it for two days."

Consort Xu heaved a sigh of relief.

Auntie Ye quickly followed the imperial physician outside to prescribe a prescription.

Imperial Consort Xu glanced at the palace maids and eunuchs kneeling on the ground. "All of you can leave!"

"Yes!" All the palace maids and eunuchs in the room had left.

Imperial Consort Xu sat on the side of the bed, and even her eyes turned red. "Child, are you trying to scare me to death? Why are you so careless? You're already so old, but you suddenly fell into the water? Don't you know how to swim? Why were you still frightened? Fortunately, it's still between April and May. If it was winter, your body might have been injured..."

The Third Prince recalled that in the Duke Rong's Residence, he had stood in front of the small building at the center of the lake to admire the scenery. Suddenly, a strong force pushed him into the lake.

He was shocked and splashed around in the lake, shouting in panic. He did not notice who had pushed him into the lake.

When he thought about how he knew how to swim, his legs tightened and he couldn't exert any strength at all. The lake water poured into his nose and splashed into his eyes. After using all his strength, he kept sinking into the water...

Fortunately, the guards had heard the commotion and arrived in time to save him.

Thinking of the danger previously, Third Prince Yin Huairui still felt a little afraid and couldn't help but shiver. "Mother, I was pushed into the lake..." Imperial Consort Xu's expression darkened. "What happened?"

The Third Prince recounted everything that had happened after arriving at King Rong's Residence.

Imperial Consort Xu's expression gradually turned solemn. When the Third Prince was done, she asked, "You weren't even able to see Eldest Miss Yu before you were pushed into the lake?"

The Third Prince nodded. "I-I was too afraid at that time. I was worried that someone from Duke Rong's Residence wanted to harm me, so I rushed back to the palace."

However, Consort Xu understood the crux of the matter.

Rui'er was alone in the crepe myrtle garden. If someone really wanted to harm him, they would have done it directly after pushing him into the lake. They wouldn't have let Rui'er splash and shout in the lake at all.

This matter was strange from the beginning to the end.

At the thought of this, Imperial Consort Xu's expression turned ugly. She quickly called out to Auntie Ye, "Send someone to investigate what happened at the Flower Festival in Duke Rong's Residence."

As soon as she finished speaking, a small palace maid entered the sleeping hall with a panicked expression. "Noble Consort, there's news from outside the palace that Old Madam Yu has handed over a palace token to the palace and wants to see the Empress Dowager. Eldest Master Yu has joined forces with Eldest Master Qi and a group of censors from the Imperial Court to participate in a memorial. They said that the Flower Festival was used as an excuse to lure Eldest Miss Yu to meet an outsider in private. Someone wanted to ruin her reputation and their morals are corrupt. Second Master Yu has already entered the palace to meet the emperor..."

There was a string in Consort Xu's mind that was almost broken.

At this point, what else did she not understand?

Eldest Miss Yu noticed that something was amiss and the Princess Consort of Duke Rong's Residence had messed up this matter. As expected of Eldest Miss

Yu, who had been raised in front of Old Madam Yu. She was just like Old Madam Yu and was a ruthless person. Even if the other party was an imperial relative or a prince, she was unwilling to hold back her anger and personally planned Rui'er's fall into the water. She used the fall to publicly execute the despicable tricks of the Duke Rong's Residence in public!

The Third Prince looked panicked. "Mother, what should we do now? Once this matter blows up, I..."

Once this matter blew up, their conspiracy with the Duke Rong's Residence could no longer be covered up. It was inevitable that he would lose his reputation.

Imperial Consort Xu gritted her teeth. "Yu Youyao, I've really underestimated you."

Before she schemed against Yu Youyao, she did not take her seriously. Yu Youyao was the daughter of an external minister. Even if she was schemed against, she could only pinch her nose and admit it.

Although Old Madam Yu was a little stubborn, she couldn't strangle her granddaughter to death with a white silk.

As long as her attitude was sincere, the Yu Residence would have some practical benefits to help the disciples of the Yu Clan who were officials in the court. It could also appease the Yu Clan.

She really did not expect that the daughter of an external minister would dare to go against the royal family and brazenly push the prince into the lake.

However, now that things had come to this, even his son might be implicated.

The Third Prince completely panicked. “Mother, what, what should I do?”

After being angry for a moment, Imperial Consort Xu had already thought of a countermeasure. She held her son’s hand and stared into his eyes. She explained word by word, “Rui’er, at this point, you can’t admit that you went to Duke Rong’s Residence to meet Eldest Miss Yu privately. No matter who asks you this question, just say that you have been focusing on your studies recently. It was only because Duke Rong’s Residence had invited you three times that you went to Duke Rong’s Residence to admire the flowers and relax. When you arrived at the crepe myrtle garden, there was no one else there. When you accidentally fell into the lake after admiring the scenery in the middle of the lake, you quickly returned to the palace. You don’t know anything else.”

Hearing his mother’s words, the Third Prince calmed down a little, but he was still a little uneasy. “But, the Duke Rong’s Residence...”

The matter of meeting Yu Youyao privately was arranged by the Duke Rong’s Residence.

Imperial Consort Xu sneered. “If the Duke Rong’s Residence is sensible, they will take the blame. If they’re not sensible and dare to accuse you, what kind of crime is it to frame a prince? What kind of crime is it to murder a prince? Let’s see if they can afford it..”