

MEDICAL PRINCESS

Chapter 1301 - 1301 Pushan Nun's Buddha Power



Chapter 1301 Pushan Nun's Buddha Power

"I... I was careless!" When the Empress Dowager and Shao Wanru were watching her, Princess Yuyan hurriedly lowered her head and said with a pale face.

Shao Wanru turned her watery eyes. Then she reached out and picked up another pastry for Princess Yuyan, saying, "Have a few more pieces if you like them."

The palace maid had quickly taken away the pastry on the table. Looking at the pastry before her and Shao Wanru, Princess Yuyan wanted to put down the chopsticks but couldn't. She only managed a wry smile and said, "Well, it's not..."

"Don't you like this one? How about this one? It's the reward from Imperial Grandmother. I hope you will like it!" Shao Wanru picked up a slightly different piece with a warm smile.

Princess Yuyan anxiously stared at the dessert. But facing Shao Wanru's smiling face, she had to answer, "Thanks to Her Majesty!"

She picked up the piece with her chopsticks and carefully took a bite — she only ate a part about the size of a grain of rice.

Then she put down her chopsticks and wiped her lips gently with a handkerchief. "It's indeed tasty!"

"Doesn't you like it?" Shao Wanru asked in surprise, cocking her eyebrows.

Princess Yuyan shook her head and looked a little embarrassed. “These pastries are different from those in the Xu State. I... I haven’t gotten used to them.”

“Then you don’t have to force yourself to eat them!” The Empress Dowager said carelessly and asked with concern, “How does Commandery Prince Qing treat you?”

Princess Yuyan married into the Kingdom of Dongcang as a symbol of peace between the two countries. Out of public and private reasons, the Empress Dowager must ask about it.

“Er... He is good to me!” Princess Yuyan lowered her head and twisted her handkerchief with a little grievance. She said he was nice to her, but she didn’t look well at all.

“What’s wrong? Is he not kind to you?” The Empress Dowager became unhappy. “When he enters the Palace next time, I will talk to him about it.”

“Your Majesty, it has nothing to do with him. It’s...” Princess Yuyan wanted to say something, the rims of her eyes red. “It’s not anyone’s problem. I feel homesick!”

She didn’t complain directly but just hinted about her disappointing life. Never had she acted rudely and arrogantly. In this way, Princess Yuyan appeared much more obedient and pitiful.

This was the attitude that the elders liked most.

It seemed not all her subordinates were impulsive.

Shao Wanru remained calm, her mouth slightly twisting in a sneer. Without joining in their conversation, she just listened quietly to them.

The Empress Dowager did not pay much attention to the Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion. After asking a few routine questions and comforting Princess Yuyan with a few words, she turned to talk to Shao Wanru.

Again, it was Princess Yuyan who sat quietly to accompany them.

However, Princess Yuyan was quite restless. Sometimes, she looked at the pastries on the table with a frown and seemed to be thinking about something. Sometimes, she started observing the maids serving the Empress Dowager. Shao Wanru always had a feeling that she was scrutinizing something.

In addition, she didn't look well.

"What do you think of it, Princess Yuyan?" It happened that Empress Dowager started talking about Ruiping Great Elder Princess. With a smile, Shao Wanru gave Princess Yuyan a chance to speak.

However, Princess Yuyan didn't pay attention to them and their words. She didn't react to Shao Wanru's question in time.

A Nanny behind her stepped forward and gently pushed her. Only then did she suddenly realize what had happened. When she turned around, she saw Empress Dowager and Shao Wanru looking at her. Hurriedly, she explained, "I just remembered some things in the mansion... and was absent-minded for a while. Your Majesty, please forgive me."

"Are you tired? If so, you can go back first!" The Empress Dowager asked with her eyes on Princess Yuyan.

"Your Majesty, I... I will leave first!" Princess Yuyan stood up and said, following the advice readily.

"Nanny Wei, see Princess Yuyan off!" The Empress Dowager nodded and ordered.

Nanny Wei answered with a smile and led the way, followed by Princess Yuyan.

After they left, Shao Wanru held the Empress Dowager's hand and said, "Imperial Grandmother, are these pastries made by a new chef?"

"Yes?" The Empress Dowager nodded and said in confusion.

"Ask someone to check these pastries and whether the newcomer has anything to do with the Xu State!" Shao Wanru spoke in a low, strained voice.

Princess Yuyan had a strange look on her face, especially after she saw the dessert. When Princess Yuyan picked up one for the first time, Shao Wanru saw her open her mouth. It would be a small bite, but Shao Wanru didn't expect her to eat a part as small as a rice grain. Later, when Shao Wanru talked to Empress Dowager, Princess Yuyan secretly observed these pastries.

Obviously, Princess Yuyan knew something and was searching for something, but Shao Wanru was not entirely sure.

Since she had done so, there must be something fishy. The Empress Dowager was in poor health and needed to be taken good care of.

Seeing Shao Wanru's serious look, the Empress Dowager nodded at once. She turned to a palace maid standing aside and gave a hint with her eyes. After that, the palace maid came forward and took the pastries away.

"Imperial Grandmother, did you think I was not seriously injured?" Shao Wanru asked.

"I heard in the beginning that it was just a little scratch. Nothing serious!" Though the Empress Dowager felt it was a strange question, she still explained. Patting Shao Wanru's hand that was holding hers, she kindly appeased her, "It's okay. It's all right now!"

“Who told you this?” Shao Wanru asked.

The Empress Dowager frowned. Thinking for a while, she answered, “Nanny Wei. Pushan Nun also said so.”

Her heart leaped with alarm, and Shao Wanru asked, “How could Pushan Nun see you?”

“I had been in poor health. Nanny Wei told me Pushan Nun was good at asking for effective Buddha power. Therefore, I occasionally would ask Pushan Nun to come over and chant scriptures!” The Empress Dowager said.

No wonder she saw Pushan Nun’s disciple in the Empress Dowager’s place.

The Empress Dowager, with a prominent noble status, was in poor health. It was very common for her to ask Pushan Nun to preach a sermon or chant scriptures.

“Were there any other nuns in the Buddha hall?” Shao Wanru asked. It was Shao Yanru who recommended Pushan Nun to enter the Palace. But she was curious why Pushan Nun had been living in the Palace the whole time.

Shao Wanru didn’t know much about Pushan Nun. This nun seemed to be always perfectly proper in her behavior.

She had been like this in the Yuhui Nunnery and the Palace now.

“There was one, but she was in poor health and suddenly fell ill. Pushan Nun happened to enter the Palace, so I asked her to stay at the Palace and take charge of the affairs of the Buddha Hall. We’ll settle things when the former one gets better.”

The Empress Dowager explained.

Since Pushan Nun entered the Palace, the former abbot of the Buddha Hall was sent out of the Palace because of illness. Since she had been managing the Buddha Hall, she certainly wouldn’t leave.

“Are you feeling any better since she is here?” Shao Wanru asked while reaching out to feel the Empress Dowager’s pulse. “May I take your pulse?”

Now she increasingly regarded the Empress Dowager as an ordinary and respectable elder.

“Of course. Pushan Nun knows well how to get Buddha power. Since she chanted scriptures for me, I indeed felt much better. During that period, my illness occurred occasionally. Since she came to help me from time to time, I recovered quickly.” The Empress Dowager nodded and said with a benign smile.

Shao Wanru lowered her head and quietly felt her pulse, her watery eyes turning a little serious.

Her pulse seemed very stable. Though it was not very vigorous, there was nothing wrong with it. After all, she was an aged lady. But after careful diagnosis, Shao Wanru always felt her pulse a little stagnant.

“Let’s see the other hand.” Shao Wanru put down the Empress Dowager’s hand.

The Empress Dowager nodded and casually stretched out the other hand to let Shao Wanru check on her. She looked very peaceful with a bright smile. The Empress Dowager didn’t care what Shao Wanru could find. She was just pleased to see her being so devoted to her.

The Empress Dowager only had two sons. Though she adopted another one later, none of her sons could be as considerate as a girl. She was very pleased to see Shao Wanru being so sensitive and caring.

Shao Wanru put down the Empress Dowager’s hand and smiled. “My medical skills are not good enough, but I have a master. Could I ask her to examine you?”

She still felt suspicious and wanted Mingqiu Nun to have a look.

“Of course, you can do that. But don’t be anxious. I’m fine recently. You should be careful, and don’t worry too much!” The Empress Dowager reminded her in a soft voice.

“I know. Thank you, Imperial Grandmother.” Shao Wanru raised her head with a bright smile on her pink and tender face, her long eyelashes fluttering. She appeared very lovable and gentle.

The Empress Dowager had grown quite fond of her. In her eyes, her striking appearance was a perfect match for Chen’er. It was very pleasing to see the young couple standing together. The Empress Dowager felt happy whenever she thought of such a beautiful couple.

After talking for a while, Shao Wanru took leave of the Empress Dowager and said she would bring Mingqiu Nun here tomorrow. The Empress Dowager agreed to her requests with a nod.

At the Palace gate, she met Nanny Wei, who came back in a hurry.

At the sight of Shao Wanru, Nanny Wei hurried forward to bow with a surprised look. Obviously, she didn’t expect Shao Wanru to leave so soon.

“Did you send Princess Yuyan to the Palace gate?” Shao Wanru spoke in a careless way.

“After I accompanied her here, I went to check the ginseng soup. It’s time for Her Majesty to have it!” Nanny Wei had already prepared for this and answered with a smile.

Shao Wanru looked at Nanny Wei, smiling, but didn’t ask any more questions. She just nodded at her and walked away with two servant girls. Meanwhile, Nanny Wei stood behind her to see her off with a smile.

When Shao Wanru was out of sight, her face crumpled, and her eye corners suddenly fell. Clouds of gloom settled over her. She clicked her tongue hard. Thinking of what Princess Yuyan had said, she looked sullen.

Nanny Wei didn't like Shao Wanru or Princess Yuyan. Her nephew said Princess Mo, who married into the Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion, was his backer and niece. Without a doubt, she would help Princess Mo.

As for how Wei Dahai got his niece, Nanny Wei didn't care. It was good that he had one! Moreover, his niece would be Commandery Prince Qing's legal wife...

Chapter 1302 Selecting the Crown Prince

As Nanny Wei walked outside with Princess Yuyan, she wanted to return long ago, but Princess Yuyan refused to let her go.

Fifteen minutes ago, Princess Yuyan sized her up outside the Palace of Benevolent Peace. Then, with a mirthless grin, she said, "I heard you are Lord Wei's aunt. Is it true?"

Since she was Wei Dahai's aunt, she was related to Mo Qiuyi. How could Princess Yuyan rest assured when such a person was serving the Empress Dowager?

"Your Highness, it's true!" Nanny Wei admitted it frankly. Anyway, this matter could not be hidden from others.

"Then you must be anxious to see Mo Qiuyi control the Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion, right?" Princess Yuyan snorted and asked bluntly.

"Your Highness, affairs in the Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion have nothing to do with me. If you want to know anything, go and ask Commandery Prince Qing!" Nanny Wei retorted sarcastically with a lukewarm attitude.

She was not afraid of Princess Yuyan, a foreign princess who married the inferior Commandery Prince Qing for the peaceful relationship between the two countries.

"What do you mean?" Princess Yuyan asked with her face darkening.

"I mean what I say. The business of Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion has nothing to do with me!" Nanny Wei repeated. She was very annoyed because she was anxious to return and catch what Empress Dowager and Princess

Chen were saying. How could she be patient enough to stay here and talk rubbish with Princess Yuyan?

After the straightforward reply, she wanted to say goodbye to Princess Yuyan and leave.

“I heard you had only one family. But now, Mo Qiuyi is with you. Nanny Wei, I’m very curious about Mo Qiuyi’s background. Is she Lord Wei’s real niece?” Princess Yuyan said coldly.

Nanny Wei was so terrified by her question that her face immediately tightened. She watched her expression closely, wondering if Princess Yuyan had learned about something secretive or just wanted to scare her.

“Don’t you want to talk about it? An orphan girl living in the Yuhui Nunnery for many years suddenly found Lord Wei. I heard my husband also had lived in the Yuhui Nunnery. As childhood sweethearts, their relationship must be very good. Am I right?” Princess Yuyan raised the corners of her mouth sarcastically.

Since she had come here, she brought some people with her and inquired about many things in the Commandery Prince Qing’s Mansion.

She was very suspicious of Mo Qiuyi’s identity.

She suspected Mo Qiuyi was not Wei Dahai’s blood-connected niece. But when given such an identity, she could marry into the Commandery Prince Qing’s Mansion. If Mo Qiuyi’s identity were fake, the position of the legal wife would fall into her hands.

An orphan daughter of a low-ranking official might become the royal family’s legal wife. But a good-for-nothing woman with a fake identity could never be a Prince’s legal wife.

How could Mo Qiuyi with such an inferior background compare with her?

Shao Wanru was right: either she or Mo Qiuyi could survive. The winner must be her. Only then could she ensure her status and even secretly support her Eldest Brother and mother in the Xu State.

She was determined to become the legal wife and had to get it soon.

With this in mind, she happened to meet Nanny Wei. So, she decided to explore their deep-hidden secrets from Nanny Wei first.

“I don’t understand what you are talking about. If you have doubts, you can ask others. I have nothing to say here!” Nanny Wei answered blandly and shook her head to show she knew nothing.

Princess Yuyan carefully scrutinized Nanny Wei's expression and then slightly raised the corners of her lips. "Nanny Wei, Mo Qiuyi is just an orphan girl with nothing, isn't she? Perhaps, more than that, she is an orphan girl of the previous dynasty, right?"

She suddenly lowered her voice. Leaning over, she whispered some shocking information in Nanny Wei's ear. Before Princess Yuyan came to the Kingdom of Dongcang, her mother had revealed some secrets. Therefore, she knew Chu Qing's identity was related to the former dynasty. Then, what about Mo Qiuyi, who grew up with him?

Ever since Princess Yuyan married into the Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion, she had pondered over it. Why did Chu Qing and the Consort Dowager have so much faith in Mo Qiuyi? Most probably, Mo Qiuyi could provide a lot of help for them. But how could Mo Qiuyi be more valuable than her? It was only because of these remaining evildoers of the previous dynasty.

According to her mother, after the previous dynasty ended, members of her branch were not the only survivors. There were some other people. If so, Mo Qiuyi was very likely to be connected to them.

Nanny Wei's eyes uncontrollably twitched. Subconsciously, she stepped back with her lips trembling. Then her face fell. "What nonsense are you talking about? This is a matter of the death penalty. You and even people in the entire Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion will be executed."

"So what?" Princess Yuyan asked arrogantly.

At this time, without the Empress Dowager present, she didn't feel like pretending to be well-behaved. "Don't you know I am a foreign princess marrying into your country for peace? I find Mo Qiuyi is a remaining evildoer of the former dynasty. Because of my identity and the discovery, the Emperor will not punish but reward me!"

"Your Highness, be cautious with your words!" Nanny Wei didn't want to talk to her anymore. There were princesses in the Palace, but everyone was well-behaved when seeing Nanny Wei. No one dared to assume a haughty air before her. Unlike them, Princess Yuyan was more like a lunatic — she was mad enough to say such things in the Palace.

She dared to say it, but Nanny Wei had no guts to listen.

She immediately turned to leave while Princess Yuyan still looked at her with a cheerful smile. After taking a step, Nanny Wei suddenly looked back at her and said in a low voice, "Your Highness, if someone in the Kingdom of

Dongcang is found guilty, other related people will also be punished. Be cautious with your words. You can't stay out of trouble when the whole Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion suffers misfortune. This is different from the Xu State."

After that, she left with a cold face.

She meant to threaten, but Princess Yuyan smiled even more happily. Just by hearing what Nanny Wei said, Princess Yuyan could tell she got into a panic. Then... did it mean Mo Qiuyi might be one surviving supporter of the previous dynasty?

That was good. Mo Qiuyi would not let her off. Tomorrow, it was Mo Qiuyi's turn to enter the Palace. Thus, she did not want her to know what she had said to Nanny Wei today.

Chu Qing had taken some medicine from the Xu State, but there were still some medicinal materials he didn't know. She kept them to save her life. At present, she could use them on Mo Qiuyi first...

She didn't take action before because she didn't think it was necessary. After all, her status was higher than Mo Qiuyi's, and she had a more powerful background. But what Shao Wanru said made her feel she must deal with Mo Qiuyi as soon as possible...

Prime Minister Zhang and Prime Minister Wen were both there in the Emperor's resting place. There were also ministers of the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs and the Ministry of Justice, two ministers with considerable real power.

Chu Liuchen also stood aside.

The Emperor struggled to sit up. Leaning against the pillows piled high behind him, he still looked like he was sitting up straight as usual.

"Make Prince Chen the crown prince," the Emperor said in a low voice.

Prime Minister Zhang abruptly raised his head and looked at the Emperor in astonishment. Then he looked at Chu Liuchen blankly. It seemed that he could not come to his senses for a while. After a long time, he said, "Your Majesty, but your eldest son is Prince Yue!"

Prince Zhou couldn't be the crown prince after his criminal conspiracy was unmasked, but Prince Yue did nothing wrong. Prime Minister Zhang really couldn't figure out why the Emperor would pass the throne to his nephew instead of his son.

This decision didn't make sense!

Prime Minister Wen didn't say anything but cast his eyes at Chu Liuchen, who looked indifferent. Then he turned to look at the Emperor with penetrating eyes.

The ministers of the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs and the Ministry of Justice didn't dare to say anything. They just waited silently to hear the Emperor's explanation. This... was indeed inappropriate according to the hierarchy of proprieties.

"When my brother passed on the throne to me, he appointed Prince Chen the legal heir to the throne after me!" The Emperor, ashen and weak, gave a slight cough.

"Your Majesty, please... please think twice!" Prime Minister Zhang was anxious.

He couldn't openly say the Emperor went back on his word and could only give a hint. "Things are changing. Prince Chen is in poor health and has no children now. You don't feel well, but you will be fine after resting for some time. How could you give up the throne in your prime?"

"I know best about my health." The Emperor coughed in a low voice again and leaned back a little to make himself more comfortable. "I got the throne from my brother. I should pass it on to Prince Chen."

The Emperor seemed to be determined to keep his promise. Prime Minister Zhang anxiously looked at Prime Minister Wen. However, Prime Minister Wen lowered his head as if he didn't understand the hint. Helplessly, he could only turn his gaze to the two ministers.

The minister of the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs also knelt. "Your Majesty, please think carefully."

Since both of them had dropped to their knees, the other two didn't dare to stand still. Prime Minister Wen and the minister of the Ministry of Justice also knelt and said, "Your Majesty, please think twice!"

"You were the ones who urged me to appoint the crown prince. But when I agree to appoint a crown prince, you ask me to think twice. Tell me how I could satisfy your shifting requests!"

The Emperor was furious. He picked up a cushion beside him and threw it at these people's heads, scolding them harshly.

Prime Minister Zhang took two steps forward on his knees and said, "Your Majesty, Prince Yue is your biological son. You... you..."

Even if Prince Chen was here now, Prime Minister Zhang had to say it. After all, as soon as this imperial edict was issued, Prince Chen would become the crown prince. No matter how dissatisfied Prime Minister Zhang was with Chu Liuyue, he was his son-in-law.

At this time, he couldn't retreat.

"In your opinion, Prince Yue is an excellent choice?" The Emperor asked coldly with sharp eyes.

Facing the Emperor's piercing eyes, Prime Minister Zhang nodded and said, "Your Majesty, I have been in my high position for many years. We shouldn't avoid recommending the capable because they are connected to us. Besides, since my daughter is in such a miserable condition, I practically have something to do with Prince Yue. Every word I've said is true. I hope you can give careful consideration to my suggestion."

Then, with tears in his eyes, Prime Minister Zhang kowtowed heavily to the Emperor, who was lying on the royal bed.

His words sounded very sincere. Zhang Qilan's current situation was indeed not good. However, Prime Minister Zhang still chose to speak up for Chu Liuyue at this time, which made his words sound fair and impartial.

"So, do you think Prince Yue is better?" the Emperor asked coldly.

"Yes, I think Prince Yue is a better choice! He is in good health!" Prime Minister Zhang insisted. He didn't want to give in. If he made a concession, Prince Yue could never get the throne. Therefore, he had no choice but to hang in there.

"Do you think I should violate the agreement with the deceased emperor?" The Emperor said flatly, and his eyes were as sharp as blades.

Prime Minister Zhang braced himself to say, "Before the deceased emperor passed away, he was in poor condition. He might not even know what he was talking about before his death!"

"Prince Chen, take it out and show it to Prime Minister Zhang!" Seeing Prime Minister Zhang still hold on firmly, the Emperor suddenly smiled.

Chapter 1303 Chaos Broke Out, the Overall Situation Hard to Settle!

Chu Liuchen took something out of his sleeve and gave it to Derong, who then brought it to these top officials.

“Tiger... Tiger Token?” Prime Minister Zhang looked at the complete Tiger Token before him in shock, and his eyes were full of panic.

How could he not recognize the Tiger Token from the deceased emperor? It was equivalent to the token of his crown prince. When the Emperor took over the throne, there was no such a token, but because the deceased emperor was seriously ill, he died before mentioning this issue. Then, this Tiger Token disappeared.

They didn’t expect to see it again now. Surely, it represented the deceased emperor’s will.

It was the decision of the deceased emperor and the Emperor. Since the Emperor asked Chu Liuchen to show it, he must have agreed to this. Otherwise, Chu Liuchen wouldn’t have a chance to show the Tiger Token now.

Chu Liuchen found the other half of the Tiger Token according to the characters from Shao Wanru. A complete Tiger Token was formed when he combined it with the half Tiger Token given by Noble Consort Lan.

It could be used to mobilize troops or as a symbol of the crown prince.

No one dared to raise an objection in the face of this Tiger Token.

Prime Minister Wen reacted first. He turned his knees to Chu Liuchen and greeted, “Your Royal Highness!”

The ministers of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs also bowed their heads and said, “Greetings, Your Royal Highness!”

At this time, Prime Minister Zhang knew the situation was beyond salvation. Lowering his head, he opened his eyes again and bowed to Chu Liuchen. “Greetings, Your Royal Highness!”

When the Emperor’s imperial edict spread out from the Palace, the news that Prince Chen had become the crown prince immediately shocked the court and the commonality. How could it be? And more shockingly, it was the idea of the Emperor and the deceased emperor. In addition, Prince Chen was bestowed with the deceased emperor’s Tiger Token, which further stabilized Prince Chen’s position as the crown prince.

The crown prince was not Prince Yue or Prince Xin. The Emperor didn’t choose his biological son. Before putting the Emperor on the throne, the deceased emperor asked him to pass on the throne to his son. Therefore, there was no such thing as the Emperor murdered the deceased emperor.

Now that the Emperor had returned the throne to Prince Chen, it proved that the Emperor had never intended to rebel.

No wonder the Emperor thought highly of Prince Chen and listed him as his third son. Therefore, Prince Chen could be regarded as the son of the deceased emperor and the Emperor. From this aspect, the Emperor always had such an idea. The previous doubts had been cleared up.

The Empress Dowager and the Emperor doted on Prince Chen and were very concerned about his health. How could they not be worried? He would become the crown prince. The benevolent Emperor never stopped worrying about his health. Though Prince Chen was not his biological son, the Emperor did not deliberately trouble him. Frankly, back then, Prince Chen might not survive without being taken good care of, not to mention being attacked by anyone...

With the Emperor's imperial edict and the deceased emperor's Tiger Token, Chu Liuchen became the crown prince. It was now an irrefutable fact. Many others were secretly shocked, for they had never thought Chu Liuchen would become the crown prince. Initially, they thought it would be Chu Liuyue or Chu Liuzhou.

Since Chu Liuzhou took the road to his doom, most people were secretly optimistic about Chu Liuyue.

There came a sharp turn — Chu Liuchen took the most incredible honor properly and justly. No one could argue against the decision. Anyone objecting to it was challenging the Emperor's authority. Of course... no one had the guts to do it!

"What? Chu Liuchen has the Tiger Token?" Chu Liuyue anxiously walked around in circles like a trapped beast.

All his obstacles were removed. It should be an irreversible trend for him to become the heir to the throne. Unexpectedly, the deceased emperor's Tiger Token appeared. Why didn't he know about it?

"Your Highness, this Tiger Token is authentic, but I just discovered Minister Zhao was involved." Mr. Liu said with a sullen face, "I was going to sort it out and report this matter to you. You should investigate Minister Zhao. The deceased emperor met Minister Zhao before he died. At that time, he was the deceased emperor's favorite minister. Later on, when the Emperor ascended the throne, the deceased emperor's Tiger Token was nowhere to be seen. I guess Minister Zhao knows about it."

“Why didn’t you tell me earlier?” Chu Liuyue was increasingly annoyed. His success would have been easy and sure. But all of a sudden, someone else became the heir to the throne. How could he be in a good mood?

“I just traced the clues back to Minister Zhao and the marriage of his daughter with the Marquis Xing’s Mansion. I wondered if there was any hidden reason for his daughter’s marriage. Before the Heir of Duke Xing left the capital, he met Minister Zhao in private. They talked in the study for about two hours without any servants around.”

Mr. Liu said.

“The Heir of Duke Xing might be the one who knew the truth. I think there may be a specific reason for Minister Zhao to let his daughter marry into the Marquis Xing’s Mansion.”

“Then check it out. Why don’t you hurry up and get to the bottom of it?” Chu Liuyue said. His face was overcast with anger. He wouldn’t have been caught off guard if Mr. Liu had found it out earlier.

“When I was about to ask Miss Shao about it, the Emperor issued the imperial edict!” Mr. Liu said, lowering his head.

Shao Yanru was now in Prince Yue’s Mansion. Before Prince Zhou’s Mansion was crushed, she snuck out and hid in Prince Yue’s Mansion.

Chu Liuyue also helped her escape from the Palace. But she disappeared when getting out of the Palace. Then she tearfully came back to him, saying that Chu Liuzhou had secretly kidnapped and forced her into his mansion. But since she fully intended to go to Prince Yue’s Mansion, she sneaked away as soon as she got a chance.

When she came here, Chu Liuzhou was fine. But the next day, the entire Prince Zhou’s Mansion was confiscated because of his rebellion.

Because of the secret information provided by Shao Yanru, Chu Liuyue knew a large number of weapons were buried in the garden of Prince Zhou’s Mansion, and Princess Zhou had a pair of illegally made phoenix hairpins. As such, the confiscation went on smoothly.

The Emperor highly praised Chu Liuyue.

Because of her contribution, Chu Liuyue accepted Shao Yanru though she was no longer a pure woman. After all, she was just a woman. He had taken a fancy to her and wanted to take her in. Anyway, she could not be the legal wife. Receiving one more concubine was not a big deal in his mansion. Even

when she entered the Palace with him in the future, he might as well grant her a low position.

He could say she was an orphan girl he met outside and asked her to be discreet. Anyway, there were many concubines with low status in the imperial Palace. No one would pay special attention to her.

Thinking of this, Chu Liuyue kept Shao Yanru by his side.

He was delighted with Shao Yanru, who had been playing up to him with the greatest care. At least Shao Yanru was much more beautiful than Zhang Qilan. Shao Yanru used to be such a noble lady, but now she could only serve him with the utmost care.

He never introduced her to Zhang Qilan. Instead, he had been hiding Shao Yanru as a humble concubine and called her Miss Shao.

“Miss Shao is with you. I had to get your permission before asking her,” Mr. Liu said hesitantly. He did want to get some answers from Shao Yanru. But since her identity was not ordinary, he had to ask Chu Liuyue for his opinion first.

“Bring her here!” Chu Liuyue turned around and ordered a guard in an unemotional voice.

The guard left and soon came back with Shao Yanru.

Shao Yanru looked a little pitiful in flimsy clothes. She was charming with an outstanding appearance. Otherwise, Chu Liuyue would not have accepted her after she had sex with Chu Liuzhou.

She was simply dressed and looked extraordinarily delicate and touching. When she looked up at Chu Liuyue, her misty eyes were fixed on him as if he meant the world to her.

“Greetings, Your Highness!”

However, Chu Liuyue didn’t take pity on her as he did in the past. Looking at her face, he couldn’t help wondering if she used to flatter Chu Liuzhou like this. She had been shy and yielding under him. But had she also been the same under Chu Liuzhou? Chu Liuyue felt a little disgusted at the thought.

“I could tell at a glance that such a woman wouldn’t act properly to her status. How could I let her into my mansion and be my woman?”

He was anxious, so everything looked offensive to his eye.

"Tell me about your sister-in-law," Chu Liuyue ordered coldly. At this time, he was not in the mood to wheedle Shao Yanru into telling the truth.

"Sister Zhao?" Shao Yanru was stunned, for she didn't expect Chu Liuyue to ask about Zhao Xiran. After a brief shock, she carefully read his expression. She didn't know that the Palace had issued an imperial edict to appoint the crown prince.

Her residence was very remote, and she had only two servants around her. Every time she went to see Chu Liuyue, she would avoid others. She had little contact with other people in the mansion. Therefore, others only knew a woman, seemingly surnamed Shao, newly moved into the mansion. Besides, Prince Yue was quite fond of her. Since even Princess Yue wouldn't care about this kind of thing, servants in the mansion gave little attention to her.

"Yes, talk about the matter between her and Minister Zhao. I heard before your sister-in-law married, her family had discussed the marriage with your mansion for three years. The two families were fairly well-matched. If the negotiation failed, they could give up this marriage. If it succeeded, it wouldn't take such a long time. So, why would this happen?"

Chu Liuyue asked. When his guard went to bring Shao Yanru over, Mr. Liu had already told Chu Liuyue about these doubts.

Shao Yanru bowed her head and drooped her eyes. Then, she slowly looked up, her eyes pitiful. "Minister Zhao had been negotiating the marriage with my family. He could always find something that he was unhappy with, but he never gave up on this marriage. From time to time, he said his daughter was too young to get married. As a result, this marriage had been delayed for three years. Mother even suspected that Minister Zhao had ulterior motives!"

With genuine affection in her eyes, Shao Yanru was very docile and said everything she knew. She seemed willing to tell Chu Liuyue everything as long as she knew the answer.

"Did anything unusual happen when Zhao Xiran married into the mansion?" Chu Liuyue's face softened a little. He reached out to help her stand up.

"It was okay when Sister Zhao married into our mansion. At that time, I had already... I didn't know the details. If you want to know more about it, you can bring Mo Yan here. She is my former servant girl. Do you remember her?" Shao Yanru asked.

Shu Qi was dead, and Mo Yan was still in Prince Chen's Mansion. Shao Yanru always feared that Shao Wanru would get something out of Mo Yan.

Unlike others, Shao Yanru never dared to look down on Shao Wanru. Her delicate cousin was definitely not as weak as others thought...

Before this, she had no reason to take Mo Yan back. Finally, such a rare opportunity came...

Chapter 1304 Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion Is in Chaos

"Where is Mo Yan?" Chu Liuyue asked. He helped get Shao Yanru out of the Palace, yet he did not notice her servant girl back then.

"Mo Yan is in Prince Chen's Mansion. It's said that Princess Chen took her out of the Palace at that time," Shao Yanru said.

"Ask your sister-in-law to make a trip and take Mo Yan away. I'll take her away from your sister-in-law's place afterward," Chu Liuyue said.

"Okay." Shao Yanru obeyed.

Following that, Chu Liuyue asked about some other things, and Shao Yanru answered them one by one. She also brought Shao Hua'an in tactfully, saying that Shao Hua'an's injured leg had recovered, and he could work now. Although he lost power now, his old friends were still there. If Chu Liuyue wanted something but it was inconvenient for him to show up, she could ask Shao Hua'an to do it.

Seeing that Shao Yanru thought for him wholeheartedly, Chu Liuyue nodded and asked someone to escort her back.

After Shao Yanru left, Mr. Liu, who had been sitting quietly aside, suddenly said, "Your Highness, do you feel anything fishy on this matter?"

"What's fishy?" Chu Liuyue asked. He picked up the teacup at hand and took a sip.

"Your Highness, Although you helped Miss Shao back then, you didn't dare to use too many people. However, Miss Shao actually came out of the Palace and disappeared all of a sudden." Mr. Liu didn't notice Shao Yanru before, but now he realized that he had neglected something. He thought for a while and asked Prince Chen in detail.

"Yes, it's said that Chu Liuzhou did it," Chu Liuyue took it lightly and said. Shao Yanru had told him about it, and she didn't even hide the secret that Chu Liuzhou had occupied her from him.

"Your Highness, could it be that Miss Shao also turned to Prince Zhou for help when she asked you for help? It was a secret. Since she dared to ask Prince Zhou for help, it meant that she trusted Prince Zhou that he would not only

keep the secret for her but also would help her, right?” Mr. Liu reminded Chu Liuyue cautiously.

In what case would a woman trust a man so much? No, to be exact, she trusted two men. When Chu Liuyue recalled the scene of the fight with Chu Liuzhou back then, his face suddenly turned gloomy.

It seemed that Shao Yanru had a connection with Chu Liuzhou for a long time, and it was more than that. She might be even more intimate with Chu Liuzhou than Chu Liuyue. They might have had sexually intimate a long time ago. Otherwise, why was she taken away by Chu Liuzhou instead of Chu Liuyue’s men after leaving the Palace? Back then, Chu Liuyue did send his men over to pick up Shao Yanru.

Thinking of this, Chu Liuyue became furious. If that was the case, he was just a backup. Chu Liuzhou was the one whom Shao Yanru loved. It was not difficult to explain why she abandoned Chu Liuzhou and turned to follow him later. Shao Yanru was smart. She realized that something went wrong with Chu Liuzhou’s situation, and she was afraid of being implicated, so she ran away in advance.

Of course, it was also possible that she hid in Prince Yue’s Mansion to wait for Chu Liuzhou to succeed before going back to Chu Liuzhou’s side.

Chu Liuyue slammed his hand hard on the table and cursed in a fierce voice, “Bitch!”

Apparently, Shao Yanru didn’t take him seriously.

“Your Highness, this is just my guess. It may not be accurate,” Mr. Liu explained carefully,

Noticing that Prince Yue was furious. Of course, Mr. Liu could not say that Shao Yanru probably had cuckolded Prince Yue. However, Mr. Liu thought Shao Yanru was a troublemaker.

Shao Yanru followed Prince Zhou before, and Prince Zhou’s Mansion ended up like this. Now she stayed in Prince Yue’s Mansion, so Mr. Liu was very worried.

“Your Highness, how about we send Miss Shao away?” Mr. Liu suggested.

“Where to send her?” Chu Liuyue asked coldly.

“We can send her to the manor in the suburb and keep an eye on her,” Mr. Liu said. It was not “protect her” but “keep an eye on her”. Of course, the meaning was different.

“Okay, send her away now,” Chu Liuyue agreed. He could interrogate Mo Yan personally when she came over, and he didn’t need Shao Yanru to come over.

That night, a carriage drove out of the backyard of Prince Yue’s Mansion to the suburb. It was a very ordinary carriage that was only used by servants usually, and it went through the back door, so no one notice it.

Of course, only those ordinary people didn’t notice it, but the person who had been keeping an eye on Prince Yue’s Mansion naturally found the movement and followed the carriage all the way...

It was not too late for Chu Qing to get the news, but he was delayed by some trivial things. Mo Qiuyi suddenly fainted, so he had no choice but to go to see her first. Chu Qing stayed by her side for a while until she woke up. Seeing that Mo Qiuyi didn’t look well, Chu Qing didn’t say anything more but just asked her to have a good rest before leaving with his servants.

Chu Qing went straight to the Consort Dowager’s place. The Consort Dowager looked even worse. She was sitting with Princess Yuyan, whose face looked pale.

Seeing Chu Qing come in, Princess Yuyan stood up and bowed to him.

Chu Qing waved his hand, motioning for her “Don’t stand on ceremony”. Then he sat down on the other side of the Consort Dowager and asked, “Mother, what’s going on? Why did my father give the Tiger Token to Chu Liuchen back then? I’m his son. Why didn’t he leave anything for me? I’m much healthier than that invalid.”

“Back then, your father didn’t know that I was having you,” the Consort Dowager said grumpily. “Half of the Tiger Token was in the hands of the former Empress, and the other half should be with your father. I don’t know why both halves are in the hands of Chu Liuchen now!”

“Mother, what else don’t you know? Why have you never mentioned such an important thing to me?” Chu Qing tried hard to hold it back but failed, so he asked angrily.

“I thought there would be no problem for the Tiger Token...” The Consort Dowager was restless.

“You thought? You’ve thought a lot of things, but how many of them are good?” Chu Qing was pissed off. If he had known about the Tiger Token, he could have followed this clue to get it ahead of Chu Liuchen. In that case, he would most likely be the crown prince now.

"I'm your mother!" Being rebuked like this by Chu Qing, and Princess Yuyan was next to her, the Consort Dowager felt so ashamed that she pounded the table angrily.

It fell silent in the room. Princess Yuyan sat still on the chair, for fear of attracting the attention of the mother and son. She regretted not leaving early. The reason why she stayed here was to inquire about Mo Qiuyi.

Apparently, she couldn't get any news about Mo Qiuyi, and she might even become cannon fodder in the war between the Consort Dowager and Chu Qing.

Chu Qing calmed down and said slowly, "Mother, sorry, I was too anxious just now. What should we do now?"

"There is another person who is more qualified to inherit the throne than you. Take it easy. He is more anxious," the Consort Dowager said. Then she looked at Princess Yuyan, who was sitting next to her.

Princess Yuyan understood immediately. She stood up and said, "My Lady, Your Highness, I have something to deal with in my courtyard. I'll have to go."

"Go ahead." The Consort Dowager nodded.

After bowing to them respectively, Princess Yuyan slowly left the room. When she got out of the door and looked at the slightly closed door, she was in a bad mood.

"If Chu Liuchen becomes the crown prince, Shao Wanru will be the crown princess. No way! Only someone as noble as me can become the crown princess."

"Your Highness." the palace maid beside her reminded Princess Yuyan in a low voice.

Princess Yuyan understood that she couldn't stand at the door for too long, lest she would arouse the suspicion of the mother and son inside. She had to leave with her people in heavy footsteps. Things had developed too fast. Princess Yuyan hadn't settled her own affairs yet, and Chu Qing was about to lose his power and influence.

"Mother, what to do?" Watching Princess Yuyan leave, Chu Qing asked.

"What can we do? Make something happen to someone in the Palace." The Consort Dowager's face looked a little ferocious in the dark room.

"Which one?" Chu Qing thought for a moment and asked.

"The Empress Dowager," the Consort Dowager said coldly.

"Will it be discovered by others?" Chu Qing asked uneasily. If he wanted to take action against the people in the Palace, he had to use their triumph card. It was not easy to enter the Palace right now.

The Consort Dowager gritted her teeth and said, "It will be the best way to disturb others' view if something happens to the Empress Dowager at this time." The Consort Dowager could not let go of this chance. She had worked hard for so long and even entered the Palace to accompany the deceased emperor. She just wanted to give the child in her belly a legitimate identity. Since God had given her a son, it was a chance given to her.

She had endured it for so many years and finally walked out of the Yuhui Nunnery. Now she could also get through the difficulty.

"Is she willing to do it?" Chu Qing still had scruples and asked.

"So what if she is not willing to? It comes the critical time of life and death. Moreover, Qiuyi is her granddaughter. Before she entered the Palace, she mentioned that there was a secret passage in the Palace that had not been revealed. If she took action, she would not be exposed easily. This is the best opportunity for now," the Consort Dowager said calmly.

"But we arranged someone in the Palace of Benevolent Peace before, and the medicine powders provided by Princess Yuyan were also sent there," Chu Qing said.

"The situation has changed. The medicine powders work too slowly, but they need to be used as usual. After the incident occurred, those people's attention will be diverted to Chu Liuyue because he is the one who most hopes to see the chaos right now." The Consort Dowager arranged in an orderly way, with a flash of light in her eyes. Even at this time, it was not the time to be desperate.

"How to deal with Commandery Prince Cheng?" After thinking about it for a while, Chu Qing thought that this was the only way.

"Promise Commandery Prince Cheng that we will give him a hand if he takes action," the Consort Dowager sneered. There was only one throne. Both Chu Liuyue and Commandery Prince Cheng had taken a fancy to it, but neither of them would succeed. Only her son was destined to ascend the throne, and those people could be used by her.

With Chu Liuyue attracting attention in the front and the restless Commandery Prince Cheng taking action in the back, she and Chu Qing could steadily sit in Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion and watch them tear each other apart.

With this thought, the Consort Dowager calmed down. She leaned over to discuss the details with Chu Qing carefully. After that, Chu Qing went to see Mo Qiuyi again, and he stayed at Mo Qiuyi's place that night. Early the next morning, Chu Qing left the inner court with a letter written by Mo Qiuyi yesterday and went to the study room in the outer court...

When Princess Yuyan heard that Chu Qing had stayed with the sick Mo Qiuyi last night, she was so angry that she smashed several porcelain vases on the antique shelf. Even though Mo Qiuyi had been like this, Chu Qing was still eager to see her. It could be seen that there was no room for Princess Yuyan in Chu Qing's heart at all. If Princess Yuyan did not fight for it, she would definitely end up miserably.

Princess Yuyan didn't care about the external chaos, but she had to win in the internal strife first and then help Chu Qing to make a move...

Chapter 1305 The Princess of the Previous Dynasty

In the depths of the Buddha hall in the Palace...

Under the dim light, the Buddha statue gave off a weird feeling that could not be seen clearly usually.

Pushan Nun sat cross-legged on the rush cushion quietly, with her eyes closed. There was a book in front of her, but she just spread it out and did not chant scriptures.

No one was around her, not even her two disciples.

In the shadow, the door of the Buddha hall moved slightly. It seemed that someone came in. The footsteps gradually became heavier, and the person did not intend to hide the movement. Pushan Nun still lowered her head.

"Greetings, Your Highness!" A man in black appeared in front of Pushan Nun and knelt down on one knee.

"Our home country has been destroyed. Don't mention this title again," Pushan Nun finally voiced out with her eyes slowly open, and her voice was hoarse. She fixed her gloomy eyes on the man in black.

"Yes, Nun." The man in black took advice with a receptive mind. He stood up and cupped his fists to salute her. "Greetings, Nun!"

"What's the matter?" Pushan Nun asked coldly. "Unlike other places, the Palace is not a place where you can come in easily at any time."

"Don't worry, Nun. No one has been alerted. Nun, do you know that Prince Chen has been appointed as the crown prince?" the man in black said.

"Yes, I do." Pushan Nun nodded. The whole Palace was shocked by such a big event. How could she not know? She had considered Chu Liuyue, Chu Liuzhou, and even Commandery Prince Cheng and Chu Liuxin, but she had never thought about Chu Liuchen. After all, he could not take such a heavy burden with his poor health. However, things changed greatly. In the end, Chu Liuchen became the crown prince instead.

"Nun, His Highness intends to take action as soon as possible. It's the best chance to do it now, for the crown prince is just appointed and all the officials are still in shock at the court," the man in black said, "Princess Mo fainted in fright at this news. Now His Highness is taking care of her attentively."

It was Princess Mo, Mo Qiuyi!

"Why is she in such poor health?" Pushan Nun frowned tightly.

"Well, this news may be too abrupt, and it scared Princess Mo. Now the whole... Everyone is in a panic. If you don't take some measures, I'm afraid that the general trend will be gone and there won't be another chance." The man in black looked at Pushan Nun and said.

"Is Chu Qing pushing me hard?" Pushan Nun questioned coldly. Under the light, she did not look kind as usual. Instead, there was a sort of vicious aura on her. She was no longer the nun, who had profound Buddha dharma in the Yuhui Nunnery.

"Please don't take His Highness wrong, Nun. He just kindly reminds you. If you don't take emergency measures now, it will be too late to regret it, and all your plots may be out of control." The man in black lowered his head and said respectfully, but it did not show much respect in his behavior.

Pushan Nun frowned and said in a low and hoarse voice, "It's not up to the last moment yet. Just wait a little longer."

"Nun, we can't wait any longer, whether Princess Mo's health or our prince. If you keep waiting, our prince intends to take action first." The man in black curled his lips into a sneer. He lowered his head, thinking, "At present, His Highness is the focus. Compared with this old princess of the previous dynasty, he is more rightful."

"If it weren't for using the help of the princess of the previous dynasty, he wouldn't have to listen to her obediently at all."

"Your prince has been waiting for so many years. Can't he wait for a little longer?" Pushan Nun said sternly, "Where is the Consort Dowager? I don't want to talk to your prince. Let the Consort Dowager talk with me!"

Chu Qing was too inexperienced. He even could not handle such a small matter. If he weren't related to Pushan Nun by blood, she would never help him. In addition, she had her granddaughter grow up with him and even marry him eventually. Her purpose, of course, was to keep the two families under her control firmly.

"The Consort Dowager has the same opinion as His Highness. She has left everything to our prince to handle currently. Your Highness, are you still reluctant to hand everything to Princess Mo?" The man in black gave a slight smile sarcastically again. His smile was too faint to see clearly in the dim light. "Princess Mo has offered help to our prince, and one day, our prince will give Princess Mo the greatest reward in return. If not..."

"So what?" Pushan Nun raised her eyes to squint at the man in black. She, who used to look calm with extraordinary and refined temperaments like a hidden expert, now looked so fierce that her eyes were almost formed triangular, revealing a disturbing gloomy look. She no longer looked merciful as before.

"Nun, as you know, Princess Yuyan belongs to the family branch of the Great Elder Princess, who took some people with her to the Xu State. As one of the wives of our prince, Princess Yuyan always followed our prince's advice. Since she married our prince, she has offered some help to our prince. For example, she lured Infanta Yuan'an last time, which did a great help to our prince. However, Princess Mo..."

In comparison, it was obvious who was more important to Chu Qing.

There were many princesses in the previous dynasty, but only two escaped when their homeland was destroyed. One lived in seclusion in the world as a nun. The other fled to a small country in Nan Jiang, the Xu State, and succeeded in joining the center of the power of the Xu State. Although the two parties had some connections, in fact, they were distant from each other, let alone the family affection between them.

Princess Yuyan was a descendant of the branch who fled to the Xu State back then.

As the descendants of the princesses of the previous dynasty, Princess Yuyan and Mo Qiuyi were doomed to be on opposite sides. They were both fighting for the branch of Chu Qing because it was the main branch in the Kingdom of Dongcang.

If Princess Yuyan contributed more, she would definitely be appointed as the Empress when Chu Qing succeeded the throne in the future.

“Without me, the Consort Dowager couldn’t have protected Commandery Prince Qing. Is she going to break her promise now?” Pushan Nun said with a sneer.

“Nun, things have changed with time passing by. Consort Li of the Xu State has promised to fully support our prince as long as he can appoint Princess Yuyan as the Empress, unlike you, who tried to find excuses to refuse. In contrast, our prince certainly valued Princess Mo more than Princess Yuyan. After all, they grew up together. Even without those interests relation, they were childhood sweethearts. For the sake of that, our prince, of course, wants to protect Princess Mo wholeheartedly, but the Consort Dowager thinks...”

The man in black looked in a quandary while saying that.

“Does the Consort Dowager think she has become independent now?” When she heard that it was not Chu Qing’s idea, Pushan Nun’s expression became a little better.

“Nun, aren’t you making things difficult for me? I’m here just to pass the message. It’s time for everyone to unite and fight shoulder by shoulder, whether it is Princess Mo or Princess Yuyan, they both do well. Nun, you should put the past behind you and use Consort Li’s method for the time being. As for the future, this is the Kingdom of Dongcang after all. No matter how powerful Consort Li is, here will be out of her reach.”

The man in black persuaded the nun meaningfully with a smile. Then, he took out another letter from his clothes and handed it to Pushan Nun, saying, “Nun, this is a letter for you from Princess Mo.”

Pushan Nun took the letter and quickly read it. After reading it, she lowered her head and kept silent. After a long while, she said, “Okay, I agree.”

Although she wanted to wait a little longer for better timing, she did not have time right now. She was always an endurable person. After being a nun for so many years, she had become more and more endurable. Over the years, she had been used to enduring such a lonely and boring life, so what else could she not endure? However, she was really worried about her granddaughter.

This was her only blood relative now. She wanted to guarantee her granddaughter to become the noble Empress. Consort Li was just the daughter of her elder sister who gave birth on the run. Her elder sister had been dead. Even if she left some subordinates to Consort Li, they would be no match for Pushan Nun.

Moreover, this was in the Palace, which was quite familiar to Pushan Nun since she was young, and she knew some of the secret passages.

"Thank you, Nun. I'll report it to our Prince right now." Hearing that Pushan Nun agreed, the man in black was overjoyed.

Pushan Nun nodded, looked up at the man in black gloomily, and said, "Qiuyi has plenty of subordinates. Tell her not to act rashly. Let's wait and see the situation after the incident occurred in the Palace before making a decision. As for Commandery Prince Qing... I hope he can show me Princess Yuyan's head."

"You... Do you want to kill Princess Yuyan?" The man in black was stunned. He didn't expect Pushan Nun to be so ruthless. "Well ... it's inappropriate to do so, isn't it? After all, Princess Yuyan is a descendant of the previous dynasty, and she can be regarded as your blood relative."

"Qiuyi is the only blood relative to me," Pushan Nun said coldly, "if Commandery Prince Qing doesn't kill Princess Yuyan, I won't take action. If Qiuyi dies because of this, she can only blame herself for being unlucky."

Pushan Nun didn't give in, not even half a step.

Princess Yuyan had some people under her. Actually, it would be of great use to Chu Qing in the future. However, what Pushan Nun saw was another side of it. Chu Qing and the Consort Dowager could use Princess Yuyan to threaten her, and so would they in the future. Princess Yuyan would be an obstacle in realizing Pushan Nun's plot. If she was alive, Mo Qiuyi would no longer be the only choice of Chu Qing.

Such a thing was dangerous, so it had to be stopped as early as possible. Moreover, if Consort Li's son won the throne in the Xu State in the future, Mo Qiuyi's position as the Empress might be shaken because of it, even if Chu Qing ascended the throne. If Pushan Nun didn't take this opportunity to kill Princess Yuyan, Chu Qing would always waver between Princess Yuyan and Mo Qiuyi.

Pushan Nun had endured for many years not only for revenge but also for assisting her granddaughter to become the Empress.

"Nun..." The black-clad man tried to continue to persuade Pushan Nun, but she closed her eyes and said indifferently, "Go back and ask your master to think over what works best for him. If he is reluctant to kill Princess Yuyan, let it be!"

With that, she lowered her head again and skillfully recited the scriptures, ignoring the man in black beside her.

Seeing Pushan Nun acting like this, the man in black knew that it was useless to continue persuading her. He heaved a long sigh, turned around, and left through the secret passage in the Palace. It seemed that Commandery Prince Qing had to choose one wife only.

And Princess Mo would be the only choice. After all, her grandmother could help Commandery Prince Qing right now. As for Consort Li in the Xu State, she was out of reach, and it was said that she was not in a good place. Consort Li was totally at a disadvantage in terms of fighting for the throne of the Xu State. Even if she gave birth to a boy, it would be useless because the Grand Witch of the largest tribe in the Xu State was rooted for Princess Yutao.

After the man in black left and the door was closing again, Pushan Nun opened her eyes and looked sharply at the half-closed door with coldness in her eyes...

Huiqing came out from the side door quietly and bowed respectfully to Pushan Nun. "Master."

"How is the preparation going?" Pushan Nun asked without looking back.

"Everything is ready," Huiqing replied.

"Okay, let's wait and see," Pushan Nun said with a smile. Her kind face looked ferocious under the light...

Chapter 1306 The Second Buddha Statue in the Buddha Hall

"Master, there is something wrong with the sandalwood." Qi Jue pulled an incense stick out of the incense burner at hand.

Chu Liuchen took it and frowned. "What's the problem?"

Qi Jue replied with a serious look, "There is something added to it. If it is used for a long term, one will be mentally and physically exhausted, then lack strength, and spit out blood. If putting another ingredient into the medicine at this time, it is very likely to cause sudden death."

On the bed, the Emperor leaned against Noble Consort Lan with a pale face. Just now, he spat out blood again, and he felt very uncomfortable all over.

Noble Consort Lan stroked the Emperor hard while looking toward Chu Liuchen with her red eyes, but she did not speak.

"What was added?" Chu Liuchen asked sternly. He didn't trust the imperial physicians in the Palace, so he brought Qi Jue to the Palace. After entering the Palace, Qi Jue did not check the medicine that the Emperor took. Instead,

he first checked the sandalwood that sensed a little unusual. As expected, he found something wrong.

Chu Liuchen was not clear about whether the problem was with sandalwood or other incense. Shao Wanru smelled it on Chu Liuchen, so she asked him to bring Qi Jue with him to investigate.

Shao Wanru used to be staying in the Yuhui Nunnery for so many years, so she was very sensitive to the aroma of sandalwood. After staying in the Emperor's resting palace for a long time, Chu Liuchen had been stained with this aroma.

This aroma was no big deal for others to smell.

The imperial physicians were knowledgeable in pharmacology, but they didn't know sandalwood very well. So none of them found a problem with the sandalwood. Hence, no one paid special attention to whether the medicinal materials had a problem of inter-generation or inter-restriction.

Like Shao Wanru, Mingqiu Nun also had some research on sandalwood. When she got to know that Qi Jue was going to check it in the Palace, Mingqiu Nun specially called Qi Jue over and explained it to him in detail. That was why Qi Jue found out about the problem once looking into it.

"It's the Changxing Grass," Qi Jue said with certainty.

"The Changxing Grass?... The horse smelled it ... and go crazy... Didn't it?" the Emperor asked weakly. It was not the first time that he had asked about the Changxing Grass, so he naturally knew its efficacy.

"Exactly. The envoy from the Xu State said that one of the efficacies of Changxing Grass was to startle horses, but he didn't mention a more obscure efficacy. That is, if the Changxing Grass is mixed with another medicinal material from the Xu State to use, it can poison people quietly, and if the dosage was large, it can cause sudden death."

Qi Jue said with certainty and reported it to the Emperor respectfully.

"The Changxing Grass that has appeared several times before must have accidentally come into our sight, and it was partially possible to bury the poisonous root in the body of Uncle the Emperor through the Changxing Grass," Chu Liuchen said slowly with a trace of gloom across his eyes.

So many things had happened in the past. Everyone was focused on investigating the incident itself, and they sent the found Changxing Grass to the Imperial Study several times. Others might have no reaction, but the

Emperor had been poisoned! When putting the Changxing Grass was mixed with sandalwood, the poison was buried in the body of the Emperor.

“Agreed. That’s how it took effect.” Qi Jue nodded and said, “In the beginning, there was a large amount of Changxing Grasses, which were sent here so as to let His Majesty touch and smell them. Now it is no longer necessary, but just add a bit of Changxing Grass’s powders so that no one can find it.

The reason why Qi Jue knew about it so well was that he got help from Princess Yutao. He inquired Princess Yutao about these things through Chu Liuchen’s people, and Princess Yutao told him everything that only the royal family of the Xu State knew.

“Your Majesty...” Noble Consort Lan gritted her teeth and looked at the Emperor.

The Emperor’s gaze fell on Chu Liuchen. He said in a hoarse voice, “I’ll leave it to the crown prince to deal with.”

With that, the Emperor closed his eyes. When he opened them again, he gave a delightful smile. He looked at Noble Consort Lan and said, “It will be his world in the future. If he can’t even handle such a small matter well, how can he rule the country?”

“But...” Noble Consort Lan said worriedly. In her heart, Chu Liuchen had always been that sick and weak child, so she could not be at ease.

The Emperor reached out and patted her hand, indicating that she didn’t have to worry. He looked up and said, “Ask Derong about everything I have used.”

After saying that, the Emperor leaned back and fell on the high soft pillow behind him. Noble Consort Lan hurriedly helped him and carefully covered him with the quilt.

Chu Liuchen looked at the Emperor with deep eyes. Then he turned around and walked out of the Emperor’s resting palace, followed by Qi Jue.

Derong stood at the door of the main hall. When he saw Chu Liuchen coming over, he hurried forward to bow and asked, “Your Highness, how is His Majesty?”

Chu Liuchen looked him up and down and abruptly asked, “You have been following Uncle the Emperor for a long time, haven’t you?”

Derong was stunned for a moment. Then he replied respectfully, “I have been serving His Majesty for decades.”

“Are you loyal to Uncle the Emperor?” Chu Liuchen asked coldly.

Derong couldn't stand it this time. He knelt down with a thump and said, "Your Royal Highness, I am 100 percent loyal to His Majesty, I swear."

Chu Liuchen looked at Derong, who was kneeling on the ground, with gloomy eyes. After a long while, he said slowly, "Get up, please."

Xiao Xuanzi trotted over from behind Chu Liuchen, helped Derong up with a smile, patted off the dust on Derong's knees by the way, and then stood aside.

Chu Liuchen turned around and walked to the side hall, followed by Qi Jue. Xiao Xuanzi tugged Derong's sleeve, and they followed Chu Liuchen to the side hall.

"Where did the sandalwood come from?" When they got inside, Chu Liuchen went straight to the point.

"The sandalwood is self-made in the Palace and His Majesty has always used it. Is there anything wrong with it?" Derong said with cold sweat on his forehead and looked at the half-burning sandalwood in front of him in astonishment.

There were craftsmen in the Palace, and they paid special attention to everything that the Emperor used. Derong had always been very careful. The backgrounds of those craftsmen had been investigated very clearly, so nothing could happen.

"There should be some other incense used in the sandalwood, right? Where did it come from?" Chu Liuchen looked at Derong with deep eyes and asked again.

Hearing this, Derong looked a little better. He wiped the cold sweat on his forehead and hurriedly explained, "Your Royal Highness, please rest assured. These Buddhist incense sticks are also safe. They are used in the Buddha hall in the Palace, not purchased outside. These incense sticks always burn in the Buddha hall, and there's nothing wrong with them."

"Buddha hall?" Chu Liuchen frowned.

"Yes, it's the Buddha hall. Since the in-charge nun left, it has been managed by Pushan Nun. Compared with the previous in-charge nun, Pushan Nun manages it better," Derong said.

Before, the in-charge nun usually did not make the Buddhist incense ready until the eunuch went to ask for it. Buddhist incense was the main material of sandalwood. However, the Buddhist incense here was different from the ordinary one. It was added with many other spices that could purify hearts and

minds. It was not very light, but it had distinct effects. Since Pushan Nun entered the Palace, she always made the Buddhist incense ready in advance so that the eunuch could get it immediately every time he went to ask for it.

“Have you inspected it?”

“Yes, I inspect it every time.” Derong nodded.

“Have you investigated Pushan Nun?” Chu Liuchen asked coldly.

“No. Why should we investigate Pushan Nun?” Derong asked in confusion. Pushan Nun had been living in the Yuhui Nunnery for so many years, so there was no need to investigate her.

“Check it out. See where she has been since she entered the Palace, as well as her two disciples,” Chu Liuchen ordered and reached out to take a scroll of painting out of his sleeve. “Have you seen this?”

Derong took two steps forward and took the scroll respectfully. When he took a closer look at the Buddha statue on it, his expression changed greatly.

“This... This is...”

“What is this?” Chu Liuchen asked. Shao Wanru gave him this painting before he entered the Palace today. She asked him to find someone to inquire about it. As it was said, this Buddha statue was in Pushan Nun’s place, and even in a remote place in the Yuhui Nunnery, there was such a Buddha statue.

“This... This is from the previous dynasty... It’s...” Derong said in a panic and knelt down. “Your Royal Highness, this is the Buddha statue from the previous dynasty. It’s the second main statue dedicated in the Buddha hall of the imperial harem back then.”

Although that matter had been a long time, Derong still remembered it clearly. Back then, when the capital fell, the Palace of the previous dynasty was in chaos. The imperial concubines fled, and the palace maid and eunuchs were busy snatching things. Derong was just a young eunuch who had just entered the Palace of the deceased emperor, so he just followed the run in a panic.

The Palace was in chaos, along with slaughter. A young eunuch had no place to escape. It happened that he ran to the Buddha hall and sneaked in to hide himself there. Under the hanging gauze curtain, he saw this Buddha statue, which looked ferocious. Derong was very scared, but he did not dare to move. He had to crouch there, motionless.

In the end, Derong survived the palace revolution. Not only that, but he also followed the right master.

But even after so many years, the scene at that time was still vivid in his mind. The Buddha statue was too large for him at that time, and it was put in second place. Later, the soldiers broke in. They smashed the Buddha statue and took Derong away.

When the Emperor ascended the throne, Derong, as a general steward, followed him into the Palace. He once subconsciously inquired about the Buddha statue from some of the elders who had survived back then. Someone told him said that it was the favorite Buddha statue of the Empress of the previous dynasty. There was a story about someone sacrificing himself to eliminate evil, but Derong was not clear about the details.

“Have you seen it before?” Chu Liuchen was very surprised by Derong’s reaction. He had wanted Derong to ask the old people in the Palace about it, but he didn’t expect that Derong was the right person to ask.

“I was hiding in the Buddha hall at that time. I saw this Buddha statue. It was very big and positioned in second place. Afterward, I inquired about it and learned that this Buddha statue was the favorite one that the Empress of the previous dynasty worshiped, and all the imperial concubines and princesses in the Palace followed her to worship this Buddha statue together. They were very respectful of this Buddha statue... They even made many small versions of this Buddha statue and gave them to several favored imperial concubines and princesses.”

Derong calmed down and said. After all, he was no longer the young eunuch from before, so his answer was flawless.

“Assign someone to keep an eye on Pushan Nun,” Chu Liuchen said lazily with a slightly solemn look.

“Yes, Your Highness.” Derong nodded. After pondering for a while, he said, “Does Pushan Nun have any problems? Her Majesty the Empress Dowager always compliments Pushan Nun. What if she disturbs Her Majesty the Empress Dowager?”

“Don’t allow her or her two disciples to go to Imperial Grandmother’s place.” Chu Liuchen thought for a while and said.

“But lately, Her Majesty is very convinced of Pushan Nun, and Pushan Nun visits the Palace of Benevolent Peace every day. If she suddenly doesn’t go there, will Her Majesty...” Derong said hesitantly.

“I will arrange it for Imperial Grandmother’s place. If Imperial Grandmother insists on seeing them, it’s okay to let them go there.” Chu Liuchen fell silent for a while and then said lazily with an extreme coldness in his eyes.

“So, you’re from the previous dynasty. No wonder...”

Chapter 1307 Shocking Changes in the Palace of Benevolent Peace

“From the previous dynasty?” Shao Wanru looked up. Though she was surprised, she didn’t show it. She had figured it out. But after confirming it, she was wide awake.

“Will the Empress Dowager be in danger? I’ll go to the Palace every day in the next few days!” Shao Wanru suggested.

“No, it’s too dangerous!” Chu Liuchen shook his head.

“It doesn’t matter. I have helpers by my side and bracelets!” Shao Wanru reached out her hand and cutely shook it. There was a pair of glossy sapphire bracelets on her wrist. At a glance, they were not ordinary.

Chu Liuchen said with his face darkening, “No!”

Such a close-fitting concealed weapon should be the last resort. As long as he thought Shao Wanru would be in such a dangerous situation, he would not be at ease. “Let Qin Yiyan accompany my Imperial Grandmother!”

“But someone should accompany and protect Noble Consort Lan. If those people deal with her...” Shao Wanru reminded him softly, “It’s not appropriate for your cousin to stay with your Imperial Grandmother.”

“You don’t have to accompany her every day. It’s good that you can go there once in a while. I have made arrangements to ensure her safety!” Chu Liuchen drawled lazily, narrowing his beautiful, deep eyes. Now it was a good time. “Don’t worry. I’m here to handle everything!”

A few days later, The Empress Dowager’s order came at night. Chu Liuchen had come back late these days, so he was still in the Palace. Shao Wanru had just taken off her coat with the help of her servant girl. Hearing the Empress Dowager’s order, she hurriedly took Qiu’er and Dong’er into the Palace.

Nanny Wei was waiting happily at the gate of the Palace of Benevolent Peace. Seeing Shao Wanru coming over, she stepped forward and said with a smile, “Her Majesty has been talking about you. Your Highness, please come in with me!”

Shao Wanru nodded and followed Nanny Wei forward. After walking for a while, she asked in surprise, “Where are we going?”

“Her Majesty’s resting place. She doesn’t feel well and is still resting.” Nanny Wei smiled with a broad and amiable smile.

“Imperial Grandmother hasn’t got up yet?” Shao Wanru frowned and stopped.

“She has got up but feels weak. Since she has something to tell you, she asks you to come over!” Nanny Wei explained. What she said sounded reasonable.

There was only one unreasonable thing: Shao Wanru had never been to the Empress Dowager’s resting place. Others were not allowed to enter the resting places of those women in the Palace, not to mention the Empress Dowager’s imperial sleeping palace.

With a trace of deepness across her watery eyes, she still walked forward. Shao Wanru had always been difficult to deal with. To Nanny Wei’s surprise, she didn’t ask anything about it. Relieved, Nanny Wei quickly brought her to Empress Dowager’s resting place.

The palace’s entrance was very quiet. Only two young palace maids stood there with their heads down. When they saw Nanny Wei coming over with Shao Wanru, they hurried forward to bow.

“Greetings, Your Highness!”

“Has Her Majesty ever asked you to go in and serve her?” Nanny Wei lowered her voice and asked.

“No, Her Majesty didn’t ask us to go in.” The little palace maid said.

Nanny Wei waved her hand with a smile, and the two palace maids retreated aside.

“Come in with me, Your Highness,” Nanny Wei said with a smile. Then she looked at the two servant girls behind Shao Wanru, who lowered their heads and followed Shao Wanru closely.

Without the Empress Dowager’s permission, the two servant girls could not go in with Shao Wanru.

“Let them follow me in. I will report it to Her Majesty later.” Shao Wanru said lightly without watching the two servant girls behind her.

“But, Her Highness... It’s against the rules. If my master blames me later, I can’t bear the responsibility!” Nanny Wei said with a bitter smile, helplessly spreading out her hands.

“So, you forbid me from going in?” Shao Wanru said with a stern look. Her smiling eyes abruptly turned cold, and her cool gaze fell on Nanny Wei.

"That's not what I meant. How dare I stop you..." Seeing that Shao Wanru was annoyed, Nanny Wei hurriedly explained with a smile. But still, she stood before Shao Wanru. It seemed she didn't want her to leave.

Shao Wanru slightly raised her thin eyebrows. Her face was delicate, but unlike in the past, she had an air of quiet authority with her steely eyes. Nanny Wei felt uneasy and wanted to say something. But Shao Wanru turned around to leave. Seeing that, she anxiously stepped forward to stop Shao Wanru.

"Your Highness, but my master is waiting for you!"

"I'm not feeling well and have to go back first. When Prince Chen returns, we'll come to see Her Majesty together!" Shao Wanru calmly stopped and said blandly.

"But you've come here... You can't just go back without seeing my master!" Nanny Wei said with a flattering smile.

"Yes, I should go in. But since I'm in poor health, I might have to trouble Her Majesty if I go in without my servant girls. Whenever I came, Her Majesty allowed me to bring my servant girls. Is there any difference this time?"

Shao Wanru asked.

"But it is the resting palace..." Nanny Wei looked embarrassed.

"Then I won't go in there. I'll wait for Her Majesty in the outer hall!" With this, Shao Wanru was about to go out.

Nanny Wei reacted very quickly. Glancing at the two submissive and timid servant girls with bowed heads, she knew they didn't stay with Princess Chen for long and were just promoted. Then, they must be useless. Without delay, she put up a smiling face and apologized, "It's... It's my fault. Please come in with me. My master always gives you special treatment. How could she bear to see you go around without servants?"

Seeing that she gave in, Shao Wanru looked a little better and followed Nanny Wei inside with a smug expression.

Out of the corner of her eye, Nanny Wei saw the complacent smile on Shao Wanru's face. Silently, she raised her mouth corners with obvious sarcasm. Shao Wanru appeared to be intelligent and had indeed done many smart things. But now it seemed that she had overestimated Shao Wanru, who was actually not that clever.

Right after they entered the resting palace, two people rushed out from the corner. One on each side, they knocked out the two servant girls after Shao Wanru.

Hearing the noise behind her, Shao Wanru hastily turned around and was surprised to see two acquaintances.

“Huiqing, Huiming!” Shao Wanru seemed to have forced herself to look calm. There was a hint of surprise in her beautiful eyes. She was apparently very shocked to see the two people in Empress Dowager’s resting palace. “You... What did you do to Her Majesty?”

“Her Majesty is fine, but you may not!” Huiqing said proudly. She took two steps forward and approached Shao Wanru with visible bad intentions.

“What... what do you want to do? This is the Palace. Do you... do you want to rebel?” Shao Wanru said with her face changing dramatically. She took two steps back and almost fell. “What... what did you do to Her Majesty?”

“You still care about her when in danger?” With a sneer, Huiqing stepped forward and grabbed Shao Wanru by the sleeve. As Huiqing walked in, Huiming lengthened her stride to keep up with her. Nanny Wei remained outside. Then, she turned around and walked out of the resting palace. She had to check the situation outside. People in the Palace wouldn’t be too stupid to come over, but she had to be more discreet.

The mysterious person asked her to take orders from Huiqing and Huiming, and she did so. She had no other choice because the mysterious person had evidence against her.

As Huiqing rudely pulled Shao Wanru in, she saw the Empress Dowager lying unconscious on the bed inside the door and was shocked. Shao Wanru hurriedly broke free from Huiqing’s grasp and rushed to the bed, saying, “Your Majesty, Your Majesty.”

She cried out anxiously, seemingly in a panic. However, a trace of calmness flashed in her eyes. She didn’t expect them to take action so quickly. However, only a few people showed up, so they must have acted hastily.

“It’s no use shouting. She has been drugged and is unconscious. She is very obedient to us. Even if she is awake now, she may not listen to what you say.” Huiming came out from behind Huiqing and smiled. “You are too young to black out with the drug. Otherwise, it would be more convenient for us if you were also unconscious.”

“What... what do you want to do?” Shao Wanru asked in a trembling voice. She reached out and grabbed the Empress Dowager’s hand. Feeling the pulse on her wrist, she breathed a sigh of relief — the Empress Dowager was fine.

“What else can we do? Your Highness, please!” Huiqing pressed somewhere a few times and moved a painting away. A dark and deep hole appeared there. Huiqing pointed inside in smug satisfaction and said, “Your Highness, please help Her Majesty up. If anything happens to her later, you will have to take the blame.”

“I... I’m not leaving. Where are we going?” Shao Wanru asked with her eyes full of fear and lips trembling, “How... how do you know about Her Majesty’s secret passage?”

“Is it strange?” Seeing Shao Wanru like this, Huiqing and Huiming became increasingly complacent. “We know all the secret passages in the Palace. Her Majesty prepared it long ago. Go ahead if you don’t want things to get ugly!”

Speaking of this, Huiqing took out a dagger from her chest pocket. A strand of hair fell from her temples as a ray of cold light flashed before Shao Wanru. Shao Wanru was so scared that her watery eyes widened. It could be seen that she was about to faint.

Few Misses from aristocratic families who were nursed in luxury could stay calm in the face of danger. Shao Wanru looked smart in the past only because she never confronted a real crisis.

Huiqing shook her head in disapproval. Her master had asked her to be on guard against Princess Chen. But at this time, she thought otherwise. In her eyes, Princess Chen, who nearly fainted in fear, was a coward. She had thought too highly of her.

She pointed with the dagger and ordered, “Your Highness, help Her Majesty to her feet. Let’s go.”

Huiqing walked over from the other side and helped the Empress Dowager up. Then she looked at Shao Wanru and said with a sneer, “Your Highness, please!”

Since the dagger was pressed against her back, Shao Wanru did not think too much and made a prompt decision. Before entering the Palace, she had told her two servant girls what they should do. After making an effort to compose herself, she stood up according to their order. Holding the Empress Dowager with one hand, she looked up at Huiqing and said, “I hope you will not do

anything bad to Her Majesty. Otherwise, I will fight with you even at the cost of my life.”

“Then let’s wait and see!” Huiming said indifferently, regarding it as a useless struggle that Shao Wanru put up.

Huiqing gave Shao Wanru a hard push and snapped with heavy sarcasm, “What nonsense are you talking about? Hurry up and go ahead. It’s hard to say whether you can survive or not. Don’t worry about that old lady! Mind your own business!”

Hearing her words, Huiming also burst out laughing.

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Chapter 1308 Forcing the Emperor to Abdicate, a Drastic Change

Lights of every palace in the imperial Palace went out at night. There was a great noise somewhere. When the first scream came, many people put on their clothes and lit the lights again.

These women in the Palace looked ghastly pale. They wanted to hide elsewhere but couldn’t find shelter in the darkness. They trembled and huddled together, not knowing what had happened. Anyway, it didn’t sound like a good thing. How could such a lot of awful noise appear in the Palace? The first idea that came to many people was that a rebellion was happening.

In the night, Zhaoyi Di hurriedly followed a eunuch carrying a lantern and went to a palace out of use.

Chu Liuyue was sitting in the middle of the hall.

“Greetings, Your Highness!” Zhaoyi Di said.

“How is it going?” Chu Liuyue asked.

“Commandery Prince Cheng has taken some people to the Emperor’s resting place!” Zhaoyi Di reported.

“Good, well done. After my success, I’ll help you leave the Palace. You can change your name and leave the Palace!” Chu Liuyue felt quite pleased and promised with a trace of smile.

Zhaoyi Di had always kept a low profile. Who would have known that she was the daughter of Commandery Prince Cheng’s aunt?

Commandery Prince Cheng’s mother was very inconspicuous in the Palace. She married into the imperial Palace, while her younger sister became a concubine in Duke Yong’s Mansion. The two sisters were separated in

troubled times. Later, Zhaoyi Di entered the Palace and accidentally dropped a sachet embroidered with peony, which her deceased mother left behind. They would not have recognized each other if it hadn't been for it.

After Commandery Prince Cheng's mother was separated from her family in times of disorder, she had been a famous prostitute in a brothel. Her name as a prostitute was Peony. For one thing, she was as beautiful as flowers. For another, she wanted to find her family. Commandery Prince Cheng particularly hated the degrading past of her mother and everything with peony patterns.

However, the sachet embroidered with peonies that Zhaoyi Di lost happened to appear before him. Besides, he also had a s sachet. Even if he loathed it, he could tell at a glance that this sachet was similar to his mother's.

After recognizing her identity, Commandery Prince Cheng treated this cousin well and asked people to support her in the Palace. Otherwise, she would not have become the Emperor's favored woman for a period. His purpose was to let her keep an eye on the Emperor.

Commandery Prince Cheng regarded Zhaoyi Di as one of his people, but he never thought she was also related to Duke Yong's Mansion, which had something to do with Chu Liuyue. As such, Chu Liuyue discovered the relationship between Zhaoyi Di and Commandery Prince Cheng with little effort. Compared with Commandery Prince Cheng, he could make arrangements in the Palace more easily. After all, everyone thought he or Chu Liuzhou would get the throne then.

They would turn a blind eye to Prince Yue's secret business.

Something went wrong with Duke Yong's Mansion. But because of Commandery Prince Cheng and Chu Liuyue, Zhaoyi Di didn't get into trouble. Zhaoyi Di only had one request: she would leave the Palace with a new name when the overall situation had settled down.

The Imperial Palace had never been a happy place for her.

Chu Liuyue agreed to it without hesitation.

Zhaoyi Di had carefully compared the strength of Commandery Prince Cheng and Chu Liuyue and felt Chu Liuyue was more likely to succeed. Moreover, if she did not listen to Chu Liuyue, the secrets between her and Commandery Prince Cheng would be exposed. It would be a crime of deceiving the emperor. Therefore, Zhaoyi Di had no choice but to comply. She only wanted to leave the whirlpool of the power game in the capital city.

Commandery Prince Cheng entered the Palace today because she had sent a message to him. Thus, with determination, he cut off all means of retreat to fight for his bright future.

Unfortunately, as Commandery Prince Cheng coveted gains ahead, he was unaware of the danger behind him.

Of course, Chu Liuyue was not the only one who would represent a danger to him.

When Chu Liuyue learned about the time that Commandery Prince Cheng had gone to the Emperor's resting palace, he asked his people to take Zhaoyi Di away. He was not in the mood to settle her down at this time.

After calculating the time, he also brought his people to the Emperor's resting palace. Since the first batch of people went there for a rebellion, the second group must be there to help the Emperor out of trouble. He would do an excellent job of saving the Emperor. But no one could predict what would happen during the process. If Chu Liuchen died in it, it was not his fault. At most, he would tear Commandery Prince Cheng into pieces!

Blood flowed like a river at the gate of the Emperor's resting palace. The blood of the guards and Commandery Prince Cheng's people dyed the ground red. Under the high lanterns was Commandery Prince Cheng dressed in armor. There were two rows of archers behind him. All their sharp arrows were pointing at the palace's tightly closed gate, walls, and roofs. Meanwhile, guards of the Palace were hiding with sharp-edged swords in their hands, waiting for them to go over and attack.

The fight resulted in a stalemate, but Commandery Prince Cheng felt increasingly uneasy and looked behind him — he brought over many people. At present, some went to Empress Dowager's Palace of Benevolent Peace and Noble Consort Lan's place, hoping to capture the two people of great importance first. Then they could force the Emperor to submit.

Even if the Emperor refused to give in, Chu Liuchen inside had to. It was because they knew Chu Liuchen was very fond of his wife. Therefore, he also sent someone to Prince Chen's Mansion.

But against all expectations, these people inside didn't show a hint of fluster. How could it be?

"Your Highness, we can't delay it for too long!" A person beside Commandery Prince Cheng reminded him.

Commandery Prince Cheng gritted his teeth. At this time, he had no way out. Initially, he did not intend to force the Emperor to abdicate. But now, if he did not do that, he might not even stay alive. Even if he survived, he would be locked up forever for what he did. He was not willing to accept such a result. For so many years, he had been waiting patiently. He certainly did not want to be imprisoned for a lifetime.

“Go ahead!” Commandery Prince Cheng waved his hand and ordered in a resounding voice.

Hearing that, Commandery Prince Cheng’s people rushed forward. The guards of the palace moved forward. As they took action step by step, the half-closed gate of the resting palace was pushed open. Commandery Prince Cheng was overjoyed and stepped forward eagerly — victory looked certain.

“Guards, Commandery Prince Cheng has rebelled! Kill him!” Suddenly, someone shouted loudly. A group of people darted diagonally forward. Raising their swords, they waded into these guards in the Palace and helped them to kill people from the Commandery Prince Cheng’s Mansion.

Chu Liuyue appeared behind the crowd, also in a suit of armor. He pointed to Commandery Prince Cheng and thundered, “Commandery Prince Cheng rebels. Take him down.”

The noise came from somewhere. It sounded like a powerful army would rush violently in response to Chu Liuyue’s order. Commandery Prince Cheng’s face changed significantly. Chu Liuyue’s appearance was a great shock to him. What was worse, it seemed he had brought many people with him.

The two sides were well-matched at first, and Commandery Prince Cheng’s people were even a notch above these guards in the Palace. However, as Chu Liuyue’s people joined these guards, Commandery Prince Cheng had to retreat step by step. The hat on his head had fallen off, and he looked pathetically embarrassed with messy hair.

As more people rushed over, Commandery Prince Cheng’s soldiers retreated hastily. In the end, they were caught together with Commandery Prince Cheng.

“We succeeded! We seized Commandery Prince Cheng!” Someone screamed. The people brought by Commandery Prince Cheng got frustrated and didn’t dare to charge forward at the forefront. Those who could escape had fled in panic. Commandery Prince Cheng had come aggressively with malice written all over their faces, but now they had all dispersed.

Chu Liuyue straightened his clothes and strode to the resting palace. However, guards at the gate stopped him and were about to speak. At this moment, the two guards around Chu Liuyue stepped forward and stabbed them to death.

Chu Liuyue's men had killed the guards in the Palace! Seeing this, other guards, who had been relaxed, became nervous again. Some came up to stop them, while some charged forward to intercept and kill them. But because it happened so suddenly, they failed to stop Chu Liuyue. As Chu Liuyue's people pressed forward step by step, the guards in the Palace retreated repeatedly, and their number decreased.

When Chu Liuyue saw the Emperor lying on the bed, a complacent smile appeared on his face. Fortunately, he was fully prepared, so the victory now belonged to him.

Chu Liuyue took two steps forward, knelt before the Emperor on the bed, and reported respectfully, "Father, Commandery Prince Cheng and Chu Liuchen rebelled. I caught Commandery Prince Cheng, but Chu Liuchen escaped. Please appoint me as the crown prince and dispatch some people to capture Chu Liuchen." Chu Liuyue took two steps forward and said respectfully, half kneeling toward the Emperor on the bed.

"You... you unfilial son!" In a towering rage, the Emperor grabbed the teacup nearby and smashed it down onto Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue raised his hand and grabbed the teacup. As he raised to his feet, his face, with a respectful look, became indifferent. "What's wrong? Do you hate to give up on Chu Liuchen? Is your son inferior to your nephew? Father, others may think Chu Liuchen is your biological son. Whatever you are thinking, please issue an imperial edict to arrest Chu Liuchen!"

"You unfilial son, I won't write it!" The Emperor refused with anger.

"It doesn't matter if you don't write it. Even if you die now, I needn't take the blame. Father..." Chu Liuyue said, wearing an insolent expression. Looking at the dying and furious Emperor on the bed, he laughed and said, "Now, only I and Chu Liuxin in the royal family are fine. When Chu Liuxin dies, I will be the only heir to the throne. Even if you don't issue an imperial edict, the throne will be mine!"

"You unfilial son! Aren't you afraid of being too ashamed to see me in the world after death?" The Emperor pointed to him and scolded him harshly.

"So what? If you don't want to see me, I can move you to another place in case you angrily trouble me when I also go to the world after death!" Chu

Liuyue said flatly and glanced at the resting palace. "Chu Liuchen is not here? I heard he had been very considerate to you these days. Why can't I see him now? Is he hiding somewhere?"

He was extremely proud of his success. Seeing he had taken control, he felt even better. For some reason, he eagerly gave vent to his grievance and rage with a feeling of exaltation upon fulfillment.

"You... you..." The Emperor covered his chest, too furious to say anything. Suddenly, he spat out a mouthful of blood. Derong, who was standing aside, screamed in shock and flew at the bed. "Your Majesty, please calm down. Don't... don't be angry!"

After that, he looked at Chu Liuyue and pleaded, "Show mercy, please. His Majesty is in poor health. In the past few days, he would vomit blood occasionally. If you irritate him, he is very likely to die. You don't want the later generations to accuse you of killing your father and brothers, do you?"

"So what? The future history will be written under my surveillance. Play up to me. Otherwise, I don't mind sending you to see my grandma early!" Chu Liuyue sneered, clapped his hands, and added, "Come on, bring me the imperial edict I've prepared. Please write your signature and mark it!"

Xiao Qizi came over from behind him with an imperial edict in his hand. The other parts of the edict had been finished, but there was no seal of the state and the Emperor's signature.

"Father, please stamp on it!" Chu Liuyue said with a self-satisfied smile.

Seeing him behave in a disorderly manner without fear, the Emperor repeatedly spat out blood in anger. His eyes suddenly rolled up, and he went limp. Derong cried out in horror, "Your Majesty, Your Majesty!"

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Commandery Prince Cheng regarded Zhaoyi Di as one of his people, but he never thought she was also related to Duke Yong’s Mansion, which had something to do with Chu Liuyue. As such, Chu Liuyue discovered the relationship between Zhaoyi Di and Commandery Prince Cheng with little effort. Compared with Commandery Prince Cheng, he could make arrangements in the Palace more easily. After all, everyone thought he or Chu Liuzhou would get the throne then.

They would turn a blind eye to Prince Yue's secret business.

Something went wrong with Duke Yong's Mansion. But because of Commandery Prince Cheng and Chu Liuyue, Zhaoyi Di didn't get into trouble. Zhaoyi Di only had one request: she would leave the Palace with a new name when the overall situation had settled down.

The Imperial Palace had never been a happy place for her.

Chu Liuyue agreed to it without hesitation.

Zhaoyi Di had carefully compared the strength of Commandery Prince Cheng and Chu Liuyue and felt Chu Liuyue was more likely to succeed. Moreover, if she did not listen to Chu Liuyue, the secrets between her and Commandery Prince Cheng would be exposed. It would be a crime of deceiving the emperor. Therefore, Zhaoyi Di had no choice but to comply. She only wanted to leave the whirlpool of the power game in the capital city.

Commandery Prince Cheng entered the Palace today because she had sent a message to him. Thus, with determination, he cut off all means of retreat to fight for his bright future.

Unfortunately, as Commandery Prince Cheng coveted gains ahead, he was unaware of the danger behind him.

Of course, Chu Liuyue was not the only one who would represent a danger to him.

When Chu Liuyue learned about the time that Commandery Prince Cheng had gone to the Emperor's resting palace, he asked his people to take Zhaoyi Di away. He was not in the mood to settle her down at this time.

After calculating the time, he also brought his people to the Emperor's resting palace. Since the first batch of people went there for a rebellion, the second group must be there to help the Emperor out of trouble. He would do an excellent job of saving the Emperor. But no one could predict what would happen during the process. If Chu Liuchen died in it, it was not his fault. At most, he would tear Commandery Prince Cheng into pieces!

Blood flowed like a river at the gate of the Emperor's resting palace. The blood of the guards and Commandery Prince Cheng's people dyed the ground red. Under the high lanterns was Commandery Prince Cheng dressed in armor. There were two rows of archers behind him. All their sharp arrows were pointing at the palace's tightly closed gate, walls, and roofs. Meanwhile, guards of the Palace were hiding with sharp-edged swords in their hands, waiting for them to go over and attack.

The fight resulted in a stalemate, but Commandery Prince Cheng felt increasingly uneasy and looked behind him — he brought over many people. At present, some went to Empress Dowager's Palace of Benevolent Peace and Noble Consort Lan's place, hoping to capture the two people of great importance first. Then they could force the Emperor to submit.

Even if the Emperor refused to give in, Chu Liuchen inside had to. It was because they knew Chu Liuchen was very fond of his wife. Therefore, he also sent someone to Prince Chen's Mansion.

But against all expectations, these people inside didn't show a hint of fluster. How could it be?

"Your Highness, we can't delay it for too long!" A person beside Commandery Prince Cheng reminded him.

Commandery Prince Cheng gritted his teeth. At this time, he had no way out. Initially, he did not intend to force the Emperor to abdicate. But now, if he did not do that, he might not even stay alive. Even if he survived, he would be locked up forever for what he did. He was not willing to accept such a result. For so many years, he had been waiting patiently. He certainly did not want to be imprisoned for a lifetime.

"Go ahead!" Commandery Prince Cheng waved his hand and ordered in a resounding voice.

Hearing that, Commandery Prince Cheng's people rushed forward. The guards of the palace moved forward. As they took action step by step, the half-closed gate of the resting palace was pushed open. Commandery Prince Cheng was overjoyed and stepped forward eagerly — victory looked certain.

"Guards, Commandery Prince Cheng has rebelled! Kill him!" Suddenly, someone shouted loudly. A group of people darted diagonally forward. Raising their swords, they waded into these guards in the Palace and helped them to kill people from the Commandery Prince Cheng's Mansion.

Chu Liuyue appeared behind the crowd, also in a suit of armor. He pointed to Commandery Prince Cheng and thundered, "Commandery Prince Cheng rebels. Take him down."

The noise came from somewhere. It sounded like a powerful army would rush violently in response to Chu Liuyue's order. Commandery Prince Cheng's face changed significantly. Chu Liuyue's appearance was a great shock to him. What was worse, it seemed he had brought many people with him.

The two sides were well-matched at first, and Commandery Prince Cheng's people were even a notch above these guards in the Palace. However, as Chu Liuyue's people joined these guards, Commandery Prince Cheng had to retreat step by step. The hat on his head had fallen off, and he looked pathetically embarrassed with messy hair.

As more people rushed over, Commandery Prince Cheng's soldiers retreated hastily. In the end, they were caught together with Commandery Prince Cheng.

"We succeeded! We seized Commandery Prince Cheng!" Someone screamed. The people brought by Commandery Prince Cheng got frustrated and didn't dare to charge forward at the forefront. Those who could escape had fled in panic. Commandery Prince Cheng had come aggressively with malice written all over their faces, but now they had all dispersed.

Chu Liuyue straightened his clothes and strode to the resting palace. However, guards at the gate stopped him and were about to speak. At this moment, the two guards around Chu Liuyue stepped forward and stabbed them to death.

Chu Liuyue's men had killed the guards in the Palace! Seeing this, other guards, who had been relaxed, became nervous again. Some came up to stop them, while some charged forward to intercept and kill them. But because it happened so suddenly, they failed to stop Chu Liuyue. As Chu Liuyue's people pressed forward step by step, the guards in the Palace retreated repeatedly, and their number decreased.

When Chu Liuyue saw the Emperor lying on the bed, a complacent smile appeared on his face. Fortunately, he was fully prepared, so the victory now belonged to him.

Chu Liuyue took two steps forward, knelt before the Emperor on the bed, and reported respectfully, "Father, Commandery Prince Cheng and Chu Liuchen rebelled. I caught Commandery Prince Cheng, but Chu Liuchen escaped. Please appoint me as the crown prince and dispatch some people to capture Chu Liuchen." Chu Liuyue took two steps forward and said respectfully, half kneeling toward the Emperor on the bed.

"You... you unfilial son!" In a towering rage, the Emperor grabbed the teacup nearby and smashed it down onto Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue raised his hand and grabbed the teacup. As he raised to his feet, his face, with a respectful look, became indifferent. "What's wrong? Do you hate to give up on Chu Liuchen? Is your son inferior to your nephew? Father,

others may think Chu Liuchen is your biological son. Whatever you are thinking, please issue an imperial edict to arrest Chu Liuchen!”

“You unfilial son, I won’t write it!” The Emperor refused with anger.

“It doesn’t matter if you don’t write it. Even if you die now, I needn’t take the blame. Father...” Chu Liuyue said, wearing an insolent expression. Looking at the dying and furious Emperor on the bed, he laughed and said, “Now, only I and Chu Liuxin in the royal family are fine. When Chu Liuxin dies, I will be the only heir to the throne. Even if you don’t issue an imperial edict, the throne will be mine!”

“You unfilial son! Aren’t you afraid of being too ashamed to see me in the world after death?” The Emperor pointed to him and scolded him harshly.

“So what? If you don’t want to see me, I can move you to another place in case you angrily trouble me when I also go to the world after death!” Chu Liuyue said flatly and glanced at the resting palace. “Chu Liuchen is not here? I heard he had been very considerate to you these days. Why can’t I see him now? Is he hiding somewhere?”

He was extremely proud of his success. Seeing he had taken control, he felt even better. For some reason, he eagerly gave vent to his grievance and rage with a feeling of exaltation upon fulfillment.

“You... you...” The Emperor covered his chest, too furious to say anything. Suddenly, he spat out a mouthful of blood. Derong, who was standing aside, screamed in shock and flew at the bed. “Your Majesty, please calm down. Don’t... don’t be angry!”

After that, he looked at Chu Liuyue and pleaded, “Show mercy, please. His Majesty is in poor health. In the past few days, he would vomit blood occasionally. If you irritate him, he is very likely to die. You don’t want the later generations to accuse you of killing your father and brothers, do you?”

“So what? The future history will be written under my surveillance. Play up to me. Otherwise, I don’t mind sending you to see my grandma early!” Chu Liuyue sneered, clapped his hands, and added, “Come on, bring me the imperial edict I’ve prepared. Please write your signature and mark it!”

Xiao Qizi came over from behind him with an imperial edict in his hand. The other parts of the edict had been finished, but there was no seal of the state and the Emperor’s signature.

“Father, please stamp on it!” Chu Liuyue said with a self-satisfied smile.

Seeing him behave in a disorderly manner without fear, the Emperor repeatedly spat out blood in anger. His eyes suddenly rolled up, and he went limp. Derong cried out in horror, "Your Majesty, Your Majesty!"

Chapter 1309 Step Onstage One After Another

Chu Liuyue looked at the Emperor indifferently. During this period, the Emperor often vomited blood. He was used to such a scene. He fainted again, but so what?

He walked up to pull the Emperor up and said, "Father, you'd better write it carefully so as not to cause me more trouble..."

The next moment, his hand paused before the Emperor. Abruptly, Chu Liuyue reached out to feel his breath, and his face changed drastically.

"Your Majesty... Your Majesty..." Derong was terrified and looked at Chu Liuyue. Likewise, he reached out to feel the Emperor's breath and knelt on the ground in a panic. "His Majesty... passed away!"

Chu Liuyue looked sullen and reached out to feel his breath again. He found it hard to believe that the Emperor would die of anger because of him. Although he had said he was not afraid of this result, it became more difficult for him to clear up such a messy situation when the Emperor died. Since he was in the Emperor's resting palace now, he could hardly purge himself of suspicion.

"Prince Yue plots to murder His Majesty."

"Hurry up to rescue His Majesty!"

"Save, save His Majesty."

It was eerily quiet in the resting palace when faint shouts came from outside.

A guard of Prince Yue's Mansion rushed over and said, between gasps of breath. "Your Highness, many people come at us. What should we do now?"

"Who are they?" Chu Liuyue ignored the Emperor and asked harshly.

"I don't know, but they have completely surrounded us. Our people are trapped inside!" The guard said anxiously and reached out to press his arm. Just now, he was accidentally pieced by a sword and looked pathetically embarrassed, with his blood spreading from the cut.

"Who... who are they?" With a pale face, Chu Liuyue turned around and strode away. He had thought he was the last force hiding to achieve success, but to his great surprise, another group emerged...

Shao Wanru helped the Empress Dowager into the secret passage. There were many turns in this desolate tunnel. It could be seen that no one had been here for a long time, and the air inside was a little stuffy. Huiqing was walking before them with a lantern to illuminate the road.

Along the way, Shao Wanru tripped several times and almost fell. Even Huiming, who supported the Empress Dowager on the other side, also stumbled on the uneven ground. After many times of such mishaps, Huiming asked Shao Wanru to follow behind them.

They walked forward along the tortuous secret passage. Arriving at a place, Huiqing stopped, put down the lantern, and looked around. A door was opened when she pressed hard on a moss-covered triangular stone.

Shao Wanru, in a sorry plight, lifted the hem of her dress and came out. Seeing a Buddha statue, she slightly rolled her watery eyes and thought this place should be the Buddha hall of the Palace. It didn't take long for them to get there.

Voices were heard outside. She narrowed her eyes and looked around. There was no one else. After leaving her and the Empress Dowager here, Huiqing and Huiming ran out in a hurry.

Shao Wanru turned around and patted the wall behind her five times, three long and two short. Just now, she had walked out of it.

Someone behind the wall echoed with three long and two short knocks. Afterward, the wall opened again. Qiu'er and Dong'er came out carefully and breathed a sigh of relief when seeing only Shao Wanru and Empress Dowager in the room. They had chased after Shao Wanru all the way here. Shao Wanru walked as slowly as possible so that they could keep up with her.

"My Lady, this is the Buddha hall of the Palace!" Qiu'er looked at the scenery outside and said in a low voice. She wiped the cold sweat on her forehead and added a few reassuring words. "His Highness has placed some people here. There is nothing to worry about, My Lady!"

"Let's go there!" Dong'er said, pointing to a lock at the side door.

This side hall had a side door, but a lock was on it. Since Huiqing and Huiming went out from the front door, they couldn't go after them.

Qiu'er walked to the lock, twisted it hard, and broke it. She poked her head out to look outside and waved to them.

Dong'er helped the Empress Dowager up, and Shao Wanru followed her closely. They walked out of the side door. This place was so dangerous that Empress Dowager and Shao Wanru must leave quickly.

After leaving the side door, they looked around but found nowhere to go. All of a sudden, a man in black appeared before them. Seeing him, Qiu'er and Dong'er were relieved — he was on their side.

"Your Highness, please come with me!" The guard in black bowed to Shao Wanru and said in a low voice, "His Highness has arranged everything there."

It was not the time to talk. Shao Wanru lowered her head and left with the guard. After a few turns, they entered a small tunnel underground. At its end, an exit appeared on a wall.

As soon as Shao Wanru came out of the exit, she saw Chu Liuchen. Shao Wanru stepped forward excitedly. Although she had been very calm and steady just now, she couldn't help trembling slightly at this time. When she saw Chu Liuchen and was held in his arms, she tightly hugged him back. No matter how meticulously they planned, some unexpected accidents might happen.

Fortunately, she was fine, and so was the Empress Dowager.

They moved the Empress Dowager to the couch, and Mingqiu Nun was already waiting there. After feeling her pulse, Mingqiu Nun smiled.

"How is she?" Shao Wanru pushed Chu Liuchen away and stepped forward. This time, she especially went there to rescue the Empress Dowager.

"Don't worry, Your Highness. It's nothing serious." Mingqiu Nun comforted her softly.

Finally, Shao Wanru felt very much relieved and her legs went weak. After such a thrilling change, she had such a panic fear. Honestly, she was not so bold.

They were speaking in low voices. Suddenly, there came a loud noise from next door. Shao Wanru was startled and immediately looked behind her. Only then did she see a huge screen there. She would think it was a wall if she didn't observe closely.

Noble Consort Lan came out of nowhere and knelt before the Empress Dowager's bed with a nervous look. Seeing Shao Wanru, she waved to her.

Shao Wanru stood up and walked up to her. Before she bowed to her, Noble Consort Lan grabbed her hands and stopped her.

Noble Consort Lan's hands were icy cold, trembling slightly. She pulled Shao Wanru so hard that Shao Wanru almost fell.

Chu Liuchen looked displeased. When he was about to protest, he saw Shao Wanru smiling and waving at him. A trace of impatience flashed across his eyes, but he didn't say anything more.

Shao Wanru made use of this momentum to sit near Noble Consort Lan. Holding her hand instead, Shao Wanru comforted her in a low voice, "Relax. It's all right. Everything will be okay!"

However, Noble Consort Lan didn't respond and bit her pale lips silently. The rims of her eyes turned slightly red, but she had a look of steely determination. She looked up at Chu Liuchen and muttered, "If... If something terrible happens to him... I... I won't live alone..."

Chu Liuchen gave a cold snort but made no comment. His face turned gloomy, but he didn't say anything.

"Your Grace, nothing serious will happen. It'll be okay!" Shao Wanru never stopped comforting Noble Consort Lan.

The noise outside grew louder and louder. Chu Liuchen stood behind the screen and listened quietly. Shao Wanru unconsciously stopped talking and listened quietly to the noise outside.

She was surprised to hear Chu Qing's voice. Not just him but Consort Dowager Qing also came. In silence, Shao Wanru raised the corners of her mouth and looked up at Chu Liuchen's back with her watery eyes.

As Chu Liuchen had expected, the winner was not Commandery Prince Cheng or Chu Liuyue, but the most inconspicuous Chu Qing. She reached out to hug Noble Consort Lan, knowing she was worried out of her wits.

The Emperor was still on the imperial bed outside...

Indeed, he was still there, lying motionlessly on the imperial bed.

Before the bed, Chu Liuyue was pinned to the ground by swords on both sides, his hair in disarray. Chu Qing helped his mother to enter. At the sight of Chu Liuyue, he stepped forward and gave him two hard slaps, sneering, "You killed your father. How dare you think about taking the throne? How did you know all the civilian and military officers at court would agree with it?"

While they were talking, several high-ranking officials were brought over, including three of the six ministers and Prime Minister Zhang.

"Prime Minister Zhang, what punishment should Chu Liuyue bear for killing his father?" Chu Qing watched the people around him and asked in smug satisfaction. Among these officials, Prime Minister Zhang held the highest rank.

"Don't talk nonsense, Your Highness." Prime Minister Zhang said coldly, "Let Prince Yue go, now."

"Even at such a critical time, you are still partial to your son-in-law. But he is such a heartless lover to your daughter. I'm surprised to see you help him. You are indeed loyal!" His decision amazed Chu Qing. "Prince Yue killed his imperial father, so he and his relatives should have been put to death. Are you one of them?"

"Your Highness, His Majesty's dead body is still warm. How can you kill the descendants of the royal family at this time?" Prime Minister Zhang was furious and scolded harshly.

"But the Emperor also ascended the throne when my father's body was scarcely cold. Don't you know that? Besides, he sent me to the Yuhui Nunnery. I wonder why no one stepped forward to stop him back then?" Commandery Prince Qing raised the corners of his mouth and laughed presumptuously.

Then he pointed to the resting palace and said, "From now on, this will be my resting palace. I am the deceased emperor's son, the most suitable prince to inherit the throne. Others, like Chu Liuyue, are the sons of the unjustified Emperor. How could any of them inherit the throne?"

"You... you are the son of the deceased emperor, not the Emperor," Prime Minister Zhang gritted his teeth and said.

"So what? His Majesty was even willing to pass the throne to Chu Liuchen. Since Chu Liuchen could get it, why couldn't he pass it on to me? We are both the descendants of the deceased emperor. My background is not inferior to Chu Liuchen's!" Chu Qing said with an increasingly complacent smile. He had received reports from all sides and knew the Palace was basically under his control. In this case, he was fearless.

As for the bad news from Pushan Nun, he didn't take it seriously. They were just two women. According to his previous plan, he could depend on the Empress Dowager and Princess Chen if anything went wrong. But now he didn't need to do that. After all, his plan went smoothly.

Both Commandery Prince Cheng and Chu Liuyue were nobodies at his mercy. He could ask them to do anything. The two women could never sabotage his plan.

There was Chu Liuchen, who hadn't yet been found. But it was just a matter of time before they found him. After all, the whole Palace was in his hands. At that time, he could kill Chu Liuchen and shift the blame onto Chu Liuyue. No matter how capable Chu Liuyue was, he couldn't turn the tables.

Chu Liuyue would be cut into pieces for murdering his father and younger brother.

"My son with a noble status has the right to become the new emperor!" Consort Dowager Qing said with a bright smile. She squinted sideways at the several important ministers kneeling on the ground and added, "If you don't want to die, stand on my son's side. You will also enjoy no end of wealth and honor. Otherwise, not to mention you, all your family members will not be able to stay alive!"

"Commandery Prince Qing indeed has a prominent identity. As a remaining evildoer, he represents more than a noble Prince!" A sinister and ruthless voice was heard when a wall was opened. Behind the wall, Chu Liuchen showed his pretty face with a tyrannical expression...

Chapter 1310 The End of the Troublemaking Woman

The swing swayed slowly. Shao Wanru sat on it and slightly narrowed her clear eyes in the sun, enjoying the gentle breeze. After a shower, the sky cleared up. Under the blue sky, she felt quite pleasant.

It was the third day since the violent political upheaval in the Palace. Everything had returned to the right path, and the Emperor had woken up. The Fake Dead Medicine was remarkably effective.

Chu Qing planned to kill the Emperor and shift the blame onto Chu Liuyue. In the end, he occupied the Palace, but at the last moment, Chu Liuchen changed the ultimate outcome.

Chu Qing was not the deceased emperor's son. As the truth was exposed, he became a surviving supporter of the previous dynasty.

Consort Dowager Qing had an affair with the prince of the previous dynasty on the run and was pregnant. After that, she met the deceased emperor, who had come to wipe out the rebels. She seduced him and entered the Palace. Not long after the deceased emperor returned to the Palace, he became seriously ill and died. Consort Dowager Qing feared that others would suspect

her child's identity, so she deliberately hid the fact that she was pregnant. Then she was sent to the Yuhui Nunnery.

The Yuhui Nunnery was in charge of Pushan Nun. Under it, many secret channels were dug. There was nothing to worry about when Consort Dowager Qing secretly raised Chu Qing in it. As a Prince of the previous dynasty, he became the young master of all the remaining forces of the previous dynasty. Gradually, even Pushan Nun's supporters turned to him.

As such, Pushan Nun made the marriage engagement between her granddaughter Mo Qiuyi and Chu Qing.

However, she didn't expect Princess Yuyan to intervene in the end.

Before Chu Qing acted, he handed over Princess Yuyan's head. Princess Yuyan had been dreaming of becoming the empress. However, little did she know Chu Qing would kill her and present her head to Pushan Nun as a sacrificial offering.

However, Mo Qiuyi also came to a tragic ending. Princess Yuyan had drugged her with the Xu State medicine long ago. Ironically, not long after Princess Yuyan died, Mo Qiuyi was poisoned to death. No matter how scheming Pushan Nun was, she failed to keep her child.

At last, Chu Qing and Consort Dowager Qing were caught. After Pushan Nun got the news, she burned the Buddha hall. Fortunately, Chu Liuchen had been well prepared and sent some people to put out the fire. But Pushan Nun, Huiqing, and Huiming were still burned to death.

This fire didn't spread to other buildings but only burned the Buddha hall. Anyway, Chu Liuchen didn't like it. Shao Wanru even suspected it to be Chu Liuchen's desired result.

The Empress Dowager woke up and was quite distressed to learn that the Buddha hall was burned down in the fire. But since Chu Liuchen promised to build a small Buddha hall for her in the Palace of Benevolent Peace, she did not say anything more.

"My Lady, a woman wants to see you. She said... said she was your elder sister." Qiu'er ran in and reported to Shao Wanru.

Shao Wanru narrowed her eyes and refused with a faint sneer, "No!"

Shao Yanru? Shao Yanru had become as panic-stricken as a stray dog in this life, but she didn't want to see her.

In her last life, she was framed by Shao Yanru, whose ending was more miserable than hers. The blood of her family should come from Shao Yanru. She was cut in half at the waist, but in her dream, Shao Yanru suffered more.

She took a deep breath. It could be imagined what would happen to Shao Yanru. At present, she was of no value except for her outstanding appearance. However, it was not a good thing to have such a beautiful face without the protection of powerful people. What would be her destiny? Well, it was up to her.

She had offended many people and looked down on many Misses from other aristocratic families. Some people had been on good terms with her. But they were not her true friends because they either banded together closely by ties of interest or had to use each other to achieve their own purposes. Besides, she could no longer ask Shao Hua'an for help.

Zhao Xiran had sent a letter saying Shao Hua'an had died in the chaotic army rushing into the Palace. It was unknown whether he entered the Palace with Commandery Prince Cheng or Chu Liuyue. People in the Palace found a jade pendant from his corpse among many dead bodies. Otherwise, no one would have known who he was.

After Zhao Xiran returned to Minister Zhao's Mansion, she sent a message to inform Prince Chen's Mansion about it. Since then, she had lost contact with the Shao Family.

Zhao Xiran and her husband married for their own purposes, but now their marriage had come to a dead end. But no matter what happened to them, Shao Wanru was not interested in their affairs.

Shao Hua'an had been well-behaved at first. Later, he secretly stirred up trouble in this country. In fact, he had been under Chu Liuchen's control. Since he ended up bringing destruction upon himself, he had only himself to blame. Only Shao Jie'er in Shao Jing's branch had successfully escaped.

"Her Highness... Doesn't she want to see me?" Shao Yanru sat at the door in shabby clothes with a few streaks of dust on her face. In the past, even her servant girls wouldn't wear such clothes, but now she had no choice but to use them.

"Get out. Her Highness doesn't know you!" The servant at the door heard the news from inside and roughly pushed her out, closing the door heavily.

Being pushed hard to the ground, Shao Yanru was too painful to get up.

Gnashing her teeth in hatred, she looked toward the gate of Prince Chen's Mansion. How she wished Shao Wanru could come out now — she must give her a few big bites.

Why did this happen? She was born with the Phoenix Fate, but why couldn't she become the empress?

Before she came here this time, she had thought it over. As long as she could see Shao Wanru, she would endure it no matter how Shao Wanru humiliated her. In her mind, if she could do that, Shao Wanru would let her stay. Then, she could get close to Chu Liuchen. She didn't believe she couldn't get a chance.

It was only a matter of time for the new emperor to enter the Palace. At that time, many women were needed to fill the imperial harem. As a beauty, she could act upon whatever Shao Wanru said and endure the grievance that others couldn't bear. She believed she could find a way to gain preeminence again if she could do all of this. Even if Shao Wanru beat, scolded, and punished her, she could bear it.

But whenever she got a chance, she would trample on Shao Wanru.

She firmly believed she was bestowed with a superb fate.

Against all expectations, she couldn't even meet Shao Wanru, who ignored her and drove her out. Then, how could she plot a comeback?

But how could she be willing to give up? She was destined to be the most powerful woman in the world!

She suddenly saw a large group of people coming over before she rushed forward to knock on the gate again. The spacious and luxurious carriage came over with the force of a thunderbolt — it must be Chu Liuchen's carriage.

"Prince Chen!" With her eyes lighting up, Shao Yanru suddenly rushed over.

The carriage happened to stop, and Chu Liuchen got out of it. As he glanced at her, a trace of malice flashed across his beautiful eyes, and he ordered, "Throw this crazy bitch out!"

"Yes, Master!"

The two guards coming over were sensitive enough. They picked up Shao Yanru, who still wanted to struggle, and mercilessly threw her far away.

As Shao Yanru fell heavily to the ground, she rolled several times and hit the corner of the wall hard. She curled up in great pain, and her face turned ghastly pale with a sharp pain in her waist.

Chu Liuchen strode away with a trace of gloomy coldness in his eyes. Shao Wanru might not care about it and let Shao Yanru go, but he was unwilling to do so.

For the sake of Shao Wanru, he spared her life. How could he allow this woman to stay and humiliate the Shao Family?

Shao Jing's branch no longer existed. The Marquis Xing's Mansion would belong to Shao Yuanhao in the future. It was important for the Shao Family to stay clean and trustworthy because it was related to the supporting power behind Shao Wanru.

With its help, Shao Wanru could secure her position as the Empress.

Chu Liuchen threw a glance at Xiao Xuanzi behind him, Xiao Xuanzi tacitly took his meaning and stopped right away. Instead of following Chu Liuchen into the door, he grinned and asked the other two guards to stay.

Shao Yanru was in so much pain that she couldn't speak, and her forehead was covered with cold sweat. Seeing Xiao Xuanzi coming over, she subconsciously wanted to back away from him. But there was no point in hiding. Looking at Xiao Xuanzi's smiling face, she was anxious and terrified. At this time, she regretted it bitterly. When she was lucky to escape, she should have run away. How stupid was she to return and look for Shao Wanru?

She regretted her choice and wanted to leave.

"Take her away!" Xiao Xuanzi waved his hand.

The guards came over and pulled Shao Yanru up, one on each side of her. Shao Yanru struggled desperately but was held down by two guards, who dragged her into the mansion.

Upon entering the gate, they didn't walk into the mansion but turned to another side door. There was a carriage waiting outside the door. When they walked to the side door, a guard came over with a bowl of medicine. He pulled Shao Yanru's long hair and poured it into her mouth. Shao Yanru struggled in pain but was thrown into a carriage.

"Send her to the border!" Xiao Xuanzi ordered with a sneer. Miss Shao had been secretly involved in almost every plot. She couldn't be more vicious, but Prince Chen didn't immediately kill such a woman as evil as a venomous

snake. It was because of Princess Chen. But since Prince Chen let Xiao Xuanzi deal with her, he felt it was best to get rid of such a woman forever.

He might as well turn her mute with poison and throw her into the military camp at the border. Before long, she would die there. No one would know such a woman was Miss Shao, who was behind lots of drastic changes happening in the capital city and had an affair with several Princes.

Miss Shao should be dead already, and Secondary Consort Shao in the Palace had died early. Though she was not a favored woman in the Palace, at least her reputation remained untarnished.

Watching the carriage leave, Xiao Xuanzi clapped his hands, turned around, and led his men into the side door. After the side door was closed, he hurried to the study. Xiao Xuanzi was fully occupied with many problems in the Palace arising from the drastic change. The matter of Shao Yanru was trivial. After all, no one would care about a “dead” woman.

In the study, a lot of memorials to the throne were piled up on the desk before Chu Liuchen, who looked quite displeased with a deep frown. Seeing this, Xiao Xuanzi knew his master was not in a good mood and quickly stood aside obediently.

However, it made sense. The Emperor left everything to Prince Chen, saying he needed to recuperate. Also, he mentioned that the chronic poison had consumed his vitality, so he needed to rest. All the work was left to Prince Chen. In this case, how could Prince Chen be happy?

A servant girl ran over in a hurry, gasping for breath. Surprisingly, it was Yujie. Seeing Xiao Xuanzi wink at her at the door, she motioned for him to go out. Xiao Xuanzi felt that she looked quite strange.

Xiao Xuanzi looked at Chu Liuchen and moved carefully to the door. When he reached the door, he hurriedly turned down the stairs and said to Yujie, who followed him downstairs, “What’s wrong?”

“Her Highness has fainted. Please tell His Highness to check up on her quickly!” Yujie bared her teeth in a grin and delightedly narrowed her eyes. Her joyful look stunned Xiao Xuanzi.

“What? Her Highness fainted?” Xiao Xuanzi asked in disbelief. “Her master fainted, but Yujie appears so delighted. Has she become stupid after the relaxing recuperation?”