

MEDICAL PRINCESS

Chapter 1291 - 1291 May I See Princess Chen



Chapter 1291 May I See Princess Chen

“Infanta Yuan’an again?” Shao Wanru asked in surprise, “She is so capable, isn’t she?”

Chu Liuchen held her in his arms and spoke softly, “Even if it were not her, she would have to suffer the consequence. She gave the Changxing Grass to Zhang Qilan in private. Besides, she repeatedly slandered you before Zhang Qilan. All these things were because she heard something from the Empress: Chu Liuyue had asked to marry you. Out of jealousy, she targeted you.”

Sensing the warm and familiar scent she gave off in his arms, Chu Liuchen slightly tightened his grip. The woman in his arms was his treasure. He would never let anyone covet her.

“What did Infanta Yuan’an say?” Shao Wanru asked, lifting her eyebrows. She felt well after waking up, but Chu Liuchen did not allow her to get up. He had been holding her since he came back from the Palace.

Sensing his muscles bunch under her clothes, Shao Wanru didn’t dare to move. She obediently leaned against his chest and appeased him.

“She can’t say anything now!” Chu Liuchen held Shao Wanru’s hand and said with coldness in his beautiful eyes. Each plot was equipped with a backup plan. How could a foolish woman like Infanta Yuan’an arrange it?

“Something... happened to her?” Shao Wanru fluttered her long eyelashes twice and understood what Chu Liuchen meant.

“All the consorts, second consorts, and some inconspicuous concubines around Chu Liuzhou have been drugged. When those women heard the news in such a desperate situation, they asked Infanta Yuan’an for an explanation together. Everyone was pushing and shoving while someone knocked Infanta Yuan’an out. She hasn’t woken up yet.”

It also happened today. Coincidentally, when Shao Wanru fainted outside, Infanta Yuan’an was also knocked unconscious.

Only Chu Liuzhou and his family were temporarily locked up in the Cold Palace. Except for Chu Liuzhou, most of the other people were women. Even if Infanta Yuan’an was Princess Zhou, she could only keep one servant girl. Other consorts and second consorts also had servant girls. Somehow, they heard that Infanta Yuan’an had poisoned them. In a rage, these women went to confront Infanta Yuan’an about it.

Everyone was locked up. In such a desperate situation, no one cared about Infanta Yuan’an’s higher status. As a result, Infanta Yuan’an slipped into a coma in the conflict. Although Chu Liuzhou was in the next room, he ignored these women’s affairs.

After that, he just asked someone to pull Infanta Yuan’an up and carry her to the bed. After this accident was reported to the Empress, he no longer paid attention to her.

“She hasn’t yet woken up? I’m afraid her life would be in danger!” Shao Wanru looked out of the window. It was dark outside. The wind whistled through the branches in pitch darkness.

Chu Liuchen didn’t care whether Infanta Yuan’an would live or die. He tenderly glanced at Shao Wanru and asked again, “Do you feel better?”

Since Shao Wanru woke up, he had asked this question more than a dozen times.

Shao Wanru smiled, reached out to take his big hand, and squeezed it hard. "Not bad. I'm fine. See? I woke up early. Qing'er is seriously injured."

Qing'er was badly hurt, but since she was treated in time, she would recover without any aftereffects. Even if Shao Wanru knew about it, she was still worried and wanted to see her in person, but Chu Liuchen did not allow her to do so.

"I'll arrange two more secret guards for you!" This incident greatly shocked Chu Liuchen. On full alert, he thought for a while and said. After all, Qing'er couldn't serve Zhuozhuo at the moment.

"I won't go out recently!" Shao Wanru smiled and reached out to rub Chu Liuchen's tightened handsome face. They were lying in bed, whispering to each other without sleeping. Her aura of warmth and tenderness softened his gloominess.

"Won't you go to your grandma's mansion?" Chu Liuchen was still worried. Shao Wanru had an accident today because Zhang Qilan had calculated the route and time. She set up this vicious plan to harm Shao Wanru on her way to see Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

"Grandma was scared out of her wits. After she hurried over to see me, she didn't allow me to go to her mansion again." Shao Wanru said with a smile. Rui'an Great Elder Princess had come before she woke up and accompanied her until Chu Liuchen returned. Before leaving, she repeatedly told Chu Liuchen not to let Shao Wanru go alone to her mansion.

Chu Liuchen touched his head and smiled. He had heard it. But then, he had concentrated all his attention on Shao Wanru and didn't pay attention to Rui'an Great Elder Princess' words. He just nodded subconsciously back then. Remembering that, he said, "I forgot it. I didn't notice it just now."

Shao Wanru sensed the glimmer of amusement in his words, and her eyes softened. Her long eyelashes fluttered twice as she asked, “What about Zhang Qilan?”

“She attempted to murder you. I can’t spare her life!” Chu Liuchen said slowly in a low voice.

Shao Wanru couldn’t see his eyes, but she could feel the complete darkness in his heart. So, she turned around and snuggled close to him. After hesitating a little, she said, “Can you spare her life?”

In fact, what Zhang Qilan had done would not endanger her life. After all, she was still alive and well. But Chu Liuchen was different. As long as Chu Liuchen wanted to kill her, Zhang Qilan could not escape alive.

“She was determined to hurt you, but you want to keep her alive? Are you soft-hearted?” Chu Liuchen was so pissed off by her suggestion that he nearly laughed.

“I’m not soft-hearted. She has become like this, so just let her be!” Shao Wanru said with a trace of pity across her watery eyes. At the beginning of their friendship, they had a wonderful time together. But in the end, their relationship ended up like this.

She was not soft-hearted — she only wanted to keep their fleeting wonderful memory.

But she just kept it in her heart. From now on, she would never see Zhang Qilan again, let alone pay attention to her life. She wouldn’t care about what would happen between her and Chu Liuyue.

Shao Wanru was a little downcast in his arms. Feeling it, Chu Liuchen thought for a while and said softly, “Okay! Then, let’s spare her life!”

Sparing her life was all that he would do. Zhang Qilan could never get any additional benefits from him.

Princess Yue's plot against Princess Chen had been exposed, and it was actually Princess Zhou who incited her to do so. However, since Princess Zhou viciously poisoned other women of Prince Zhou, she was beaten unconscious. Now she was in a coma like a dead person.

Prince Zhou's Mansion had been thoroughly searched. It turned out that Prince Zhou had long intended to rebel. A large number of weapons had been buried in Prince Zhou's Mansion long ago. Once his scheme came to light, Prince Zhou could deploy his resources in time. There was another proof of this rebellion: a pair of phoenix hairpins found in Princess Zhou's room. Only the Empress was allowed to use such phoenix hairpins.

But this pair of phoenix hairpins did not belong to the Empress.

Undoubtedly, Prince Zhou had plotted a rebellion. The Emperor was furious and completely enclosed Prince Zhou's Mansion. Prince Zhou and all the womenfolk would be locked up in the mansion for the rest of their lives.

It meant Prince Zhou had lost his power. The Emperor was kind enough to spare his life because he was unwilling to kill his son. Otherwise, Prince Zhou would not have survived.

The Empress in the Palace was demoted to an imperial consort without a title.

Consort Lan officially became Noble Consort Lan. The position of the Empress in the imperial harem was vacant. Now, only Noble Consort Lan and Consort of Virtue had the highest ranks. Consort of Virtue had the highest status, while Noble Consort Lan took second place. The seal of the imperial harem was still in the hands of Consort of Virtue and Consort Ming. Noble Consort Lan expressed her reluctance to take over this matter. Like before, she still lived a secluded life.

She did not allow any consorts in the Palace to visit her, nor would she go to see Consort of Virtue. She would not even pay a visit to the Empress Dowager. It seemed as if she were still an ordinary consort who was grounded.

Most people had never seen this Noble Consort Lan. They only heard she was a rare beauty. When she was with the Emperor, he was still a Prince. At that time, few people cared about her appearance. After she entered the Palace, she was punished by forbidding leave from her place. Now it seemed that the Emperor only did that to protect her.

Over the years, the Emperor had been deeply in love with the mysterious Consort Lan. Many people couldn't help guessing how Consort Lan could have achieved that. Compared with those new consorts in the Palace, Consort Lan was exceedingly beautiful. But no matter what, she was no longer young. How could she make the Emperor bear her in mind constantly?

Despite all kinds of guesses, Consort Lan was still the most favored and mysterious consort in the Palace. Even the Empress Dowager wouldn't make excessive demands of her.

Zhang Qilan was indeed not dead, but her position as Princess Yue had been stripped. She was now a very common second consort. Madam of Prime Minister Zhang had visited her. Seeing Zhang Qilan lying there in despair like a bag of bones, she burst into tears.

"Mother, may I see Princess Chen?" Zhang Qilan's tears had dried up. She stretched out her thin arm and held her mother's hand.

"Why do you go to see her? She is fine, but you are as miserable as this!" Madam of Prime Minister Zhang cried. She knew her daughter had only herself to blame, but she was still anxious and angry at the sight of her lifeless daughter.

“Mother, it was my fault. I hurt her and let her down... I’m most awfully sorry for her!” Zhang Qilan shed tears again, and her eyes were full of pain. She regretted it very much.

“Mother, I beg you. I want to see her again and apologize to her in person.” Zhang Qilan cried bitterly. Obsessed with the wrong idea, she was misled by Infanta Yuan’an and made mistakes in a row. At last, she ended up in a miserable situation. As she made her bed, she must lie on it. She didn’t blame anyone but herself for being blinded by jealousy.

How could a person like her have an affair with Chu Liuyue? Shao Wanru, instead of her, would have married Chu Liuyue if they had been in love.

In fact, Shao Wanru had given her a clear hint. But it was a pity that Zhang Qilan failed to see through this matter. Besides, she was devoured by envy and hatred back then.

“Okay, I’ll give it a try. You... wait for me!” Seeing her daughter like this, Madam of Prime Minister Zhang knew she would not live long. Therefore, she agreed in tears.

“Mother, if she doesn’t want to... It doesn’t matter if she refuses to see me. Give this letter... to her. It is my last... last letter written before my death!” Zhang Qilan wiped away all her tears, and a smile appeared on her wizened face. At this time, she looked more like her old self before her marriage. She made less effort to put on a dignified look and appeared more unscrupulous.

The letter under the pillow was covered with tear stains. Once again, she looked at Madam of Prime Minister Zhang and emphasized, “Mother, don’t blame anyone for what happened to me. I suffer from my deeds. It has nothing to do with anyone else, not even Infanta Yuan’an. I have to eat my own bitter fruit. Please give the letter to Princess Chen!”

Chapter 1292 Great Elder Princess Showed Weakness

Shao Wanru didn't agree to the request of Madam of Prime Minister Zhang. But at last, she accepted the letter she brought over.

Madam of Prime Minister Zhang left while sobbing, but she knew there was nothing she could do about it. It was her daughter who caused the trouble. At this time, nothing could be done when Princess Chen was unwilling to forgive her.

Besides, her daughter had said Princess Chen shouldn't be blamed for this. Therefore, Madam of Prime Minister Zhang hated Infanta Yuan'an and Ruiping Great Elder Princess more...

The letter placed on the table was opened. It was about Zhang Qilan's experience during these days. She was first suspicious. Then, evil intentions gradually occupied her mind. Secrets revealed by this letter were more than she had provided. In it, Zhang Qilan clearly stated every event in Princess Yuyan's courtyard.

In the end, she especially mentioned Princess Yuyan and asked Shao Wanru to watch out for Princess Yuyan and Commandery Prince Qing.

Infanta Yuan'an gave the Changxing Grass to Zhang Qilan and repeatedly said she found it herself. But Zhang Qilan still felt the Changxing Grass had something to do with Princess Yuyan and the Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion.

After reading the letter, Shao Wanru paused and sighed. She was reluctant to see Zhang Qilan and didn't know what to say to her. Making Chu Liuchen spare her life was the best she could do to help Zhang Qilan. Shao Wanru didn't have a tender heart. In the past, she wholeheartedly wanted to make friends with Zhang Qilan. However, Zhang Qilan never stopped scheming against her. How could Shao Wanru forgive her?

Zhang Qilan was not stupid after all. At this critical moment, she realized others were using her as a pawn, an abandoned one now.

"My Lady, it's getting late." Qiu'er came in with a cup of tea and reminded her in a low voice.

Chu Liuchen specially sent Qiu'er and Dong'er to serve Shao Wanru. They were both good at martial arts. Although Yujie didn't break her hands and feet, she had many scratches. At this time, she could only lie down and rest. It was good for the two servant girls to fill the vacancy.

"Go and ask Nanny Wei to come over!" Shao Wanru nodded and ordered, putting the letter under the pillow. When Madam of Prime Minister Zhang was

in the room just now, a servant girl came and reported that Empress Dowager had sent Nanny Wei over. At this time, she was still waiting in the wing room.

“Yes!” Dong’er answered and left. Before long, Nanny Wei entered the inner room with a big smile. Shao Wanru lay propped against the soft pillows.

“Greetings, Your Highness.” Nanny Wei stepped forward and was about to bow.

“Nanny Wei, you don’t need to stand on ceremony here. Qiu’er!” Shao Wanru said softly.

Qiu’er hurried forward to pull Nanny Wei up before she bent down. Then, she helped her sit down on a brocade stool nearby.

Nanny Wei observed Shao Wanru’s expression and asked, “Her Majesty asked me to come and see you. How is your condition after such a thing happened?”

“I’m fine,” Shao Wanru said and tried to get up. However, her face immediately changed a little, and she gave a choked cry. She must have accidentally pulled a wound.

She was indeed wounded, though her injury was not very serious. After she rolled on the ground several times, she got a few scratches on her back and arms. This morning, Chu Liuchen applied medicine to her wounds again.

“Lie still, Your Highness. I’m here to check on you on behalf of the Empress Dowager. Also, Ruiping Great Elder Princess sent you a gift to apologize,” Nanny Wei said with a grin.

“A gift for apologizing?” Shao Wanru, stunned to hear that, looked at Nanny Wei in surprise.

“Well, it’s also the idea of the Empress Dowager. The cause of this matter is Infanta Yuan’an. I heard it was mainly because of the conflict between you and Infanta Yuan’an. Prince Chen had broken Second Young Master Qu’s arm. Do you still remember it?” Nanny Wei reminded her.

“So what?” Shao Wanru’s face suddenly fell. She had understood what Ruiping Great Elder Princess meant. Such a serious incident happened. But to her great surprise, Ruiping Great Elder Princess described it as a private clash between Infanta Yuan’an and her. “So, Prince Chen should take the blame?”

When it came to the previous incident, both Shao Wanru and Infanta Yuan'an had made some mistakes, but Chu Liuchen resorted to violence in the dispute.

"How could it be Prince Chen's fault? The Empress Dowager doesn't want you and Prince Chen to be too hard on Infanta Yuan'an. She is a poor lady in such a pitiful condition now. She won't get better. Ruiping Great Elder Princess doesn't know anything about this," Nanny Wei hurriedly shook her head and explained.

Shao Wanru let her eyes settle upon Nanny Wei's face. Nanny Wei was all smiles with a fresh complexion. Anyway, she didn't seem to be lying. All of a sudden, her eyes turned penetrating.

Shao Wanru knew the Empress Dowager had always been very protective toward Chu Liuchen. Thus, she firmly believed Empress Dowager would not blame Chu Liuchen and would never let anyone criticize him at this time.

But according to Ruiping Great Elder Princess, Chu Liuchen was the cause of this matter, wasn't he?

Of course, in her eyes, Shao Wanru was also one of the causes.

At the very start, she hadn't had a dispute with Infanta Yuan'an, which alerted people in the Palace. As a result, Chu Liuchen learned about it and broke Second Young Master Qu's arm. If none of these things had ever happened, Infanta Yuan'an wouldn't have held a grudge and made such a big scene.

Three Princes in the royal family had married their legal wives. Shockingly, all three of them were involved, and none were in a good situation.

Shao Wanru had been very close to death, and Infanta Yuan'an was almost dead now. And Zhang Qilan seemed to be equally miserable.

Their conflict would be the most shocking news if it weren't for Prince Zhou's rebellion.

"Nanny Wei, but it is not within Prince Chen's power to help you. Ruiping Great Elder Princess should go and plead with the Emperor instead!" Shao Wanru said, staying calm and collected.

"Her Grace began begging His Majesty long ago, and she has knelt before the Imperial Study's door for a few hours. The Empress Dowager is very distressed to see her suffering like this." Nanny Wei sighed. "Your Highness, Her Majesty wanted you to go to the Imperial Study and see Ruiping Great Elder Princess. By the way, please help her beg for mercy. You are the victim. If you don't mind, His Majesty can let go of this matter."

Shao Wanru sneered. "Sure enough, I'm the victim. The Emperor would certainly let off Ruiping Great Elder Princess if I'm willing to forgive them. But what would others think of Chu Liuchen then?"

"In other people's eyes, he would become an incompetent troublemaker. What is worse, he might be known as a brutal and restless Prince. Such a result would do no good to Chu Liuchen."

Shao Wanru might not help him with this kind of thing, but she would never be a drag on him.

"Nanny Wei, please report it to Imperial Grandmother. I'm in poor health and can barely move, so I'm afraid I can do nothing to help now."

Shao Wanru shook her head and said.

"Your Highness..." Nanny Wei tried to persuade her, but Shao Wanru raised her head and stopped her. "I know what you want to say, but that's beyond my power. If Her Majesty has the urge to do it, she can do it in person!"

After saying that, Shao Wanru slid down a little. Qiu'er stepped forward and removed a thick and soft pillow behind her. This way, her master could lie more comfortably in a lower position. Shao Wanru closed her eyes, her long eyelashes gently falling on her weak, pale face.

With this, she gave Nanny Wei a blunt refusal and motioned for her to go out.

With a little livid face, Nanny Wei tightly pressed her fingers against the cuffs of her sleeves and tried hard to suppress the anger in her heart. She didn't expect that Shao Wanru would even dare to reject Empress Dowager's request. In her mind, Shao Wanru would obey Empress Dowager in every way and struggled to go to the Imperial Study despite her illness.

"Your Highness..." Nanny Wei pretended not to understand Shao Wanru's hint. With an effort, she contained her irritation and raised her voice to call Princess Chen.

"Nanny Wei, please get up. Her Highness is going to rest!" Qiu'er came over and said, pulling Nanny Wei by the sleeve.

"How dare you!" When Nanny Wei was pulled up, she shouted angrily. With a violent wave of her sleeve, she tried to push Qiu'er away. Much to her surprise, Qiu'er had great strength and could drag her a few steps forward. Then, Qiu'er relaxed her grip on Nanny Wei's sleeve. She reached out, took her arm, and walked out with her. "Nanny, Her Highness is indeed tired out. She hasn't recovered yet. Please come back next time!"

Her words sounded polite, but her actions were rough — she pulled Nanny Wei straight to the outer room.

“Where did you come from? You are so rude. I come here for the Empress Dowager.” Nanny Wei struggled and bellowed at Qiu’er to stop.

However, Qiu’er didn’t stop walking. She pulled Nanny Wei out of the outer room and didn’t let go of her until they were out of the door.

“Nanny Wei, I’m sorry for my rudeness, but Her Highness is in poor health. Our Prince has ordered us not to let Her Highness get tired,” Qiu’er explained with a panicked look.

Of course, she only looked frightened, but there was no trace of panic in her eyes. At a glance, Nanny Wei knew she just pretended to talk nicely.

Annoyed, Nanny Wei stood still and glared at Qiu’er fiercely. Then she pointed at her and rebuked sharply, “How could a cheap servant girl be so audacious and rude? How bold and ignorant you are to ignore Empress Dowager’s order? What severe punishment do you think you deserve?”

“Nanny Wei, why are you so angry?” A flat voice came from aside.

Nanny Wei turned her head and saw the chief supervisor of Prince Chen’s Mansion coming over with a smile. The anger on her face immediately faded away. The chief supervisor had been the former empress’s servant. How could she not know him?

“Greetings, Nanny Wei.” The chief supervisor came over and gave her a cupped-hand salute with a smile.

“You don’t have to do that,” Nanny Wei said politely, her eyes on the two servants behind him. “Why do you come to the inner court at this time?”

“Just now, our Prince heard that you had come, so he specially asked me to come and have a look. By the way, I was ordered to send some medicinal materials to Her Highness. Since she has been in poor health, my master is very worried about her. I have just picked up these herbs and took them out of the warehouse,” the chief supervisor said with a smile and looked behind Nanny Wei.

Seeing this, Nanny Wei also looked back but didn’t see anyone. Subconsciously, she asked, “What’s the matter?”

“Nothing. Her Majesty knew Princess Chen was injured, but hasn’t she bestowed any favors upon her?” The chief supervisor looked behind Nanny Wei a few more times. It seemed he could hardly believe it. Then he muttered

to himself, "It's impossible. How upset Prince Chen will be if he knows it! No way, I must talk to my master about it."

With this, the chief supervisor seemed to want to turn around.

"How could there be no reward? It's just behind me. I walked a little faster and arrived first, and Her Majesty's reward will be here soon!" Nanny Wei said in a hurry. If Prince Chen went to complain to the Empress Dowager about this, she would be in great trouble...

Chapter 1293 Weird, Could There Be a Reversal

"Nanny Wei, you are in such a hurry. Why?" The chief supervisor talked about something else. After a glance at her, he smiled and asked.

Nanny Wei paused subconsciously but pretended to be calm. "Her Majesty was worried about Princess Chen. I walked faster because I was anxious to learn about her condition. Fortunately, she is not seriously injured. Otherwise, it would be hard for me to report it to Her Majesty!"

Nanny Wei put her palms together devoutly as she spoke. She seemed grateful that Princess Chen was lucky enough to have had a narrow escape.

"Not seriously injured?" The chief supervisor smiled and said, "Well, you don't need to report it!"

"Why?" Nanny Wei was stunned. She put down her hands and had a bad feeling in her heart.

"It happens that Prince Chen has gone to the Palace today. At this time, he must have seen the Empress Dowager. He knows the best about Her Highness's injury condition," the chief supervisor said, smiling broadly.

"Has Prince Chen gone to the Palace of Benevolent Peace?" Nanny Wei asked, and her face drastically changed.

"He should have gone there. Before entering the Palace today, my master said he wanted to see the Empress Dowager!" The chief supervisor said.

"Since you are here to watch over Princess Chen, I will return to serve the Empress Dowager in the Palace!" Nanny Wei planned to leave. She snickered nervously, bowed to the chief supervisor, and hurriedly left.

The chief supervisor watched Nanny Wei retreat in a hurry. His smile faded away, and his mouth twisted in a contemptuous sneer. They both served in the Palace and were their masters' trusted subordinates. Whoever obtained their high positions must be clever in dealing with people. Though they just exchanged a few words, they got a lot of information.

“Chief supervisor, Her Highness invites you in!” Qiu’er came out and bowed to him.

The chief supervisor nodded and asked two servants to guard outside. He followed Qiu’er into the main room.

A screen was placed before Shao Wanru’s bed, which completely blocked her bed, and the chief supervisor answered from outside the screen.

“Has Nanny Wei left?” After the chief supervisor bowed, Shao Wanru asked him to sit down and asked slowly.

“Yes!” The chief supervisor nodded. He came in time because Shao Wanru specially invited him over.

“Nanny Wei is a little strange. Do you think so?” Shao Wanru asked. Since she was not seriously injured, she sat up again and lay on the bed.

“She didn’t want my master to tell the Empress Dowager the truth about you. Besides, she deliberately said you were lucky to escape with minor injuries. This matter seems to have involved Ruiping Great Elder Princess.” The chief supervisor analyzed.

Shao Wanru nodded with genuine admiration for the chief supervisor. Sure enough, he had become a capable general steward in the Palace. Even if he didn’t hear what Nanny Wei said to her, he could make a close guess.

“Nanny Wei came here to plead for Ruiping Great Elder Princess and asked me to help her. I heard Ruiping Great Elder Princess had knelt before the Imperial Study, but the Emperor hasn’t yet responded to her,” Shao Wanru said. She was not very clear about affairs in the Palace, so she especially mentioned this matter and asked the chief supervisor’s opinion.

In the mansion, the chief supervisor was the most suitable person to handle this.

“Nanny Wei asked you to help Ruiping Great Elder Princess beg for mercy in the Imperial Study?” Although Shao Wanru didn’t say much, every word she said was crucial. At once, the chief supervisor understood what these words meant. His face darkened as he concluded.

“I think so,” said Shao Wanru.

“You can’t go!” The chief supervisor blurted out without thinking.

“Why?” Shao Wanru asked with her long eyelashes fluttering. What she had thought of might not be what the chief supervisor had in mind. There should be something different.

“Your Highness, you can’t plead for Ruiping Great Elder Princess. There are two reasons. One is that my master is now in charge of this case. If you intervene at this time, the Emperor will be embarrassed. He has been in poor health, so the attitude he reveals is critical!”

This idea also occurred to Shao Wanru. At this time, she couldn’t hold Chu Liuchen back. She nodded and said, “Then, what’s the second reason?”

“Prince Zhou has an accident, and only Prince Yue and my master have an untarnished reputation. At this time, we should be more careful in everything. Infanta Yuan’an schemed against you behind the scenes, and you are the victim. But if you enter the Palace to help Ruiping Great Elder Princess, the situation will be reversed. You may become the person who framed others. At that time, no one will intercede for you!”

The chief supervisor said seriously.

Her words aroused Shao Wanru’s interest. “How could such a situation be overturned?”

“Your Highness, everything can be changed before the final conclusion is reached!” The chief supervisor said, “Especially in the Palace, there are all kinds of possibilities.”

Shao Wanru surely could understand his clear warning out of good intentions. Right away, she nodded. “Rest assured. I will be careful. What do you think they will do?”

“Ruiping Great Elder Princess might also be sacrificed. If anything happens when she is kneeling there...” The chief supervisor thought it over and said.

“You mean Ruiping Great Elder Princess will have an accident?” Shao Wanru straightened up and said, “But she has such a noble and high status. How could it be possible?”

“Why not? Do you remember where Infanta Yuan’an got the Changxing Grass? She is in a coma and on the verge of death. No one will know who has the Changxing Grass without her confession,” the chief supervisor said.

Shao Wanru fell silent with cold sweat on her back because she realized she hadn’t considered everything carefully. She didn’t want to hinder Chu Liuchen, but it had never occurred to her that the situation could be reversed. The most important thing was that Infanta Yuan’an was in a coma. At this time, everything was possible.

Ruiping Great Elder Princess might try to frame her with her life. In addition, some other evidence against her might be dug out in Infanta Yuan’an’s place.

Most critically, her injury was not serious. With all the evidence, she would look very suspicious. Even Princess Yue and Princess Zhou were involved. As Princess Chen, why couldn't she design and put on a show?

If she helped Ruiping Great Elder Princess, others might think she did it with a guilty conscience. Later, if something happened to Ruiping Great Elder Princess... In other people's eyes, it must be Princess Chen who hurt Ruiping Great Elder Princess. It was because Ruiping Great Elder Princess held evidence against her. Afterward, more evidence would be "discovered" in the place of Infanta Yuan'an, who was still in a coma.

If that were the case, Shao Wanru would come to a dead end.

Tightly clenching a corner of the quilt, Shao Wanru said with a frosty look, "Chief supervisor, if such a thing happens, who will benefit from it?"

Thinking of what Nanny Wei had said and done just now, Shao Wanru knew such a thing was very likely to happen.

"If such a thing happens, the Ruiping Great Elder Princess' Mansion will benefit the most. Of course, there might be other people who gain benefits in the confused situation!" The chief supervisor said in a deep voice.

This time, Shao Wanru didn't make a detailed inquiry. After thinking for a while, she ordered, "Dong'er, catch up with Nanny Wei and tell her I'll go and help Ruiping Great Elder Princess ask for mercy before the Imperial Study."

"Yes!" Though Dong'er didn't know what Shao Wanru meant, she still went out immediately. She walked fast. With Shao Wanru's order, she would certainly speed up to catch up with Nanny Wei.

"What do you mean, Your Highness?" asked the chief supervisor.

"Since Ruiping Great Elder Princess is waiting for me to go there, I should let them know I will be there. Otherwise, they won't go on with their plans!" Shao Wanru said coldly. Since some people were plotting against her, she might as well use this opportunity to gain her end.

"Do you mean to induce the evildoers to expose themselves?" The chief supervisor pondered over it and immediately understood what Shao Wanru meant. He nodded repeatedly and said, "This strategy is feasible. Since Ruiping Great Elder Princess wants to frame you by putting herself in danger, she must have made preparations in advance. They won't take the next step if you refuse to go there."

Ruiping Great Elder Princess certainly wouldn't die for no reason. There must be a process prepared long before Shao Wanru went over. But it depended on what Shao Wanru would do next.

"Who do you think is most likely to have the Changxing Grass?" Shao Wanru nodded and asked.

"Princess Yuyan! I think she is most likely to do it," the chief supervisor said bluntly, without hiding anything about this matter. His master's meaning was evident, and Princess Chen was bright and capable. Thus, the chief supervisor felt entirely at ease to tell Princess Chen this secret.

"What does Princess Yuyan want to do?" Shao Wanru spoke in a low mumble as if to herself. She didn't seem to ask the chief supervisor but was more like asking herself. Her eyes were cold. After thinking for a while, she said, "Chief supervisor, thank you for this. Please go back!"

The chief supervisor would have to deal with a lot of affairs in the outer court. Thus, Shao Wanru did not ask him to stay any longer.

The chief supervisor nodded and stood up to leave.

Shao Wanru relaxed, leaning back on the soft, high pillow behind her. Carefully, she checked the possibility of the whole matter, according to the chief supervisor's analysis.

Princess Yuyan, most likely, it was her. But what about Chu Qing behind her? Chu Qing had never been simple-minded. She had seen and thought of many things done by him. In addition, she remembered everything that had happened in the Yuhui Nunnery. All the clues seemed to have something to do with Chu Qing. Could it be possible that Chu Qing was...

"My Lady, I'm back!" Dong'er came back and reported to her, interrupting her meditation.

"Have you caught up with Nanny Wei?" Shao Wanru came back to her senses and asked.

"Yes. Nanny Wei has entered the Palace. She also walked very fast!" Dong'er said.

"What did she say? How did she react?" Shao Wanru asked.

"Nanny Wei was very delighted when hearing you would go there. She kept praising you for being kind-hearted. Also, she asked when you would come over. I thought about it and told her you would arrive in about two hours. Then,

Nanny Wei said she had something to do and hurriedly left. She walked as fast as before!” Dong’er emphasized Nanny Wei’s state.

Princess Chen had made it clear that she would not go. Dong’er just went there to pass on a message and was smart enough to say the approximate time her master might come. But whatever she said, Princess Chen would cancel the arrangement.

Shao Wanru showed a smile on her face. She had never been a person who would resign herself to fate. Princess Yuyan should be the next one. She married Commandery Prince Qing to maintain a peaceful relationship between the two countries. But she must have had a hard time in the Commandery Prince Qing’s Mansion...

Comment (0)

Chapter 1294 Great Elder Princess Venture Her Fortune on a Single Move

Ruiping Great Elder Princess knelt on the ground for a long time. Her legs went numb, and her forehead was dripping sweat. But even so, she still gritted her teeth and endured it. She had to stick at it. Many people in her mansion were nervously waiting for the Emperor’s order.

She hated her granddaughter, Infanta Yuan’an. If she had known she was such a disappointing granddaughter, she would not have tried her best to promote her.

Except for Infanta Yuan’an, she had a lot of grandsons and granddaughters. She was reluctant to sacrifice everyone for her. But now, she could do nothing but scold Infanta Yuan’an for being a useless idiot.

Infanta Yuan’an was her eldest legitimate granddaughter, the most steady one. Therefore, she entered the Palace and asked for a reward for her. That was how Infanta Yuan’an got her title. By improving her status, Ruiping Great Elder Princess intended to let her marry the crown prince of the Eastern Palace in the future. However, it was a pity that the Emperor had not appointed a crown prince yet. In the end, she could only choose Prince Zhou.

The position of the Empress was relatively secure, and Prince Zhou was most likely to be the crown prince.

Unexpectedly, Prince Zhou was imprisoned overnight. From then on, he could never be the crown prince. Instead, he became an imprisoned criminal who could only keep his life.

Infanta Yuan'an got herself into trouble overnight and implicated her grandma. Ruiping Great Elder Princess was overcome with regret. Now she was forced to save herself.

A young palace maid sneaked over and seemed to pass by. But when she walked past Ruiping Great Elder Princess, she whispered, "She will come in two hours!"

Ruiping Great Elder Princess could hardly hold on. Instantly, this short sentence lifted her spirits. She let out a long breath with a trace of sharpness across her eyes. How could she not be arrogant as a noble Great Elder Princess? When cornered, she would not let others have an easy time.

Infanta Yuan'an fell into such a miserable situation because of her deficient plan and Shao Wanru. Without Shao Wanru, Yuan'an wouldn't have been like this.

Ruiping Great Elder Princess clenched her teeth in bitter hatred. Lowering her head, she carefully took out a pill from the pocket in her sleeve and swallowed it. The pill needed some time to take effect, and its impact should last about four hours. She was no longer in a hurry now, for she had to wait for Shao Wanru to come over.

With sweat dripping from her face, she became overly frail now. She looked up at the Imperial Study glittering with gold in the sunlight before her. Everything seemed to be in the clouds, and she was falling from the clouds. When Shao Wanru arrived, Ruiping Great Elder Princess thought she could first ask her for a glass of water.

Even if it was not Shao Wanru, she could let Shao Wanru's servant girl do it. Then if something happened to her, it would be Shao Wanru's problem. As long as she calculated the time correctly, she would not die, and no misfortune would happen to her mansion.

She was waiting... waiting for Shao Wanru to come.

Since her legs were numb, she could feel nothing but the dull pain. However, no more news came from the Imperial Study. The Emperor seemed to have determined not to forgive her. The corners of her eyes trembled slightly, but Ruiping Great Elder Princess calmly accepted the consequences. At present, her main task was to wait for Shao Wanru.

But it had been a long time. Why hadn't Shao Wanru come yet? Ruiping Great Elder Princess raised her numb head and looked behind her. Every once in a while, she would check if Shao Wanru was coming. But until now, she couldn't see her anywhere. Hardly could she hang on there any longer.

A few blurry figures flashed across the corners of her eyes. It seemed that someone in the Palace was coming. But Ruiping Great Elder Princess didn't know if it was Shao Wanru. All of a sudden, a trace of enlightenment flashed in her eyes. "What if Shao Wanru chooses not to come?"

As this idea came across her mind, Ruiping Great Elder Princess blacked out and collapsed. Hearing someone cry in fear near her, she wanted to open her eyes but failed to lift her heavy eyelids...

"Ruiping Great Elder Princess had an accident?" Shao Wanru remained calm when receiving the news, slightly rolling her watery but indifferent eyes.

She would never be soft-hearted and feel sorry for those who framed her.

These people had to bear the consequences of their evil deeds.

"She was said to be poisoned!" Chu Liuchen said carelessly. He brought the news to her. Taking the towel handed over by Xiao Xuanzi, he wiped his face and threw it back to him.

Xiao Xuanzi and the other servant girls left.

"You got the news in the Empress Dowager's place?" Shao Wanru said with a smile. Because she was lying in bed, she let her hair down. Against her dark hair, her little face appeared as white as snow and her rosy lips bewitching. What a beauty of considerable charm!

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"How is Nanny Wei?" Shao Wanru asked with a cold smile. She would have had to take the blame if she had gone there.

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As soon as Nanny Wei arrived at Empress Dowager's place, she was so occupied with tasks assigned by Chu Liuchen that she had no time to go out.

"Why would Imperial Grandmother ask me to plead for Ruiping Great Elder Princess?" Shao Wanru came closer and took the initiative to lean on his outstretched arms. She raised her watery eyes, which were instantly filled with Chu Liuchen's figure.

Her eyes looked clear and pure!

“She heard you were fine and could get up. Besides, Uncle the Emperor hadn’t yet made the final decision. It was said that you were seriously injured and almost had a severe accident, so he must punish Ruiping Great Elder Princess. Imperial Grandmother knew you were fine, and Ruiping Great Elder Princess begged her in tears. Thus, she asked you to go there and help to plead for mercy. What happened to Infanta Yuan’an had nothing to do with Ruiping Great Elder Princess.”

Chu Liuchen sarcastically raised the corners of his mouth but didn’t want Shao Wanru to see his malicious and insidious eyes.

Ruiping Great Elder Princess might not have participated in the scheme, but that was clearly not the case now. How dare she plot against Zhuozhuo with her life? Then, he would no longer show mercy to the Ruiping Great Elder Princess’ Mansion.

Shao Wanru didn’t see the darkness in his eyes. She just played with the warm jade hanging on his waist and rubbed against it with her fingers, saying, “Who spread the news to the Empress Dowager? Nanny Wei?”

“She was not alone in this.” Chu Liuchen shook his head. “Sometimes, Imperial Grandmother would follow Nanny Wei’s advice. But she would not be so obedient. There must be someone else.”

“When I get better, I’ll see her in the Palace!” Shao Wanru held his jade pendant and said. It was not good for Chu Liuchen to interfere too much in the things of the Palace, especially those about the imperial harem. Moreover, Chu Liuchen had to deal with these external affairs when the Emperor was seriously ill. At this time, he could not make any mistakes.

After saying that, she cutely pulled at his jade pendant, not wanting to be refused.

Chu Liuchen looked down at her adorable appearance, and his heart softened. He lowered his head and gently kissed her on the forehead. “Okay, it’s up to you, but you must stay safe. If you can’t guarantee that, I won’t let you go to the Palace and will keep you in the mansion. I will deal with everything outside.”

“I’ll be careful. See? I’ve been wearing the bracelet you gave me all the time. There are Qiu’er and Dong’er. I’ll take them with me when I go out!” Shao Wanru blinked her liquid eyes and said, looking at him expectantly. She shook the bracelet around her wrist and casually showed Chu Liuchen the sapphire on it, reminding him this bracelet was different from ordinary ones.

Chu Liuchen couldn't help laughing and nodded helplessly. He knew she had always been stubborn and intelligent. She went this far because of his support behind the scenes and her efforts. Therefore, he must have faith in her.

"If you meet any tricky problem, don't force yourself to do anything. I'm with you all the way! I can do anything for you!" Though he thought so in his heart, Chu Liuchen was still worried and couldn't help reminding her. He reached out and hugged her tightly. "Take care of yourself first. Don't worry about anything else."

"I know!" Shao Wanru obediently buried herself in his arms and nodded in agreement.

Chu Liuchen gently patted her on the back and coaxed her into napping. Qiu'er, who had been serving her, said that Shao Wanru had not slept well since Nanny Wei came over. She had been lying in bed and brooding over things.

He deftly patted Shao Wanru's back with appropriate strength to put her to sleep. He did an excellent job because he had done this many times. His long eyelashes lowered as he quietly looked down at the meek, mild woman in his arms. She was his only wife, the priceless treasure in his heart. How audacious were those people to hurt her? Suddenly, his eyes turned dark and bloodthirsty. Essentially, he was still his old self in darkness...

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Then who had come into contact with Ruiping Great Elder Princess in this process?

All the people who passed by Ruiping Great Elder Princess were investigated, but whatever method was used, it was unknown who poisoned Ruiping Great Elder Princess when she knelt there.

Ruiping Great Elder Princess was in a delicate condition. She was in a coma, and the imperial physician had detoxified her. Because it was a slow poison, her life was left at the mercy of fate.

A Great Elder Princess was poisoned in the Palace. The news made everyone in the Palace uneasy. If Ruiping Great Elder Princess could be poisoned, others might also be poisoned silently without them noticing it. Thinking of this, all the people in the imperial Palace panicked. Many masters became very cautious and did not dare to eat the food sent from the imperial kitchen for fear of being poisoned...

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Chapter 1295 The Mysterious Person Who Incited Nanny Wei

"What the hell had happened?" A steely voice came from behind the curtain. Nanny Wei stopped and looked behind her carefully. She breathed a sigh of relief when seeing nothing unusual.

"I don't know about it either. Princess Chen said she would come over, but later, she sent someone over, saying she was in poor condition and couldn't get up. I had planned to send someone to inform Ruiping Great Elder Princess, but Prince Chen was at the Empress Dowager's place then. I couldn't leave for fear of arousing his suspicion!"

Nanny Wei explained in a low voice.

This palace was very old. It was said to be the residence of a favored imperial consort. But this place had been empty since the Emperor moved into the Palace. No master was living here. Several parts of the gauze curtains inside were broken. In the depths of the curtains, a figure could be faintly seen. However, nothing else could be seen clearly.

"Nanny Wei, did you do it on purpose?" The voice sounded sharp. It was a woman's voice, but the Palace was full of women.

Those favored masters were always arrogant and overbearing. Even their chief palace maids and chief eunuchs were not easy to get along with. Nanny Wei really couldn't figure out who was in front of her.

"I didn't do it on purpose — Princess Chen set me up," Nanny Wei said crossly. "When I went to see her, she turned me down, but I didn't expect her to agree later. Then, I passed your words on to Ruiping Great Elder Princess. But Princess Chen didn't go there in the end. Who would have known that?"

"Do you mean Princess Chen started to suspect you?" The voice behind the curtain sounded colder.

Nanny Wei looked flustered, and her face instantly paled. She shook her hand in a hurry and said, "No, no. I work for the Empress Dowager. How could Princess Chen suspect me when I delivered the Empress Dowager's order? I think she wanted to come. After all, the Empress Dowager asked her to do that. But who knew that in the end... in the end..."

Nanny Wei couldn't go on, feeling very uneasy.

"Do you mean it happened by accident?" The stern voice behind the gauze curtain dropped a little.

"Yes, it must be an accident. I guess Princess Chen couldn't get up. When I saw her, she struggled to hold on. She was so seriously injured that her whole face was drained of color. If I weren't the Empress Dowager's personal Nanny, I might not even see her."

Nanny Wei's back was damp with sweat. She was doing her best to show how useful and important she was. She might be abandoned as a useless pawn if she made a mistake.

She had never been so scared, but now Ruiping Great Elder Princess was still lying unconscious in the Imperial Institute of Medicine. It was hard to tell whether she could survive or not. Nanny Wei didn't dare to guarantee that she would be fine.

Even Ruiping Great Elder Princess might be in trouble. Nothing terrible had happened to her merely because she was the Empress Dowager's servant. At this moment, Nanny Wei realized the great benefits of serving Empress Dowager. She lowered her head a little, not daring to show her nervous look before the person inside.

She was indeed flustered and scared, for fear that she might become useless in their eyes. Also, she was afraid they would think Princess Chen had doubts about her. Purposely exaggerating Princess Chen's illness condition was the best choice for her.

As expected, the person behind the gauze curtain fell into silence. After a long pause, she said, "Go ahead. Be careful in everything. If there is anything unusual, report it to me right away!"

"Yes, yes!" Nanny Wei nodded hurriedly and wiped the cold sweat on her forehead. Just now, she sensed the danger of being recognized as a good-for-nothing.

Out of the secluded palace, Nanny Wei looked into the darkness ahead. She found the direction and turned to leave in a hurry.

Not long after she walked away, another figure appeared, but it wasn't in the front hall but near a side door at the back. The door was very small and always locked. An old palace maid who cleaned this place was said to hold the key. It had always been locked up tightly here, but now it was carefully opened.

When the black shadow came out, the door was closed and locked. Then, the person turned around and also disappeared into the night...

In the next few days, Shao Wanru focused on recuperating. From time to time, Rui'an Great Elder Princess would come to see her with some soup. She occasionally would bring Shao Yuanhao with her, but most of the time, she came alone.

This day, Rui'an Great Elder Princess came earlier than usual — she was here right after Shao Wanru got up.

A servant girl led her into the inner room. Smiling broadly, Shao Wanru sat propped up in the bed by pillows. Though she only had minor injuries, Chu Liuchen did not allow her to get out of bed. Therefore, she could only lie there obediently.

"Grandma!" Seeing Rui'an Great Elder Princess come in, Shao Wanru smiled and felt refreshed.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess was delighted to see her in a good state. When she came over and sat before the bed, she looked up to check Shao Wanru's complexion. Then, she nodded satisfactorily and asked the servant girl to put the stewed soup on the table.

"Ruiping Great Elder Princess has passed away!" Rui'an Great Elder Princess filled a bowl of soup for Shao Wanru and whispered.

"Today?" Shao Wanru was stunned.

"Yes, just now." Rui'an Great Elder Princess nodded and handed over the bowl in her hand.

Shao Wanru took it and took a sip. It tasted just right, not too thick or bland. Her long eyelashes fluttered as she looked at Rui'an Great Elder Princess and asked, "What's the news about it from the Palace?"

"Ruiping Great Elder Princess is dead. There is no evidence to prove that she is involved in the big issue about Infanta Yuan'an. Besides, she was inexplicably poisoned in the Palace. They couldn't find the truth no matter how thoroughly they inquired into it. People in the Palace thought they owed much to Ruiping Great Elder Princess. Therefore, I guess she should get rewards than punishments!"

Rui'an Great Elder Princess said.

She had learned about it. Since Infanta Yuan'an had tried to murder Shao Wanru, Rui'an Great Elder Princess had a deep hatred of Ruiping Great Elder

Princess. Though Ruiping Great Elder Princess was dead, she gained the honor, which terribly upset Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

"Grandma, who do you think did this to her?" Shao Wanru took another sip of soup and asked with a peaceful smile.

The death of Ruiping Great Elder Princess was indeed very good for her. Otherwise, when she woke up, there would be some things that she couldn't explain clearly. Therefore, Shao Wanru knew Ruiping Great Elder Princess was bound to die.

She was not surprised by her death.

"Who knows how many people she has offended? She had always been mild and benevolent before others. Seemingly, she had a good relationship with many people. But she was a weathercock and an artful person who had done many shady deals. It was normal that some people wanted to take her life away!" Rui'an Great Elder Princess said indifferently.

They were both Great Elder Princesses and would talk when they met. But over the years, they became very clear about each other's character.

"Grandma, could it be that she ate her bitter fruit?" Shao Wanru smiled, slightly raising her cherry lips.

"She hurt herself?" Rui'an Great Elder Princess had never thought about it. When she heard what Shao Wanru said, her eyes suddenly lit up. "Yes, very likely. She was capable of doing that. The case of Yuan'an would inevitably involve her. Because of her unexpected death, she will get no severe consequences but rewards!"

After that, Rui'an Great Elder Princess shook her head in confusion. "No, but how could she be willing to give up her life for the safety of the whole mansion?"

"What if someone told her that she wouldn't die?" Shao Wanru asked calmly.

"That's impossible. She couldn't be so easily deceived." Rui'an Great Elder Princess shook her head.

Shao Wanru reminded her, "She might have seen that someone was poisoned but didn't die. After all, it's a slow-acting poison. If she were rescued in time, she would be fine!"

"It... it's possible..." After thinking for a while, Rui'an Great Elder Princess nodded affirmatively and said, "As long as her life was not in danger, she would dare to do anything."

“By doing so, Ruiping Great Elder Princess could guarantee the safety of her mansion and frame me.” Shao Wanru’s eyes turned cold. “She must have brought poison to the Palace. She should have taken the medicine when receiving the news that I would come. What would have happened if I had gone over at that time? I might kneel beside her to help plead for mercy or get some water. As long as I was there, anything I did would look suspicious.”

Then Ruiping Great Elder Princess would faint early. Her life would not be in danger if the rescue came in time.

When Ruiping Great Elder Princess woke up from a coma, Shao Wanru had become a suspect. If she said something ambiguous and got some “true evidence” from Infanta Yuan’an, she could completely put the blame on Shao Wanru. This plan was indeed vicious.

“I must talk to the Empress Dowager about this!” Rui’an Great Elder Princess could no longer sit still and suddenly stood up.

“Grandma, please sit down and listen to me!” Shao Wanru put down the bowl in her hand and pulled the sleeve of Rui’an Great Elder Princess.

Rui’an Great Elder Princess sat down helplessly. “I can tell the Empress Dowager about this. Don’t worry. I will be fine.”

“Grandma, even if we figure out Ruiping Great Elder Princess did it herself, we have no evidence!” Shao Wanru looked at Rui’an Great Elder Princess and said, “Now she is dead. If you go to the Palace and say that, people will think you are mean to the extreme to bring malicious accusations against a dead person.”

“What should we do? How could we let the problem she caused stir up the whole Palace?” Rui’an Great Elder Princess asked.

The whole Imperial Palace was in a state of panic. Everyone feared that they would be the next ones to be killed.

“Grandma, don’t worry. Prince Chen will deal with it!” Shao Wanru said with a gentle smile. This was what Chu Liuchen had told her this morning.

He told her not to worry because he wouldn’t let go of this incident about Ruiping Great Elder Princess.

“What will he do? Will he expose the truth? Then, I might as well do it. After all, his current identity is sensitive!” Rui’an Great Elder Princess said uneasily.

She feared Chu Liuchen would go to tell the Emperor about it. It was really inappropriate for him to say that.

“Set your heart at ease about it. He won’t be reckless.” Shao Wanru believed Chu Liuchen could handle this matter well. This matter had been delayed for several days. But since he said so, he must have some confidence in dealing with this matter.

“Grandma, let’s wait for news!” Seeing Rui’an Great Elder Princess was anxious, Shao Wanru comforted her in a soft voice. She took a bowl of soup from Qiu’er and handed it to her, saying sweetly, “Grandma, it’s delicious. You should try it!”

Chapter 1296 The Backlash of Large-scale Blood Sacrifice

Rui’an Great Elder Princess knew Shao Wanru wanted to relieve her stress. Helplessly, she took the soup. After taking a sip, she smiled and touched Shao Wanru’s head. Unlike Qinghua, Shao Wanru had a prepared mind. Since she believed Chu Liuchen would not be reckless, Rui’an Great Elder Princess thought she might wait for some time. Even if it didn’t work out, she would protect her granddaughter at the cost of her life.

It didn’t take long for them to receive the message sent from Chu Liuchen. Ruiping Great Elder Princess had died, but traces of poison had been found in her sleeve. That was to say, Ruiping Great Elder Princess had brought the poison into the Palace and taken it herself.

How audacious was she to take poison before the Imperial Study? Did she do it to curse the Emperor? Thinking back on this matter carefully, the Emperor was furious. Ruiping Great Elder Princess died, but many people were in her mansion. As a result, an imperial edict was sent to the Ruiping Great Elder Princess’ Mansion. All people there were reprimanded and punished. Some descendants with official positions were demoted.

The Ruiping Great Elder Princess’ Mansion was also taken back.

The Duke Pingxing’s Mansion was also implicated because it was connected to Ruiping Great Elder Princess by marriage.

Rui’an Great Elder Princess was delighted with this result and returned to her mansion happily.

The matter was settled. Temporarily relieved, Shao Wanru only wanted to wait for Chu Liuchen to come back and ask about the specific situation.

She didn’t expect to wait until very late at night. Under the dim light, she couldn’t help falling asleep.

When Chu Liuchen was back, he took a bath and cautiously climbed onto the bed without any noise. But as the bed slightly vibrated, Shao Wanru opened

her sleepy eyes. For a moment, she was still in a daze and looked very lovable.

Chu Liuchen held her in his arms and looked at her face. Since she had just woken up, her fair and tender face glowed a little. She was exceedingly beautiful under the light.

“What happened?” Shao Wanru pulled herself together and opened her eyes again. This time, she sobered up a little. Looking at the length of the candle, she asked, “Any unexpected news about Ruiping Great Elder Princess?”

“No, it was not about her. Uncle the Emperor doesn’t feel very well!” Chu Liuchen said. After suffering one blow after another, the Emperor was getting worse and worse, and he almost couldn’t hold on and go to see officials in the imperial court. “These officials ask to appoint a crown prince!”

“Chu Liuyue?” Shao Wanru felt more awake.

“Chu Liuyue!” Chu Liuchen said lightly and reached out to tuck her in.

“What should we do?” Shao Wanru asked and grasped Chu Liuchen’s hand, too flustered to hide her terrified look. She trembled slightly. In her previous life, Chu Liuchen killed her. Would the same tragedy happen in this life?

For them, anyone else would be a better crown prince than Chu Liuyue. Since her rebirth, Chu Liuyue had become a demon about her last life in her heart.

“There’s no hurry. Don’t be afraid!” Sensing that Shao Wanru panicked, Chu Liuchen softly appeased and gently patted her, his eyes dark and deep. “Why are you afraid of him?”

“Why? In my previous life, Chu Liuyue conspired with Shao Yanru to murder me and ordered someone to cut me in half at the waist.” She knew no one would believe it, even if she wanted to tell the truth.

How could she know about her previous life? It was because she had clear and identical memories. Otherwise, even she herself wouldn’t have believed it.

“I once had a dream...” Shao Wanru chose her words with care. Then, she bit her lip. These things were really not easy to explain.

Chu Liuchen didn’t say anything and quietly waited for her to continue.

She reached out and held his big hand, letting her tender fingers grip his slim fingers. With their fingers intertwined, she could feel his warmth and gained the courage to go on speaking.

"I once had a dream... In the dream, Chu Liuyue and Shao Yanru joined hands and killed me... I... I was cut in two at the waist!" The last sentence put a tremendous strain on her. As if a heavy weight had been pressed down on her heart, she felt so overburdened that she could hardly make a sound. This tragic end had been a heavy load for her. Also, it was the conclusion of her previous life.

Chu Liuchen touched her beautiful hair and chuckled, "Don't worry. It's all fake. A dream, after all. Besides, even if it's real, so what? I'm here. What was I doing in your dream?"

"What did he do in my dream?" She didn't know the answer. But it seemed she could guess it. She bit her lip and said, "If... I mean, if they murdered me, what... what would you do?"

They must have met each other in her last life! However, for some reason, the memories about them had been erased.

"I won't let anyone hurt you!" Chu Liuchen said.

"What if... Well, if I didn't marry you at that time... But you treated me very well. Then... They killed me?" Shao Wanru insisted on getting an answer. She looked up and fixed her eyes on Chu Liuchen. At this moment, the discomfort caused by Chu Liuyue was significantly reduced.

"You didn't marry me, but I treated you well. That means I wanted to marry you. Although it is not perfectly justifiable..." Chu Liuchen paused as if he was thinking about this possibility.

"Not perfectly justifiable? Was that why he failed to protect me in time?" Her heart trembled violently, and tears immediately welled up in her eyes.

Seeing Shao Wanru cry, Chu Liuchen got into a panic and repeatedly assured her, "Such a thing won't happen. It won't happen again. I promise!"

"What... what if something bad happens to me?" Shao Wanru asked. She insisted on getting the answer to the doubts in her previous life. It seemed that she could find answers to all the unclear questions.

"If you suffered, I would definitely avenge you and place my hope on the next life. In the next life, I would find you and would never let you get hurt again. No one could lay their hands on you again!" Chu Liuchen said in a hurry, his handsome face full of distress. He put down his hand, patted her back, and hugged her tightly.

"Looking forward to the next life? It's... it's impossible!" Stunned, Shao Wanru wiped away her tears and said. However, no matter how hard she tried, she

couldn't dry her eyes with tears that fell like falling rain. She had no choice but to continue wiping her tears.

"Why is it impossible? There is a method from the Xu State!" Seeing that she was still crying, Chu Liuchen kissed the corners of her eyes and said gently, "A method from the Xu State could place hope in the next life!"

"A way from the Xu State?" Shao Wanru was shocked as if something had erupted in her mind.

She knew Chu Liuchen and Princess Yutao had secretly cooperated with each other. Princess Yutao returned to the Xu State after Princess Yuyan got married. She should have returned to the Xu State long ago. Chu Liuchen had told her that Princess Yutao gained the upper hand in the competition for the crown in her country. Compared with the First Prince, she had more supporters.

"Does the Xu State have any solution?" Shao Wanru asked eagerly.

"There is a Grand Witch in the tribe of Xu State Empress. According to Princess Yutao, the Grand Witch can use the blood of those related to the deceased person by blood and offer up a sacrifice for reincarnation. In this way, I can give up my great fate in exchange for our reunion in the next life." Chu Liuchen didn't take Princess Yutao's words seriously, but to comfort Shao Wanru, he told her everything he knew about it.

"A blood sacrifice?" Shao Wanru asked in a trembling voice.

"Yes, that's right. A lot of people should join in the sacrifice. Moreover, their good fortune and fate should also be sacrificed!" Chu Liuchen added lazily. He felt this matter was nonsense. The Xu State in the wilderness had many weird things, like these strange herbs and the so-called blood sacrifice.

As Shao Wanru shivered, Chu Liuchen thought she was scared. "It's okay. It's difficult for ordinary people to meet all these requirements. The great fate is the most critical thing, which is not something that ordinary people can have. Besides, there are other blood sacrifices and the blood of relatives of the deceased people. The blood of many people must be mixed up together. The whole process is for an illusory path of reincarnation. It is like a Buddhist phrase: cultivating for the next life, not for this life."

Someone voluntarily gave up the great fate in this life for achievements in the vague and insubstantial next life. How could there be such a person in this world? Chu Liuchen regarded it as a joke. He heard it casually when Princess Yutao told him about the anecdotes of the Xu State, so he didn't take it seriously.

However, Shao Wanru was all tears and clutched Chu Liuchen's clothes tightly with both hands. "So, was he the person who brought me back to life? A great fate. He might have become the crown prince or the emperor back then. How could anyone in this world have a more extraordinary fate than him? He acted as the medium. Shao Yanru did the blood sacrifice. So many people's lives were taken. All of this was done to pave the way for my rebirth.

"No wonder his eyes were filled with darkness, despair, and blood-lust killing intentions.

"I was dead, so did he destroy the whole world?"

That was an illusory method. She could feel that he just made some tongue-in-cheek remarks. How could someone like him believe in the path of reincarnation and the hearsay about the next life? Anyway, he still believed it in her last life. Even if there was only a little possibility, he still did it.

She couldn't stop crying, with the sadness, pity, and desolation of two lives.

Did she get her rebirth because of the gigantic upheaval he brought to the world? He had done so much for her, but she had forgotten about him. Was this also a punishment for him after the blood sacrifice?

She had been cut in half at the waist, and he made a blood sacrifice at the cost of the world. Even though he had an extraordinary fate, he still suffered and paid for such a destructive activity. As a result, he disappeared from her memory, and she couldn't remember everything related to him.

She remembered everything but only forgot about him. This was so unfair to him...

"What's wrong? Terrified? Nothing serious. It was only a casual talk. I don't believe it and certainly won't do it. It's enough for me to have you!" Chu Liuchen was frightened as she nearly cried her heart out. He had been careless and languid, but now he looked pretty nervous. He reached out and picked her up. Seeing that she cried too bitterly to open her eyes, he asked anxiously.

"I... I'm fine... I'll be fine..." Shao Wanru sobbed out, trying her best to finish her words. She would be fine and would not let him do this again. Sure enough, she would engrave him on her heart.

"Okay, alright. You'll be fine. I know. Don't cry. It's bad for your health if you keep crying like this." Chu Liuchen comforted her softly and said everything that could appease her.

"Tomorrow... Let's go to worship the Buddha tomorrow. And.. go... go to redeem the vow in the Huaguang Temple!" Shao Wanru said in tears.

"Okay, okay. I'll go with you tomorrow!" Chu Liuchen wiped her tears with distress and repeatedly agreed. There was a slight twinge of remorse on his handsome face. He had no idea what he said that made her so sad.

Chapter 1297 Breaking the Fate

That night, Shao Wanru cried so hard that she fell asleep in a daze. In her dream, it was in the same place where she was executed, she saw herself lying on the floor, but not dead yet, and Chu Liuchen rushing over with desperate and bloody eyes...

At that moment, she was not afraid. She just wanted to move forward to hug him and comfort him, and she watched him rush down from the tall Palace, staggering...

Early the next morning, she woke up and was a little confused when she saw Chu Liuchen's smiling face. Usually, Chu Liuchen would have gone to court at this time.

"Why... Why haven't you left yet?" Shao Wanru propped herself up and asked.

"I'll go with you to Huaguang Temple to redeem your vow," Chu Liuchen said. He reached out to pick her up, took a look at her complexion, and said with a smile, "I've asked Mingqiu Nun and Qi Jue. They both say that it's okay for you to get up to move. You can't lie in bed all the time, right?"

"I've told you I am fine." Shao Wanru had wanted to get up for a long time. When she heard that she could get up, she immediately pouted and muttered. She had been lying in bed these days, which made her very uncomfortable, so she was eager to get off the bed.

Chu Liuchen carried her to the front of the dressing table. Looking at her red and swollen eyes in the mirror, Shao Wanru immediately lost her spirits. "I... How can I be seen like this?"

"Who says you will be seen by others? You won't. Just wear a veil," Chu Liuchen smiled. He was delighted to see Shao Wanru's delicate appearance. Yesterday, seeing Shao Wanru burst into tears inexplicably, he was startled. When he woke up in the middle night and saw the tears in her eyes, he felt very distressed.

Looking at her red and swollen eyes that were so visible, Shao Wanru had no choice but to say, "All right."

The carriage was ready. After freshening up, Shao Wanru came out with Chu Liuchen. They got in the carriage and went straight to Huaguang Temple.

“Why didn’t you go to the Palace today? His Majesty is in bad health, so you should be in the Palace at this time.” Shao Wanru was a little worried. She leaned on Chu Liuchen’s shoulder and said.

“Don’t worry. Uncle the Emperor is not in good health, but he won’t have an accident all of a sudden. He can’t go to court today in his condition. I’m not anxious, but Chu Liuyue is, as well as Chu Qing.”

“Will Chu Liuyue take action?” Shao Wanru was surprised, subconsciously reaching out to hold Chu Liuchen.

“Of course. It’s right now,” Chu Liuchen sneered.

Shao Wanru understood. The officials had submitted memorials to the throne to appoint the crown prince, and most of them suggested it to be Chu Liuyue. In fact, all of this was instigated by Chu Liuyue behind. If not, there wouldn’t have been so many people standing on his side.

“Will His Majesty think that he is very good? Besides, he is the eldest son of the emperor.” Shao Wanru was worried about Chu Liuchen.

“It doesn’t matter,” Chu Liuchen smiled. He was very satisfied with Shao Wanru, who was thinking for him wholeheartedly. He was happy to see Chu Liuyue’s current action. Chu Liuyue was on the front, and Chu Qing also made a scene, so Chu Liuchen could slow down and wait for their following actions.

The carriage arrived at Huaguang Temple smoothly. Shao Wanru got out of the carriage early. This time, she was going to take the Wenxin Road with Chu Liuchen.

Along the way, she felt very tired but also very satisfied. The uncomfortable feeling she had yesterday totally disappeared. She took Chu Liuchen’s hand, and they stepped onto the last step hand in hand. Looking back, she saw the overlapped high mountains and the vast sky in the depth of clouds. Instantly, the depression in her chest seemed to have disappeared into the clouds.

Shao Wanru was in high spirits this time. She pulled Chu Liuchen to several most popular Buddha halls and knelt to show her respect devoutly. The so-called vowing to Buddha was to express her gratitude to Buddha. Every time she knelt down, she did it with full sincerity. Even Chu Liuchen felt tired for her along the way. Chu Liuchen wondered how Shao Wanru could have such big strength to support her to worship so many Buddha statues with her petite body.

Moreover, she was so devout.

They had a late lunch because of worshipping Buddhas. After lunch, Chu Liuchen took Shao Wanru straight to a vacant Zen yard. When the little monk guarding the door saw Chu Liuchen coming over, he stepped forward and bowed.

"Is the great master here?" Chu Liuchen asked with a smile.

"He is meditating inside," the little monk replied and then stepped aside to let Chu Liuchen in.

Shao Wanru followed Chu Liuchen behind, looking around the courtyard with curiosity. The courtyard was vacant but very clean, with waves of sandalwood fragrance cleaning the heart and calming the mind.

Hearing their footsteps, the person sitting on the rush cushion opened his eyes. His long eyes were with a sort of wisdom. He was not surprised upon seeing Chu Liuchen and Shao Wanru. He put down the scripture in his hand with a smile and gave a gesture of having a seat.

Chu Liuchen pulled Shao Wanru and sat down deftly.

"Your Highness, what brings you here today?" the abbot said with a smile. He looked very kind. It was the first time Shao Wanru came here, so she felt uneasy. However, under the abbot's gaze, she calmed down surprisingly and looked at the layout curiously with her bright eyes. She used to live in the Yuhui Nunnery before, and she had seen many nun's Zen rooms, but she had never seen such a quiet one as if it were spotless.

"I'm free today, so I just come to visit you, Master," Chu Liuchen said and reached out to hold Shao Wanru's hand. "This is my princess."

His words sounded meaningful. Shao Wanru didn't understand for a moment. She blinked her bright eyes but didn't say anything.

The abbot shifted his eyes to Shao Wanru and looked at her carefully. Shao Wanru smiled uneasily and reached out to hold Chu Liuchen's hand.

"Don't be afraid. Let Master have a look," Chu Liuchen comforted her.

Shao Wanru blinked her long eyelashes and was still a little nervous.

"Princess Chen is very good!" After a long while, the abbot looked away and said with a smile. His kind look calmed Shao Wanru down a lot.

"What do you mean by 'very good'?" Chu Liuchen asked.

“Everything is good, including her personality and her fate. Your Highness, you don’t have to worry,” the abbot said.

“Master, Why are you so straightforward this time? You used to play Zen games, didn’t you?” Chu Liuchen said with a smile.

“It was in the past, but it’s different now. Your Highness, you are no longer the prince of the past. What I couldn’t say in the past can be said now.” The abbot picked up the teapot on the table, poured a cup of tea for each of them, and then pushed them to the front of Chu Liuchen and Shao Wanru. “Your Highnesses, please have some tea.”

“Master, you are much more polite to me than before. Why?” Chu Liuchen took a sip and looked up at the abbot with a smile in the bottom of his beautiful eyes.

“It’s because Her Highness is with you,” the abbot said with a smile.

“Oh? Because of my princess?” Chu Liuchen raised his eyebrows.

“Yes, Your Highness. With Her Highness by your side, your way is very smooth,” the abbot said with a smile. With the teacup in his hand, he looked more like a smiling Buddha holding a flower.

“Master, it’s rare for you to be so straightforward like today. Then I’ll ask you about the inborn Phoenix Fate,” Chu Liuchen said lazily.

Shao Wanru’s heart skipped a beat. She knew that the matter of inborn Phoenix Fate was referring to Shao Yanru. However, now it seemed that the so-called inborn Phoenix Fate could not be related to Shao Yanru anymore. Shao Yanru could not take the position of a future Empress even if she had the power to reverse the situation.

Last time, Shao Wanru destroyed the plan of Shao Jing and E’niang, which meant that Shao Yanru’s way of return was cut off. Shao Yanru would never show up as a daughter of a noble family again.

Thinking of Shao Yanru, Shao Wanru couldn’t help becoming nervous suddenly. Since Shao Yanru left the Palace, she seemed to have disappeared into the boundless huge crowd. However, with her character, Shao Yanru would never be willing to live a plain life.

“The inborn Phoenix Fate?” the abbot smiled. “Your Highness, do you also believe it?”

“I believe it and I don’t believe it either,” Chu Liuchen said lazily, “I wonder if you ever said the inborn Phoenix Fate.”

"Yes, I did." The abbot nodded with a smile.

"Which powerful family's daughter were you talking about, then?" Chu Liuchen asked curiously. He looked at the abbot with his long eyes, but there was not much emotion in his eyes. Then he looked in the direction of Shao Wanru, with a little unspeakable pride.

"Your Highness, regarding the wording of inborn Phoenix Fate, it's for others to hear. You don't have to mention it here anymore," The abbot said with a smile. He picked up the teacup at hand and gulped up. "Your Highness, it's a blessing for the Kingdom of Dongcangyou that you and your destined woman live together for the rest of your lives."

As the abbot said this, he looked at Shao Wanru and nodded with a smile.

Chu Liuchen was silent for a moment and asked with gloomy eyes, "Will she be all right?"

"She will be fine," the abbot said.

Chu Liuchen pulled Shao Wanru to stand up and bowed deeply to the abbot. "Thank you, Master."

"You're welcome, Your Highness. Ahead of you is a smooth way, no bloody world of destruction anymore, so I don't have to worry that you will go astray!" The abbot stood up with a smile. "Your Highness, please."

Chu Liuchen smiled. It was a wanton smile on his gentle face. He bowed to the abbot again before leaving with Shao Wanru. During the whole process, Shao Wanru hadn't understood a word.

When they got outside the zen room, she blinked her bright eyes and asked, "Do I need to wear the veil again?"

She took off her veil when she entered the zen room just now. Her eyes were still red and swollen, so she felt too ashamed to see anyone.

Chu Liuchen took the veil from Qiu'er and helped Shao Wanru put it on with an elegant smile. It could be seen that he was very happy.

"Is there anything you're happy about?" Shao Wanru looked at him helping her put on the veil curiously, and asked in surprise. Chu Liuchen had rarely revealed his mood so obviously.

"Every time I came here before, the abbot always said that the way ahead of me was blurred. It was full of bloody scenes and was extremely dangerous. Now I have you, and he said my way ahead is clear and that you will be fine." Chu Liuchen was very satisfied today, indeed. He was worried about

yesterday's state of Shao Wanru. That was why he brought Shao Wanru to Huaguang Temple to check it out.

He didn't expect to get such a clear answer. It was surprisingly good news for him.

After they left hand in hand, the abbot of Huaguang Temple walked to the door. Looking at the backs of Chu Liuchen and Shao Wanru, the abbot put his palms together devoutly and chanted "Amitabha" in a low voice, with his kind face full of smiles. Now both the dragon and the phoenix were safe and sound, instead of the fate that the phoenix was dead and the dragon was injured. It was the lucky thing for the entire the Kingdom of Dongcang. As for the inborn Phoenix Fate that he had mentioned before, which was referring to the daughter of the Shao Family, some people might have misunderstood...

Shao Wanru didn't know that the abbot of Huaguang Temple sighed with emotion about her and Chu Liuchen. It was getting late, so she went down the mountain with Chu Liuchen. As soon as their carriage entered the capital, a guard of the Palace on a horse came over in a rush and summoned Chu Liuchen into the Palace.

So, Chu Liuchen went to the Palace, and Shao Wanru took the carriage to go back to Prince Chen's Mansion.

Sitting in the carriage, Shao Wanru frowned slightly, wondering, "Did anything happen to the Emperor at this time, or did anything else happen in the Palace..."

Chapter 1298 The Old Grudge in the Royal Family

Noble Consort Lan waited anxiously at the resting Palace of the Emperor. She knelt in front of the Emperor's bed. Looking at the Emperor's pale face, she was at a loss, and her fingers, which were pressing on the bed, trembled slightly.

There was a sound at the door, followed by a voice of greetings, and Chu Liuchen strode in. When Noble Consort Lan saw him come in, her complexion became a little better. She immediately stood up and said, "You... Come on, take a look. His Majesty... His Majesty suddenly fainted after eating the soup I stewed."

There was a bowl with a lid on the table. The soup that Noble Consort Lan just mentioned should be contained in it.

In the resting Palace, the tranquilized sandalwood was burning. Chu Liuchen just came out of the abbot's Zen room of Huaguang Temple, where there was also burning sandalwood. However, they seemed to be a little different.

"Have you called the imperial physician to come?" Chu Liuchen looked around and asked.

"Not... Not yet..." Noble Consort Lan said with her eyes turning red, "His Majesty fainted right after eating the soup. I... I'm afraid that something will happen..."

"You are afraid that something will happen, but why don't you call the imperial physician here?" Chu Liuchen questioned sternly. He then nodded to Xiao Xuanzi to tell the guards outside to call the imperial physician.

The imperial physician was right at the side hall, so he came quickly. When he came in and saw that the Emperor had fainted on the bed without any breath, the imperial physician was so scared that his legs trembled.

"Be quick. Go see how Uncle the Emperor is?" Chu Liuchen had just felt the Emperor's breath. Seeing that the imperial physician had no nerve to go forward, he ordered coldly.

The imperial physician did not dare to hesitate and hurried forward. When he reached out to feel the Emperor's pulse, he breathed a sigh of relief. He had thought that the Emperor had died just now.

"Your Highness, His Majesty seems to have eaten some incompatible food." The imperial physician looked up at Chu Liuchen, who had a cold face.

"What do you mean by incompatible food? How is Uncle the Emperor's condition now?" Chu Liuchen asked calmly. Noble Consort Lan did not dare to cry anymore on the side, and she looked at the imperial physician with her eyes widened.

"Your Highness, don't worry. I'll give His Majesty a prescription now. His Majesty will feel better right after taking it. Fortunately, His Majesty didn't eat much. Otherwise..." The imperial physician shook his head with lingering fear.

Chu Liuchen urged the imperial physician to write the prescription quickly and gave it to Derong, who entered in a big hurry. Then he asked Derong to decoct the medicine in the side hall, where there were herbal medicinal materials.

"Why did you bring the soup to His Majesty today?" Chu Liuchen looked at Noble Consort Lan with gloomy eyes.

"I... I've been cooking soups for His Majesty every day recently." Noble Consort Lan finally calmed down by this time. She thought for a while and replied.

"Bring it every day? And always at this time?" Chu Liuchen raised his eyebrows.

"Yes, I bring the soups here every day. I cooked the soup myself in my Palace, so no one can drug it in the process." Noble Consort Lan thought about it again and said with certainty.

"Where did you get the ingredients?" Chu Liuchen was silent for a moment and continued to ask.

"The ingredients were sent from the imperial kitchen. I assigned someone to pick the good ones, and after that, the imperial kitchen will send for a young eunuch to bring them to me," Noble Consort Lan said with a frown.

Chu Liuchen fell silent for a second before telling Xiao Xuanzi, who was following him behind. "Go and check the eunuch who was assigned to deliver the ingredients from the imperial kitchen."

Xiao Xuanzi received the order and left to ask someone outside to investigate that young eunuch.

"Did... anyone deliberately put something in the soup I cooked?" Noble Consort Lan said in a trembling voice, "I... I've been already very careful."

"Well, I wonder in which respect that you've been very careful. In other words, how can you prove to me that you are very careful? This is the case now, and it used to be the same," Chu Liuchen sneered, "In terms of food, you have been careless for decades."

"No... It's not like that..." Noble Consort Lan's lips trembled a few times, and her face immediately turned extremely pale. She looked up at Chu Liuchen with her beautiful eyes full of tears. "Chen'er, I know you hate me, but I really accidentally fell into their trap and had the food with poison to the fetus back then..."

"Enough. Stop it!" Chu Liuchen interrupted Noble Consort Lan in a cold voice. He reached out to rub his forehead and said, "Now let's talk about Uncle the Emperor. Your carelessness hurt someone else!"

"I... I didn't. Chen'er, I was really careless that..." Noble Consort Lan was so anxious that she was about to cry.

“Don’t... Don’t blame her. It was my fault. I was so incompetent... that I couldn’t protect you two...” A weak voice was heard from the bed. Chu Liuchen and Noble Consort Lan turned around and saw that the Emperor had recovered consciousness. The Emperor reached out as if he tried his best to get up.

Noble Consort Lan hurried forward to help the Emperor up and put a large pillow behind him.

“Chen’er, don’t blame your mother. It’s... It was my fault that I couldn’t protect you two... Your mother was supposed to marry me, but I didn’t expect that my elder brother took away your mother by force... After your mother entered the Palace, he didn’t cherish your mother. Later ... when your mother was pregnant with you, she was poisoned. It was also ... my fault! It resulted in that you almost lost your life when you were born. I just claimed that you were congenitally deficient and raised you...”

Listening to the Emperor’s intermittent words, Chu Liuchen lowered his head and fixed his eyes on the floor in silence for a long time. He heard the whole story clearly between the Emperor and Noble Consort Lan back then.

Noble Consort Lan was the former Empress and also Chu Liuchen’s biological mother. Chu Liuchen had long known about this. After inquiring about this matter clearly, he had always been very resistant to Noble Consort Lan, and he even hated himself for being the son of Noble Consort Lan. As the former Empress, she was willing to be degrading, for which Chu Liuchen abandoned himself.

It was a past that he refused to accept. It was also a past that he was unwilling to mention to anyone...

“Uncle the Emperor, since you are fine, I will have to go.” After the Emperor told the story intermittently, Chu Liuchen said goodbye to the Emperor calmly.

“Chen’er...” Noble Consort Lan looked at Chu Liuchen pleadingly with tears all over her face.

“Go ahead.” The Emperor looked calm. Even though he looked at Chu Liuchen with tears in his eyes, he waved his hand and allowed Chu Liuchen to leave.

Chu Liuchen turned around and strode outside, followed by Xiao Xuanzi in a hurry.

Watching the prince and his servant leave in a hurry, Noble Consort Lan cried to fall to the side of the Emperor.

“Easy, don’t cry. Chen’er is a good child. Even if he can’t understand us for a while, he will eventually. When you panicked to send for him just now, he came over immediately, right?” the Emperor whispered to comfort Noble Consort Lan.

“Your Majesty, the medicine is ready,” Derong reported in a low voice outside. In fact, the medicine had been ready for a long time. When the family of three was talking inside, Derong did not interrupt but stepped aside quietly. As per the imperial physician, the Emperor was not in serious condition, and he fainted just because of the incompatible effect of the medicine and the soup.

“Bring it in!” The Emperor nodded.

Derong brought the medicine in and served the Emperor to take it.

“Go and investigate the matter of the soup cooked by Noble Consort Lan,” the Emperor ordered calmly.

“Yes, Your Majesty. I’ll do it right away,” Derong said respectfully, then collected the medicine bowl and left.

“You... Are you all right?” Noble Consort Lan looked at the Emperor in panic.

“I’m fine,” the Emperor sighed and pulled Noble Consort Lan to sit in front of the bed. Looking at her delicate but slightly wrinkled eyes, he said, “Sorry, it’s all my fault.”

“No, Your Majesty. We... We had no choice...” Noble Consort Lan cried again. “But ... Chen’er... he did nothing wrong... I have been watching him struggle on the verge of death over the years, and I... I feel so distressed ... I would rather die myself... But I can’t die ... because I must protect him...”

The Emperor took her handkerchief from Noble Consort Lan’s hand, gently wiped the tears from the corners of her eyes, and comforted her in a soft voice, “Chen’er is fine now. He is in good health. Since he married a princess he liked, he has become not as extreme as before. He will grow better and better in the future, and he will understand us.”

The Emperor put down the handkerchief and held Noble Consort Lan’s hand, and a trace of memories flashed in his eyes.

Indeed, he was the one who was supposed to marry Noble Consort Lan, but not the deceased emperor. However, by accident, Noble Consort Lan entered the Palace and became the former Empress. Afterward, the deceased emperor knew about the love affairs between Noble Consort Lan and his younger brother, and he got angry. Therefore, the position of Empress that

belonged to Noble Consort Lan was vacant, and Noble Consort Lan was snubbed.

When the other imperial concubines saw that the former Empress had been snubbed, they all jumped out to bully her.

Although Noble Consort Lan was the Empress in the Palace of the deceased emperor, she actually had a tough time. One day, the Emperor happened to see the former Empress sobbing in a secluded place in her Palace. He had wanted to avoid her, but he really couldn't bear it, so he came out to comfort her. In the heat of the moment, they made a mistake, resulting in the former Empress getting pregnant.

Later, the former Empress had gotten poisoned during her pregnancy, and she almost miscarried. She had been through many difficulties to give birth to the child, but she almost could not save the child's life. It was not because the child was congenitally deficient, but because the child got poisoned by others even when it was in the womb. The mother got poisoned and the poison worked on the fetus...

Later, when the deceased emperor was investigating the leftover evils of the previous dynasty, he met Consort Dowager Qing and brought her into the Palace. As soon as Consort Dowager Qing joined the royal family, she began to steal the thunder of the former Empress. For a time, Consort Dowager Qing was in the limelight. If the former Emperor had not died, Consort Dowager Qing would have probably replaced Noble Consort Lan to be the Empress back then...

"Your Majesty, do you think Chen'er will forgive me?" Noble Consort Lan continued to sob and asked the Emperor.

"Yes, he will understand eventually," the Emperor sighed again and held Noble Consort Lan's hand tightly. "Our son has grown up. So many years have passed, and it's time for him to take responsibility for the nation. The country was supposed to belong to him originally."

"Your Majesty... But he..." Noble Consort Lan looked up in a panic.

"He has grown up. That's great." The Emperor shook his head and stopped Noble Consort Lan from speaking. A trace of softness appeared in his eyes. It was completely different from his toughness usually. "I've done enough for the throne. Recently, I've been thinking that you and Chen'er are the people I am sorry for the most. If I don't make it up to you and Chen'er, I won't die in peace when the day comes."

"Your Majesty..." Noble Consort Lan's tears welled up again.

"If I can recover this time, I'll take you to leave the Palace and wander around outside. This was what I owed you back then. Sorry for having you and Chen'er suffer so many years of grievances." The Emperor looked at Noble Consort Lan affectionately. It was as if he was looking at the smiling girl under the peach tree back then. She didn't ask for his wealth or honor, nor did she want to be the Empress in the Palace. She merely wished to spend the rest of her life with him.

However, he eventually failed her.

Tears streamed down Noble Consort Lan's cheeks. She clenched her handkerchief as if she was holding on to an unrealizable dream, in which, there was a rainbow, herself, he, and their child...

Chapter 1299 The Reason for the Younger Brother to Succeed the Throne

"Where is His Highness?" Shao Wanru looked at the sky outside the window and asked. Chu Liuchen usually already came back at this time. Today, as soon as he returned to the mansion, he went to the study room and had not come back yet.

"His Highness is still in the study." Dong'er had just come back from outside. She looked at Shao Wanru and said, "Xiao Xuanzi asked if you could go to the study and have a look because His Highness is in a very bad mood."

As per Shao Wanru's instruction, Dong'er just went to the front yard to ask about the situation.

"Let's go." Shao Wanru stood up and nodded. She was really worried. Chu Liuchen had never behaved so unusually. What had happened?

"Your Highness, would you like some pastries to start with?" Qiu'er looked at the pastries on the table, which were about to turn cold. Usually, they had already had dinner at this time.

"No, let's go to the study now." Shao Wanru shook her head. Without seeing Chu Liuchen, she was really worried.

She went outside, heading for the study room with Qiu'er and Dong'er, the two servant girls.

Seeing Shao Wanru coming from a distance, Xiao Xuanzi immediately ran over and bowed to Shao Wanru, "Greetings, Your Highness."

Shao Wanru looked up at the lights on the second floor and asked "Is His Highness still inside? Has he had dinner?"

“Since His Highness came back, he has been staying in the study and not allowing anyone to disturb him,” Xiao Xuanzi said with a bitter expression. His master’s temper had flared up again, not allowing anyone to go upstairs, so Xiao Xuanzi didn’t dare to check it out there, and he had to ask Princess Chen for help.

“I’ll go and have a look,” Shao Wanru said. She left the two servant girls downstairs, lifted a corner of her dress, and walked up the stairs slowly.

When she got to the second floor, she saw the door was half-closed. Shao Wanru pushed the door open and looked inside. Chu Liuchen, who was inside the room, heard the sound and slowly raised his head. At that moment, Shao Wanru saw his deep and calm eyes, which were dimmed, as if there were only darkness and gloom inside.

When Chu Liuchen saw that it was Shao Wanru, his eyes moved slightly and became a little moist.

Shao Wanru walked up to Chu Liuchen. Looking at his handsome and straight face, she reached out to touch his forehead. After feeling it, she held his hand and wanted to feel his pulse to check his condition.

“I’m fine,” Chu Liuchen said. He hadn’t spoken for a long time, so his voice was a little hoarse. He reached out to pull Shao Wanru to sit on the large chair and wrapped her slender waist with his hands. Then he leaned against Shao Wanru’s shoulder and closed his eyes. Shao Wanru only saw his long curly eyelashes fluttering twice.

Shao Wanru didn’t say anything. She let Chu Liuchen lean against her shoulder quietly and looked at his face gently.

After a long time, She heard his faint voice. “Just now, Uncle the Emperor fainted. He ate the soup sent by Noble Consort Lan. It was incompatible with the medicine that he was taking, so he got poisoned.”

“Have you found out who did it?” Shao Wanru raised her bright eyes and asked.

It couldn’t be a coincidence for such a thing.

Chu Liuchen said slowly in a low voice, “It should be that the incompatible medicine had been mixed with the ingredients she picked. Uncle the Emperor is in a weak condition, so he had a reaction right after eating the soup. If he were not in poor health, it would not have been easy to find such a small reaction.”

Shao Wanru held his big slender hand with distress and said, "It's okay. He should be fine. Such a thing will never happen again in the future."

Shao Wanru thought Chu Liuchen was worried about the Emperor's health, so she comforted him.

"Just now, Uncle the Emperor and Noble Consort Lan ... told me about where I came from... It is not like what I thought before. Uncle the Emperor and Noble Consort Lan were supposed to be a couple... By accident ... they begot me, and she was poisoned by someone else during her pregnancy..." Chu Liuchen lowered his head and said. Although he didn't sound emotional, Shao Wanru could still sense the torn in his heart.

Although it was just a short story back then, it left Chu Liuchen with his life so weak that he almost could not bear it, as well as such an unbearable past.

"Noble Consort Lan... How did she know that you are the son of His Majesty?" Shao Wanru thought for a moment and felt sympathy for Noble Consort Lan, so she asked another question subconsciously. But after that, she felt that it was too abrupt.

"The deceased emperor was injured, and he couldn't have any children," Chu Liuchen said slowly in a low voice.

"What?" Shao Wanru suddenly widened her bright eyes in shock, looked back in astonishment, and asked, "Then ... what about Commandery Prince Qing?"

"Chu Qing can't be the son of the deceased emperor either, of course. His mother, the Consort Dowager didn't come honestly. She was pregnant, but she didn't dare to say it because she had an ulterior motive. However, she didn't expect that the deceased emperor could not have any women pregnant. That was why the throne was reserved for Uncle the Emperor early. It is just that this was a secret, and few people knew it back then, and not even the Imperial Institute of Medicine did not know about it."

"Does... Does His Majesty know about it?" Shao Wanru was astonished.

"Yes, he does," Chu Liuchen said lightly.

"Then... How about the deceased emperor?"

"He probably didn't know," Chu Liuchen said.

Shao Wanru pursed her lips and felt extremely complicated, "So it's useless no matter how Chu Qing makes a scene. In fact, His Majesty has seen through everything.

"If that is the case, the meaning behind it is definitely not simple."

Suppressing the horror in her heart, Shao Wanru reached out to wrap Chu Liuchen around the waist. "Do you ... hate Noble Consort Lan?"

Those things were important, but Shao Wanru cared more about Chu Liuchen's mood at the moment.

"I used to hate her because I thought ... she misbehaved... But now..." Chu Liuchen said with his eyes darkening slightly and a trace of gloom flashing across them. He closed his eyes again and didn't know what to say.

"It's fine. The matter of the elders is not much related to us. Anyway, Noble Consort Lan... You know best how she has treated you over these years. She has an awkward identity here. She usually doesn't see anyone because she's afraid of being recognized. With her identity as the Empress, she has become an unfavored consort. The reason why Noble Consort Lan can hang on there should be because of you, I suppose."

Shao Wanru whispered, "My mother is like this now, but I still hope to know when she can wake up, smile at me clearly, call me by my name, and see Hao'er and me..."

Speaking of this, Shao Wanru shed tears. Infanta Qinghua was almost in a terrible condition now, but she still keep hope. She hoped that Infanta Qinghua would be awake one day, enabling her to feel the love of her mother, instead of being so muddle-headed that she could not even recognize Shao Wanru.

Chu Liuchen lowered his head and looked at the top of Shao Wanru's head. Gradually, his expression softened a little and became a little lively. He no longer looked as calm and gloomy as before.

"I will ask Mingqiu Nun and Qi Jue to treat your mother attentively."

"But my mother is now..." Shao Wanru nibbled her lower lip.

"There is always hope, isn't there? Even if there is no hope, it doesn't matter. Let's treat her well together for the rest of her life," Chu Liuchen said.

"Thank you. Then you don't overthink it, okay?" Shao Wanru raised her tearful eyes, in which the figure of Chu Liuchen was reflected.

"Okay." The depression in Chu Liuchen's heart was soothed by Shao Wanru magically. After breathing out a long breath, he faintly smiled. Although it was just a slight smile, Shao Wanru captured it with her eyes. Even though tears were still on her cheeks, she couldn't help revealing a faint smile.

Shao Wanru tried hard to look up and kissed Chu Liuchen on the thin lips gently. Her smile was stained with tears. "Even if you don't have everything, you still have me."

"Yes, I have you!" Chu Liuchen really smiled this time, elegantly.

Seeing that Chu Liuchen finally recovered from depression, Shao Wanru reached out to tug his sleeve and said, "Is there any leftover soup sent by Noble Consort Lan? I'd like to see what exactly the problem is.

Whoever did it, it was absolutely not just to make a false alarm. I just wonder whether it is Chu Qing or Chu Liuyue.

"There are people sent for both sides." Chu Liuchen understood what she meant. "If you are fine tomorrow, you can go to visit Imperial Grandmother and check it out there, and I check out those around Uncle the Emperor."

"I can do it tomorrow," Shao Wanru replied. Since Chu Liuchen had a well-thought-out plan, she did not need to involve in checking out people around the Emperor. On the side of the Empress Dowager, there was something going on. Nanny Wei was quite suspicious, and it was not just Nanny Wei...

"What's going on? Why did this happen all of a sudden?" Chu Qing asked with a gloomy face, sitting in his seat.

"Is there any problem with the medicine?" Consort Dowager asked with a gloomy face.

"It can't be. Princess Yuyan told me in person. How could there be any problem?" Chu Qing said impatiently. When Princess Yuyan brought it over, he even asked someone to test it, and there was no problem. Why did it go wrong now?

"What if they find out that it's our people?" Consort Dowager's face was very gloomy. She was also in a panic. It was totally out of their expectations that the Emperor would have fainted after eating the soup. It would take some time for Noble Consort Lan's soup to take effect, but why did it work all of a sudden?

The young eunuch who delivered the ingredients was Chu Qing's man, and he was a very important one.

"Clean up the traces right now," Chu Qing said.

"That's the only way for now," the Consort Dowager said, feeling very depressed. After what had happened, the Emperor became more vigilant. It might not be so convenient for them to take action next time.

“Do you think both Qiuyi and Yuyan are reliable?” Since they had made the decision, another problem popped into the Consort Dowager’s mind. She frowned tightly and said with hostility in her eyes. “If you find that either of them dares to do anything unfavorable, go ahead to get rid of her.”

Anyway, the matter between the two princesses was a mess. After all, two was too many.

The Consort Dowager couldn’t live a peaceful life these days. Neither Mo Qiuyi nor Princess Yuyan was willing to show weakness. She had been quite annoyed in dealing with the conflicts between the two princesses.

One was powerful, and the other was aggressive. Neither of them had the intention to give in to the other.

“Mother, hold on, please. See, Princess Yuyan has Xu State behind her, so let’s see how the fight for the throne in Xu State will be. As for Mo Qiuyi and those people, they have a lot of manpower, so we can’t offend them either.” Chu Qing reached out to rub his forehead. He knew that the Consort Dowager was annoyed, and so was he. The two princesses who married into the mansion were his headache. He could not offend either of them. As a Prince, Chu Qing had to comfort them, which made him very annoyed.

“Let them go to the Palace together to visit the Empress Dowager tomorrow,” the Consort Dowager said.

“Well, just let Princess Yuyan go, but let Mo Qiuyi stay,” Chu Qing objected.

“Why? Qiuyi can be considered your princess now. Why can’t she go to the Palace?” the Consort Dowager said unhappily. If both of them went to the Palace, they could help each when checking what was going on in the Palace. The Consort Dowager’s purpose was to let them enter the Palace to detect information. It was not convenient for her to enter the Palace herself.

Chapter 1300 The Pastries Given by the Empress Dowager

“If they go together, they might cause a dispute. Let Princess Yuyan go there tomorrow, and let Mo Qiuyi go the day after tomorrow. It will be more convenient for them to act separately. Anyway, everyone knows that they are at odds with each other,” Chu Qing explained.

“Okay, that’s it,” the Consort Dowager said with a gloomy face.

She disliked these two daughters-in-law more and more. When Mo Qiuyi was her only daughter-in-law, the Consort Dowager felt it was okay. Mo Qiuyi was filial to her and would usually keep her company, chatting and laughing with her. But now, she had the other daughter-in-law, Princess Yuyan. Neither of

them had the thought to keep her company. Instead, they went against each other head-to-head and made a fuss in the mansion. How would the Consort Dowager like them?

Shao Wanru entered the Palace early the next morning. When she arrived, the Empress Dowager had not gotten up yet, so she had to wait in the side hall.

After arranging Shao Wanru well with a smile, Nanny Wei went to serve the Empress Dowager.

Shortly after, Nanny Wei led the way for Princess Yuyan to come over.

"Please wait for a moment, My Lady. Her Majesty is about to get up," Nanny Wei said with a smile and invited Princess Yuyan to have a seat.

Princess Yuyan nodded, and Nanny Wei left again.

After Nanny Wei left, the atmosphere became strangely quiet in the side hall. Shao Wanru fiddled with a jade pendant in her hand. It seemed that she didn't notice that Princess Yuyan was looking up and down at her, and her two servant girls stood behind Shao Wanru in a well-behaved manner.

"Princess Chen, it's said that you were injured, but you look fine now," Princess Yuyan finally spoke with a hint of sarcasm. "It's been in chaos outside, and even Ruiping Great Elder Princess got into trouble. To my surprise, you just get such a minor injury. See, how capable you are!"

"Princess Yuyan, do you have any problem with that?" Shao Wanru looked up at Princess Yuyan opposite her coldly.

Princess Yuyan had always thought of herself as noble, so could not bear to be ignored.

"How dare you!" Being refuted by Shao Wanru, Princess Yuyan got angry. She slammed her hand on the tea table so hard that the teacup almost fell to the floor.

"Princess Yuyan, you'd better know your place. You are just a concubine of an unknown Commandery Prince. How dare you talk to me like that?" Shao Wanru said unhurriedly. She deliberately hit the pain point of Princess Yuyan.

"You're talking nonsense. I am the legal wife!" Princess Yuyan gritted her teeth in anger and said hatefully.

"Is it written on the royal family list? I remember that the person at the front of the list is Commandery Princess Mo, Mo Qiuyi, right?" Shao Wanru glanced sideways at Princess Yuyan and curled her lips into a hint of a mocking smile.

She leaned back and put the jade pendant on the table. "Princess Yuyan, you are just a concubine."

The title of Princess Yuyan had not been confirmed yet, but Mo Qiuyi's name was indeed written as ahead on the list because her title was confirmed early. Of course, if there was any change in the future, it could be modified.

Princess Yuyan was furious because this was the last thing she wanted to mention.

"What nonsense are you spouting!"

"Don't you know whether I'm talking nonsense or not? Besides, I'm Prince Chen's wife. I don't mind that you, a consort, not bowing to me, but how dare you yell at me? Who gave you so much courage?" Shao Wanru said sternly, with a trace of evil Qi in her delicate eyes.

Shao Wanru's voice was not loud, but it shocked Princess Yuyan. Then her face turned pale and then flushed.

Since Princess Yuyan came to the Kingdom of Dongcang, she had never been humiliated like this to her face. For a moment, she was so angry that she wanted to hit Shao Wanru. As the Princess of Xu State, how could she stand it?

She suddenly got up and tried to approach Shao Wanru, but Shao Wanru's two servant girls took two steps forward and stood in front of Shao Wanru.

"Consort Yuyan, if you fight here, I'm afraid you can't leave the Palace tonight. Her Majesty valued well-behaved the most," Shao Wanru warned Princess Yuyan in a cold voice.

Shao Wanru deliberately emphasized the address "Consort Yuyan". She was not afraid that Princess Yuyan would get angry to hit her.

"You... You..." Princess Yuyan was irritated at it and almost fainted. She wished to tear Shao Wanru apart.

"Your Highness," An old maid standing behind Princess Yuyan called her in a low voice, distinctly hinting at something.

Princess Yuyan suppressed the anger with great effort. She also knew that she could not confront Shao Wanru now. Shao Wanru was Chu Liuchen's wife, and Chu Liuchen was the most favored grandson of Her Majesty Empress Dowager. Offending Shao Wanru meant offending the Empress Dowager. Moreover, this was the Empress Dowager's place, so Princess Yuyan would inevitably suffer losses if she made a scene there.

Even though Princess Yuyan was furious, she had no choice but to grit her teeth to bear it.

Princess Yuyan thought, "This is not the best chance now. When I become the Empress, I will make Shao Wanru kneel in front of me until her death."

Picking up the teacup at hand, Princess Yuyan took two gulps of tea. Then she pursed her lips and stopped talking. She couldn't afford to offend Shao Wanru, so she just pretended to be invisible.

"Do you know about the Changxing Grass?" Since Shao Wanru asked with a sneer. Since she had met Princess Yuyan, she did not intend to let Princess Yuyan go so easily.

Princess Yuyan's heart skipped a beat. She immediately calmed herself down and looked at Shao Wanru warily. "What do you mean, Princess Chen?"

"Nothing. I am just asking who gave Infanta Yuan'an the Changxing Grass. It's said that Infanta Yuan'an and you were best friends before you got married. I wonder if Infanta Yuan'an got the Changxing Grass from you." Shao Wanru said bluntly, staring at Princess Yuyan's face with her bright sharp eyes.

Shao Wanru didn't take it seriously whether Chu Qing or the background of Princess Yuyan.

Chu Qing's identity doomed everything he thought was just a fantasy. As for the Xu State, Princess Yutao was about to obtain the final victory. If Princess Yutao descended the throne, Princess Yuyan's biological mother and her elder brother would not be able to escape, and Princess Yuyan would lose the backer.

"Stop talking nonsense. Even though you are noble Princess Chen, it's inappropriate for you to say such words. Didn't His Highness Prince Chen teach you that?" Princess Yuyan said fiercely, "Can you bear the responsibility of affecting the relationship between the two countries?"

"Sure, I can. I heard that Princess Yutao in the Xu State is about to become the Imperial Great Daughter soon," Shao Wanru said slowly.

"Don't talk nonsense!" Princess Yuyan said in horror.

"Don't you know whether it's true or not?" Shao Wanru raised her eyebrows. The more panicked Princess Yuyan was, the calmer Shao Wanru became. "If Princess Yutao becomes the Empress, what will you have left? The position of Consort of Commandery Prince Qing? I heard that Mo Qiuyi won more favor with Commandery Prince Qing. Princess Yuyan, it will be a tragedy for your

marrying into Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion by that time, and Princess Yutao won't care about your life and death."

Princess Yuyan clenched her fists with force. This time, she was not angry but flustered. If it happened as Shao Wanru said, Princess Yuyan was sure that Chu Qing would not protect her, nor would the Consort Dowager.

Mo Qiuyi was no longer just an object of jealousy, but her mortal enemy.

Only if Mo Qiuyi died, Princess Yuyan could get Chu Qing's support and survive as the wife of Commandery Prince Qing so as to make a comeback...

"Your Highness, My Lady, Her Majesty summons you in." Nanny Wei came in with a smile.

Shao Wanru stood up, tidied up her clothes slightly, and walked outside.

Princess Yuyan fixed her eyes on Shao Wanru fiercely, but she didn't dare to do anything. She gritted her teeth and followed Shao Wanru closely.

They entered the main hall one after the other.

The Empress Dowager was sitting in the middle of the main hall. When she saw Shao Wanru coming over, she asked with concern, "Princess Chen, are you seriously injured?"

Shao Wanru bowed to the Empress Dowager. Then she held Qiu'er's hand to support her body and said, "Thank you for your concern, Imperial Grandmother. I am fine."

Shao Wanru said she was fine, but her face looked extremely pale. The Empress Dowager hurriedly asked Shao Wanru to sit next to her. Then the Empress Dowager also arranged a seat for Princess Yuyan.

"You don't have to enter the Palace if you are not in good health. You should take good care of yourself."

Empress Dowager blamed, a little crossly.

"Imperial Grandmother, I'm really fine. I'll take good care of myself from now on. His Highness doesn't allow me to go anywhere else. I've been lying in bed all the time, and I feel very bored, so I came to chat with you," Shao Wanru said softly.

The Empress Dowager was pleased by Shao Wanru's words. She smiled, "Smart girl, you are asking me to chat with you, right?"

Shao Wanru lowered her head shyly as if she had been exposed and said, "Imperial Grandmother, please don't tell His Highness. Otherwise, he will blame me again."

"No worry. I won't tell him. He's swamped now, so how could I tell him such things? I've been bored in the Palace lately. It's good that you can come to keep me company."

The Empress Dowager said with her face full of smiles.

There were many consorts and concubines in the Palace, but for the Empress Dowager, they all had their own purposes to approach her. She preferred Shao Wanru to come and chat with her.

"Thank you, Imperial Grandmother." Shao Wanru bowed sideways to express her gratitude to Empress Dowager.

Seeing that Shao Wanru was so obedient and gentle with her eyes full of smiles, the Empress Dowager smiled again. After asking Nanny Wei to serve the newly made snacks, she started chatting and laughing with Shao Wanru, and revealed a smiling face from time to time, snubbing Princess Yuyan on the side.

Princess Yuyan wanted to join their conversation, but she couldn't get in a word at all. She was either ignored by the Empress Dowager or by Shao Wanru. She felt so wronged that she almost spat out blood, but she had to keep smiling.

The smile on Princess Yuyan's face became stiffer and stiffer.

When the snacks were served, the Empress Dowager pointed to the exquisite pastries on several plates delightedly and said, "Have a taste. They are all newly made and taste very good. I wanted to eat a few more pieces, but I am not feeling well, so I can't eat more."

"Thank you, Your Majesty," Shao Wanru said with a smile. She turned to Princess Yuyan and said, "Princess Yuyan, I guess that you haven't had the snacks at Imperial Grandmother's place yet, right? Try it."

As Shao Wanru spoke, she politely picked up a piece of pastry with her chopsticks and put it on Princess Yuyan's plate. She looked at Princess Yuyan with a smile and said, "Please have a taste first, and then give some advice to Imperial Grandmother, lest she will eat too much at a time in the future."

Princess Yuyan didn't want to eat it. However, when she saw the smiling face of the Empress Dowager, she choked and had to force a smile. Princess

Yuyan broke a small piece with her chopsticks, put it in her mouth, and tasted it. Then she nodded and flattered, “Imperial Grandmother, the pastries here taste delicious!”

“Imperial Grandmother, where did you get these pastries? I’ll ask someone to make them after I return to the mansion,” Shao Wanru said.

“Not everyone can make it. I have found a new chef, who is professional in making pastries,” Empress Dowager smiled happily.

“Clatter!” Princess Yuyan’s hand went weak, and the pastry between her chopsticks slipped off and fell on the table...