

Medical Princess 171

Chapter 171 Consort Selection at the Palace Banquet

Under the sunshine, the magnificent palace with its tall, cinnabar-colored buildings exuded not only a golden glow but also the divine aura of the noble royal family.

The Empress Dowager's Palace of Benevolent Peace was filled with guests, all scattered across its courtyard. It was one of the central palaces of the Imperial Palace, second only to the dwelling of the Emperor and the Empress.

Many young ladies from esteemed families were here, dressed to the nines. They were bashful and graceful. Though they were admiring the view, it would be more accurate to say that they were the view instead.

That was factually true. It wasn't explicit, but the young ladies who entered the palace knew that they had joined the selection of official consorts and concubines for the princes. Thus, all of them were red in the cheeks.

Earlier, some of them had already spotted Prince Yue and Prince Zhou. Both princes were extraordinarily handsome. If they could marry any of the two, not only would they be promised a life of glory and splendor, but also the chance of attaining the noblest of statuses among women. This excited them immensely and made their every gesture become all that more bashful.

Everyone knew their true purpose in coming here today and yet they had to feign ignorance out of fear that the princes wouldn't take a liking to them.

Chu Liuchen looked up lazily as he leaned against the chair. He said weakly, "Grandmother, I don't like them." A leopard cat with snow-white fur rested on his knees. Its seductive blue eyes, with its vertical slits for pupils, lent it a mysterious beauty. It lay languidly in his embrace.

The Empress Dowager, who was over sixty years old, was seated next to him. She caressed her grandson's forehead and said kindly, "We have so many young ladies from esteemed families here; they're the noblest ladies in the capital. What displeases you?"

They were seated in a high building in the Palace of Benevolent Peace. Veiled curtains were hung outside the balcony, pulling double duty in blocking the wind and letting the sunshine in. Moreover, it didn't obstruct the view. It was a good observation spot.

The building wasn't far off the ground, allowing them a good view of what was happening below. They could even clearly see the faces of the ladies. Empress Dowager was pleased with several incredible beauties that she spotted.

"Imperial Grandmother, my body... who'd be willing to marry me?" Chu Liuchen smiled wryly. He opened his eyes, revealing a beautiful pair of pupils that resembled a galaxy of stars. His harmlessness and frailness immediately softened Empress Dowager's heart. She wanted nothing more than to give him all the best things in life. This child was one born with a hard fate, she thought.

"Nonsense. You're my grandson; naturally, you're both noble and dignified. How can you say no one would be willing to marry you? Not only would you be married, but you'd also marry the best. If

someone dares to look down on you, I'll send someone to deal with her!" Empress Dowager said, deliberately putting on the face of a tigress.

"Imperial Grandmother, she'll just be a widow if she marries me. Let's leave these ladies alone." Chu Liuchen lowered his head with a visibly downcast look. The corners of his thin, pale lips curved to form a wry smile.

This time, the Empress Dowager was truly furious. Her brows knitted tightly as she said coldly, "Hogwash! Who told you that? My dear grandson will live for a hundred years!"

"Imperial Grandmother, do you believe in your own words?" Chu Liuchen forced a smile. The young man who looked as handsome as a pretty boy who had stepped out of a painting carried a gloomy frailness and yet he would invariably draw the affection of others. In particular, his star-like pupils looked so limpid that there didn't seem to be even a speck of impurity in it.

"Chen'er, don't think like that. Your Emperor Uncle and I will definitely cure you. We'll never let something like that happen!" Even though she sounded powerless, the Empress Dowager nevertheless tried to assure her grandson. Pain filled her heart like the burst of spring water.

The current Emperor was her son; the late Emperor was also her biological son!

Chu Liuchen was quiet. He gently caressed his white cat and said after a pause, "Imperial Grandmother, I don't think they're here for me."

He looked serene as if he was talking about someone else. His fan-like lashes fell against his cheeks. When he sat still, he looked like a painting—a painting of a man without expression.

The Empress Dowager was heartbroken. She looked at the noble young ladies outside and found that many of them whom she was pleased with had become a thorn in her eye. She wouldn't forget Chu Liuchen's subtle excitement earlier. He even inspected a few ladies. But ever since Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou entered the courtyard, his expression dimmed and he was unable to summon any enthusiasm.

When Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou walked past the courtyard, the dignified and graceful-looking ladies smiled as prettily as flowers. There were quite a few who stole looks at them behind their handkerchiefs. Everyone's gazes were concentrated on them, and they really wanted them to stop walking around.

Several of the more remarkable-looking ladies went as far as causing a little incident, drawing the attention of Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou. What an absurd lack of etiquette, she thought. How could such a lady dream of marrying into the royal family?

"These ladies are no good. I'll find you better ones next time." Even though the Empress Dowager didn't look too pleased, she was nevertheless gentle toward Chu Liuchen.

"Imperial Grandmother, I don't want any of them. I want another cat. Something similar to my current one," Chu Liuchen said gently, caressing the cat in his embrace.

"But this is the only one of its kind!" the Empress Dowager said softly.

This cat was a tribute from a foreign nation. It had come as part of a pair. Since he liked them, both were gifted to the Prince Chen's Mansion. One unexpectedly died, leaving just the other. Thus, the cat was priceless.

"Imperial Grandmother!" Chu Liuchen raised his head to look at the Empress Dowager.

"Alright, alright. We'll do as you say. We'll give you whatever you want." Her heart instantly softened after seeing such a gaze. She decided that she would ask the foreign nation if they had a similar cat.

"Imperial Grandmother, then I'll excuse myself. I haven't had my medicine when you summoned me," Chu Liuchen said somewhat bashfully. He was a bit embarrassed.

"This neglectful child. You're all grown-up now, but you're still not thoughtful enough. Well, you might as well return since you're uninterested in these ladies. I'll find you even better noble young ladies next time," the Empress Dowager said, feeling heartache.

She thought the ladies out there were a little too frivolous. Her plan was to find a good fiancée for Chu Liuchen so that someone would take good care of him. Who knew all the ladies would be so weak towards the charm of Prince Yue and Prince Zhou? How irritating!

Her grandson was such a good one; how could she let the ladies look down on him?

"Yes, Imperial Grandmother!" Chu Liuchen nodded. He leaned on the back of the chair and the quick-witted Xiao Xuanzi pushed his wheelchair to the stairs.

When they reached the head of the stairs, Chu Liuchen walked down the wheelchair and slowly made his way down the stairs. Xiao Xuanzi carried the wheelchair down and put it back down on flat ground. Only then did Chu Liuchen return to his seat. Then, he allowed Xiao Xuanzi to wheel him out of the side door.

Chu Liuchen left quietly, so the young ladies who were "admiring the flowers" or "waiting to be admired" didn't notice him. When he arrived at the side entrance of the Palace of Benevolent Peace, the corner of his eyes twitched and the gentleness and frailness in his pupils were replaced by coldness.

"Where has she gone to play?"

"The main street. I've asked around. It seems like Second Miss is interested in buying a store, but she doesn't have so much extra money for it. So she's putting her new shop as security for a loan from the bank," Xiao Xuanzi hastily answered.

He knew who Chu Liuchen was referring to.

"Let's have a look then," Chu Liuchen said emotionlessly as he inattentively caressed his white cat on his lap.

"Yes! I'll take you there immediately," Xiao Xuanzi immediately said.

Qin Wanru had no idea that Chu Liuchen was keeping an eye on her whereabouts. Right now, she was indeed away from the manor and was at the shop that she had her eye on. Today was the day that she had chosen.

Recently, Madam Di and Qin Yuru were terribly well-behaved. It was peaceful inside Qin's Mansion.

Not only the landlord, Young Master Xu, was at the shop, but Wen Xichi was present as well. On Qin Wanru's side, Nanny Dong was standing on one side with all the necessary items already prepared.

Both sides had reached an agreement, so the next step was dealing with the surety. Wen Xichi was rendered rather helpless by Qin Wanru's unfathomable trust. To be honest, he wasn't at all interested in dealing with such things but he couldn't help giving in after seeing the expectant look on Qin Wanru's delicate face.

She was a girl who was still growing up!

Though still a child, she gave off an intelligent impression. Even Wen Xichi's close friend, Young Master Xu, couldn't stop praising her intellect in their private conversations. Young Master Xu kept commenting that the Second Miss of the Qin family was a sharp-eyed person. She was able to pinpoint Wen Xichi at first glance. Wen Xichi was indeed the best candidate to be the guarantor.

Wen Xichi of the Deputy Prime Minister's Chambers was well-known in the capital for being a promising lad. However, it was said that he was a quiet and easily contented person. Otherwise, with his talent and learning, he would have long earned his officialdom.

Thus, it was surprising to Young Master Xu that someone like him would agree to be a guarantor for a girl he had met only once.

Even though he didn't think Qin Wanru would be cheating him, Wen Xichi's conduct still startled him. After going through the ownership transfer, he stayed behind with plans of watching a show. His ornaments, embroidered girdles, and the like weren't sold off, anyway. He had every right to stay here.

Could it be the gifted scholar and the beautiful lady had fallen for each other? But... she was a little young, wasn't it?

The manager of the bank was invited to the shop as well. After Qin Wanru signed off the papers and stamped her fingerprint, she pushed the document to Wen Xichi. They had pored over every line of the contract earlier and she had pointed out several conditions that she didn't quite grasp. Perhaps owing to her many questions for Wen Xichi in the past, it felt natural for her to ask questions this time as well.

Wen Xichi accepted the document and read it. His gaze fell on a fingerprint so small that he couldn't help smiling. To think such a young child would be stamping a document like an adult. How interesting, he thought. But with this shop acting as surety, no one would be worried that she would run away. Moreover, she was the daughter of Qin Huaiyong, the newly appointed Ningyuan Army General of Jiangzhou.

But rumors had it that this girl's birth was problematic.

While contemplating this issue, he gently pressed his finger on the document, leaving a fingerprint. Then, he signed his name.

He looked up and handed the document to the bank manager.

The bank manager picked up the document and gave it a look. With a bright smile, he asked, "Third Young Master, how should I deal with this money?" Even though the borrower was Qin Wanru, the one that the manager addressed was Wen Xichi.

Chapter 172 That's What the Folk Stories Say

Wen Xichi flashed Qin Wanru a raised eyebrow without a word.

"Please give it to this gentleman then." Qin Wanru pointed to Young Master Xu, who was seated beside Wen Xichi.

"Young Master Xu, please come with me!" The shopkeeper stood up with a bright smile. He must take his leave now that the transaction was over. With the Prime Minister's son acting as the guarantor, they could bypass quite a few bureaucratic processes, even the textual research.

Young Master Xu was reluctant as his interest was piqued, but he had no choice but to leave. So, he told Wen Xichi, "Please excuse me."

Wen Xichi waved a hand with a nod.

"Thank you, Young Master Wen. Allow me to toast you a cup of tea in place of wine." Qin Wanru stood up and poured herself a cup of tea with a smile. Then, she bowed deeply to him.

Qin Wanru, already a baby-face in the first place, looked adorably childish as she made a toast in earnestness like an adult. Her bright and large eyes made her appear quick-witted. She was very likable indeed.

"Spare me the courtesy," Wen Xichi said, reaching out to receive the cup and take a sip.

Qin Wanru returned to her seat. "Do you have any brothers, Young Master Wen?" She sounded as if she was making small talk. Her fan-like long lashes swept her cheeks as she blinked twice. There was a fleeting amusement on her expression.

"I have two older brothers," Wen Xichi said softly. He didn't underestimate or looked down on her because of her young age.

"Are your older brothers about your age?" Qin Wanru asked curiously. Her tone carried a hint of childlike innocence, contrasting sharply with her composed manner during the transaction. With her bright smile and lack of wariness, she seemed truly like a child now. It was to the extent where she would ask questions out of her ignorance of other people.

"They're a few years older," Wen Xichi answered ambiguously.

"Then, are your brothers married?" Qin Wanru was beginning to ask questions that suited her current appearance.

"My eldest brother is, but not the second." Wen Xichi had the feeling he shouldn't answer her, but he couldn't help himself when he looked into her emotive eyes. His gaze turned gentle as he looked at her tender, delicate face.

The girl before him seemed to overlap with his memories of his little sister. Back then, his sister had also questioned with such burning curiosity.

A sliver of pain crossed his pupils, and he lowered his gaze. If his little sister was still alive, wouldn't she be as smart and sensible as Qin Wanru?

“Why isn’t your second brother married? Don’t people in the capital favor early marriages?” It seemed Qin Wanru didn’t realize her questions were becoming increasingly intrusive.

“They couldn’t find him a good match.” Wen Xichi didn’t know how to answer.

“Why couldn’t they find someone? Is it because too many families want to be in-laws with your family? Or does he not like the ladies introduced to him?” These questions, in all honesty, didn’t at all suit Qin Wanru’s current age. She was now eleven years old; some girls her age were already being matchmade. Fortunately for her, she was petite, and people tended to assume she was below ten. They would turn a blind eye to some of her misspoken words, blaming it on her being young and ignorant.

“My second brother has always been haughty. He considers ordinary ladies beneath him,” Wen Xichi said nonchalantly, not wanting to continue this conversation.

Qin Wanru tilted her head to look at him and changed the topic out of the blue. “Third Young Master Wen, do you have close female cousins that you grew up with?”

This question stunned Wen Xichi into silence. He indeed had a younger female cousin that he grew up with, but that wasn’t entirely the truth either. His cousin was simply raised in his household. She was his paternal aunt’s daughter, Gu Xishu. When his uncle was dispatched outstation, his aunt sent Gu Xishu to his home out of worry that her daughter would suffer.

“Cousin Shu grew up in our household,” Wen Xichi answered amicably after some thought. This same-age cousin of his seemed gentle, but for some reason, he didn’t quite like her.

“Third Young Master Wen, aren’t cousins a popular pairing in the capital? Could it be that your second brother is refusing to marry because he has fallen for your cousin?” Qin Wanru steered the conversation to Gu Xishu, whom she seemed to have taken an interest in. Speechless, Wen Xichi looked at her. He had no idea how she came up with that conclusion.

“I must have guessed correctly, yes?” Qin Wanru patted the table. Her limpid eyes appeared even livelier.

“You’re wrong.” Wen Xichi didn’t want to answer, but he couldn’t help bursting her bubble after seeing how overjoyed she was, as if her speculation was spot-on.

“Impossible! I’m sure that’s what happened. Third Young Master Wen, you’re not your second brother. How would you know his mind? Maybe that’s really what he thinks, and that’s why he has been postponing his marriage,” a red-faced, pouty Qin Wanru retorted stubbornly.

Her words were so dogmatic that Wen Xichi was left speechless. How did this child end up with such an extraordinary conclusion? His second brother wasn’t at all interested in Cousin Shu. He had told him that a proper man did not need to rush into a marriage and even gave an example of a pair of newlyweds cousins. He remembered his second brother saying there was no need for a couple, even one that grew up together, to get married so soon.

This reminded him of something that made him frown.

“Third Young Master Wen, you look like you have a lot on your mind. Could it be that you and your second brother are interested in the same person?” Qin Wanru asked, alarmed. Her bright eyes widened as she looked at Wen Xichi in surprise.

“...”

It took Wen Xichi a moment to slowly say, “You overthink things, Second Miss Qin.”

“Am I wrong? But that’s impossible! That’s what the folk stories say!” Qin Wanru muttered in bewilderment. She tilted her head to look at Wen Xichi. “Third Young Master Wen, brothers in the folk stories always fall for their cousin and end up fighting over her. The cousin would sow discord between them and eventually cause the death of one of them. Isn’t that what the stories say?”

Wen Xichi was truly stumped for words this time. Was the education for noble young ladies in Jiangzhou so lax that girls hidden away in manors were able to amuse themselves with these sloppily-written folk stories?

“Third Young Master Wen, the stories are all true. I’ve heard of one such incident in Jiangzhou. The gentle and frail-looking female cousin had apparently flirted with both the older and younger brother while putting on a great show of innocence. For her sake, the older brother eventually caused the younger brother to drown in a river!”

Qin Wanru banked on her young age to say whatever she wanted and make up stories.

“Jiangzhou... is sure lively!” Wen Xichi felt that Qin Huaiyong was a very poor father. How could a girl from a proper family read such nonsense instead of sensible books? To be frank, he didn’t have a problem with her reading folk stories. However, was it appropriate for her to say such things to a man?

Wen Xichi stood up with a gentle smile. “Second Miss Qin, since we’re done with the transaction, allow me to excuse myself and attend to my business.”

“What about your cousin? Aren’t you going to tell me about her?” Qin Wanru stood up, looking rather upset.

The corners of Wen Xichi’s eyes twitched. He was truly well-raised, he thought, to act as a guarantor for this nonsense-spewing little girl.

“Go home and read more books. Don’t fill your head with nonsense!” A gentle admonishment escaped his mouth.

“Then what books should I read then?” Qin Wanru looked confused.

Wen Xichi felt his temper rising, not directed at Qin Wanru, but at her father. How could the Ningyuan Army General from Jiangzhou neglect his daughter to this extent? To think that such an adorable girl didn’t even know what books she should read.

“If you’d like to read, I have a few books at home that are more appropriate for you,” Wen Xichi said. He then frowned. He wanted to stay away from this girl whose naivety was in the excess, so how did he end up offering to give her a few books?

“Then thank you kindly, Third Young Master Wen!” Qin Wanru was overjoyed. In the first place, her goal was to get closer to Wen Xichi and remind him to be wary of his second brother and cousin Gu Xishu.

She could tell he didn’t quite believe her, so she must remind him now and then.

Wen Xichi was incredibly clever. Were it not for his second brother Wen Shian and cousin Gu Xishu, he wouldn’t have become riddled with illness and meet an early death in his past life.

In her previous life, she only learned about this from his young manservant. The servant told her that Wen Xichi’s second brother Wen Shian was the one who pushed him into a river and nearly killed him. Then, his medicine was found to be tampered with. Wen Xichi escaped death but was left hanging on for dear life.

The reason was their seemingly frail and gentle cousin. She and Wen Shian could be considered as “mutual lovers” but Wen Xichi was beginning to appeal more to her. She told Wen Shian to marry someone else, all while insisting that it was Wen Xichi who liked her and put her in a dilemma.

In a fit of anger, Wen Shian ambushed Wen Xichi.

Brilliant and politically-savvy as Wen Xichi was, he would never imagine his biological brother trying to harm him.

The young manservant also shared his speculation that the tampering of the medicine was related to Second Young Master and their cousin. However, no matter how he tried telling Wen Xichi, the latter refused to let him investigate this.

Qin Wanru inhaled deeply as she watched Wen Xichi gradually disappear in the horizon. The innocence in her eyes slowly dissipated, leaving behind a trace of solemnness.

Suddenly, an equally gentle voice rang beside her ears. “Enough of that staring. He’s so far away that you can’t even see him. Why don’t we pay a visit to the Prime Minister’s Mansion instead?” There was even a hint of elegant amusement in the voice, and yet Qin Wanru spun around in a panic...

Chapter 173 Do You Want to Be a Child Bride?

She had no idea when Chu Liuchen had appeared behind her, staring at her coldly. On his handsome face was a faint smile that sent a shiver down her spine.

Qin Wanru’s gaze shifted to the conspicuous object in his hand. Her limpid eyes met a pair of blue cat’s eyes. Stunned, she soon discovered that the eyes belonged to a white cat with blue eyes. It was adorable with its soft fur and fleshy body. It was an absolute beauty.

She was sure she had never seen such a beautiful cat, but it felt inexplicably familiar to her as if she could recall something similar in her memories. Was it a memory from her past life? Yet, upon second thought, she couldn’t find any traces of this cat.

“This cat is...” Qin Wanru hesitated.

“Hold it for me!” With a scoff, Chu Liuchen tossed the cat into Qin Wanru’s embrace. She hastily reached out to catch it.

The cat was so soft that it made for a very pleasant pillow. She couldn't help caressing its fur, but the cat stared wide-eyed at her as if confronting a mortal enemy. It was even baring its claws at her.

Chu Liuchen patted the cat with a rather heavy hand, eliciting a yelp. It turned its head to whine at him and then, in a surprising move, stopped pointing its claws at Qin Wanru. It softened its body to lay lazily in her arms, dropping all hostility against her.

Xiao Xuanzi looked at his master and then at Qin Wanru. His smile became brighter and brighter. He went up to Qin Wanru to make an enthusiastic bow and then deliberately said, "Second Miss, this cat loves being petted. It's happy whenever it's being petted."

Was that so? Qin Wanru was skeptical. The cat looked so fierce when she tried earlier, but it was rather adorable now. Ultimately, she couldn't stop herself from reaching out to caress the fur on its back.

The cat made a gurgling noise, sounding quite comfortable.

The pair of eyes that was glaring daggers at her was now shut in bliss. With its snow-white fur, it looked particularly lovable.

"Prince, why are you here?" Qin Wanru sat down with the cat in her embrace. This cat was pretty heavy; it was evident how well it was cared for.

"Qin Wanru, I can't believe you're so sly at your young age." Chu Liuchen threw her a sidelong glance with an unhappy expression.

"What did I do, Prince?" Qin Wanru asked, carefully caressing the cat's fur. It had been a while since she last saw Chu Liuchen, so what was he getting at now?

"Do you have your eyes on Wen Xichi? Should I play matchmaker for you?" The corners of Chu Liuchen's mouth were curved ever so slightly. An unfathomable emotion flickered in his eyes; it was something Qin Wanru couldn't quite understand.

"Prince, at my young age, you say?" Qin Wanru raised her head helplessly, hoping Chu Liuchen would take a good look at her face.

Chu Liuchen's eyes were limpid as he looked Qin Wanru up and down in disdain. He then suggested, "You can be a child bride until you grow up."

"I thought only children from poor families would become child brides, no?" Qin Wanru replied helplessly. She wondered how she offended this prince, who looked hell-bent on making life difficult for her.

"If your status is far beneath the groom, you can very well be a child bride." Chu Liuchen rubbed his chin. Suddenly, this suggestion seemed plausible.

"I... I don't want to be a child bride at all!" Qin Wanru silently bemoaned her hardship.

"Qin Wanru, you know you owe me your life, don't you?" Chu Liuchen began to smile, flashing a smile that was as handsome as it was elegant. The gloominess in his eyes dissipated as he looked her up and down with a ruminating expression. She had no idea what this temperamental prince was up to.

“Thank you for your life-saving favor, Prince.” Qin Wanru helplessly stood up and bowed to him.

Prince Chen was the one she least understood in this world. She was very perceptive with others, but this person whose mood flipped as easily as a switch had thoughts completely foreign from others.

Chu Liuchen was pleased after seeing her all nervous like the cat earlier. He raised an eyebrow and asked, “What about it? Do you want to be a child bride of the Deputy Prime Minister’s Chambers?”

“No!” Qin Wanru replied without even thinking about it.

Even though she owed Wen Xichi a debt of gratitude, she had no plans of repaying him with her heart. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that she had no plans of marrying anyone. Though she had married Wen Xichi in her past life, they were friends and not lovers. Even on his deathbed, Wen Xichi kept telling her to remarry and not stay a widow for his sake.

“Will you really not consider it? Qin Wanru, mull it over. If I agree with it, you can consider it a done deal. Remember, I don’t make promises easily,” Chu Liuchen said serenely.

Qin Wanru pursed up her delicate lips and shook her head without hesitation. “Thank you for your kind intentions, Prince.”

“You really don’t want to be his bride?” Chu Liuchen asked, smiling.

Qin Wanru had no idea why he was harping on this but shook her head all the same.

“Since you don’t want to become a child bride of the Deputy Prime Minister’s Chambers, let’s find you another family,” Chu Liuchen said, sounding helpless.

Qin Wanru shook her head and said resolutely, “Prince, surely you jest. I’m not becoming anyone’s child bride!”

She didn’t know where Chu Liuchen had summoned his enthusiasm from that he was acting all determined to help her settle her marriage.

“Being a child bride isn’t a bad idea, you know. You can buy shops whenever you want. You can slap someone if you want to. You don’t have to worry about your Madam causing you trouble. Your father will even be deferential to you and stop making things difficult for you for your sister’s sake. You can even protect your remarried mother,” Chu Liuchen said.

He smiled.

Qin Wanru couldn’t help feeling alarmed. Sweat began to form on her forehead. Her charming and innocent eyes blinked as she bit her lower lip and shook her head.

How could something that good exist? There was a price for everything, and she knew very well that she couldn’t afford such a price. Neither was she willing to pay it.

“Prince, how did you find out that I’m buying a shop?” Qin Wanru bit her lip, wanting to change the topic.

“When I came here. What’s wrong? Will you really not consider it?” Chu Liuchen had the sudden thought that this idea could very well work.

Even though Qin Wanru was frustrated, she still had to fake a smile and say, "Prince, I won't consider it, really."

"Consider it? Hehe..." Chu Liuchen abruptly stood up and reached for his cat. He then turned around and walked away.

Xiao Xuanzi immediately followed him.

Qin Wanru looked at her empty arms in bewilderment and then at Chu Liuchen's back. She didn't have enough brainpower to process this, she thought. What had the prince come for?

"Miss, I once saw Prince Chen... at Jingxin Monastery," Yu Jie said hesitantly.

"Did he see Mingqiu Nun for a remedy?" Qin Wanru sat on the chair again. It was so cozy holding the cat that she couldn't quite get used to the emptiness in her arms.

"It was the Abbess of Jingxin Monastery who treated him. She was also the one who ordered this to be kept a secret." Now that she had spoken up about this, the following words came much easier.

"How is... his illness?" Qin Wanru asked. It wasn't difficult to guess that Chu Liuchen had gone to the Abbess of Jingxin Monastery for his illness.

"Apparently, it's a congenital disease that is hard to cure... If not properly treated, it'll endanger him. The Abbess said something is protecting him, but I didn't quite understand what it is," Yu Jie said.

"What's protecting him?" Qin Wanru was confused.

"I'm not so sure myself. I think the Abbess is referring to a person, but it can also be medicine," Yu Jie replied after racking her brain. Back then, she was standing outside the Abbess' room and didn't hear much of the conversation. The Abbess even closed the doors afterward, so she didn't catch the rest. It was only later that the Abbess told her not to speak of the matter to anyone, not even Mingqiu Nun. It was because the noble guest might ask Mingqiu Nun to treat him but was worried about being turned down. Thus, the guest needed the right timing to make an indirect request.

In the end, Yu Jie didn't see Mingqiu Nun do anything.

Midway into their conversation, Young Master Xu returned after settling things at the bank. Since Wen Xichi wasn't around, he excused himself as it was inappropriate for him to linger.

Now, the shop—as well as everything in it—belonged to Qin Wanru. She made some suggestions for improvement after scanning the place. Only then did she return to the General's Mansion. Madame Dong stayed behind and asked Qin Wanru to tell Dong Xiuer not to worry as she would be staying at the shop for the next few days.

When Qin Wanru returned to her own house, she asked Nanny Yu to summon Dong Xiuer.

Dong Xiuer came swiftly, arriving at the door just as Qin Wanru was sitting down for a cup of tea. She performed a curtsy and then stood on the side, observing the proper etiquette.

She came here with Madam Dong. Even though she lived in Qin Wanru's Zhifang Pavilion, she wasn't the latter's servant. She didn't have much to do, so she typically busied herself with embroidery and

stitching of clothing and delicate ornaments. She had an agile pair of hands and amicable character, allowing other maids in the courtyard to gradually warm up to her.

Of course, her best friend here was Qing Xue.

Qing Xue, as a principal maid, wasn't nearly as busy as the rest. Whenever she was free, she would have a chat with Dong Xiuer.

"How's your leg?" Qin Wanru asked gently, looking at Dong Xiuer's leg. Several days had passed since she last saw her. Seeing as Dong Xiuer wasn't limping when she walked in the door, her wound must have mostly healed.

"Thank you, Second Miss. If it weren't for you, my leg wouldn't heal at all. I swear I'll repay you even if I must work like an ox or horse!"

Dong Xiuer looked up and expressed her gratitude when she heard Qin Wanru's question.

"You don't have to be so polite. Since your mother is acting as my shopkeeper, it's only reasonable for me to lend you a hand." Qin Wanru smiled, shifting her gaze to Dong Xiuer's face. She could tell that Dong Xiuer was enjoying life here, for she was even wearing a pearl-embedded hairpin. "I've secured my shop, so your mother will be kept busy for the next few days. She says she'll be at the shop and away from home tonight."

"My mother has told me as much before leaving. Um, Second Miss, I have a question that I don't know if I should ask." Dong Xiuer hesitated, sneaking a glance at Qin Wanru's face.

The emotion in Qin Wanru's pupils became unreadable, but she retained her gentle expression. She said indifferently, "You may ask."

Chapter 174 The Guilty Etiquette Instructor

"I think Qing Xue has very dexterous hands, can I ask her to do a few accessories such as toggle-and-loop buttons and embroideries in the future? Mother says after the new shop opens, it will need many items like this. I'm afraid I cannot do them alone!" Xiuer said.

"Qing Xue has dexterous hands?" Qin Wanru smiled and asked.

"Qing Xue does have very dexterous hands, and her needlework is not bad, either. If she and I can work together, we will have more extraordinary items!"

Dong Xiuer said blissfully as she thought Qin Wanru had accepted her proposal.

Nanny Yu looked at Dong Xiuer unhappily, took a light cough, and seriously said to Qin Wanru, "Miss, Qing Xue is your great girl servant. It is not that our mansion has no money to spend and needs your great girl servant to work to make money for family running. If so, what will others think of you and our mansion?"

The close great girl servant of an aristocratic family's miss was equivalent to the miss of a rich family. If the family were not in ruin, the servant would basically not go out to make money for family running.

Dong Xiuer blushed because of these words, lowering her head as she murmured, "Second Miss, I thought poorly!"

"If you are still in the mansion, then ask Qing Xue to help you!" Qin Wanru smiled and comforted her. After all, Nanny Dong and Dong Xiuer were not people of the Qin's Mansion. After the shop's business was on track, they would leave the mansion. For one thing, they would be freer; for another, they could manage the shop more conveniently.

"Yes, as Second Miss says!" Dong Xiuer said obediently and then left.

"Miss, what does Qing Xue want to do?" As Dong Xiuer disappeared from her view, Qing Yue frowned and said, only thinking this was Dong Xiuer's business.

"Naturally, she doesn't think she can stay here anymore!" Qin Wanru said slowly. Just now, she saw Dong Xiuer's hairpin in the hair clearly, which was not ordinary. Nanny Dong couldn't have had such a thing that time she was extremely poor, and she could not even afford it now.

This was the latest style in the capital city, not the old stuff from Jiangzhou.

So far, she had only given a few daily necessities to Nanny Dong, who couldn't spare so much extra money to buy Dong Xiuer such a new hairpin. So, the hairpin should only come from Qing Xue.

After arriving in the capital city, Qing Xue had not walked out of the mansion for once. Unexpectedly, she had such a hairpin. It seemed that she had secret contacts with Mrs. Qin.

She took up the teacup at her hand and drank a mouthful. "Nanny Yu, tell Qing Xue to ask the grandmother's servants when the invited etiquette instructor will arrive?"

"Tell Qing Xue to ask?" Nanny Yu said anxiously, realizing that Qing Xue was becoming stranger and stranger. "Why should you let her go out to work at this time?"

"Right, tell her to!" Qin Wanru drooped her eyelids and said slowly.

A girl servant gave away her hairpin, only wishing to make friends with Dong Xiuer, or perhaps work out ways to leave her. It seemed that the girl was really anxious...

Then, gave her the opportunity. Let's see what she wanted to do so anxiously!

Inviting etiquette instructors was Qin Huaiyong and the Old Grandma's decision. Initially, they only hired one for Qin Yuru, but considering that Qin Wanru, who was sensible but still young, was not so familiar with the etiquette in the capital city and had better have a teacher, they invited two etiquette instructors.

Since the etiquette instructors were mainly invited for Qin Yuru, Mrs. Qin also proactively asked Di Yan to tell his mother to ask the Duke Yong's Mansion for help. It was said that the two instructors were famous in the capital city. Previously, they taught palace etiquette in the palace. Later, when they were old, they were released from the palace.

Today was scheduled for the two instructors to come, but there was no news of them even until now.

Qing Xue went to the Old Grandma's Xinning Pavilion and found Nanny Duan, who told her the two instructors had been invited by another family and could not come, but there were two new ones, who were on the way to the mansion. When they arrived in a while, she would invite Qin Wanru.

Getting the information, Qing Xue went to report to Qin Wanru.

"New instructors?" Qin Wanru asked in surprise. "Is it that they were scheduled previously? Why have they been invited by another family now?"

"Nanny Duan says that family also had a schedule a long time ago, but Countess Yong didn't confirm it when she mentioned it. She says they will be confirmed after they come to our mansion and let the Old Grandma, madams, and misses take a look." Qing Xue asked clearly just now, and so she replied eloquently.

Getting her job just now, she must ask carefully!

This meant that Countess Yong just mentioned it casually and didn't take it to her heart?

"What about the new instructors?" Qin Wanru thought about it for a moment and asked.

"It is said the new instructors are extremely good, even better than the two previous ones, and they were released from the palace. The palace etiquette is absolutely in accordance with the current rules. If they had not been affected by some affairs, they wouldn't be released now."

"Instructors teaching etiquette released from the palace now?" Qin Wanru was surprised. She suddenly thought of a person, showing a profound look in her eyes. If it was really that person, she must let the person stay this time.

If it was her, she believed Qin Yuru would not want her. This person was definitely sent to her, but this was just what she wanted. She hoped it was the person she thought of...

Nanny Duan invited her after a short time. After arriving at the room, Qin Wanru found Qin Yuru had not come. The Old Grandma sat on the head seat, unexpectedly with two women of 30 or so standing on each side. They didn't look like the wrinkled old nannies.

It was especially the one on the left, beautiful, 30 or so. She had a nice face but didn't have a smile on it, looking a little severe. She was not talking with the Old Grandma, but only sitting there, cold-faced and seemingly unhappy. Wearing this look, she was, in fact, not agreeable.

The other one looked a little older and was skilled at talking. She chatted with the Old Grandma relatively happily and smiled while chatting, looking kind. Thanks to her talk, the Old Grandma smiled heartily, showing she liked her a lot.

Qin Wanru came in, bowed to the Old Grandma routinely, and then moved to one side, looking curiously at the two nannies who looked relatively young.

"Zhuzhuo, they are Nanny Zheng and Nanny Huang. Come to bow!" The Old Grandma said as she smiled and waved to her.

Qin Wanru bowed naturally to the two nannies again.

Outside the curtain, a girl servant reported the coming of Qin Yuru. Qin Wanru moved a little to the side, the little girl servant raised the curtain, and Qin Yuru along with Mei Xue walked in. Dressed in light green clothing, she was tall and beautiful, completely different from Qin Wanru, who was still not mature yet.

Being a lady in her season, she looked exceptionally gorgeous and graceful.

As a famous beauty in Jiangzhou, Qin Yuru was undoubtedly outstanding. Standing casually anywhere would make others feel she was extraordinary.

That smiling nanny seemed to have a deeper smile. After seeing Qin Yuru, she couldn't help turning to Qin Wanru. Initially, she didn't think the sisters from a small area would be impressive. Surprisingly, they were extremely excellent. The older one was stunning, and the younger one was a more exquisite, unrivaled beauty. Being too young was her only flaw.

Qin Yuru stepped forward and bowed to the Old Grandma. Taking a look at the two nannies, she made her decision. Taking two steps forward and holding the Old Grandma's hand, she shook it lovingly. "Grandma, I want this nanny!"

The one she meant was that smiling, kind-looking nanny.

"Why Nanny Huang?" To some extent, it was the Duke Yong's Mansion that made the thing done. Done for Qin Yuru's good, it was natural for her to select. But instantly choosing the smiling nanny still made the Old Grandma a little surprised. So, she asked.

"Grandma, I've heard that Nanny Huang taught well in the past. She was a little severe, but her teaching worked quite well. I've just arrived in the capital city and have no idea about many rules. Previously due to my ignorance, I made myself ridiculed. So, I want to choose a more severe teacher this time."

Qin Yuru's words sounded quite reasonable. With a shallow smile on her face, she looked like an easy-going lady who knew herself, and she should be a rule-abiding miss.

Nanny Huang was also extremely satisfied, nodding inwardly. In fact, she liked the second miss of the Qin's Mansion at the beginning. The girl was beautiful but young, but she would be an unrivaled beauty when she grew up. In addition, it was easier to teach a younger student.

But since the first miss was also such a rule-abiding, sensible lady, it was not bad to teach her, either.

"Grandma..." Qin Wanru tugged at the Old Grandma's sleeve with her hand, looked up at her, and also looked at Nanny Huang.

"Second sister, don't embarrass our grandma. You act like a spoiled child to make our grandma speechless. But Nanny Huang was specially chosen for me by our auntie. Second sister, don't beg anymore." Qin Yuru said smilingly, sounding like a joke, but if Qin Wanru begged again, it was proof she tried to take the person her sister wanted.

She said it was Countess Yong's choice because she didn't believe their grandma would stubbornly give the person to Qin Wanru! In addition, it was Countess Yong who specially made turns and twists to choose the person for her.

Nanny Huang was also somewhat famous in the capital city's etiquette teaching circle. She could teach her well, and Qian Yuru could also use her previous relations to enter the noble ladies' circle of the capital city. How could Qian Yuru allow Qian Wanru to take this good opportunity?

For Qian Yuru, she felt the other nanny bore bad luck. "A maid lost the favor of the emperor's concubine and was asked to leave the palace. How come she knows rules so well? Besides, even if she knows, I must try to avoid her. A guilty maid coming out of the palace always carries bad luck. If the nobles in the palace think of her someday, the one she teaches will not be appreciated or is even likely to bear anger.

"No doubt, Nanny Zheng was specially sent to Qian Wanru to disgust her!"

"Zhuozhuo, you learn from Nanny Zheng!"

Chapter 175 She Frightened Nanny Zheng

"Yes, grandma!" Qian Wanru said softly. She obediently walked up to Nanny Zheng. Facing Nanny Zheng, Qian Wanru swung her arms to one side to salute.

She showed no trace of unpleasant after hearing Qian Yuru's words just now.

Involuntarily, Nanny Huang's eyes landed on Qian Wanru. Eyeing her from head to toe, she looked a little bit surprised.

Seeing Qian Wanru's salute, the poker-faced Nanny Zheng finally expressed some emotions in her eyes. Qian Wanru's salute was extremely standard, which was better than the salute Qian Yuru made just now. Qian Wanru seemed to have learned the etiquette in the Imperial Palace because she bent her knees to the perfect point.

Bending too little, she would appear arrogant; bending too much, she would look too humble.

"Second Miss Qian?" Nanny Zheng finally broke her silence with a little hoarse voice.

"Nanny Zheng!" Qian Wanru smiled and called softly. There was softness in her watery eyes. Nanny Zheng could see that Qian Wanru really liked her, which made her feel a little less depressed. "This child not only looks gorgeous but also knows how to behave properly. She may be a person who understands the rules. Since I was released from the Imperial Palace, I have never expected that I would encounter such a lady who has never looked down on me when others are running hurriedly away from me. It is truly surprising."

"Second Miss Qian, I hope you can forgive me if I make any mistake later when I teach you!" Nanny Zheng was visibly moved a bit. Her expression softened, and the corners of her lips even curled up into a gentle smile.

Now she thought that it might be a good thing for her to go out of the Imperial Palace!

Seeing that both Qian Yuru and Qian Wanru were somewhat satisfied, Madam Dowager breathed a sigh of relief. Then, she let them go back to their courtyards with their etiquette instructors.

When they returned to the courtyard, Qian Wanru asked Nanny Yu to arrange accommodation for Nanny Zheng and invited Nanny Zheng into her room. After entering the room, they greeted each other once

again. Then, Nanny Zheng's eyes fell on Qin Wanru, and she frowned a little. "May I ask how old are you, Miss?"

"I have already reached 11!" replied Qin Wanru. And she took the initiative to poured Nanny Zheng a cup of tea.

"But why do you look so young?" Nanny Zheng did not expect that Qin Wanru was already 11 years old, so she looked a little surprised. Most of the eleven-year-old girls had already grown taller, and their figures should basically look like those of the young ladies already. However, Qin Wanru still looked like a little girl.

"I will grow up in the future!" Qin Wanru said with confidence. When she grew up in her last life, she was not shorter than other women. It was just that she grew more slowly than others, so she appeared a little smaller than girls at her age when she was young.

"In the future? Second Miss, you are not a child anymore according to your age. After the New Year, your nominal age will be 12, which is precisely the best age that girls in the capital looking for partners in marriage. If you still look like this, that's not going to work!"

Nanny Zheng said bluntly.

Her words embarrassed Qin Wanru, who flushed, and her pink face became all red. "I suppose that she shouldn't have said these words right in front of me."

"Second Miss, you don't have to feel embarrassed. Marriage is what the girls have to do when they grow up. I have several prescriptions that you can use to nurse your body. It will not do you any harm. You only need to take medicated baths with the medicine in those prescriptions!" Since Nanny Zheng's heart had settled down here, she certainly would consider Qin Wanru with concentrated attention.

Qin Wanru had a perfect face. Nanny Zheng was accustomed to seeing those beauties in the Imperial Palace. But ever she had to admire such a good-looking face. But even so, Qin Wanru still looked too little. Few people would admire her beauty for the first time when they saw Second Miss. Most of them would feel that she was too young, just a little kid.

"Nanny Zheng, I don't need to take medicated baths. I'll let nature take the course. Big Sister's marriage has not yet been settled... I don't have to worry!" Qin Wanru looked up. Though her face was still red, she looked very calm as if the topic they were talking about were not the shyest topic of those unmarried daughters.

Upon witnessing her bearing, Nanny Zheng could not help casting a few more glances at her because this Second Miss before gave her a completely different feeling, giving her little girl's appearance.

If Nanny Zheng didn't see such a small person in front of her with her own eyes, she would almost think that this Second Miss before her was a Miss that was well educated by a great aristocratic family.

"This calm Second Miss can talk properly and is indifferent to her exceedingly beautiful appearance. How many girls can behave like that?"

Thinking of this, Nanny Zheng looked more dignified. For the first time, she began to treat this Second Miss in front of her as a grown-up.

“What do you mean, Second Miss?”

“I mean, I don’t have to be outstanding. I may as well go with the flow. There is no need to pursue achievements anxiously, or I will place myself in a disadvantageous position.” Qin Wanru smiled lightly and said meaningfully.

“Doesn’t Second Miss want a good marriage?” Nanny Zheng asked without knowing why.

“I don’t want to marry anyone.” It was actually the truest thought in Qin Wanru’s mind. In her last life, she died miserably in the end. As for her marriage, she delayed it again and again. Even though she finally married a nice guy Wen Xichi, who took good care of her, the marriage between them was a tragedy. She became a widow at last. And later, she was even driven out of the gate of the mansion of Wen’s family.

After considering all sorts of things she had experienced, Qin Wanru felt that it was better not to get married.

Of course, she would not say this at this time. It would only make others think that she was a little too weird. Therefore, she answered to make herself look more normal.

“I might as well go with the flow!” Qin Wanru smiled. Her long eyelashes fluttered, which covered all the emotions in her eyes. But if she could, she felt that she’d better not to get married.

“I hope that Shui Ruolan will give birth to a boy. Then, he will inherit everything and become the future of the General’s Mansion. And I can spend my remaining years till death in this mansion because of the boy, my brother.”

Nanny Zheng looked at Qin Wanru in front of her face with amazement. “It seems that this small child has experienced many vicissitudes of life and the fickleness of human friendships. To my surprise, she isn’t concerned about the things that these girls keep thinking about. Is it because she is too little to understand the marriage? Or is it because she understood it so that she doesn’t want the marriage?”

Looking at the smiling eyes in front of her, Nanny Zheng felt that this child must understand what the marriage meant, but she did not want to get married.

At first, Nanny Zheng lacked interest in everything because she was driven out of the Imperial Palace. But now, she was intrigued.

“Are you willing to stay in Qin’s Mansion and follow me?” All of a sudden, Qin Wanru smiled. In her eyes, it seemed that there was a burning flame jumping in her eyes.

“I am only an etiquette instructor. I will only teach you for some time. After that, I will go back!” Nanny Zheng replied. She did not understand the meaning of Qin Wanru.

“I am still young. If I want an etiquette instructor to teach me, then the instructor will spend at least a few years with me. You have just got out of the Imperial Palace, and you may not have the chance to go back there. Don’t you want to find a place that you can stay for a long time?”

The smile on Qin Wanru’s face was as warm as the spring breeze.

Her words reminded Nanny Zheng of her painful memories, so her face fell again. She remained silent. It was true that she wanted to go back. In Nanny Zheng's eyes, the Qin's Mansion was nothing but a stepping stone she used to spend her transition period. Moreover, Nanny Zheng believed that her master would find a way to get her back.

"Nanny Zheng, I heard that you are the person released from the Imperial Palace. You were also implicated because of some matters. I don't care who you served before. Now you wish that your previous master can get you back to the Imperial Palace after you have been driven out. However, it is not an easy thing for your master whoever she is, even if she was the empress. If she truly has the ability to get you back, she would not let you be driven out in the first place!"

Nanny Zheng was indeed a person Qin Wanru expected such that she would not let her go. At this time, when Qin Wanru looked at Nanny Zheng's face, she knew clearly what Nanny Zheng was expecting. Hence, Qin Wanru chose to break all her expectations and tell her the truth, leaving no space for manoeuvres.

"Second Miss, how did you know things in the Imperial Palace?" The face of Nanny Zheng became very ugly and gloomy. "I came to your mansion only as an etiquette instructor. As for other things, please be cautious with your words, Second Miss. Even if you are young, there are some things you cannot say!"

It seemed that Qin Wanru broke something in her heart, Nanny Zheng felt very unhappy in her heart!

"Do you think what I said is right, Nanny Zheng?" Qin Wanru smiled lightly and leaned back a little. She seemed not to behave herself decently. But her act matched very well with the situation. Somehow, Nanny Zheng did not think that she was rude to her.

"What do you want, Second Miss?" Nanny Zheng felt awful and uncomfortable as if something had hit her a thump on the heart. Something in her heart was as clear as the glass, but she just didn't want to break it. However, Qin Wanru broke the hope of Nanny Zheng straightforwardly at this time.

"I don't want anything. I think that I am short of a person like you by my side, so I want you to stay. What do you think?"

Seeing Nanny Zheng's angry face, Qin Wanru continued to say with full composure as if she did not see Nanny Zheng's stern look.

"Second Miss Qin said a moment ago that you have no ambitions, but now you tore the mask off your face yourself!" Nanny Zheng sneered, her delicate face flushed with rage. All at once, she stood up.

"I said that I'd like to go with the flow doesn't mean that I want to become a doormat. Or in your understanding, letting nature take its course is to give up everything, let myself being trampled upon at others' will, and give up my right to protect my most concerned people, right?" Qin Wanru said with a little sneer.

Her sneer looked so shallow that Nanny Zheng could barely see the smile that her lips curved into. Although she was smiling at this moment, Nanny Zheng felt ice-cold. Such a smile with deep darkness and chill, which somehow made Nanny Zheng creep all over.

Nanny Zheng was stunned. In shock, she stared at Qin Wanru, who was right in front of her. Nanny Zheng had imagined ten thousand kinds of Second Miss Qin's type, but none of them was the one that

she saw with her eyes now. Her sneer even reminded Nanny Zheng of the bloody things that she had experienced all year round when she was in the Imperial Palace.

It was impossible for an unmarried girl at such a young age to get in touch with such bloody things. However, this little girl before her who hadn't yet grown up seemed to know everything, and she could still keep a graceful and calm posture. Qin Wanru shook Nanny Zheng in the depth of her soul. Although no words could tell Nanny Zheng's weird feeling at this moment, it made her think of the situation she was in at the moment unconsciously.

"Didn't I give up everything and be driven out of the palace? Didn't I just let myself being trampled upon at others' will?" Nanny Zheng thought. Now others avoided her like the plague. Since Qin's Mansion had just moved to the capital, they were totally unfamiliar with the place and the people here. Otherwise, Nanny Zheng believed that they would not use her.

"Am I driven into a corner by the reality? All the things that I insist on and wait for are nothing but bubbles that I made by myself!"

"Nothing is left when Qin Wanru pricked those bubbles!"

Nanny Zheng thought that she should refuse the little girl in front of her because this little girl was too dangerous. Second Miss Qin was definitely not one of those normal unmarried Young Madams...

Chapter 176 Second Miss, Do You Dare to Accept Me?

However, Qin Wanru had a fatal attraction, which drew Nanny Zheng's attention and made her unable to say no. Nanny Zheng was, in reality, unwilling to take her defeat lying down!

"Nanny Zheng, if you stay, I promise you that if you want to leave in the future, I will set you free!" Qin Wanru smiled more brilliantly when she saw the changing expression of Nanny Zheng.

Qin Wanru knew that she might not have peaceful days in her future. Only when she got a more capable assistant could she have a more stable future. Nanny Yu was the one who fed Qin Wanru when she was a baby. She had been staying with Qin Wanru then. However, she could not provide the help that Qin Wanru needed now. Nanny Yu was short-sighted and had limitations in various aspects, so she could never be the best assistant. She was loyal but was lack of abilities. But Nanny Zheng before Qin Wanru was the best candidate.

In her last life, Qin Wanru had heard of a person of exceptional ability. But since this capable person was driven out of the Imperial Palace, she failed to become the aristocratic family's etiquette instructor in the end. Even so, she eventually managed to enter the mansion of an official who had just arrived in the capital. Later on, because of her teaching, a little known lady of this mansion in previous became a debutante of etiquette. Soon after that, the lady entered the circle of those aristocratic girls in the capital.

Qin Wanru heard that the previous ordinary lady got an excellent reputation later. Moreover, after this lady married the second son of a well-known aristocratic family, she finally got the real power of the family she married into, which greatly surprised everyone. The most important reason for her success was that she had a supporter who was from the Imperial Palace.

And the so-called supporter from the palace should be Nanny Zheng, who was her etiquette instructor at first and then moved into the aristocratic family's mansion with her!

A maid who was sent out of the palace as a punishment could be so capable. It made Qin Wanru appreciate her. And now that this person had come here, Qin Wanru would undoubtedly keep her.

"Second Miss, do you dare to accept me?"

"If you have the guts to stay, I will dare to accept you!"

"Second Miss, I will stay!" Nanny Zheng felt that such a small child was too astute, which should have frightened her. However, Nanny Zheng heard herself promise to stay without any hesitation.

After Nanny Zheng said that, she stood up, knelt to the ground, and made a few kowtows to Qin Wanru.

At this moment, Nanny Zheng was no longer the etiquette instructor of Qin Wanru, but a maid who should serve her.

"Please get up, Nanny Zheng!" After Qin Wanru received her kowtows, she stood up and reached out to help Nanny Zheng to get up. Yujie also gave her a hand aside.

"My honorable Second Miss, I will sign the contract of selling myself a while later!" Looking at Qin Wanru, Nanny Zheng said. The hesitation in her eyes had vanished at this time. Since she was now a maid of Qin Wanru, she should sign such a contract. After being driven out of the palace, she was free. Nanny Zheng had been serving people over the past years in the palace, and she didn't know any relatives. Therefore, she didn't know where she could go.

"Now that I have determined to follow Qin Wanru, I should undoubtedly get the selling contract of myself ready. Just let everything in the past vanish like mist and smoke. Afterward, my master was Second Miss Qin, the lady before me."

"Nanny, you are still my etiquette instructor in the future!" Qin Wanru looked at her with appreciation and wanted to pull Nanny Zheng to take the seat beside her. "Nanny, you don't have to be too polite. Later on, if I make any mistakes, you should feel free to tell me. Also, please pay attention to taking care of other affairs!"

"Yes, I remembered, Second Miss!" Sensing the respect that Qin Wanru showed from the bottom of her heart, Nanny Zheng called her less formally. But Nanny Zheng did not sit down next to Qin Wanru. Instead, she went to stand behind her in a proper manner. Since she had decided to be Qin Wanru's maid, she should surely behave like one.

Nanny Zheng made the choice to be her maid, so Qin Wanru no longer stood on ceremony. She let Yujie take Nanny Zheng to write and sign the contract of selling herself. After that, Qin Wanru sent Yujie to inform Madam Dowager of this matter and report this matter to Shui Ruolan. As for the contract, Qin Wanru kept it to herself and did not intend to give it to anyone else.

When Qin Wanru sent Yujie to Shui Ruolan's place to report, she especially asked Yujie to do a thing: let Qionghua send someone to inform her if anyone in Madam Di's place went out later.

If Madam Di knew such news, she would inevitably inquire into the matter about Nanny Zheng. How could Madam Di let such a good chance go!

Temporarily, Madam Di would not play tricks on Shui Ruolan and her baby, but it did not mean that she would not have ideas about other things. This time, Qin Wanru almost sent Madam Di the evidence that she could hold against her. Why wouldn't Madam Di take it?

Besides, Qin Wanru learned that a girl servant had stayed outside the gate for a few days. It must be hard for Di Yan to stay in the mansion these days!

Madam Dowager was very surprised that Nanny Zheng was willing to stay in Qin's Mansion. Among all the officials in the capital, the owner of Qin's Mansion hadn't even got an actual official post. Therefore, Qin's Mansion was quite small and extremely unstable compared with other mansions. Madam Dowager did not know what Nanny Zheng was thinking about such that she actually chose to stay.

However, Madam Dowager still was happy to see that such a person from the Imperial Palace was willing to stay in the mansion and teach Qin Wanru as her maid. Hence, she immediately sent Nanny Duan to reward Nanny Zheng and tell her to take good care of Qin Wanru.

Qin Wanru was still very young such that it was indeed a good thing for her to have an etiquette instructor accompany her for a long time.

Etiquette instructors like Nanny Zheng, who came to teach young madams in all the families, would not stay long in each mansion. These instructors would leave when the young madams had almost grasped all the etiquette that they needed to learn.

Of course, a few of them would stay in these mansions for a much longer time. But except for Nanny Zheng, there was no other etiquette instructor who would be willing to sell herself and become a maid. Therefore, the matter about Nanny Zheng was rare. When Qin Yuru heard the news, she was startled at first and then fell about laughing.

"Qin Wanru actually keeps such an unlucky maid from the palace beside her. She is not afraid that the people in the palace will blame her for keeping Nanny Zheng sometime in the future. What a stupid and bold girl!" Qin Wanru thought in her mind.

Nanny Huang also heard the news, but she didn't laugh at Qin Wanru. She slightly closed her eyes and then opened them. Looking at Qin Yuru, who totally forgot herself at this time because of laughing, Nanny Huang just said lightly, "First Miss, no matter what happened, you should not have laughed like this. This is a breach of etiquette. You can only smile a little at most."

"Nanny Huang, I knew. It was just that I could hardly control myself for a while. Nanny Huang, since Nanny Zheng is willing to stay, you may as well stay too! The condition of my place is as good as my second sister's. And I can offer you better treatment than what Nanny Zheng has got!" Qin Yuru smiled with a little sarcasm.

"First Miss, you are joking!" Nanny Huang's face sank a little. She could not figure out why Nanny Zheng would do this and felt that the matter was weird somehow. However, Qin Yuru could not say those somewhat insulting words to her because of that!

Nanny Huang suddenly felt that she might have misjudged her. This First Miss was in fact did not know much about etiquette.

"Nanny Huang, don't be angry. I really think that this thing is quite amusing. Others cannot easily make a fool of my second sister because she has a quite sophisticated character. Has Nanny Zheng been cheated by her so that she was willing to be a maid of this mansion? She gave up her identity as an etiquette instructor and chose to be a maid. I really don't know what this Nanny Zheng is up to!"

Qin Yuru teased.

"First Miss, please be cautious with your words!" Nanny Huang felt that she really had misjudged her. "Although she is now in her own mansion, she should not have kept on speaking ill of her sister. Is First Miss really an educated and reasonable lady?"

"Okay, okay. I only invited you to be my etiquette instructor. I didn't ask you to blame me. You just got here, so I will let someone take you to have a rest. And I will go to see my mother!" Qin Yuru said very impatiently. "There are no outsiders here. Although etiquette instructors are not servants, they are just like servants when they entered the mansion to live and teach. Does she really plan to impose severe discipline on me?"

"First Miss, you'd better learn a rule first!" Nanny Huang said with a poker face. She stood in front of Qin Yuru and did not intend to let her go.

"What? Do you dare to stop me?" Qin Yuru was furious because she was not yet ready to be educated.

"If you want to drop out, then I will go back!" Nanny Huang took a step back and saluted Qin Yuru respectfully. After that, she straightened her back, turned around, and was about to leave.

Qin Yuru had never expected that Nanny Huang, who was always wearing a smiling face, could be so hard to get along with. Qin Yuru was stunned at first, but then she realized her current situation. Her face instantly became very ugly.

Qin Huaiyong and Madam Dowager decided to let Nanny Huang teach her. Therefore, she was not allowed to refuse!

Mei Xue, who was standing on her side, knew what Qin Yuru was thinking at this moment. So she hurriedly stretched out to pull Nanny Huang's hands and tried to ease the situation. "Nanny Huang, don't worry. First Miss wants to learn the etiquette, and also she respects you. But you see, you have just arrived here. So we should arrange a place for you to stay first. She will spend a lot of days with you later and will not stop learning until you are satisfied. But it seems that First Miss cannot learn today!"

"Nanny Huang, please go to see the place I arranged for you first. If there is any part that you are not dissatisfied with, just tell me. And I will let someone change it right away." Qin Yuru pulled her face, wearing only a faintly discernible smile. Anyone could see that she was not very happy.

At this time, Qin Yuru thought that her aunt must have given her the wrong person. "Why can Qin Wanru get such a docile etiquette instructor? And Nanny Zheng was even willing to sign the contract of selling herself and be Qin Wanru's maid without any hesitation. My instructor looks like an easy-going person. However, it is difficult to get along with her. She is an unpleasant person who doesn't know how to accommodate herself to circumstances."

"If I had known this, I would have picked Nanny Zheng."

Nanny Huang watched Qin Yuru's expression and secretly sighed in her heart. "It seems that things will not be going smoothly as I have expected if I am going to teach her later. Apparently, it is not easy to control this First Miss of Qin's Mansion. But since I have just arrived here, I cannot push her too hard."

After a careful consideration, Nanny Huang no longer tried to stop Qin Yuru. She stood up and left with Mei Xue to see the room that they had prepared for her.

"Who do you think you are? Do you consider yourself as my master?" Seeing Nanny Huang leave, Qin Yuru snorted coldly. Then she walked out of the door and went to Madam Di's Yulan Pavilion.

Madam Di's Yulan Pavilion was very quiet. This place had always been very quiet since that day when Qin Huaiyong nearly killed Madam Di. Of course, the servants here didn't know that Madam Di was nearly killed. They only felt that the atmosphere in this courtyard was awful recently. Hence, people in this courtyard dared not to talk more. They even whispered the orders, for fear of provoking Madam Di.

Madam Di let others beat the little girl servant to death. Now the blood on the ground was washed away, but people could not easily forget the bloody scene they saw.

Many people newly arrived here. In secret, they said that Madam Di was a ferocious person! Some people said that Madam Di was jealous and vicious. She made the trouble in the kitchen because she planned to kill Madam Shui's unborn baby. Madam Di could not have any baby, so she didn't allow others to give birth.

Of course, these rumors were secretly spread out. What was worse, these people even took these rumors out of the mansion without knowing it...

When Qin Yuru entered the house, the outhouse was very quiet. She could only hear the little noises inside. It seemed that Madam Di was talking with someone. However, Qin Yuru could not catch their words but could barely hear that her name was mentioned. Inclining her head, Qin Yuru listened carefully but still failed to hear their words. Therefore, she walked to the inner room.

When she lifted the door curtain and went into the room, Qin Yuru bumped into Madam Di and Nanny Zhou, the faces of whom looked a bit of panic...

Chapter 177 A Girl Servant from Other Mansion Came to Qin's Mansion

When Madam Di and Nanny Zhou saw that it was Qin Yuru who was coming in, they felt relieved.

"Mother, are these the new clothes made for me?" Qin Yuru did not take their reaction seriously. Her curious eyes landing on the several dresses in Madam Di's hands, she recognized that they were newly made, and the color of these dresses looked a little familiar to her. After taking a closer look, Qin Yuru found that she chose the cloth of these dresses. "Are these dresses mine?"

"They are yours." Madam Di nodded.

"Why didn't you send them to my place but my mother's place?" Qin Yuru said discontentedly.

"I asked Nanny Zhou to bring them here. The dresses have not yet completed." Madam Di put down these dresses in her hands and said, eyes flickering.

"Then why did you ask her to bring them here?" Qin Yuru asked, still puzzled.

"The cloth of these dresses looks good, but it is not outstanding. I have a few girl servants who are handy with the needle. I want them to embroider these dresses with some flowers to make them look better," Madam Di said.

"Thank you, mother!" Qin Yuru was overjoyed. She was a little dissatisfied when she picked those pieces of cloth to make dresses. If Madam Di helped to embroider some distinctive flowers on those dresses, she certainly felt happy. "What kinds of flowers you chose to be embroidered on them? Let me see."

With this, Qin Yuru walked up to them.

Madam Di and Nanny Zhou exchanged a glance. Then, Madam Di uttered a short cough. "But I am still picking the patterns of those flowers and haven't decided yet! I will show you after I make the final decision. I heard that etiquette instructors would come today. Why didn't you learn the rules with your etiquette instructor but came here?"

Upon hearing her question, Qin Yuru immediately remembered her purpose in coming. She settled down in the chair next to her and said with suppressed anger. "Mother, I don't like this Nanny Huang. She is a very troublesome person who intends to take full control of my moves. Well, Qin Wanru got a better one. I heard that her etiquette instructor was willing to sell herself to her and be her maid!"

"What?" Madam Di did not understand for the moment. She went blank and asked.

"She is the person from the Imperial Palace who my aunt said might bring some trouble. Now, she signed the contract of selling herself and became one of the maids of our mansion. I don't know what she was thinking about that such a person like Qin Wanru could even catch her fancy!" The more Qin Yuru thought about this matter, the more uncomfortable she felt. She also wanted such an obedient etiquette instructor.

"Did she sign a contract of selling herself?" The eyes of Madam Di and Nanny Zhou got wide, and they gasped. They hadn't heard of such a thing for so many years.

In general, etiquette instructors might stay and teach in the mansions for a longer time. Some of them would even go to live in the mansions that the ladies they taught married into. But they hadn't heard that any etiquette instructor sold herself. Moreover, the etiquette instructor, who sold herself to Qin's Mansion, had just been driven out of the Imperial Palace.

In fact, every one of them only wanted to avoid such a person who was cast out from the palace. How dare Qin Wanru accept her as a maid?

"Yes, Nanny Zheng sold herself. I heard that my grandmother had filed this matter!" Qin Yuru twitched her mouth. "Grandma was not afraid of incriminating all the people in our mansion because of this person. For now, my father is still waiting to be given a position. If someone kicks up a rumpus over this matter, we will... get into trouble!"

Qin Yuru said that there would be trouble, but it seemed more likely that she was expecting a good show.

"Madam!" Nanny Zhou was pleasantly surprised.

Madam Di waved her hand to silence Nanny Zhou. Then, she looked toward Qin Yuru and said, "What about your Nanny? I heard that she is very lovable and also good at teaching etiquette. Some of the ladies she taught even managed to enter the Imperial Palace. She is a well-known etiquette instructor in the capital, so you should get along well with others. You must not offend her!"

Judging by the way Qin Yuru spoke just now, Madam Di felt somewhat uneasy.

"Mother, I see. I will listen to your words; besides, my aunt also... told me so!" Twisting her handkerchief, Qin Yuru bowed her head and flushed.

Countess Yong hinted that when Qin Yuru had learned the rules well, she could be engaged to her son.

Countess Yong finally managed to give her a definite message. How would Qin Yuru not feel happy about that? Therefore, without any resistance, Qin Yuru accepted an etiquette instructor to teach her. Beyond that, she listened to Countess Yong's advice and chose Nanny Huang, who was of great benefit to her.

"Then, that's good. If this is the case, you can no longer put on a show of bad temper. Your aunt prefers the girls who are meek and docile. You can never let any rumors against you reach her ears." Seeing that Qin Yuru had nothing against her etiquette instructor, Madam Di breathed a sigh of relief because she was afraid that Qin Yuru would do something out of control.

"Yes, mother. Then I will go back!" Thinking of Countess Yong's words, Qin Yuru felt that she could still bear Nanny Huang's control.

Qin Yuru thought that she could endure first. She had born suffering for many years in Jiangzhou. Why could she not endure an etiquette instructor at this point when her wish was going to come true?

In order to marry into Duke Yong's Mansion, she could endure anything!

After thinking it out, Qin Yuru went back.

"Madam, is this Nanny Zheng whom Countess Yong invited here this time was driven out of the Imperial Palace?" After Qin Yuru left, Nanny Zhou smacked her lips. That day when the person sent here by Countess Yong told this thing to Madam Di, she was at Madam Di's side and heard everything clearly.

"It is true that my sister-in-law said so. Nanny Zheng had been driven out of the Imperial Palace because of some mistakes she made. How dare the old woman accept such a woman?" Madam Di sneered with deep eyes. "Later, you go to Duke Yong's Mansion and ask my sister-in-law what mistakes Nanny Zheng has made and which noble madam she has offended?"

No noble madam in the palace could be offended, especially the noble madam who could cast a person who had offended her out of the Imperial Palace. When Qin Yuru told her that the etiquette instructor from the Imperial Palace entered Qin's Mansion, Madam Di instantly felt that it might be a good thing. Perhaps, she could find a way to deal with that b*tch and the b*tch's daughter on this matter.

Nanny Zhou had the same idea. "We do not know how to deal with Madam Shui and Second Miss. Isn't the newcomer Nanny Zheng naturally the person that we can hold against them?"

"Okay. I will go to ask Countess Yong about this thing a while later!" Nanny Zhou agreed and nodded.

"You can ask someone to embroider flowers of several patterns on these dresses. Then, let First Miss wear them on the days when she may come across the people from Duke Xing's Mansion. If the thing is true, then the matter is settling into shape. People from Duke Xing's Mansion will come to us, so we do not need to find them." After this thing was done, Madam Di began to talk about the matter that they were discussing in a low voice before and threw the few dresses in her hands to Nanny Zhou.

"Madam, in fact, I still have doubts about that." Nanny Zhou took the dresses but started to hesitate.

"Whether it is true or not, we should try it. When I was in Jiangzhou, I thought that if I found a servant who had worked in Duke Xing's Mansion, I could ask the servant questions and make everything clear. But I have never expected that the servant I found was a useless one." Madam Di snorted coldly. Actually, it was just her guess about this thing. She made the guess after mixing all kinds of these things that she had seen and could think of together.

In previous, she did not take this thing seriously!

But now she had to pay attention to it. One of the most important reasons was Qin Huaiyong's attitude. At that time, she just casually said the guess she made, which even she did not take seriously. But she had never expected that Qin Huaiyong took it seriously.

Then she thought that they might as well give it a shot!

"If this thing doesn't work, it will have little impact on our family. But if it works, I can get great benefits. Once my daughter gets the upper hand and amazes everyone with this single brilliant feat, it will certainly do good for me."

"Well, I'd better get the girl servant. If she can follow Yuru, it can be the sign of a positive outcome."

"Madam, I think it is a great coincidence. How could there be such a coincidence?" Nanny Zhou certainly knew what Madam Di was thinking. But she felt that she was too indulging in the wildest fantasy. How could they come across such a coincidence? However, when she pulled the causes and effects together, it appeared that the thing could be real.

"It doesn't matter whether it is a coincidence or not. For the time being, take this thing as a coincidence. Maybe it is true!" Upon hearing Nanny Zhou's doubts, Madam Di also hesitated. But she became steady again after thinking it over. "If such a good chance is true, we get a great fate, and the future identity of Yuru will be unbelievably honorable..."

Nanny Zhou should also report before leaving Qin's Mansion. Now Shui Ruolan was in charge, so she would know that Nanny Zhou left. Hence, Nanny Zhou followed the rule with great care and reported her whereabouts. After that, she went to the Chuihua Gate.

She made a simple explanation to the old maid who guarded the Chuihua Gate and walked out. Just when she took a few steps, Nanny Zhou suddenly spotted a girl servant avoiding her right in front of her. Because of her sharp eyes, Nanny Zhou immediately found that she was actually not the servant of Qin's mansion. Right away, Nanny Zhou stopped and turned to walk toward her.

The girl servant hid in the bushes. When Nanny Zhou walked over, she saw the maid curled up her body and squatted there. Only after casting a glance at her, Nanny Zhou knew that the maid there was trying

to evade her. The clothes on the maid looked like the clothes that those maids in Qin's mansion wore, but the patterns of the flowers on her clothes did not.

"Which mansion are you from? Why did you sneak into our mansion?" Nanny Zhou always helped Madam Di to take charge of the housekeeping, so she had a somewhat imposing manner. As soon as she was sure that there was something wrong with this servant, she immediately shouted out her questions in a sharp voice.

"I, I am looking for... someone." It had never occurred to the girl servant that Nanny Zhou had such a pair of sharp eyes. When Nanny Zhou found her, the servant instantly stood up in a panic.

"You... Which mansion are you from? Who are you looking for?" Nanny Zhou looked the girl servant up and down and asked coldly.

"She is in Qin's mansion and was nearly going into the inner court of Qin's mansion. How could this girl servant sneak in? Is it because the clothes on her are similar to the clothes the maids in Qin's mansion usually wear?"

"I am looking for someone," the girl servant answered in a timid manner.

"Who are you looking for?" Nanny Zhou became more and more suspicious.

"I am looking, looking for someone, but I don't know whether this person is in this mansion or not." The girl servant was much panicked and it seemed that she didn't dare to say it.

"Tell me. Who exactly are you? How did you get into the mansion? Why the people who guarded the gate let you in?" Nanny Zhou asked coldly. Once again, she felt certain that this girl servant was not from Qin's mansion.

"I, I am looking for someone!" The girl servant seemed to be really scared and kept stepping back. It seemed that she was going to run away. The words she uttered were only used to go through the motions. Nanny Zhou knew instantly that she did not want to tell the truth.

The reaction of this girl servant alerted Nanny Zhou, and so she noticed that the servant was going to escape. Therefore, she shouted at once, "Stand still. If you dare to run away today, I will consider you as a thief and send you to the government office. There is a distance from the place you are to the gate. So you can never escape. When I send you to the government office, you will humiliate not only yourself but also your master!"

Chapter 178 He Had Grabbed a Young Prostitute in the Brothel with Someone

The girl servant looked shocked and horrified. Her face went pale, and her whole person began shivering. However, she dared not to move her feet anymore!

"Tell me. Who are you looking for in our mansion?" Nanny Zhou snorted and said, "If it is not a big deal, we will not pursue this matter further!"

"I am looking for... the child!" The girl servant bowed her head and said hesitantly.

"The childe? Is it the childe of Duke Yong's Mansion?" Nanny Zhou went blank for a while and widened her eyes greatly. She stared steadily at the girl servant in front of her because the only childe now lived in Qin's Mansion was Di Yan, who lived here temporarily!

"Yes... I am looking for Childe Di!" The girl servant appeared even more timid with some panic.

"Who is your master in Duke Yong's Mansion? Why are you coming to look for Childe Di at this time?" Once again, Nanny Zhou eyed the girl servant from head to toe, and her face turned gloomy and cold. What was more, the clothes she wore did not seem to belong to Duke Yong's Mansion.

"I... My master is not a person of Duke Yong's Mansion!" The girl servant had no choice but to reveal Nanny Zhou something. However, she dared not to escape. Therefore, she had to explain in a panic. "My master is the elder female cousin of Childe Di. She is... She really has something to look for Childe Di!"

Judging by her appearance and panic performance, Nanny Zhou did not believe that she did not have things hidden from her. Moreover, the two words "female cousin" Nanny Zhou heard caught her special attention.

"Is your master the cousin of Childe Di? Which family does she come from?"

"My Miss is the niece of Countess Yong. She stayed at Countess Yong's place and chatted with Countess Yong to company her. But all of a sudden, Countess Yong felt quite uncomfortable. Thus, my Miss was panicked and sent me to look for Childe Di." The girl servant pinched a corner of her cloth and stuttered.

Nanny Zhou sneered. "There are so many people in Duke Yong's Mansion. Even if Countess Yong truly felt uncomfortable, why would she look for Childe Di in a hurry? If it was something big that happened on her, Countess Yong should look for Duke Yong instead of Childe Di. But if it was a little thing, her Miss did not need to send her to our mansion!"

Almost in an instant, Nanny Zhou was sure that something must be wrong with the servant's Miss.

"How did you manage to enter the mansion?"

"I, I said that I was the servant of Duke Yong's Mansion and came here to look for Childe Di for something." Since the girl servant had already told Nanny Zhou most of the things, she did not dare to hide anything from her anymore.

Di Yan had a special status in Qin's Mansion, so the people who guarded the gate certainly did not dare to stop the servant from his mansion.

In this way, the girl servant took advantage of the loophole and entered the mansion with ease.

"Is your Miss the niece of Countess Yong?" Nanny Zhou continued to ask.

"About this question, you can go to ask Childe Di!" The girl servant felt really panic at this time. After looking cautiously to the left and the right, she forced a smile. "Nanny, I have to go back to serve Countess Yong. So I will go back first!"

The girl servant was smart. At this time, she knew that the Nanny before her could never let her meet Di Yan. "I might as well find a solution next time. Since Childe Di went to live in Qin's Mansion, my Miss has

been haunted with fear, especially when she heard someone in Duke Yong's Mansion say that Childe Di was going to marry his younger female cousin in Qin's Mansion."

As a matter of fact, the girl servant had been waiting by the gate outside the mansion for a few days. She hoped that Di Yan would see her when he came out of the mansion. However, those people in the mansion went in and out from time to time, but none of them was Childe Di's servant. In the past, Childe Di did not look like a person who could stay in the mansion for such a long time. He went out of the mansion every day. But now, he became so well-behaved when he was in Qin's Mansion, which made her Miss more restless.

It indeed surprised the girl servant that she could come in today. Originally, she went round and round outside of the mansion in anxious. But then, she heard someone who walked by saying that servants from Duke Yong's Mansion usually came in and went out of Qin's Mansion. The person joked, "People from Duke Yong's Mansion take Qin's Mansion as their own mansion. Even the servants can come in and go out of Qin's Mansion as long as they say that they are from Duke Yong's Mansion to the people who guard the gate."

The person's words reminded the girl servant. Right after that, she got up the courage and came to the person who guarded the gate. She told them that she was the servant of Duke Yong's Mansion, who came to look for Childe Di because of something important. As she had expected, the servant at the gate let her in and even asked if she needed him to lead the way. After she said that she knew the way, the servant who guarded the gate let her in.

After entering the gate, she even lost her way. Fortunately, a girl servant walked by, so she went up to her and asked the way. The girl servant was warm-hearted. She came over and led her part of the way. And then, pointing to Chuihua Gate in the distance, she let her go through it.

At first, she thought that she would soon see Childe Di. But to her surprise, a sharp-sighted old maid popped up at the gate. Merely judging by the appearance of this maid, she knew that it would be much harder to cheat her than to cheat the girl servant. Therefore, she hurriedly turned around to avoid the maid. However, she didn't expect that the old maid had such a pair of sharp eyes that she immediately spotted her and threatened to send her to the government office later.

The girl servant did not want to look for Childe Di now. She only wanted to go back early.

"Do you want to go back to Duke Yong's Mansion now?" Nanny Zhou asked with a faint smile on her face. When the girl servant saw her expression, her heart jolted. Her intuition told her that something terrible was going to happen. But now, she could not deny it. Therefore, she said against her will, "Yes, I am going back now. I am afraid that Countess Yong and my Miss will feel anxious."

"What a coincidence! I will go there too! Then, let's go there together!" Nanny Zhou said with a brilliant smile.

"You..." The girl servant was stunned.

"Is there any problem? Are you a fake one? Well, if you are not telling the truth, I will send you to the government office!" Nanny Zhou's expression became sharp, and the smile on her face disappeared instantly.

"No... No, no. Of course, I told you the truth. Then, let's go back together!" The girl servant thought about it and agreed while biting her teeth. "It should be no difficulty for me to find an excuse to sneak away after we enter the mansion. The old maid before me doesn't know who I am, but the people in Duke Yong's Mansion will recognize me."

"Okay. Let's go!" Nanny Zhou narrowed her eyes. After throwing a glance at the girl servant, she said meaningfully!

After reaching an agreement, they walked outside together. Waiting until they went far, Qing Yue came out from behind a tree. She glanced at the two persons who walked away, and a smile appeared on her face. "It was indeed as my Miss had estimated. Nanny Zhou would never let the girl servant go once she saw her."

Qing Yue turned around and walked to Chuihua Gate. The old maid who guarded at the gate noticed that she carried a hamper, so she let Qing Yue go without any inquiries. A moment ago, she managed to get out of Chuihua Gate by saying that she was to send snacks to Qin Huaiyong.

When Qing Yue returned to Zhifang Pavilion, Qin Wanru was sitting in front of the window and talking with Nanny Zheng. Qin Wanru had already shown the etiquette to her. Nanny Zheng thought all Qin Wanru's behaviors were so standard that she almost no longer needed to teach her anything. But as for the rules and the aspects that should be paid attention to in the palace, Nanny Zheng still felt that she must tell those things in detail to Qin Wanru.

When they were going through the details, Qing Yue lifted the curtain and came in to report, "Miss, Nanny Zhou has gone with that girl servant!"

For this situation, Qin Wanru did not feel surprised. In her last life, this cousin and Di Yan had been entangling with each other. Later, the cousin even became Di Yan's mistress and lived with him outside the mansion. It did not know how Qin Yuru knew the existence of this cousin, and then Qin Yuru brought a bunch of people to beat her.

Miss Ning was so delicate and weak that she fainted on the spot!

This thing also provoked Di Yan and made him furious. And even Countess Yong chose to stand on the side of the cousin. For a time, rumors went all around, saying that Qin Yuru could easily get jealous and could not tolerate others. Afterward, people in the Duke Xing's Mansion helped to press this thing down, but this cousin was still allowed to marry into Duke Yong's Mansion as an Honored Concubine.

Moreover, she heard that although the cousin entered as a concubine, Duke Yong's Mansion promised that she could become the second wife after giving birth to a child. After all, this cousin narrowly became the first wife of Di Yan, but she failed at last. It seemed that the reason for this was related to Qin Yuru. That was also why Qin Yuru finally allowed her to become the second wife.

But after thinking this matter over, Qin Wanru thought that it was a little strange. Why Qin Yuru let Madam Ning marry into the mansion later on without crying or making any trouble? Moreover, she even helped Madam Ning to marry into the mansion on her own initiative. With Qin Yuru's character, she absolutely did not look like such a nice person! After all, perfect conditions also had been provided to Madam Ning.

After Madam Ning's marriage, it was said that Qin Yuru got along very well with Madam Ning. But Qin Wanru had never seen Madam Ning. It was not because that Madam Ning had never been to Qin's Mansion, but because Qin Wanru was living an almost secluding life at that time.

But it was so very strange that Madam Ning did not give birth to any child for Duke Yong's Mansion before Qin Wanru died! More coincidentally, Qin Yuru did not have any child either!

In conclusion, Qin Wanru inferred that this cousin should be a capable person. Otherwise, she could not be able to surprise everyone and successfully marry into Duke Yong's Mansion under such an inferior situation. Giving her status, Duke Yong's Mansion would never choose her!

She was nobody but a niece of Countess Yong!

"Where was Childe Di in the past few days?" Picking up the teacup at hand, Qin Wanru took a sip and landed her eyes on the slowly rising smoke on the teacup.

"Childe Di spent most of his time at Madam Di's place and took a small part of the time to see First Miss. But when he met Young Lady Qi occasionally, they would talk for some time in the garden!" Qing Yue thought about it and replied.

"Is Childe Di the childe of Duke Yong's Mansion?" Nanny Zheng opened her mouth and asked. Now she had sold herself, which showed that she would be loyal to Qin Wanru. At this time, when she heard they talk about Childe Di, Nanny Zheng immediately figured out that he must be related to Countess Yong.

Before Nanny Zheng came to Qin's Mansion, Nanny Huang repeatedly mentioned Mrs. Qin. She said that Mrs. Qin was the daughter of Duke Yong's Mansion. At that time, she married into Qin's Mansion and gave birth to a daughter, First Miss. But Madam Di did not give birth to Second Miss, who seemed to be merely taken the shelter under her. Therefore, before Nanny Zheng saw Qin Wanru, she only thought that Qin Wanru was just a poor daughter of a concubine who was brought up in the name of Madam Di's daughter.

But Nanny Zheng had never expected that the Second Miss she saw did not like a timid little girl at all! Moreover, Qin Wanru's words convinced Nanny Zheng later such that she was even willing to sign the contract of selling herself.

If someone told Nanny Zheng that she would sell herself before she came to Qin's Mansion, Nanny Zheng would only feel that the person must be crazy.

Since Nanny Zheng sincerely accepted Qin Wanru to be her master, she thought that she must say some words to Qin Wanru. Compared with Qin Wanru, who just arrived in the capital, Nanny Zheng knew many more things.

"He is Childe Di in Duke Yong's Mansion. According to the opinions of some important people in our mansion, Qin Yuru may marry him!" Qin Wanru nodded and told Nanny Zheng the truth.

"This Childe Di's reputation is not good. In the past, he also had grabbed a woman with someone. It seemed that this woman was a young prostitute in the brothel. Because of her, he got into a fierce struggle, and someone even informed against him in the royal court." Nanny Zheng thought for a while and found some things about this Childe Di from her memory. Although she was not in the palace, she

was a high-ranking maid of the Imperial Palace at that time. Thus, some words could naturally come to her ears.

"Did he grab a woman with someone?" Qin Wanru really did not know that there was such a thing, and she looked surprised. "With whom?"

"The person seemed to be the child of a family that was related to Duke Xing's Mansion, but the person was not the child of Duke Xing's Mansion. I did not remember who exactly he was. Anyway, he caused an uproar at that time, which humiliated not only Childe Di but also the people in Duke Yong's Mansion," Nanny Zheng said.

"A nephew of a family that was related to Duke Xing's Mansion. Was he surnamed Wang?" The long eyelashes of Qin Wanru fluttered like a fan, which covered the malicious and insidious emotion showed at the bottom of her eyes. Qin Wanru asked lightly. However, her hands that were holding the teacup clenched, and blue veins and bones stood out on the back of her hands!

Chapter 179 Duke Xing's Mansion Sent the Invitation Card Again.

"It seems to be the case, but I cannot remember it clearly. It is a very common family name. I heard that a nephew of Duke Xing was beaten half to death by Duke Xing, who was extremely furious, because of this incident. So was the eldest son Di of Duke Yong's Mansion! As for the young prostitute who brought on all this trouble, she was sold off to a very distant place!"

This event had become a joke in the palace. Both were flogged several times, and then the affair just ended quietly. However, because of this, Di Yan had become the representative of playboys in the capital city.

"Does Nanny Zheng know who is engaged to Lord Di?" Looking down, Qin Wanru asked, as her hand which was holding the cup, gradually relaxed. She gave a slightly scornful smile. She did not expect that Madam Di had decided for to marry her off to the playboy in her last life. How big the world was.

"I don't know much about this. However, it seems that because of this, the family whose daughter was supposed to be engaged to Lord Di, opposed this decision initially, but later they said everything was fine. I don't have all the details." Nanny Zheng was in the palace at that time. She knew about this event, as she heard a lot of talk about it.

Qin Wanru took a very deep breath. She tried her best to suppress the tumbling coldness in her heart. When she raised her head, she looked normal again. If she could not avoid this now, then there was no need to hide any more!

"Yujie, has the embroidery room finished making those new clothes?" Taking a deep breath, Qin Wanru turned to look at Yujie, and asked.

"No. The supervisor of the embroidery room said that it was their first time to make clothes for you masters. Therefore, they want to make sure they do it well. You might have to wait for some time, but you will be satisfied with their work!" Yujie answered quickly when she heard Qin Wanru's question, as she had just returned from the embroidery room.

"Did you see Young Lady Qi's servant there?" Qin Wanru raised her beautiful eyebrows.

“Yes, I especially circled the room to check. I saw Chun Yi, the servant girl of Young Lady Qi. When she saw me, she was very cordial and asked me why I was there. Then I answered her in the way that you taught me. Chun Yi specifically asked for the kind of pattern you wanted in the clothes. Then she left in a hurry!”

Thinking that Chun Yi had stopped her deliberately because she wanted to find out something from her, Yujie was speechless. Young Lady Qi’s facial expression almost showed what she was thinking about. She was a young Madam who was not married yet, and she had nothing to do with Lord Di. Was it really appropriate for her to send a servant to ask me about news of Lord Di?

However, it was what Yujie needed now. Today her purpose was to let Qi Rongzhi go to the embroidery room. She said that the skills of the workers in the embroidery room were beyond all praise. Moreover, she claimed that the style of clothing in Jiangzhou was nothing special, and people in capital city liked having a beautiful pattern at the corners of their dresses. This Young Lady Qi, who always wanted to be outstanding, would definitely be tempted to have a look.

Seeing that everything was in order, Qin Wanru did not say anything else. She allowed the two servant girls to listen to Nanny Zheng, who was going to talk about the rules and things to pay attention to.

Everything seemed to be calm in the following days, except for Madam Di, who seemed to be very busy. People sometimes saw Nanny Zhou commuting between Qin’s Mansion and Duke Yong’s Mansion. She even brought some old maids from Duke Yong’s Mansion and claimed that they were servants of Old Madam of Duke Yong, and they were here to look after Madam Di.

But Qin Wanru had nothing to do with all these things. Even though Madam Di was still causing trouble, Qin Wanru was not affected by it. It was not only because of Qin Huaiyong’s warning, but also because Madam Di was too busy to bother with Qin Wanru. Di Yan and Miss Ning had known each other for a very long time, and there was a romantic alliance between them. Ning’s Mansion had always believed that their daughter would marry into Duke Yong’s Mansion.

Although Qin Yuru had turned up suddenly, she could not be the princess she wanted to be!

When Qi Rongzhi came, Qin Wanru did not feel surprised. Qin Wanru invited her in, and had her servants make tea for her.

Qi Rongzhi came in with a big smile, seeming to be in a good mood now. She wore a new dress, which was very fashionable, and was styled in the popular pattern favored by those in the capital city. Her clothes were a gift from Qi Tianyu, when he arrived at Qin’s Mansion last time. During these days, Qi Rongzhi wore her new clothes, and tried to “accidentally meet” Di Yan in the garden. But no matter how many new clothes she had, she had worn each one at least once before now!

According to Qi Rongzhi’s character, she would definitely want more new clothes.

“Sister Wanru, about those clothes made by the embroidery room, did you design those embroidery patterns on your own?” As soon as Qi Rongzhi came in, she asked Qin Wanru directly and impolitely, “Could you give me some patterns? I want more new clothes, as I have no other clothes to wear when I go out. You know, a flower appreciating banquet will be held in the capital city, soon.”

"You already have so many clothes, right?" Qin Wanru answered unwillingly, and looked at Qi Rongzhi's dress.

"I have worn each dress at least once. When I wear one of them and go out, you would feel that it is inappropriate, not to mention my feelings." Qi Rongzhi took it for granted, when she said this. When she was in Jiangzhou, she liked having new clothes. Every time she saw a piece of beautiful cloth or pretty dress, she would buy it at once.

Therefore, she always wore a different dress each time she went out.

When she was in Jiangzhou, she had lived in this way. Now she wanted more new clothes because she wanted to look pretty in front of the man she liked.

"I, I like that pattern!" Qin Wanru hesitated.

"It doesn't matter to you! We could wear dresses which are of similar designs! It would be better!" Qi Rongzhi looked Qin Wanru's childlike body up and down, and said scornfully.

"When two girls wear similar dresses, people could tell clearly that which one is pretty and which is ugly. Compared to my body, Qin Wanru's little body is just a joke. At that time, people would think that Qin Wanru copied my pattern and made a similar dress. She is just a copy cat. People would all laugh at her."

Qi Rongzhi was quite confident about this, and that was why she wanted Qin Wanru to give her some patterns. As for whether Qin Wanru would be mocked, there was no need for her to care about it. Moreover, she would be pleased to see Qin Wanru being laughed at.

Compared to Qin Wanru, a little girl who looked like a sprout, people would think that Qi Rongzhi was very outstanding and beautiful.

"We are not sisters and there is no need to dress alike." Glancing at Qi Rongzhi, Qin Wanru answered soberly, seeming unwilling to do this.

"Now I am staying in your Qin's Mansion. So if I dress like you, then it would show that you are really taking good and sincere care of me. If my parents know, they will appreciate what you have done. Others would also think of people of Qin's Mansion as kind and warm people!" Qi Rongzhi was now was in a good mood, so she decided not to fuss about Qin Wanru. She also had decided to behave like a graceful and elegant woman, in front of Lord Di.

She also had to learn how to control her anger.

"Don't let them look exactly the same!" answered Qin Wanru impatiently.

"Fine, fine, fine. I will change a little bit. Then I will tell the embroidery room to stitch the pattern on my dress now!" Qi Rongzhi said, smiling. She thought that if someone had any questions about the patterns on their dresses, she would claim that Qin Wanru had seen her pattern, and then copied her design.

After she had achieved her goal, she felt that there was nothing more for her to talk to Qin Wanru about. Then she stood up and prepared to leave. However, after hearing Qin Wanru's following words, she sat down again.

“Yujie, has Lord Di been to our mansion these days?”

She did not see Di Yan these days and did not know what he was busy about. She tried to “accidentally meet” him, but failed. Although she was very confused, she knew that it was inappropriate to ask others for news of Di Yan. If Madam Di and Qin Yuru knew this, they would definitely create big problems.

It would be the best way for her to ask Qin Wanru for news of Di Yan!

When she sat down again, she took up the cup on the table and sipped, as she focused intently on the conversation between Qin Wanru and Yujie.

“Lady, I heard that something happened at Duke Yong’s Mansion. Not only Lord Di, but First Young Lady kept commuting to Duke Yong’s Mansion these days!” answered Yujie.

“What happened?” Qin Wanru asked casually.

Qi Rongzhi blinked and listened to the conversation more carefully. She lowered her head slightly, as she focused intently on what Qin Wanru and her servant were talking about.

“I don’t know much, but on that day, I, I overheard the conversation between Nanny Zhou and Meixue, First Young Lady’s servant. Nanny Zhou told her that...” When Yujie stopped here, she looked at Qi Rongzhi, seeming to be a bit unwilling to let her hear this. Then she brought her head close to Qin Wanru, and said in a low voice near her ear. She said it very softly. Even though Qi Rongzhi paid close attention and pricked up her ears, she could only hear a few words. However, she could make out the word, “woman”!

“Just leave it. It is about my elder sister and Madam Di. Just let it be!” Qin Wanru waved her hands and said casually. She then turned around, looked at Qi Rongzhi and asked, “Is there anything else, Lady Qi?”

It was a direct order for Qi Rongzhi to leave!

Knowing Qin Wanru would not tell her much, Qi Rongzhi sneered, stood up, looked at Qin Wanru in a condescending manner, and decided to leave.

When she walked out, she met Nanny Yu. Seeing the red invitation card in her hand, Qi Rongzhi thought that it was okay to take a seat again, and have a look. So she turned around sat down, and said directly, “Check the invitation card and to see which mansion sent this. Are they inviting us to a banquet? It seems that I have to chase the embroidery room to make my clothes quickly!”

Qin Wanru took no notice of her self-talk. When she picked up the invitation card, she was surprised. It was from Duke Xing’s Mansion. The Mansion had allowed Rui’an Great Elder Princess to send an invitation card to Qin Wanru. She gave it to Qin Huaiyong, and her father had refused the invitation.

“Where is this from?” Qin Wanru frowned and asked.

“Nanny Duan brought it here, with her people. They are still here!” Nanny Yu pointed out and answered in a low voice.

“Duke Xing’s Mansion has sent their people here?” Qin Wanru frowned again and did not understand why Duke Xing’s Mansion was so insistent.

"Duke Xing's Mansion's people are here? Well, that's great! Sister Wanru, let them come in quickly! It would be impolite to make our distinguished guests feel unwelcome! Chun Yi, you go and invite them to come in on behalf of Sister Wanru! Now!" When Qi Rongzhi heard Nanny Yu's answer, she was so excited that she even stood up. She felt very happy and made the decision for Qin Wanru.

"Yes, I will go now!" Hearing her lady's words, Chun Yi quickly walked outside, but Yujie stopped her at the door.

"Lady Qi, you are in Qin's Mansion now, not your mansion. If there is nothing else, please leave now!" Qin Wanru raised her head and said coldly. Her eyes were so fierce that Qi Rongzhi spontaneously avoided her gaze!

Chapter 180 To Get the Chance Cheekily

Qin Wanru just didn't understand that since she had no quarrel against Qi Rongzhi, why Qi Rongzhi would add fuel to the fire, give advice to Qin Yuru and happily see Qin Wanru falling into the despairing and painful hell! What kind of feeling Qi Rongzhi had at that time!

However, now she didn't want to figure it out. Someone was born to be evil. She could trample others except herself. She would treat these people she trampled as her stepping-stone. She would take it for granted when these people mired because of her.

Qin Wanru smiled slightly as her eyes looked sharper. She said, "Young Lady Qi, please leave now!"

Qi Rongzhi didn't expect that Qin Wanru would say so directly and refuse to save her face at this moment. Qi Rongzhi was so angry that her face turned white and her lips began to tremble. She said, "Qin Wanru, how, how dare you say to me like this?"

"Why not? Young Lady Qi, please realize where you are now and please realize that the land you are standing on belongs to our Qin's Mansion!" Qin Wanru sneered and answered lightly.

Qi Rongzhi almost lost her breath, and her mind. However, she bit her teeth and suppressed her anger when realizing that people from Duke Xing's Mansion were still standing outside.

"Qin Wanru. Don't make your words too absolute! You might have to beg me in the future!" Qi Rongzhi stamped her feet and said ferociously. Then she had to turn around and left.

However, when she got close to the door, she had hidden her fierce expression. As her servant girl lifted the curtain, everyone could only find Qi Rongzhi graceful and elegant. Qi Rongzhi raised her eyes and looked at Nanny Duan who stood on the porch. Then she walked towards her and called her in a very polite way, "Nanny Duan!"

"Lady Qi!" Nanny Duan hurriedly and politely responded.

"Why is Nanny Duan today free to visit my sister Wanru? How about Old Grandma? When I visited Old Grandma this morning, she didn't wake up!" Qi Rongzhi said with a bright smile. Those people who didn't know her would think she really respected their Old Grandma.

The truth that she visited Old Grandma this morning was that she did it several days before. She didn't meet Di Yan these days so she woke up very early and hoped she could come across Di Yan. Then she

especially extended morning greetings to Old Grandma. The reason was that a servant girl once told her that Qin Yuru and Di Yan once visited Old Grandma in the morning together.

However, she woke up so early that day that Old Grandma didn't get up. Then, Qi Rongzhi hurriedly came back and tried to "come across" Di Yan.

Nanny Duan didn't know the reason that Qi Rongzhi extended morning greeting to Old Grandma in the morning but when seeing Qi Rongzhi left hurriedly and absentmindedly, she knew her purpose was not Old Grandma. Visiting Old Grandma was only an excuse.

As she found that Qi Rongzhi said so, her eyes looked a little bit unpleasant. "Lady Qi, Old Grandma's body is fine. Old Grandma didn't get up when you tried to extend morning greeting to her several days before. She has always wanted to talk to Lady Qi these days but she doesn't expect that you never come!"

Nanny Duan answered smilingly and hid her displeasure behind her smile. She had been working for Old Grandma for many years and she had seen various kinds of people. She chuckled when hearing Qi Rongzhi's words which were contrary to her thought and then she meant it.

Her words froze Qi Rongzhi's smile! She meant that Qi Rongzhi had not come to visit Old Grandma for many days!

However, she reacted quickly. She smiled again and seemed that she did not understand Nanny Duan's meaning. She looked at an old maid beside Nanny Duan, chuckled and said, "Then I would go to visit Old Grandma and talk to her! Nanny Duan, this old maid is not from Qin's mansion, right? Have I seen her before?"

Then she looked the maid up and down, smilingly.

"This nanny is from Duke Xing's Mansion, who took this invitation card to our mansion. Old Grandma let me bring her here," answered Nanny Duan.

"Duke Xing's Mansion's banquet? Would Sister Wanru and Sister Yuru attend? That's great! When I arrived in the capital city, Old Grandma and Sister Yuru have treated me very well! Sister Yuru was going to take me out but I felt sick that time and now I recover!" As Qi Rongzhi's eyes flashed, she said with a bright smile.

Nanny Duan was speechless. How could this Lady Qi be so cheeky?! Her words seemed that they would treat her badly if they didn't take her to the banquet.

However, in front of people from Duke Xing's Mansion, Nanny Duan could not refuse but could pretend to smile and agreed, "Lady Qi is right!"

The nanny from Duke Xing's Mansion looked Qi Rongzhi up and down and answered smilingly, "It would be great for you to come!"

Qin's Mansion once refused their invitation and she didn't know whether they would attend this time when she sent this invitation card again. The nanny from Duke Xing's Mansion was confused and could not figure out what her master was thinking and why her master kept inviting this family. This family just

arrived in the capital city and their lord was only a government official. Considering Duke Xing's Mansion's position, they didn't have to compromise like this.

When she visited Old Grandma, Old Grandma kept saying that she now was in poor health and could not attend. Moreover, two madams in this mansion also felt bad and could not come. As for two ladies, Old Grandma said that she had to ask themselves. Since Duke Xing's Mansion mostly wanted the Second Lady Qin to attend so the Old Grandma let her servant bring her here.

Although the lady in front of her was not the Second Lady Qin, she felt that this lady had a close relationship with the Qin's Mansion. If she attended, two ladies of Qin's Mansion might come.

Thinking this, the nanny from Duke Xing's Mansion agreed smilingly.

Finding that the nanny from Duke Xing's Mansion agreed, Qi Rongzhi felt awesome and she looked better. She nodded in agreement and then walked out of the court with her servant girl. She paused for a little while at the entrance of this court. After seeing the nanny from Duke Xing's Mansion entering the room she then turned around and walked towards the embroidery room.

Now she had a new piece of cloth and she needed to quickly stitch Qin Wanru's design on her dress during the process of making clothes. She had to urge workers of the embroidery room to finish in that she wanted to stand out when she showed up in the capital city for the first time.

With Qin Wanru serving as a foil to her, being the outstanding one would be easy for her!

The nanny from Duke Xing's Mansion followed Nanny Yu and came into the room. When she got in, she saw a young lady sitting on the chair in the room. The lady was so beautiful and pretty that she seemed to be the woman who walked out of the painting. However, because she was very young, she still looked a little bit childish. When she grew up, she must be a drop-dead beauty.

She was just sitting there. Although she was a child, she looked very powerful. There were two servant girls standing on each side, silently. Just the first impression then made the nanny from Duke Xing's Mansion feel that she could not look down on this lady.

In the capital city, she had met different people. Gradually, she grasped the ability that seeing through a man and immediately telling what kind of people the man was. When seeing this lady, she knew she was the special one. Her look and her energy could definitely rank the first in her mind. Although she was a kid now, she had a bright future!

The nanny quickly understood why her master would keep inviting this lady to attend the banquet. Even though she refused, her master even let her come here to invite this lady.

Although she said nothing now, her powerful look overwhelmed the lady who just left.

Or there was no comparability at all!

"This is our Second Lady Qin!" Nanny Duan explained to her.

The nanny quickly stepped forward and bowed deeply to Qin Wanru. She behaved very respectfully and said, "It is my honor to see you, Second Lady Qin."

"You are?" Qin Wanru looked this nanny up and down and asked.

"The Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion ordered me to come. Hearing that you saved our Master Hao, our Old Madam really appreciates you so she wants to see you and thank you face to face. There is a banquet held in our mansion just in time so she thought the banquet is a good chance and then asked Rui'an Great Elder Princess to send you the invitation card. However, she didn't expect that General Qin would refuse. My Old Madam thinks that the banquet is held for daughters and ladies and moreover, there would be many ladies there. You now are a child and you might like this banquet. Then she sent me here!"

The nanny from Duke Xing's Mansion knew what to say and she behaved very respectfully. When she came in she just took one glance at Qin Wanru, then she never raised her head and acted in a respectful way.

"My father means that I am too young to go out in the capital city now," said Qin Wanru softly.

"Second Lady, if you prefer tranquility, you could visit my Old Madam and have a talk with her. Old Madam really wants to appreciate you and to know what Second Lady who saved Master Hao looks like. When knowing this lady is a child, she really wants to thank you!"

The nanny answered smartly. It seemed that she had prepared the words before as the words sounded exhilarating!

"But it would be inappropriate for me to come while Old Grandma and mother don't attend!" Qin Wanru refused calmly.

"Not only you, my Second Lady, but also First Lady and Lady Qi I just met. I heard that you just arrived in the capital city. It is also a chance for you to attend this banquet, talk to ladies in the capital city and make friends with them. You have to know some ladies in the capital city. You could not refuse to be with them because you don't know them!"

The nanny answered smilingly. She even used Qi Rongzhi. Although she didn't know the background of Qi Rongzhi, she thought that Qi Rongzhi had an especially close relationship with Qin's Mansion through her words and behavior. Therefore, she used Qi Rongzhi as an excuse.

"Well..." Qin Wanru hesitated.

"Lady, you have to attend! First Lady Qin has been in the capital city for a while and she must know many people. If she would like to take you there, she would definitely take good care of you!" Yujie persuaded her.

"Yes. Lady, you must attend. There is nothing special thing in the Qin's Mansion all day. You have to talk to ladies from different mansions. You might make friends with some of them and you could play with them in the future!" Qing Yue also persuaded. The nanny's words were very impressive.

Hearing her servant girls saying so, Qin Wanru seemed to sway. Thinking for a while, she pushed this topic back to the nanny and said, "Nanny, if you said my elder sister would be the leader, then please ask my sister whether she would like to go. If she agrees, then I would go. If not, then I am so sorry!"

Qin Wanru answered, seeming that she only listened to Qin Yuru.

“Then I might ask Nanny Duan to show me the way again, please.” When this nanny from Duke Xing’s Mansion came, she knew the Second Lady Qin might not agree. Otherwise they would not refuse the first invitation card. Now finding that Qin Wanru swayed, she smiled and talked to Nanny Duan. When she came here, she had heard from the mansion that the First Lady Qin was a reveler and she might agree to attend.

“Then thank you, Nanny Duan!” Qin Wanru turned around and said to Nanny Duan softly.

“Then I would take her to meet First Lady!” answered Nanny Duan. After she greeted Qin Wanru she walked out with the nanny.

Behind her, Qin Wanru’s eyes looked hauntingly cold. “Duke Xing’s Mansion now is in haste...”