

Medical Princess 181

Chapter 181 Why Would She Get Sick?

Then attending the banquet held by Duke Xing's Mansion had been settled. Because this time Duke Xing's Mansion not only sent the invitation card again but also let a nanny come to Qin's Mansion and invite them sincerely, Qin Huaiyong and Old Grandma had to agree.

Duke Xing's Mansion was not better than Duke Yong's Mansion now. Although the current Duke Xing had accomplished nothing, the last two Duke Xing were the emperor's important councilors.

Madam Di would not attend the banquet while Shui Ruolan would go in that she wasn't so obviously pregnant now. Qin Huaiyong and Old Grandma discussed and then decided to let Shui Ruolan take Qin Yuru and Qin Wanru to the banquet. By the way, they had to take Qi Rongzhi for she had met the nanny from Duke Xing's Mansion and even talked to her before.

This time was an official debut of two ladies of Qin's Mansion. Therefore, Old Grandma really paid attention to it. She even asked her servants to invite two nannies who taught manners and let them train two ladies intensively about the banquet manners. Although it was not for them to show up together in an outstanding way in their debut in the capital city, they had to behave themselves well and let others think that they had a close sisterhood.

Just like Qin Huaiyong, Old Grandma now was also disappointed at Qin Yuru. However, she was the natural daughter of Qin Huaiyong so they could not just let her go but train her well.

Old Grandma was very satisfied with Nanny Huang who would teach Qin Yuru. After talking to two ladies, Old Grandma even allowed them not to extend greetings to her during these days but let them acquire good manners in their own court.

Finding that Qin Yuru and Qin Wanru now were acquiring manners from their etiquette teaching nannies, Qi Rongzhi also wanted an etiquette teaching nanny. Then she told Old Grandma that she wanted to learn with Qin Yuru and hoped that Nanny Huang could also teach her while teaching Qin Yuru. If it was not convenient, she could learn by herself beside by watching.

Since she said so, Old Grandma could not let her stand aside so she asked her servant to bring Qi Rongzhi to Qin Yuru's court and let Nanny Huang teach them together.

Several days passed quickly. Masters in Qin's Mansion got up very early, including Old Grandma. Seeing her two grandchildren dress well, she smiled and was satisfied with their dresses which showed their close sisterhood.

Qin Yuru wore a light blue chiffon top and an eight-petal gradient light purple long dress with a beautiful belt circling her waist. She pinned her black hair up with an upturned hair clasp of which there were three strands of beads down at the end. The beads were glittering and translucent, making her face looked really pretty and charming.

Qi Rongzhi was in light yellow today. Her pleated dress was with finely scattering silver lace. There were pearls stitched at the bottom of her dress, which made her dress looked proper and beautiful. As the wind passing by, her hem was blown up slightly, which looked fantastically wonderful. Today she looked

very charming and mature. Although she now was only thirteen years old, she looked like a fifteen- or sixteen-year-old girl. Standing beside Qin Yuru, Qi Rongzhi was much like Qin Yuru's sister.

Qin Wanru's style was different from them. She wore a pale pink coat and a dress with the color gradually changed from pale pink to light white. She was not tall and looked small. She gathered her black hair up in two buns with two hair clasps on which there were two butterflies. With the two hair clasps in her black hair, she looked much more elegant and attractive.

Seeing they dress well, Old Grandma nodded with satisfaction and then told them what they should focus on. After that, she let Shui Ruolan take them leave.

"Are their embroidery patterns the same?" "Why do they look so familiar?" After they left, Old Grandma murmured confusedly.

"I also felt that but I didn't recognize them. However, although their embroidery patterns are similar, they still are different patterns. The embroidery room might design them according to three ladies' characters," answered Nanny Duan smilingly.

"It might be!" Old Grandma chuckled and thought it might be the most possible answer.

Their dresses were newly made. Qi Rongzhi's dress was even made by Qin's embroidery room. Therefore, it was possible that their dress looked similar. What was more, it looked better. They dressed in similar dresses, which would make other people think that Qin Wanru and Qin Yuru were in a close sisterhood and they also were on good terms with Qi Rongzhi.

Now there were some gossips about Madam Di and Qin Yuru which sounded bad. Nanny Duan had told Old Grandma privately for several times. Now they took this opportunity to show a close sisterhood in Qin's Mansion to the public and to show that they didn't fight against each other and weren't badly battered by each other.

There were two carriages prepared. Qin Wanru, of course, would take one carriage with Shui Ruolan while Qin Yuru and Qi Rongzhi took the latter one.

After they all got on the carriages, the carriages started to move slowly one by one. Then they left Qin's Mansion and drove towards Duke Xing's Mansion.

Duke Xing's Mansion was located in the real central part of the capital city, far away from Qin's Mansion. Although the houses of Qin's Mansion which were left by their ancestors were also good, they were located in the periphery of the capital city. During their journey, they had passed through several busy streets.

Qin Wanru asked Yujie to drop the screen window and then looked out the windows earnestly.

"Wanru!" Shui Ruolan watched Qin Wanru. It seemed that she wished to speak but stopped on a second thought.

"Mother?" Qin Wanru turned around and asked with a bright smile.

"Don't run about in the Duke Xing's Mansion then!" said Shui Ruolan softly. Duke Xing's Mansion sent the invitation card again and again, which made her anxious. They were not a very important family but Duke Xing's Mansion took them very seriously.

"Mother, I am fine but you have to be careful in case someone would rush to you!" Qin Wanru knew what Shui Ruolan was worrying about and she said smilingly.

This time, Qin Wanru especially asked Old Grandma to let two strong old maids be with Shui Ruolan in case of any accident.

"I know. I would go nowhere at that time but talk to those madams in the room." Before coming, Shui Ruolan had thought clearly about what she should do next. She was to take Qin Yuru and her sister to here to accomplish their debut, showing that there was a madam of Qin's Mansion being with them. Otherwise, it would be impolite for two girls to attend the banquet for the first time.

"Mother, if someone asks about Madam Di, how would you answer?" asked Qin Wanru smilingly. She was sure that there must be someone would ask this question so she wanted to let Shui Ruolan prepare in advance.

Hearing this question, Shui Ruolan said nothing. Thinking for a while, she said, "Madam Di is sick!"

"Why?" Qin Wanru smiled and continued to asked.

"Being unaccustomed to the climate here!" Shui Ruolan laughed.

Hearing her answer, Qin Wanru also could not help laughing. They couldn't tell others about Madam Di's injury. Otherwise, should they tell the public that Madam Di had a fight with Qin Huaiyong but ended in her injury or should they tell the public that Madam Di was poured the hot potion not only on her hand but also her face?

Although this excuse was very funny, Madam Di was the truly funniest one. Even if people of Duke Yong's Mansion attended the banquet, they would not argue.

"Mother, if they want to ask about you, then how would you answer?" Qin Wanru asked as she reached out and held Shui Ruolan's hand.

Shui Ruolan had a marriage before and then became a widow. These stories would not be a secret in that Madam Di would definitely tell the public about these things.

"They would not ask about that in my presence, would they?" As Shui Ruolan's smile disappeared, she hesitated.

"Mother, I think the answer is yes." Qin Wanru looked at Shui Ruolan seriously. There were always somethings that they could not escape and there must be someone pick this up and ask them about this embarrassing question. They could not deal with this by escaping. Qin Wanru didn't want to see Shui Ruolan being looked down upon when she tried to build a relationship with those madams from aristocrat families in the capital city.

Since Madam Di would not come this time, this would be the best chance!

Shui Ruolan set her eyes on Qin Wanru. Her expression on her little and attractive face became strained, which made Qin Wanru look like an adult. However, her white and soft skin and her red lips showed that she was only a child. However, this girl always worried about Shui Ruolan.

“Wanru, don’t worry. I would not care about that even though they would discuss these stories in front of me!” said Shui Ruolan softly. She was not stupid. She touched Qin Wanru’s hair on the temples gently and thought that at the very least, she was an adult anyway.

“Mother, let me be with you!” Qin Wanru quickly rolled her eyes and said with a pun.

“It doesn’t matter! You could enjoy the banquet then!” Shui Ruolan smiled powerlessly. “How would this girl be so worried? Now she is at an age at which she would like playing. It would restrain her nature when letting her be with me. Although I do worry about her, I could not confine her.”

“Mother, I would go nowhere to play. Just let my elder sister and lady Qi enjoy the banquet. They look much more like sisters than me.” Qin Wanru meant it. When they got on the carriage, Qin Yuru and Qi Rongzhi gave precedence to each other. Those who knew nothing about the truth would think they were sisters when seeing that scene.

“Then you follow me!” In fact, Shui Ruolan also felt anxious about Qin Wanru. Thus she thought for a while and agreed. She felt confused about the reason that Duke Xing’s Mansion kept sending the invitation card to Qin Wanru. She once talked to Old Grandma but as she was not sure whether it was a common practice in the capital city, she could not deduce the true meaning of Duke Xing’s Mansion at once.

If they did appreciate her, and did take this girl very seriously, they could just come to Qin’s Mansion and thank her directly. Why would they keep inviting Wanru and show their great appreciation?

Shui Ruolan felt in her bone that since Duke Xing’s Mansion sent the invitation card again and again, they would not let Wanru be silent but would make her the heroine of the banquet today. Looking at the little face in front of her, Shui Ruolan frowned. “She is only a child. Would it be appropriate for her to show up in an outstanding way in the banquet?”

“I have to plan step by step and I must take good care of this girl!” Shui Ruolan had made up her mind secretly!

Not until they arrived at the Duke Xing’s Mansion was the road blocked up. In front of their carriages, there were many other carriages moving slowly among the throng. It could obviously tell that there were many people who would attend Duke Xing’s Mansion’s banquet. According to this scene, it seemed that all aristocrat families in the capital city attended.

Duke Xing’s Mansion was as thriving as the one in Qin Wanru’s last life. Even though it didn’t belong to royal family, no other family could be comparable to it.

The carriage followed the front one and moved slowly. There were many carriages as far as the eyes could see. Qin Wanru put down the carriage curtain which was picked up a little bit and wanted to say something while suddenly she heard someone asking, “Does this carriage belong to Qin’s Mansion which just moved from Jiangzhou to the capital city?”

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“Yes!” The cart driver answered as he looked at the old maid who just asked them.

"You are from Qin's Mansion! Then please follow me. We would go that way for there are fewer people!" The old maid of Duke Xing's Mansion was so excited for she found them and pointed at a direction.

She had asked many cart drivers along the road but no one was from Qin's Mansion. Now since she found them, she would show them the way to Duke Xing's Mansion first because of the requirement of her mansion.

"Follow her!" Shui Ruolan said to the cart driver outside.

The cart driver quickly turned the horse's head and drove in a lane beside, where there was a side entrance. However, it was obvious that not everyone could use that door to get in the mansion. The traffic was very busy at the main entrance but here it was not. When seeing the two carriages driving towards the side entrance, those madams and ladies who had been waiting here for a long time looked at them and tried to figure out who they were.

Among them, some guessed the right answer while the others didn't.

Following the old maid's guidance, the two carriages entered the side door and stopped at a place after making several detours. Qionghua and Yujie lifted up the door curtain to let Shui Ruolan and Qin Wanru get off the carriage first. Then Qin Yuru and Qi Rongzhi also got off behind the first carriage.

The parking lot was very large and looked neat. There were tall trees around the parking lot in which there were only a few carriages.

When seeing those kinds of carriages, they knew that not every normal mansion could have those carriages. Everyone was huge and gorgeous. Qin's Mansion's carriages were good though, when stopping beside those ornate carriages, their carriages looked shabby and little.

Qin Wanru frowned. The traffic was so blocked at the main entrance and there were so many carriages. Now it seemed that they could not stop here!

"Madam Qin, Lady Qin, please follow me. Our madam has been waiting for you!" the old maid said with a bright smile, reached out and showed them the way.

"Your madam?" Shui Ruolan turned to look at her and asked.

"She is the Madam of Duke Xing. She has been waiting for a long time." The old maid smiled brightly and looked very kind.

Shui Ruolan looked at Qin Wanru and Qin Wanru nodded without saying anything. Then they followed the old maid and kept walking.

Qin Wanru's first impression of Duke Xing's Mansion was that this mansion was so huge and seemingly boundless with endless detours. However, some parts seemed to be different. The part of building they just walked through was dominated by tall trees. In the middle of it, there were flowers. Now they were walking through a part whose theme was Jiangnan's beautiful scenery with an exquisite bridge over a crystal-clear river.

Different architectural styles were used in one mansion, which showed the prosperity of Duke Xing's Mansion.

They then met more and more people. Most of them walked along the same path with no servant leading them. However, only people from Qin's Mansion walked along with an old maid leading. The old maid even talked to them in a low voice respectfully sometimes, seeming that she was introducing something. Then because of this, many madams and ladies they just met set their eyes on them.

They kept guessing who these people were and why Duke Xing's Mansion would treat them in such a respectful way.

Qin Yuru and Qi Rongzhi quite enjoyed being eye-catching. They followed Shui Ruolan and looked very elegant and graceful, which seemed that they were sisters!

With two sisters who were attractive and decent, more and more people set their eyes on them.

They then walked into a flower hall as being watched by those madams and ladies.

There were many people in the hall, laughing and talking. A madam in the middle of these people was Madam of Duke Xing. She wasn't very pretty but her behavior and her words made people feel comfortable. She treated others in a very kind way. It seemed that she was listening to you carefully whatever you were talking to her.

It was quite uneasy for her to do this because of her status.

She greeted her guests, listened carefully to people beside her and talked to them with a bright smile sometimes. Every time she would come to the point, making people think that Madam of Duke Xing was tactful. She not only handled things with skills and ease but also had a very good temper and character.

An old maid came to her quickly and whispered in her ears. Then she smiled much more brightly and even stood up excitedly. "Second Lady Qin is here! Bring her here quickly!"

She said softly.

Second Lady Qin? Several madams who sat beside her paused, not knowing who the Second Lady Qin was and why Madam of Duke Xing would become so excited.

"Who is Second Lady Qin?" A madam couldn't resist asking.

"No idea!", "I don't know!", "Me neither." ...

Everyone was guessing whether this Second Lady Qin was a famous lady from an aristocrat family in the capital city but they finally found out that there was no person in the capital city could match.

Madam of Duke Xing didn't talk to them but followed her old maid and walked towards them. Seeing Madam of Duke Xing greeting those people in person, all people were surprised. The crowd parted spontaneously to let her pass. Then they saw Shui Ruolan and her ladies who just walked in the hall. A sudden silence fell. Everyone was watching them.

They had become the center of attention when they just entered the hall. Qin Wanru frowned. "Does Duke Xing's Mansion plan to give publicity for us or for themselves?"

Comparing two thoughts, she believed the latter was the answer!

Now Madam of Duke Xing walked to them with several servant girls and old maids following her. The old maid who showed them the way introduced for them smilingly, "This is our Madam of Duke Xing! Madam, she is the Second Lady Qin!"

The old maid pointed at Qin Wanru.

Madam of Duke Xing looked at Qin Wanru with her kind eyes and warm smile. Then she turned to Shui Ruolan and said, "Madam Shui, I finally see you! Come here!"

She immediately called her "Madam Shui", showing that she had known Shui Ruolan's background.

Although Shui Ruolan had never seen this scene before, she now calmed down. She bowed deeply to Madam of Duke Xing and answered politely, "I sure appreciate you, madam!"

Madam of Duke Xing showed them the way zealously and took them to the very front of the hall. They knew that the nobler those madams were, the farther seats in the front they sat in. Shui Ruolan stopped after several steps and said, "Madam of Duke Xing, we could have a seat beside. It is not proper for us to go there!"

"It doesn't matter! If the Second Lady Qin didn't save my Hao'er, he would have had an accident! You know, it is I who took him to the Rui'an Great Elder Princess' Mansion. If something really happened to him, I would have had felt guilty." Madam of Duke Xing smiled much more kindly and brightly. When she looked at Qin Wanru, she looked very gratified.

"You overstate, madam. Wanru just passed by and helped him!" said Shui Ruolan softly. She looked neither humble nor pushy. She said very naturally. However, she didn't move.

The position of Qin's Mansion was not comparable to the position of Duke Xing's Mansion. Although Madam of Duke Xing acted very politely, if Shui Ruolan wasn't clever and even still followed her, then Shui Ruolan was stupid and didn't know her status.

"Second Lady Qin is so clever and kind. She is a good girl and looked really pretty. I like her very much! I would give you this as a present!" Finding out Shui Ruolan didn't move, Madam of Duke Xing didn't force her. She turned around and watched Qin Wanru carefully. She nodded and took a pair of bracelets out of her wrist. She walked towards her, picked up her hand and tried to help her wear the bracelets.

She just took them off her wrist. Not to mention how clear the bracelets were, they knew the bracelets were very valuable. According to her behavior that she took her bracelets off directly, everyone felt that Qin Wanru was so respectful.

Qin Wanru stepped backwards silently but her hand was held by Madam of Duke Xing so she could not go back. She raised her head and looked at Shui Ruolan, seeming that she felt awkward.

"Madam of Duke Xing, how could you do this? She is only a child and she could not receive these valuable presents like these!" Shui Ruolan hurried to stop her.

"Madam Shui, it doesn't matter. It is only a pair of bracelets! I really like this girl and I feel this is our destiny!" Madam of Duke Xing wore the bracelets on Qin Wanru's wrist. However, the bracelets were too big and her hands were small. The bracelets shook and almost fell. Shui Ruolan saw this and was stunned. She quickly held Qin Wanru's hand.

“How generous Madam of Duke Xing is! Wanru appreciates you, madam!” Since Wanru wore the bracelets, it would be impolite to take it off again. Thus Shui Ruolan had to answer.

“Thank you Madam of Duke Xing!” Qin Wanru smiled, stepped forward and bowed to Madam of Duke Xing. Then she took the huge bracelets which almost fell off and gave them to Yujie, warning that she had to keep it carefully in a low voice.

She behaved very naturally. She acted like a lady of an aristocratic family and she was a little bit childish, which was accorded with her age.

Many people felt unpleasant when finding out that Madam of Duke Xing liked a lady they had never heard before. However, some of them chuckled when seeing Qin Wanru. However she acted decently and politely, she was a child.

Now some people who knew what happened in Rui’an Great Elder Princess’ Mansion had spread this story. Almost everyone in this hall knew it was Qin Wanru who saved the little devil of Duke Xing’s Mansion.

It was because of this! No wonder why Madam of Duke Xing would appreciate her!

However, Duke Xing’s Mansion’s arrangement was so perfect. They even let the little girl be so respectful.

“You’re welcome. How about having a look at the garden? There are many types of chrysanthemum and some of them are the valuable types which are given by the royal palace!” Madam of Duke Xing smiled. In the flower hall, most of the guests were madams and seldom ladies stayed because young ladies all went to the garden to appreciate the flowers.

Madam of Duke Xing said as she glanced at Qin Yuru and Qi Rongzhi. She even glanced at the bottom of their dresses. She laughed inwardly while her smile was still kind and gentle.

“Thank you, Madam of Duke Xing. However, I’d better have a seat. Yuru, Wanru and Lady Qi, how about you?” Shui Ruolan said in that she had been very tired when she was walking here. Now she didn’t want to move any more.

“Let me stay with you. Wanru and Sister Rongzhi could go!” As Qin Yuru thought it was a great chance to perform, she quickly behaved elegantly. It was Nanny Huang who taught her to say so but she didn’t want to be with Shui Ruolan here at all.

“Elder sister, you could go. I am tired now and I would stay with my mother for a while!” Qin Wanru pulled Shui Ruolan’s sleeve and said endearingly. She shook her sleeve and showed the embroidery pattern of bluegrass in front of Madam of Duke Xing.

Madam of Duke Xing stared at the pattern of bluegrass spontaneously...

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“Yuru, you and Miss Qi may go, Wanru doesn’t want to go. Let her stay with me!” Shui Ruolan smiled and said.

Qin Yuru heaved a deep sigh of relief, because she was really afraid that Shui Ruolan would make her stay. If so, that would be terrible. It was not easy to get such an opportunity to show off, and she could not afford to waste it.

She felt happy, but deliberately showed some unwillingness on her face. After a moment of hesitation, she said meekly, "Yes!"

Today, Qi Rongzhi's manners were quite faultless. Before leaving with Qin Yuru, she even made a special bow to Shui Ruolan, then walked out with Qin Yuru.

Both could be counted as outstanding beauties, had manners, were of the same height, and had their unique styles. So, they attracted the attention of those madams, who secretly asked about who they were exactly, and their engagement statuses.

Qin Wanru and Shui Ruolan sat on the seats that were allocated to them by an old maid. She sat beside Shui Ruolan, and Madam of Duke Xing went about her routine of entertaining some guests. She was afraid the two newcomers would be unfamiliar with the situation, so she specially arranged for the smart old maid to be their guide.

Seated at a distance, Countess Yong gave them a cold glance, an enigmatic smile on her face, as she chatted with several madams around her. Instantly, these madams turned to Shui Ruolan, with a little ridicule on their faces.

A remarried widow who still thinks she was someone important, and even making Madam of Duke Xing welcome her at the gate. She didn't know she did not deserve this kind of treatment.

All these madams thought themselves as highly born, and would not treat a remarried widow as one of their kind. Just now, Madam of Duke Xing treated her with high respect, but when they arrived, they did not receive such a grand welcome!

Their eyes that looked at Qin Wanru were filled with ridicule. "Did this girl beg to come along?"

Two girl servants came out with two big basins of fruits. Putting the basins down in front of Shui Ruolan respectfully, they said, "Madam Shui, our madam is concerned that you are not used to the capital's fruits. These are Jiangzhou's local products, but they might not be so fresh, due to their having been sent over by freight."

"Help me thank your madam!" Shui Ruolan said, but she had a frown on her face.

Qin Wanru remained silent, looking around at the crowd at Madam of Duke Xing, and a slightly cold smile appeared on her face. The madam showered them with undue respect time and again, in front of so many people. Her good intentions seemed not as sincere as it appeared to be!

She discovered that when Madam of Duke Xing saw the bluegrass pattern on several people's garments, her eyes narrowed slightly, although her smile did not change. Did this mean Madam of Duke Xing was familiar with this pattern? Or was she aware of the seal?

Today, she, Qin Yuru's, and Qi Rongzhi's embroidery patterns looked similar, but the most similar one was Qin Yuru's, then hers. Qi Rongzhi's had been changed slightly, and the least similar one was her pattern.

Generally speaking, the three patterns looked very much like the real one, but Qin Yuru's looked like the actual one, and her and Qi Rongzhi's looked like fakes.

Using the fakes as a comparison, the real one was no doubt extremely eminent. Blinking her watery eyes, she really expected to see something different today!

If the seal was really related to the Duke Xing's Mansion, an incident was bound to happen at today's banquet.

"Madam Shui, I've heard you are a remarried woman?" Madam of Duke Xing's repetitive show of respect finally annoyed several noble madams, especially those in Duke Yong's Mansion, who were closer. Now, a madam craned her head to look at Shui Ruolan, as she asked with a faint smile. The scorn on her lips could clearly be seen.

Since she was well prepared, Shui Ruolan nodded naturally, "Right!"

"Madam Shui, you are really lucky!" The madam covered her mouth with her handkerchief, speaking in a sarcastic tone. A remarried woman who thinks of herself as someone so important.

"My mother is really lucky and also kind-hearted!" Qin Wanru had long witnessed everything. Seeing several madams around them chatting in twos and threes, she raised her head and smiled. "If it was not because she had to look after me, she would have entered the nunnery!"

Since the topic was started, she wanted to say more.

Her words made the people around her, confused. They studied her several times, and one of them asked curiously, "What do you mean by 'look after you'? Didn't your father have other concubines?"

Earlier, they heard from the several madams around Countess Yong, saying that the Qin's Mansion was the one which Madam Di of the Duke Yong's Mansion, was wedded into.

"Right, my father also has Madam Di, but she has to look after my big sister, manage the affairs of the house, as well as the business of our shops. She could not spare the time to look after me. So, after a talk, my father and Madam asked my mother to enter the mansion to look after me."

Qin Wanru explained with a slight smile.

She only looked after her own daughter, not the other girl. She could not spare the time? These words were just an excuse, but everyone knew what they meant!

Did Madam Di allow this widow to join the mansion only because she was unwilling to look after another woman's child? But it did not seem to be the case. They had never come across such things, but they had heard about them. It was unreasonable to make one's husband marry one more wife, to solely look after the child that his concubine had given birth to.

She was also a wife, not a common concubine, so it would not be easy to deal with her. Who wanted to bring herself against such a powerful rival? Shui Ruolan was also exceptionally beautiful. So, everyone was confused, and some even sneaked a peek at Countess Yong's face.

There were still things that they were not aware of.

Countess Yong never thought Qin Wanru would speak out on such an occasion. Angered, she flushed, but knew this was not the time to say anything. That Shui Ruolan joined the family should not be discussed openly, without thinking about the end result. It was said that the witness was still missing. If this topic was discussed, it would not look good on her.

Initially, she only used Madam of Duke Xing's influence to persuade and secretly provoke these madams, making them, who always had a high opinion of themselves, stir up trouble out of anger, but she never thought the plot would hurt herself in the end.

Tilting her face to one side, she pretended she did not hear anything.

"Do you mean your mother didn't know your father beforehand?" another madam said sarcastically.

Shui Ruolan's expression changed slightly. When she was ready to answer, Qin Wanru stopped her.

"Sure, my father knew my mother!"

"If so, what was the proof that she was taking care of you? It could be that she wanted to join the mansion and said so!" The madam looked mean and sounded very harsh. Laughing sarcastically, she raised her chin to look at Shui Ruolan, with an air of obvious provocation.

"Madam, what do you mean?" Qin Wanru's watery eyes blinked and turned cold. She was but a child, but her demeanor quietened the murmurs near her.

"I don't mean anything, but I am curious. Second Miss, you are only a child and don't really understand! In this world, too many people use others. If we are not careful enough, we will become an excuse for others." The madam said dismissively, meaning Qin Wanru was fooled by Shui Ruolan, who had relations with Qin Huaiyong a long time ago, but used the reason of looking after her, as an excuse.

Countess Yong smiled, raised her eyebrows, and continued to pretend that she did not hear anything.

Far away, Madam of Duke Xing also smiled happily, chatting with another madam about some trivial household chores, as if she was not aware about the trivial gossip.

"This madam, if you don't believe it, go to Jiangzhou and make your enquiries. The whole of Jiangzhou knows it! Shouldn't all the Jiangzhou people be as as wise as you?" Qin Wanru said calmly, in a higher-pitched voice.

Countess Yong's face turned stiff, and her smile lessened. Her face looked like she could not take it any more.

Reprimanded, the madam blushed instantly. "Naive child, you don't know you've been deceived!"

"Madam, you think too much. It is admirable that you care so much for a child!" Shui Ruolan squeezed Qin Wanru's hand lightly, and raised her bright eyes to look at the unkind madam.

Apparently, she had been rude to Qian Wanru, but Shui Ruolan said it was because she cared for her. The unkind madam's face became redder, and she never thought the mother and her daughter could be so sharp tongued.

"What? Did something happen?" Madam of Duke Xing's gentle voice asked.

Madam of Duke Xing felt slightly anxious, and walked over. Seeing this, Qin Wanru's eyes glistened. The dispute had been so loud, but Madam of Duke Xing apparently did not hear it. She was putting on too much of an act.

"Nothing serious, everyone is joking!" one madam tried to mediate the dispute.

"Madam Shui, are you really all right?" Madam of Duke Xing looked at Shui Ruolan, asking her in a caring tone

"I am okay. A few madams had questions. If anyone is still curious, come straight to me. Wanru is still young and naive. If she said something wrong, madams, please forgive her!" Shui Ruolan stood up, bowed slightly to the surroundings, then sat down again.

"Good, good, Second Miss is such a cute child. How could anyone blame her?" Madam of Duke Xing smiled and said, with a relaxed air. The words she spoke sounded pleasant, and it seemed that she treated everyone the same, regardless of status.

Qin Wanru simply turned her eyes away from Madam of Duke Xing's face. Either in this life or in Qin's preexistence, Madam of Duke Xing appeared smooth and slick. Only when they were alone, did she show her disgusting manners.

Since Madam of Duke Xing spoke so, everyone had to listen to her and sat down again. But just as they sat down, they saw an old maid run toward them hurriedly and whisper in Madam of Duke Xing's ear. Then madam's teacup dropped to the floor. She screamed in a low voice, "What? Fighting again?"

Chapter 184 So-Called Pampering Or Killing With A Stick?

After saying this, Madam of Duke Xing also seemed to realize that she had said something improper, and snarled, "Why do you mean by fighting again? Master Hao just came home. Today, most of the visitors are women. Who is he brawling with this time? Did you see it clearly?"

"Madam, I saw it clearly. It is Master Hao!" The old maid who was sweating and agitated, approached Madam of Duke Xing, and whispered a few words in her ears.

Shocked, Madam of Duke Xing turned to Qin Wanru, who raised her head and blinked when she saw madam's shocked eyes. She lowered her head in confusion.

After getting over the initial shock, Madam of Duke Xing eventually already calmed down. Walking over to Shui Ruolan, she said, "Madam Shui, accompany me to take a look!"

Looking at her, she knew she had something to tell her. Shui Ruolan nodded and stood up.

"Madams, I have to retire to deal with something. I will return to keep you company in a while!" Madam of Duke Xing said courteously to all the madams.

"Madam, please go ahead!" everyone also said courteously.

"Madam Shui, please follow me!" Turning to Shui Ruolan, Madam of Duke Xing looked a little worried. After saying this, she left first, followed by Shui Ruolan, close at her heels.

The other madams found that something was wrong, and followed them out. The madam was followed by a large group of women, walked along the winding corridor.

On the road along the lesser parlor, there were bonsais of delicate and charming chrysanthemums, but no one had the mood to appreciate them at this time. They followed Madam of Duke Xing, who seemed quite anxious, and did not notice that many of the madams were following her.

When they arrived at the full moon-shaped entrance before their destination, they heard a loud noise coming from that direction. With a dramatic change in her expression, Madam of Duke Xing quickened her steps.

Not far from them, Qin Yuru was sitting on a stone stool at one side, looking wretched. The hem of her elegant dress was black, but it was unclear what had caused it. Obviously, she could not wear it any longer. Upon a closer examination, one could see that half of her sleeve had been ripped off.

Fortunately, those who were there today, were all female family members, and there were no men now. Otherwise, Qin Yuru's reputation would be ruined.

Shao Yuanhao was at the opposite side, and he looked equally wretched. He sat on the ground, and cried and flayed wildly. The two servants beside him, could not hold on to him.

Qi Rongzhi was standing a few steps away from Qin Yuru, looking a little worried too. But when she raised her chin slightly, Qin Wanru could see the smile on her face.

"What happened?" Madam of Duke Xing asked calmly.

"Master Hao refuses to get up and wants this miss to apologize to him. Otherwise, he won't get up at all!" An old maid said beside her, sweating in fear.

"Hao'er, what's wrong?" Madam of Duke Xing walked to Shao Yuanhao, who was still crying and flaying wildly. Squatting down, she asked gently.

"Aunt, Second Aunt, she ran into me, pushed me, and also poured ink on me. I hate her, ask her to apologize to me!" Seeing that his elderly family member was here, Shao Yuanhao behaved even more wildly, kicking the ground hard, and shouting, as his hand pointed at Qin Yuru.

"Okay...okay, okay, I see. Can you get up now?" Madam of Duke Xing seemed very kind and continuously coaxed this child tyrant. Many madams could not help frowning, and vowed that they would tell their kids not to play with this bully of a child, after they went home.

This rude and provocative behavior was really not acceptable.

In the crowd, Qin Wanru's watery eyes moved slightly, looking at the overly gentle face of Madam of Duke Xing. Even if he were her own child, she was putting on too much of an act!

Shao Yuanhao was still young, but an aristocratic family's children always attended school very early. There were many children at his age, who were well taught, but it seemed that he had not learned anything.

Thinking back on his mischievous gestures since the day they met for the first time, Qin Wanru felt more and more suspicious.

When he heard what Madam of Duke Xing said, Shao Yuanhao stood up with her support. Walking aggressively to Qin Yuru, he raised his head high and shouted, "Apologize to me, I am Master Hao of the Duke Xing's Mansion!"

Such behavior from a child was totally unacceptable. Qin Wanru really could not relate to this rude and tyrannical child in front of her. He seemed like a different Hao'er who looked after her so kindly, and was so much attached to her, before.

When so many people saw her in such a wretched state, Qin Yuru's eyes reddened. Plus getting a scolding from a little child, she cried immediately. Mei Xue reached out her hands and hugged her, her eyes reddening too. Whimpering, she said, "First Miss, please...please don't cry. If you cry, I will start crying too!"

The master and servant held each other and cried, but Shao Yuanhao stood arrogantly over them. If Shao was not such a small child, it would have looked like a drama of an evil Child illegally taking women, and would be quite unpleasant.

Many madams eyed Shao Yuanhao with increasingly dismissive looks. This was no doubt a useless playboy in the making. When he grew up, there would be one more flaneur in the capital city. Look! He was doing such a thing at such a young age, and obviously took it for granted. He was a total brat!

"Hao'er, be kind. Look at her, she is crying, forgive her!" Madam of Duke Xing walked over, gently stroking Shao Yuanhao's head, and smiled.

She did not even try to clarify the situation, to ask what was wrong or right, and did not even ask for details of the matter. According to the on-site situation, everyone thought Shao Yuanhao was wrong, and Qin Yuru and her maid had been wronged.

"Humph, since Second Aunt is interceding for you, I will forgive you this time, but if there is a next time, I won't be so kind!" Shao Yuanhao haughtily raised his little face.

"Hao'er, leave now! Let me deal with this matter!" Madam of Duke Xing said, and signaled to her two servants with her eyes, to carry out her order.

The two servants came over, each taking Shao Yuanhao's hands, and persuaded him to leave.

After he left, Madam of Duke Xing walked to Qin Yuru, and asked, "Was Miss Qin hurt? It is all due to my poor handling of his upbringing that made you suffer! I will visit your mansion to apologize someday!"

Qin Yuru bit her lips, pushed Mei Xue away, and still with reddened eyes, bowed to Madam of Duke Xing. She was of a younger generation, and her status was far lower than the madam's.

"Yuru, what on earth happened?" Shui Ruolan came over and asked.

"Just...just ran into!" Qin Yuru started crying again, and held the hem of her dress. That large patch of ink was the same as the one seen earlier.

"Just ran into, what is so bad about that?" Qin Wanru came over and held the hem of the dress soaked with ink. Looking around, she saw a small bucket lying on the ground, which still had some ink.

"What was Shao Yuanhao doing with such a large bucket of ink?"

“First Miss Qin, let me get someone to change your clothes. I am sorry about what had just happened, and I hope Madam Shui can forgive me. My apologies!” Madam of Duke Xing had an apologetic look on her face.

What happened was unexpected, but now Shui Ruolan could not blame Madam of Duke Xing, and she replied politely.

Madam of Duke Xing asked someone to help Qin Yuru to change her clothes, and Qin Wanru volunteered to follow them. Initially, Qi Rongzhi did not want to go, but when she found they were all going, she decided to accompany them.

The three of them walked after a girl servant of the Duke Xing’s Mansion, who made many turns, before leading them into a yard. After they stepped into a wing-room, she asked them to wait a while, and returned with a set of clothes.

When the set of clothes was taken out, both Qi Rongzhi and Qin Yuru were stunned, and their eyes shone.

The new set of clothes was very beautiful, much better than Qin Yuru’s, with pearls on the edges and golden woven threads. Its embroidery patterns looked exquisite and resplendent, and the light yarn felt delicate to the touch. After taking a look, Qin Yuru liked it, and could not help feeling quite happy.

“This is our First Miss’s yard, but she is not at home. Just now when we came, our madam asked me to bring you a set of First Miss’s clothes, for you to change to. The supervisor Nanny says First Miss hasn’t worn this set yet, and hopes that First Miss Qin will not mind!” the girl servant smiled and said.

Qi Rongzhi even wished she were the one who had suffered that time. This set of clothes was better than all the four or five sets of hers put together.

“Sister Yunru, did you bring extra clothes when you came here?” Qi Rongzhi felt the set several times, not wanting to put it down, and asked hopefully. She did not and hopefully Qin Yuru had not, too.

Misses of an aristocratic family would always bring an extra set of clothes, whenever they attended a banquet, in case of unexpected situations.

“Today, no!” Qin Yuru lowered her head and said.

“First Miss Qin, if you don’t mind, please put it on!” the girl servant smiled and said, as if she did not know what Qi Rongzhi and Qin Yuru really meant.

Qin Wanru gave a slight smile and went out, without giving any clear reasons. Yu Jie caught up with her, hurriedly.

When she saw them walking out, Qi Rongzhi also followed them out reluctantly, leaving Qin Yuru to change her clothes.

“What on earth happened? Why was Big Sister’s clothes smeared, but not yours?” Qin Wanru stopped and turned to Qi Rongzhi, who was walking after her.

"Qin Wanru, what do you mean? What do you mean by saying she got in trouble but not me?" Qi Rongzhi was angry when she heard these words, "She was blind, ran into his ink bucket and also pushed the little boy. How can I be blamed?"

"My Big Sister ran into that little boy?" Qin Wanru raised her eyebrows in disbelief. The look seemed to imply that Qi Rongzhi was lying.

Her attitude angered Qi Rongzhi even more. "Of course, it was Qin Yuru who ran into him. Do you think I was the one who pushed her? She ran into that child, and also pushed him away angrily. No wonder, the child wanted to punish her!"

"Why...why did you not say it just now?" Qin Wanru said in surprise.

"Who knows? Maybe that child has been making trouble, and the adults would not believe what he said. So, they did not want to ask. Just apologize first!" Qi Rongzhi pursed her lips.

Now, she only wanted to make it clear to Qin Wanru, but she did not notice that the girl servant of the Duke Xing's Mansion, was eyeing her coldly.

An old maid walked over from the entrance of the yard. Seeing so many people standing at the doorway, she was a little shocked. When the girl servant of Duke Xing's Mansion saw the old maid, she walked to her hurriedly, and they had a whispered conversation at the corner of the wall. As they talked, they looked at Qian Wanru and her partners!

Chapter 185 Shao Yuanhao Who Always Got into Troubles

After talking for a while, they then walked together.

"Second Lady Qin, the Old Madam feels really sorry when she knew Master Hao hit the First Lady Qin. She wants to invite First Lady Qin to her court to see if she got hurt badly in person!"

"It wasn't just Master Hao himself who caused this accident and moreover, my elder sister now is fine!" said Qin Wanru calmly.

"According to Old Madam, she still worries about your elder sister and it would be better for her to see in person whether First Lady Qin got hurt badly!" answered the old maid with a smile.

Qin Wanru frowned inconspicuously. Was this matter the same as the one happened in her previous life? The Old Madam of Duke Xing just met Qin Yuru and then favored her very much at the end. She even let Qin Yuru stay in Duke Xing's Mansion for a long time. Did Qin Yuru even postpone her wedding because of the Old Madam's favor towards her?

She felt that this event was more and more doubtful but she couldn't tell why!

It was quite incredible for this Old Madam in the Duke Xing's Mansion to be so kind to an outsider!

"Nobody wants my elder sister and Master Hao hit together. What's more, Master Hao didn't mean to do this and he also got hurt as well as my sister in the end. Although Old Madam invites my sister to her court to see if she got hurt since she cared about this accident out of courtesy, others would feel that it is Master Hao who hit sister deliberately!"

Qin Wanru said euphemistically. She would meet the Old Madam, but not now.

Hearing what she said, the old maid didn't know what should answer even if she had many other words wanted to say out. If she insisted on inviting First Lady Qin, it seemed that Duke Xing's Mansion was in the wrong since it looked like that Master Hao did cause this accident deliberately. However, nobody would like to let others know their children were naughty and bad. Even though he was a kid, he also needed to be respected.

Moreover, Rui'an Great Elder Princess would stand by Master Hao. She didn't like Duke Xing's Mansion at all. If she had anything on Duke Xing's Mansion, the thing would get complicated!

"Then I would go back to turn down Old Madam!"

"Thank you!" answered Qin Wanru lightly and then the old maid turned around and left reluctantly.

When opening up the door, she saw Qin Yuru wear gorgeously in front of everyone. That dress she wore was quite suitable for her, almost seeming that the dress was made for her.

A hint of envy showed up on Qi Rongzhi's face. Qin Yuru now was more outstanding and eye-catching than her since she changed her clothes.

Since Qin Yuru had changed her dress, then she needed to leave. When Qin Wanru walked a few steps, it seemed that something occurred to her. She stopped and asked the servant girl who was leading the way, "Where are those clothes my elder sister just took off?"

"Second Lady Qin, those clothes are quite dirty and I am not sure whether they are fit to wear. Do you still want them, Second Lady Qin?" The servant girl asked surprisingly.

"Second Sister, those clothes are too dirty to get clean again. Please throw them away! We don't want them!" Qin Yuru glared at Qin Wanru and cursed her as a mean girl in her mind. How she dared to ask for those dirty clothes to take back!

"They are just sprinkled with ink and you could still wear them!" Qin Wanru smiled slightly, seeming that she didn't know how embarrassing the words she said were.

Luckily, she seemed to be the youngest one here and therefore her words sounded a little bit childish. The servant girl of Duke Xing's Mansion only thought that this lady was from a small town and she was reluctant to throw those clothes away. This servant girl then raised her head to see Qin Yuru and waited for her decision.

"Throw them away!" said Qin Yuru, waving her hand.

"Is elder sister not going to give the dress you wear back to Duke Xing's Mansion?" Qin Wanru seemed to hesitate and then continued to say. Hearing her words, Qin Yuru flushed. She paused and said, "Well, well, I would return it, of course!"

In fact, she immediately thought that she didn't want to give it back in her mind but she couldn't say it out in public.

"Now you are going to return it and why don't you just ask Duke Xing's Mansion to wash your dress clean and then change them back? Moreover, is that really appropriate for us to leave your dirty clothes in Duke Xing's Mansion?" asked Qin Wanru confusedly.

Qin Yuru was so angry that she almost fainted. A hint of malice flashed upon her eyes while she pretended to smile and said to the servant girl, "Then I have to bother you to wash those clothes clean for me. It would be better for you to get them clean but if you fail, it doesn't matter! When my servant washes your lady's dress clean and gives it to you, I would ask her to bring my clothes back!"

"Yes, my lady!" answered the servant girl of Duke Xing's Mansion.

Then they started to walk forward again but they didn't expect that they would encounter Shao Yuanhao at the corner of the passage. Once seeing Qin Yuru, Shao Yuanhao burst out angrily and rushed over Qin Yuru. "Bad woman! You are a bad woman! You knocked over my ink bottle deliberately!"

"Master Hao! Calm down! Master Hao! Please calm down! If you keep leading troubles, we would be killed!" Two servants who followed Shao Yuanhao looked at each other and quickly tried to drag him when finding out it was not right.

Qin Yuru stepped backwards and looked at him alertly. Mei Xue and the servant girl of Duke Xing's Mansion stood out and protected her. It seemed that they encountered a horrible enemy. Only Qi Rongzhi curled her lip and stood aside, waiting for a good show!

"Hao'er!" Qin Wanru called him softly.

Shao Yuanhao suddenly stopped while he was struggling. He looked into the direction the voice came from with his big eyes, finding out that Qin Wanru was standing aside. He first paused and then became delightful. "Sister! Sister!"

If the servant had not caught him, he would have had run to her!

Qin Wanru walked to him slowly and stared at the two servants coldly. Then they quickly let him go. Shao Yuanhao hurriedly ran to her. Because he just moved drastically, he now sweated a lot.

"Why are you here, Hao'er?" asked Qin Wanru, smiling. Her eyes looked deep and dark, in which a hint of doubt emerged. According to Rui'an Great Elder Princess' words that day, Shao Yuanhao should have been in Rui'an Great Elder Princess' Mansion but why she always saw Shao Yuanhao again and again today and why he always caused troubles.

"My grandma let me come here! She said that there would be many people at this banquet in the mansion and she even said that you would come too! I miss you so much!" Shao Yuanhao who stood in front of Qin Wanru looked like a cute rabbit and he didn't seem to be the little angry devil anymore. He curled his lips and seemed that he felt wronged. He grabbed Qin Wanru's sleeve and shook. He said, "You are a liar. You said you would come for me but you don't!"

Looking at his grievance, Qin Wanru couldn't bear chuckling. She reached out and petted his head. "So are you coming back to Duke Xing's Mansion for me?"

"Of course! Otherwise, I would have been with my grandma! However, I just couldn't find you!" Shao Yuanhao felt more wronged.

“Does Rui’an Great Elder Princess let you come back alone?” Qin Wanru blinked her beautiful eyes and asked.

Qin Yuru was stunned and then her face got pale.

“Nanny Qu comes with me!” answered Shao Yuanhao. He held Qin Wanru and said to her ear, “Sister, we could write a very big Chinese character there! Very big! Come with me, sister! Let’s play together. It is very funny! We could not only write but paint!”

“Then where is Nanny Qu?” Qin Wanru moved a little bit following him and asked lightly.

“I have no idea but it seems that granny has something to talk to grandma so she let Nanny Qu go there. However, she doesn’t come back now. It seems that what they are talking about is really important. They might fear that Nanny Qu could not remember them all so they had a very long talk! There are two servants following me and they have been my servants before!”

Shao Yuanhao said as he smiled and held Qin Wanru, seeming that he was not a child.

Qin Wanru bit her lips slightly. Her long eyelashes fluttered, which seemed that they hid all doubts. Duke Xing’s Mansion was so doubtful and Shao Yuanhao was so naughty! Since he rushed over Qin Yuru and behaved like that in front of others and didn’t tell the truth clearly, everyone would definitely think it was Shao Yuanhao’s fault.

“Then why would you hit this sister?” An idea occurred to her and then Qin Wanru said as she pointed at Qin Yuru who looked a little bit pale.

“She is bad! She knocked me over deliberately! I was going to write something with the ink bottle in my hand! She saw me and hit me deliberately!” Finding out that Qin Wanru pointed at Qin Yuru, he suddenly became angry again and told her the truth, glaring at Qin Yuru.

“Why would she hit you deliberately? Didn’t you hit together because you didn’t see each other?” asked Qin Wanru, smiling like an angel.

“She did it deliberately! The passage is wide enough but why she would hit me! She is bad! I hate these guys most!” It seemed that Shao Yuanhao really hated Qin Yuru. Once someone mentioned Qin Yuru, he would get mad. He looked really cute and funny as his little face was puffed up.

“Sister, let’s go! It is difficult to talk to this child. Here is Duke Xing’s Mansion and it is none of your business!” Qin Yuru coughed slightly and warned her.

“You bad guy! Get out! Get out of my house!” Hearing Qin Yuru asked Qin Wanru to leave, he held Qin Wanru quickly, glared at Qin Yuru and tried to let her leave.

“Sister, you’d better walk with Lady Qi. I would play with him for a while!” Qin Wanru said as her eyes blinked.

“Second Lady Qin, let me do this. You are the guest and how could I let you play with my Master Hao? You could go with two ladies and I would play with Master Hao!”

The servant girl of Duke Xing’s Mansion answered with a smile.

"I don't want you but my sister!" Shao Yuanhao shook his body and was reluctant to let go of Qin Wanru.

"Master Hao, please let go of this lady. She is our guest today. Let's see the cricket you like, shall we?" A servant hurriedly came here and tried to take Shao Yuanhao's hand but he didn't do it and didn't even touch him finally because of Qin Wanru's cold eyes.

"Yeah, Master Hao, don't you remember you once say in the mansion that you want to have a look at the place where people sell crickets? Let's have a look at them, shall we?"

Another servant came quickly and tried to persuade him, crouching beside him.

Shao Yuanhao hesitated. He looked at Qin Wanru with his big eyes and then turned to look at his two servants. He could not give up anyone. How could he decide in that he wanted them all!

"Sister, would you take me to see the cricket?" For a moment, Shao Yuanhao hesitantly asked. It could tell that he really hoped she could go with him from his face.

Qin Wanru looked at those servants of Duke Xing's Mansion and felt more and more doubtful. These people obviously didn't want her to be with Shao Yuanhao!

They didn't want her to play with Shao Yuanhao but let Shao Yuanhao come here from Rui'an Great Elder Princess' Mansion with that excuse while the one who was sent by Rui'an Great Elder Princess to protect Shao Yuanhao was not here...

Chapter 186 Servants Who Allured Shao Yuanhao

"I want to play with Hao'er!" Qin Wanru's pretty eyes ranged over all people in front of her and she had made a decision. She smiled and said, "Since Hao'er looks for me specifically, I should play with him!"

"Second Sister, you are in Duke Xing's Mansion!" Qin Yuru scolded her with her face turning black.

"I could play with him in Rui'an Great Elder Princess' Mansion but why couldn't I do it now? Is it only because I am in Duke Xing's Mansion now?" Qin Wanru asked directly as she raised her head and looked into Qin Yuru's eyes with a half smile.

The servant girl of Duke Xing's Mansion was to persuade her but she was lost for words when hearing what Qin Wanru said. Although Duke Xing's Mansion was a prosperous aristocrat family, Rui'an Great Elder Princess' Mansion was much more respectful and honorable.

"Qin Wanru! What do you want? Here is Duke Xing's Mansion!" Qin Yuru walked towards Qin Wanru, lowered her voice and scolded her despite those people were still standing there. "Nobody could defend you if something bad really happens!"

"What would happen to me? Hit him again? You are older than us, sister, but how could you not know how to walk? Or do you worry about me that I don't know how to walk?"

Qin Wanru's smile was brighter while her eyes looked colder.

Qin Yuru's expression suddenly changed and her hand which tried to hold Qin Wanru's shook slightly. Although she calmed down quickly, Qin Wanru saw everything. "There must be something not clear in the accident that Shao Yuanhao hit Qin Yuru." Qin Wanru's eyes became sharp.

"What are you talking about? I just don't understand! Fine! Fine! If you insist on being with this little devil, then you go and I would not care about you!" Qin Yuru stepped back and shouted angrily. She turned around and talked to Qi Rongzhi, "Sister Rongzhi, let's leave here together since my second sister is unwilling to go with us!"

After talking to Qi Rongzhi, she turned around and left angrily.

Smiling, Qi Rongzhi looked at Qin Wanru and then Qin Yuru. She raised her eyebrow and then followed Qin Yuru and left.

The servant girl who was to lead the way suddenly didn't know whom she should follow when finding out these ladies separated into two parts. She looked at Qin Wanru and said with hesitation, "Second Lady Qin, I am only one person and I could not lead you while you are in the different direction."

"It is fine for me and just show my elder sister the way!" Qin Wanru smiled and answered. Then she looked at Shao Yuanhao and asked, "Hao'er, do you know the way in the mansion?"

Hearing Qin Wanru asking him, Shao Yuanhao immediately straightened and stuck out his little chest. He said as he looked like an adult, "Don't worry, sister. I know the way! I could take you out of here then!"

When hearing what Qin Wanru and Shao Yuanhao said, the servant girl looked at the two servants and then left reluctantly.

"Hao'er, you just said that you want to show me a place where we could write and where is it?" asked Qin Wanru smiling and she also changed the subject from crickets.

"Follow me! I would show you!" said Shao Yuanhao proudly.

"Master Hao, just let me take you to watch those crickets! The cricket is big and strong! It even split one cricket before!" A servant came to him and tried to stop him.

"Yes, yes! You like those crickets most, Master Hao, don't you?" The other servant quickly followed.

"I..." Shao Yuanhao was only a child. Therefore when hearing their suggestion, he hesitated again. He raised his head and showed his pretty face. Looking at Qin Wanru hesitantly, he asked, "Sister, do you like crickets?"

"I don't like them! I just want to see the place where we could write very big characters! I have never seen this kind of place before!" Qin Wanru glanced coldly at the two servants who tried to allure Shao Yuanhao to watch crickets. She smiled coldly and thought that it was obvious that those servants didn't want Shao Yuanhao to behave well and who would send them to serve Shao Yuanhao!

"Are they going to undermine him? Is it their purpose?"

She once had heard that it was Madam of Duke Xing who managed the whole Duke Xing's Mansion, completely. Everyone would praise her when talking about Madam of Duke Xing. Did she really not know anything about Shao Yuanhao's two servants?

This Madam of Duke Xing treated Shao Yuanhao so well that even better than her own children in front of others in public. She even apologized to Qin Yuru and hoped Qin Yuru could forgive him because of Shao Yuanhao. She even said that she would go to Qin's Mansion and apologize but she never asked about the details of the accident and never thought whether Shao Yuanhao did wrong.

She just made everything looked like that it was Shao Yuanhao's fault secretly. This Madam of Duke Xing was so scheming.

"Master Hao, I..." A servant looked at Qin Wanru and tried to talk again but Yujie stopped him and pushed him aside. "What? My lady says that she wants to play with Master Hao! You don't allowed them to play, do you?"

"No, but..." The other one hurried to explain when seeing thing went wrong.

"What? Rui'an Great Elder Princess asked me to play with Master Hao as much as I could in Rui'an Great Elder Princess' Mansion! Why couldn't I play with him here? Is it because there are too many rules in Duke Xing's Mansion or because you deliberately cause this series of things?"

Qin Wanru set her cold eyes on these two servants and asked severely with her eyebrows raising.

The two servants suddenly stunned. Although they had received an order that not letting Second Lady Qin stay with their master frequently, they couldn't handle this situation now. They looked at each other and flustered.

Qin Wanru didn't want to care about them and said to Shao Yuanhao, "Let's go and write big characters!"

"Okay, okay! Let's go there right now!" Although Shao Yuanhao didn't understand what Qin Wanru talked to his servant, when seeing Qin Wanru would like to go with him, he was delightful and quickly ran in front of them to lead the way.

Qin Wanru and Yujie followed him.

When seeing them leaving, one servant gave the other one a hint by blinking. The other one quickly knew his meaning and ran as fast as he could to report this situation. Then the servant followed them and shouted, "Master Hao, wait for me please! I couldn't catch up with you!"

When finding that there was someone chasing him, Shao Yuanhao was excited. He sped up and ran faster. He even ran to those artificial mountains and rocks and hid. After finding a place to hide, he then watched them secretly. When Qin Wanru got closer, he then jumped out and scared them.

The ground near those rocks and artificial mountain was bumpy. When Qin Wanru saw Shao Yuanhao fell down again, her face turned black. She stopped and waved to Shao Yuanhao. She said, "Hao'er, come here. I have something important to tell you!"

Shao Yuanhao was enjoying this game and then he ran to her, panting and blinking his big eyes. "Sister? What are you going to tell me?"

"Hao'er, do you always play with them like this?" Qin Wanru asked and pointed at the servant standing beside. Although the servant was young, he was about ten years old. Compared with him, Shao Yuanhao could not run steadily!

“Yes! It is fun!” Shao Yuanhao looked at Qin Wanru with his innocent and angel-like eyes which were so clear that people would feel soft when seeing them.

“So you always hit people and get hurt, right?” Qin Wanru asked softly.

“Yes. I seldom pay attention to the road. Look.” Shao Yuanhao reached out his right arm and looped up his sleeve. An obvious wound was on his little chubby arm, making his arm look horrible. Qin Wanru gasped and was shocked. How big the wound was!

“Was that because you fell down?” Qin Wanru reached out and touched his little chubby arm lightly and she frowned.

“Well, I was running and, and then I fell down accidentally. The road was covered with gravel and it did hurt! Sister, please huff! It would not hurt that much if you huff!”

Shao Yuanhao raised his little chubby arm higher and sought comfort.

Qin Wanru then huffed lightly to his arm. A very big smile quickly appeared on his face. The smile was so bright that she could not see his eyes but only his teeth! He was so lovely! “Sister, it doesn’t hurt anymore! Now I grow up and I seldom fall down!”

It meant that he always fell down when he was younger than now!

Nobody would care about those children whose parents had passed away. Even though Duke Xing’s Mansion was prosperous and looked really successful and perfect, nobody in this mansion would care about this little boy sincerely!

However, he was only a child so it was quite easy for those adults to lie to him and quite easy for them to mislead him!

He was the only son of the dead Heir of Duke Xing and the only grandchild of Rui’an Great Elder Princess. Thinking about these two points, Madam of Duke Xing would definitely notice and know what she should do!

Her light lips tightly closed. She reached out and helped him to put down his sleeve and said, “Hao’er, you could not run so obtrusively. It is not good to hit others and to hurt yourself. If you walk happily but suddenly somebody knocks you over, would you feel unhappy?”

Shao Yuanhao’s long eyelashes fluttered and he answered adorably, “Sister, you are talking about the accident that the bad guy hit me, right? She knocked me over and I felt angry. So I am also a bad guy if I do the same thing to others, right?”

“Yes. You are so lovely. So you have to walk carefully and could not run wild!” said Qin Wanru, smiling and she lightly pinched his chubby face.

“I would walk very very carefully! And I would not run anymore!” Shao Yuanhao did like Qin Wanru. Even though she pinched lightly his face, he didn’t get mad but answered with a bright smile.

The servant watched Qin Wanru shockingly and quickly lowered his head and dared not to say anything. Normally, when someone pinched Master Hao’s face, he would be quite lucky if Master Hao didn’t get

mad. Even if Old Madam wanted to do this, she had to ask Master Hao whether she could do this. He had never seen the scene that Master Hao still smiled after being pinched by others.

“Hao’er is a man now! You are so clever!” Qin Wanru praised him.

Hearing this, Shao Yuanhao felt prouder and stuck out his little chest and straightened, which made him look like a real man. He even shook his sleeve and looked calm. Seeing this, Yujie could not help laughing.

Then Shao Yuanhao kept talking along the road but he didn’t run wild anymore. He walked beside Qin Wanru docilely and went through a Moon Cave entrance with Qin Wanru. When Qin Wanru watched the content written densely on the wall in front of her, she was totally shocked...

Chapter 187 The Shadow in Front of the Screen Wall

The high screen wall just stood at the center of the yard and totally blocked the view of the buildings in it, filled with words of different sizes and different styles.

Qin Wanru could not help getting closer. She stared at the characters on the wall, which looked very powerful, showing that they were from a man whose wrist was brawny. However, the styles of these works were slightly different from each other. It seemed that the one who did them had started from the right side and went to the left, and those written words became more and more powerful and mature, and better. From these beautiful and vigorous characters, it could be seen that the one who wrote them was quite skilled in calligraphy.

The screen wall was used for practicing calligraphy. Qin Wanru had heard that some masters from aristocratic families would use one screen wall to do calligraphy in their court. However, she had never known that someone would use such a great wall to do this while this screen wall blocked the entrance! Ordinary people would not dare to do this or know who did this.

After staring at the screen wall, she started to watch those words, from which she could tell that the one who did this was very outstanding. As she looked at them, a figure flashed in her mind. It seemed that the man was writing something quickly and powerfully, leaving a tall and forceful view of his back while a thin figure was just walking over...

Suddenly, Qin Wanru had a splitting headache and stepped back. She closed her eyes and almost fell down as she felt faint. Yujie quickly held her as she saw her master almost fall down. She shouted hurriedly, “Lady! Lady!”

“Sister! What is going on?”

Qin Wanru supported her head and opened her eyes slowly. The sky was blue. It seemed that everything she saw was just her delusion. She slowly calmed down and stood up steadily by holding Yujie’s hand. Then she set her eyes on the screen wall again and only found there were some beautiful characters but no male figure or a thin figure!

“Is everything all right, lady?” Yujie asked as she found Qin Wanru’s face was pale. At that moment, she saw her lady’s pretty face change from pink to deadly pale. How could she calm down?

"I am fine!" answered Qin Wanru. With difficulty, she forced a smile and took a deep breath, trying to suppress the tumbling inexplicable sorrow.

"Sister, are you sure? Or do you need to take a rest here? You could use those rooms to have a rest except the middle one!"

Shao Yuanhao grasped the bottom of her clothes and spoke worriedly. He was totally freaking out when he saw Qin Wanru suddenly faint.

"Don't worry, Hao'er. I am fine now. But who, who did this?" asked Qin Wanru.

"It was my father. They were all written by him. I heard that my father did calligraphy at a very young age. Sometimes he would practice here. Those words on the wall were all written by him. Come and have a look, sister." Shao Yuanhao held Qin Wanru's hand and took her to see the back of this wall. The other side was also filled with characters except for one place on which there was nothing.

"Sister, look. They all say that this place was left by my father to let me do calligraphy here!" said Shao Yuanhao proudly.

So that meant that this was the place where the dead heir of Duke Xing lived!

"Hao'er's father was so great!" When she saw this little kid try to stand up straight in front of his father's works, Qin Wanru felt like crying. A kind of unspeakable sorrow burst out. Qin Wanru bit her lips and tried to suppress her feeling and she talked to Shao Yuanhao with a softer voice.

"So were you going to do calligraphy here with your ink bottle?"

"Yes," said Shao Yuanhao. While speaking, he particularly looked around and found no others were here and then he got closer and whispered in Qin Wanru's ear. "My grand-nanny doesn't allow me to come here. However, I insisted on it and she gave in. She only allows me to come here every couple of days and warns me not to move anything here. She told me that my father would get angry if I were to break them!"

"But why does she allow you to do calligraphy here this time?" asked Qin Wanru calmly. She didn't allow him to come here and obviously she would not allow him to do calligraphy. However, he came here with an ink bottle this time and it was obviously to practice calligraphy.

"It is them that told me I could write some words here secretly. They also told me that my father left this place to me. I am going to live in my grandmother's mansion so if I don't mark this place with some words, someone would take it away from me! It belongs to me! It is my father who left it to me! I will not let others take it away from me!"

Shao Yuanhao's face tightened and he clenched his fist, showing that he was the owner of this place and no one could take it away from him.

So this meant that it was the two servants who fooled him and let him go there and then let him encounter Qin Yuru and hit her! They caused this ridiculous accident!

Qin Wanru had known the whole thing clearly. But she still could not figure out the reason that Qin Yuru didn't want to let go of a kid while her position was lower than his, whom she should not offend.

She looked at Shao Yuanhao pitifully, patted his head lightly, and squatted down. She said, "Hao'er, you have to eat well, learn well, and write well. You will be able to write such beautiful words as well as your father did!"

Before he grew older enough and was capable of owning his belongings, he would be considered as a thorn in those people's flesh when he said these words!

Shao Yuanhao's eyes twinkled. He seemed to try to say something but he lowered his head when he thought of something else. He twitched and said, "But I still don't know how to write!"

"Why?" asked Qin Wanru surprisingly. Even if he didn't go to school, he should begin learning as other kids like him did.

"I have never learned before, I've just written some things casually," Shao Yuanhao answered lightly, seemingly feeling shy as his little face turned red and his body twitched.

"..."

So nobody taught him and he might only do some scribbled handwriting when he referred to doing calligraphy.

Now she could be sure that though Duke Xing's Mansion seemed to treat this kid well and everyone seemed to favor him very much, actually, they all tried to not allow this kid to learn well and grow into a good man.

People would only know that Duke Xing's Mansion raised a little devil who could not be taught well. They would never think that nobody had taught him, let alone taught him well.

She curled her lips and couldn't remember if she had met Shao Yuanhao in her last life and didn't know what he would become. However, given his situation today, these people would let him go astray if they still didn't teach him well.

"Hao'er, when you go back, you could tell your grandmother that it is time for you to learn writing. If you learn well, I could do calligraphy here with you and you could write down near your father's works to make him happy. Okay?" asked Qin Wanru softly.

Shao Yuanhao's grim face suddenly brightened and he laughed loudly. "Okay! Sister! I want to do calligraphy with you! I don't want to see that bad person and I will not allow her to write here!"

He now thought of Qin Yuru again.

"Good. If you could write well, I could come here and write together with you! You could compare your works with your father's. You might be better than him!" said Qin Wanru with a bright smile.

"Sister! Sister! I want to show you around here, my father's belongings might be there," said Shao Yuanhao when he pointed to behind them. Then they entered the yard.

"How do you know?" asked Qin Wanru curiously.

"I sneaked inside. I loosened the window secretly, so we could get inside through that place!" Shao Yuanhao lowered his voice as much as he could and glanced at his servant. His voice was so quiet that only Qin Wanru could hear him, which meant that only he knew about this!

"He would know!" Qin Wanru said, patting his head.

"Get him out of here and then we can get inside!" Shao Yuanhao pulled the bottom of her clothes when he hurried to show Qin Wanru the treasure he had discovered.

"Second Lady Qin!" Not until Qin Wanru answered, but Madam of Duke Xing suddenly showed up from the backside of the screen wall. She set her cold eyes on Qin Wanru. The smile she used to show in public vanished! With a throng behind her, she looked really powerful!

"Madam of Duke Xing!" Qin Wanru stepped forward calmly and bowed deeply to Madam of Duke Xing and then stood aside. Shao Yuanhao also ran here and called Madam of Duke Xing "Second Aunt" intimately.

"Hao'er, I just told you not to run about outside! But why are you so disobedient! You even bring our guest here. If your grandma finds out, she would get mad!"

Madam of Duke Xing gradually looked calmer when she spoke softly to Shao Yuanhao as she looked at the door, which was locked tightly.

It seemed that her words reminded Shao Yuanhao of something bad. His face turned pale but he still murmured and pouted, "But I want to let sister have a look."

"Now she has had a look around here, so there is nothing else interesting to see! Let's go back!" Madam of Duke Xing said more and more softly as her eyes were smiling.

"No. I want to show her the room inside," answered Shao Yuanhao anxiously with a twitch.

"Nanny Qu from Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion is looking for you. If you run around again, she would go crazy. Didn't Rui'an Great Elder Princess tell you to not run wildly and to listen to Nanny Qu before you go back to your mansion?" Madam of Duke Xing tried to persuade him.

"Yes, yes she told me that." Shao Yuanhao lowered his head shamefully. His grandma told him that she would feel sorrowful if he didn't keep her words in mind.

"Then let's get to Nanny Qu, shall we?" asked Madam of Duke Xing.

Shao Yuanhao wanted to leave but he still worried about Qin Wanru. He raised his head and looked at Qin Wanru. Then he wanted to change his mind and he shook his a little head again.

"Hao'er, go see Nanny Qu! I have something else to do. I will come and see you in Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion when I am free!" Qin Wanru comforted him.

"Really? You once said you would come but you didn't!" Shao Yuanhao pouted his pink lips and murmured.

"It is true this time! I will definitely come to see you when I am free!" Qin Wanru laughed.

"Then come and do a pinky swear!" Shao Yuanhao said and reached out his little chubby arm and held it in front of Qin Wanru.

Qin Wanru knew she could not refuse so she reached out her pinkie and completed the pinkie swear with Shao Yuanhao. "Now you can go back!"

"Sister! Remember to find me!" Shao Yuanhao followed those people while he kept turning his head back to look at Qin Wanru.

"Second Lady Qin, the banquet will begin soon. Let's walk and talk!" Madam of Duke Xing said kindly with a smile as she looked at Qin Wanru's smiling face.

"Madam of Duke Xing, you first!" Qin Wanru answered directly without changing her expression. However, her eyes gradually looked dark, seeming like she had thought of something.

Madam of Duke Xing left her honorable guests in the hall but came to find Qin Wanru and Shao Yuanhao! What was she worrying about...

Chapter 188 The Outcast, Qi Rongzhi.

"Second Lady Qin, Hao'er is still young. If he offends you, please forgive him. He still doesn't know how to behave properly. It is very inappropriate for him to take you here!" Madam of Duke Xing said calmly as she walked.

What she meant was that it was impolite for Qin Wanru to follow Shao Yuanhao here as Qin Wanru was older than Shao Yuanhao.

Was this why Madam of Duke Xing came here in a hurry?

She turned slightly and looked at the house behind her. It was a great court but its master had gone. Though the master has passed away, the style of the court remained the same, which showed that the mansion thought a great deal of its master.

"Yes, you are right. I didn't know people were forbidden from coming here," answered Qin Wanru lightly as a hint of doubt flashed in her eyes.

"It is a forbidden area in the mansion. People in this mansion can't even come in and out casually. Hao'er is still a brat and he sometimes sneaks in there." Madam of Duke Xing looked calmer and kinder. She looked at Qin Wanru and said, "You two might hit it off. I guess it might be that you saved him that day."

"You're exaggerating!" answered Qin Wanru calmly.

"Hao'er grew up in this mansion. He is the only child of the late heir here and everyone cares about him. Old Grandma spoils him as she loves him and is always afraid that he would be unhappy. Everyone humors him. However, nobody thought he'd be at risk when he went to the banquet because he is always safe in this mansion!" said Madam of Duke Xing sincerely.

Qin Wanru didn't answer her because she knew Madam of Duke Xing was just needing a listener now.

"Now Rui'an Great Elder Princess is going to take Hao'er away but I am afraid he won't be used to that place..." Madam of Duke Xing said and sighed. She turned her head sideways slightly and looked at Qin Wanru who was just a step behind. She asked, "I hear that Madam Shui is not your birth mother and you don't know who your birth mother is. Is that true?"

The topic changed so fast. Luckily, Qin Wanru was prepared. She lowered her head and hid her cold eyes. She answered, "I don't know who she is and my father doesn't tell me."

"Is she dead?" Madam of Duke Xing asked with pity in her eyes. "Poor child!"

Although her questions came abruptly, her subsequent words made people feel her kindness and mercy.

"I don't know!" Qin Wanru frowned and her eyes seemed to be filled with sorrow.

"So have you never seen your mother?" asked Madam of Duke Xing, her kindly eyes filled with concern.

Qin Wanru shook her head lightly and said in a low voice, "My father, mother and grandma love me very much!"

"What a poor but clever child!" Madam of Duke Xing sighed. She set her eyes on the embroidery pattern on her clothes. "The embroidery is quite beautiful. I notice you three from Qin's Mansion all have this embroidery pattern. May I ask who designed this bluegrass embroidery pattern?"

"I don't know. The embroidery room made them!" Qin Wanru shook her head again.

"All three were made in the embroidery room?" Madam of Duke Xing frowned and asked casually. She seemed to be really curious about this pattern.

"Yes. We just arrived at the capital city and Old Grandma asked them to make clothes for us. Lady Qi is now living in our mansion so she comes here too. However, about this bluegrass pattern..." When Qin Wanru said this, she hesitated. She looked like she thought of something but she decided against it.

"What about this bluegrass pattern?"

"I think I've seen this bluegrass pattern before." Qin Wanru lightly rubbed her head and for a while couldn't think of where she saw them before.

"Where?" Madam of Duke Xing looked calm but subconsciously, her voice became louder and her eyes looked darker.

"I don't know... I may have seen it before in Magistrate Qi's Mansion or in our mansion or somewhere in Jiangzhou." said Qin Wanru.

Jiangzhou! So it was Jiangzhou!

"Second Lady Qin, is there a glass enamel in your mansion?" Taking a deep breath and calming down, Madam of Duke Xing asked.

"I don't know... I may have seen it before in Magistrate Qi's Mansion or our mansion or somewhere in Jiangzhou," said Qin Wanru.

During their talk, several madams showed up from the front corner. When they saw Madam of Duke Xing and Qin Wanru walking by, they stopped and waited for them to pass them and then they began walking again, laughing and talking.

Qin Wanru was walking beside Madam of Duke Xing but gradually she slowed down to walk behind the crowd. As she watched Madam of Duke Xing smiling kindly in front, a shadow of gloom appeared in her eyes. She was now sure that Madam of Duke Xing knew about the bluegrass seal and that the seal belonged to her.

Could she be thinking that Qin Yuru used the seal to enter Duke Xing's Mansion, but she didn't know what it stood for?

Why did those in Duke Xing's mansion think so much of this seal?

Duke Xing's Mansion thought so highly of this seal that Madam of Duke Xing had come to dislike it!

However, she could not say that this seal belonged to her. Before knowing everything clearly, she had to take every step carefully and slowly. Every little mistake would drag her into a desperate abyss.

Madam of Duke Xing led them to the place where the banquet would be held. The banquet was held in the garden of Duke Xing's Mansion. There were soft and sheer curtains all over the garden. They were placed high to block the wind. The chrysanthemum garden was here. It was the season for flowers, and the place was an ocean of chrysanthemum.

Many people walked into this flower ocean and thought highly of this chrysanthemum appreciation banquet held by Duke Xing's Mansion. Now the whole capital city knew that Duke Xing's Mansion had a chrysanthemum garden that other mansions didn't. The chrysanthemum garden not only looked beautiful but also had different types of chrysanthemum, some of which were so rare they could not be seen outside Duke Xing's Mansion.

Qin Wanru stopped in front of the flowers. She looked at some scattered little flowers on the side of the flower bush. They were small and didn't look like chrysanthemums. They looked like some kind of wildflowers. But it was impossible for wildflowers to show up here.

She lifted her dress and squatted down. She studied those insignificant flowers carefully and felt that she had missed something important!

"Miss, they could be used as medicine!" Seeing Qin Wanru squat down, Yujie also squatted down and said in surprise after looking at the flowers for a while.

Hearing her words, Qin Wanru suddenly remembered that these flowers were a kind of medicine. She just thought about what kind of flowers they belonged to but she thought in the wrong direction.

"Refreshing! Good for people to keep in good health!" Qin Wanru touched the flowers and looked around. The garden was just like an ocean of flowers. Normal people could not grow these chrysanthemums well and let those medical plants survive!

Duke Xing's Mansion really did well to plant and grow those flowers!

"Second Sister, did you have fun?" Qin Yuru's voice suddenly reached Qin Wanru's ears. She raised her head and patted her hands. She stood up and looked behind her.

Not only Qin Yuru, but Countess Yong and some other madams and ladies were there. Qi Rongzhi stood at the very end looking pitiful, looking like an outcast.

"Good!" answered Qin Wanru calmly.

"What about Master Hao? Why didn't he come here and play with you?" Qin Yuru sneered. She didn't like Qin Wanru. Although she knew she could not cause trouble any more, she could not forgive Qin Wanru for what she did to her before.

She didn't believe Qin Wanru knew she did hit the kid deliberately!

"Hao'er went back. Have you even seen my mother?" asked Qin Wanru leisurely.

"I don't know where Madam Shui is!" answered Qin Yuru unhappily. She didn't want to be with Shui Ruolan. Who cares where Shui Ruolan was now?

"Mother is still not here! I will look for her!" Qin Wanru looked at the people around her and saw Shui Ruolan here. "Mother doesn't feel well today! She would not have had come today if it wasn't for us!"

Then she raised her eyebrows and looked at Qi Rongzhi who was walking towards her.

"Sister Wanru, I will help you look for her!" Qi Rongzhi finally got a chance to say something and she hurriedly said to Qin Wanru. They met people from Duke Yong's Mansion when they just left there. However, people from Duke Yong's Mansion only talked to Qin Yuru and didn't leave her any chance to talk! Thus, she felt quite depressed.

Qin Yuru didn't want to join them actually but she found out that both of them decided to look for Madam Shui, it would be inappropriate for her to refuse to help them. Thus, she gnashed her teeth and forced a smile and said, "Well, let's look for her together!"

They then asked the direction to the flower hall. They met Shui Ruolan on the way there. Then they returned together.

The arrangement of seats had been settled. The seat of Qin's Mansion was not too close to the front while not too far from the main table. The position was very appropriate. However, Countess Yong who sat at the next table kept watching her coldly. Coincidentally, they were in a face-to-face position. Thus, when Qin Wanru turned and looked at her, Countess Yong sneered and looked irritated.

Qin Wanru behaved naturally as though she didn't care. She even smiled at Countess Yong, which made the latter livid. She had always felt ashamed and dared not meet others because of what happened at Rui'an Great Elder Princess' Mansion, which was caused by Qin Wanru.

A servant girl walked to her and whispered in her ears. She looked at Qin Wanru calmly and then nodded and said something to the servant girl.

The servant girl left respectfully and then stood at the side of the garden. She said something to an old maid standing there. Then the old maid also looked at Qin Wanru before leaving quietly.

Nobody would notice a servant girl or an old maid at the crowded banquet, except Qin Wanru. She felt alert in her mind.

She saw clearly the way the old maid looked at her. Her eyes looked really dark.

The servant girl of Duke Xing's Mansion, the old maid of Duke Xing's Mansion and Countess Yong...

Chapter 189 Qin Wanru Is Hit by Fruits on Her Head

Qin Wanru sat close to Shui Ruolan at the table, and on the other side of her was Qin Yuru, next to whom was Qi Rongzhi.

Since they came from the same mansion, they would naturally sit together.

Qin Yuru did not want to talk to Qin Wanru, so she turned to Qi Rongzhi. Although she also hated Qi Rongzhi now, she disliked Qin Wanru more.

Since Qin Yuru did not talk to her, Qin Wanru would certainly not ask for a snub. Therefore, she also ignored Qin Yuru and talked to Shui Ruolan from time to time.

The dishes were prepared early, so they were served quickly now. All the girl servants served the dishes and left in an orderly manner.

These girl servants, holding dishes, passed behind Qin Wanru, stopped beside a Madam in front of Shui Ruolan, and put those dishes on the table.

The fruit was served at last. This was the time for the fruit harvest, so there were many fruits in the tray, among which there were several round fruits. Maybe because the fruit tray was too heavy or the girl servant was slim, the girl servant's hands shivered when she passed Qin Wanru, and a fruit fell and hit Qin Wanru's head before the fruit was put on the table.

Qin Wanru was hit on her head when she was talking to Shui Ruolan. Immediately, she cried in pain and touched her head.

"Miss, I. I'm so sorry!" As soon as the girl servant saw that the fruit had hit someone, she hurried to reach out one hand, seeming to want to massage Qin Wanru's head. However, she was holding the fruit tray in both hands. When she reached out one hand, the fruit tray became unstable immediately, and all the fruits fell towards Qin Wanru. But Yujie beside her quickly reached out one hand and gave the girl servant a fierce push.

So all the fruits changed their direction and fell towards Qin Yuru. Qin Wanru and Qi Rongzhi were also slightly influenced.

Qi Rongzhi jumped out in a hurry, reacting quickly. Only the corner of her skirt was slightly stained with water, and most of the fruits fell on Qin Yuru.

Shui Ruolan was shocked, and was about to get up. Seeing that, Qin Wanru had no time to care about herself. She immediately took Shui Ruolan's hands and comforted her, saying, "Mother, don't worry. Keep still!"

She looked at the several small round fruits on the ground, which were not very big. But if someone stepped on them, he or she could easily fall down.

"What are you doing!" Qin Yuru looked at the water on her new dress with anger. She wore this new dress for the first time today.

The girl servant who served fruits immediately knew that she had done something bad. She hurried to kneel down and cried out for mercy. "Misses, please forgive me! Please forgive me!"

Qin Yuru was so angry that her face turned livid. She suddenly stood up and seemed to want to reprimand the girl servant. Unexpectedly, she stepped on something round and slippery, so that she could not keep steady and rushed to Qin Wanru. Qin Wanru had been ready for it. She reached out and held her, saying in a low voice, "Big Sister, be careful. Mother can't be injured!"

Qin Yuru held Qin Wanru's hand firmly and stabilized herself. She opened her mouth and wanted to scold Qin Wanru, but when she saw the guests in the courtyard, she also knew that this was not the right time.

So she turned to the shuddering maid, who was still kneeling on the ground and begging for mercy, and angrily said, "Do you know how to serve fruits? If you don't know, leave it to others."

"Miss, please spare me. Miss, please spare me!" The girl servant heavily kowtowed to Qin Yuru in panic. After she kowtowed several times, her forehead immediately bruised. Obviously, she really kowtowed heavily.

Shui Ruolan softly said, "Yuru, forget it!" As guests, they could not really punish the servants of the host's house in any case. Moreover, the girl servant came from the Duke Xing's Mansion. They could not punish her even though they wanted.

Qin Yuru sadly said while pointing to her dress, "I... how could I forget it? I can't wear this dress anymore!"

The water in the dress was obvious and had spread, which was not very decent. In fact, not only Qin Yuru's dress, but also Qin Wanru's dress was stained. Qin Wanru needed to protect Shui Ruolan, so she did not avoid the fruits and water.

Shui Ruolan said in a low voice while looking around, "I'll ask someone to fetch your clothes and you can change them later!" Although the noise here was loud, none of the people sitting at the middle table found what had happened here because there were so many people and tables in the banquet.

Now, it seemed that this was the only way to solve this matter. Qin Yuru gritted her teeth with hate, afraid that she could not stop herself from slapping the girl servant.

Shui Ruolan said to the girl servant, "Find a supervisor here and take them to change clothes!"

On hearing the words of Shui Ruolan, the girl servant was relieved and kowtowed to them three times in a hurry. Then she stood up and rushed out in a fluster, having no time to pick up the fruits on the ground. Soon, she came back with an old maid of Duke Xing's Mansion.

Qin Wanru secretly gave a look at the old maid. She was the old maid who had secretly glanced at Qin Wanru when she was passed on a message to by a maid asked by Countess Yong!

If it were a coincidence, she really would have been reborn in vain!

“Misses, please come with me. There’s a special courtyard for guests to rest. You can change your clothes there!” The old maid apologized first and then said to them while pointing to the right rear. There was indeed a row of houses on the edge of a space of flowers, which was a little far away and could not be seen clearly.

Qin Wanru’s and Qin Yuru’s girl servants went to fetch their clothes, and they followed the old maid to rest there first. Shui Ruolan worried about them and wanted to go with them, but Qin Wanru refused.

She gently pinched Shui Ruolan’s hands, letting her rest assured.

The two followed the old maid to the right rear. There were so many people coming and going that nobody noticed the episode. Of course, the people who paid attention to them all the time did notice it.

Madam of Duke Xing secretly showed a smile on her face, drew back her eyes, and happily talked with a Madam beside her. Nobody knew that she had noticed what was happening over there.

Countess Yong’s gaze was cold, and she kept looking at Qin Wanru’s and Qin Yuru’s back. After a while, she slightly snorted, and turned her eyes. What would happen next was none of her business.

It had nothing to do with her anyway

This was a relatively large guest courtyard, and the scenery was quite good. Standing at the gate of the courtyard, they could see that there were five or six rooms on both sides. Except for that, there were several rooms in the middle. There really were many rooms in this courtyard.

The old maid said while pointing to the empty courtyard, “Misses, please come in and have a rest first. You can change your clothes after you maids fetch your clothes. After the banquet is over, I will report this to our madam. We will punish the girl servant severely!”

Qin Wanru gave a secret look at the courtyard, where there actually were a lot of chrysanthemums. Although there were fewer chrysanthemums here than outside, there was a great variety of chrysanthemums. The small flower nursery in the courtyard was a special beautiful scenery.

Besides, it was quiet here, very quiet!

Compared with the banquet outside, here was really a quiet and leisurely place. Today’s banquet was held in the Chrysanthemum Garden, but it was quite far away from here, so basically no one would come here.

The statement that here was a so-called rest place for guests was not true. After the banquet, almost all the guests would leave. If the good friends of the host wanted to have a rest, they would not come to this desolate place.

Looking out, they would find that the courtyard should be close to the wall of Duke Xing’s Mansion. The high wall was behind the courtyard wall.

Looking inside, they saw that there was a big tree on the right side of the flower nursery, under which there were four stone benches and a stone table. A plate of fruit, a teapot, and two teacups were on the table. It looked very quiet and peaceful.

Qin Yuru said while pointing to the table and benches, “Let’s sit there and wait!”

But Qin Wanru stopped and said, "I'll look around first!"

"Fine, whatever you like!" There were no other people here, so Qin Yuru did not constrain her temper. She turned and went to the stone table by herself.

Qin Yuru came over, sat down, and touched the teapot, finding that the tea was still hot. She poured a cup of tea for herself and saw that the color of the tea was light and green. It must be good tea. She took a sip, and felt like she had an endless aftertaste. Qin Yuru glanced at Qin Wanru with a sneer, and continued to taste the tea.

It had nothing to do with her that whether Qin Wanru was willing to come in or not!

The old maid said with a smile on her face, "Well, I'll go back first. Misses, you can come back after tidying yourselves!"

"Wait a minute!" Qin Wanru reached out and pinched her earlobe. "Did you see my earring?"

"I, I did not see it!" The old maid was also panicked when she saw there was one ruby earring on Qin Wanru's one ear while there was no earring on the other ear.

"What can I do? This is a pair of new earrings that my grandmother just bought me. Did that girl servant steal it? When the fruits hit me on the head, I felt that she touched me!" Qin Wanru frowned tightly with an unhappy look. Of course, no one would look good under such a circumstance.

"It's, it's impossible!" The old maid shook her head in a hurry.

"Where did my earring go?"

"I, I don't know!" The old maid panicked and looked around. She wanted to leave as planned, but she did not expect such a thing to happen now.

Qin Wanru slightly narrowed her eyes and said, "Will you accompany me to find it? If we can't find it, let's report it to your Madam!"

"But there's still water on your clothes. How about you change clothes before looking for your earring?" The old maid looked at the stain on Qin Wanru's cuff and carefully proposed.

"It won't be there for a while!" Qin Wanru shook her head without hesitation and turned to go out.

They did not talk about it in a low voice, so Qin Yuru heard what they said. She sneered and thought that Qin Wanru was not grand enough in her mind. She actually could not wait to look for her earring before changing her clothes. It was really embarrassing.

However, it had nothing to do with her. She wished that everyone could see Qin Wanru in such a mess.

"I, I..." The old maid was a little nervous.

"If you don't want to accompany me, I'll find it myself!" Qin Wanru clearly saw her look and turned away.

"I, I will accompany you!" When the old maid saw her go, she had to follow her up. Then they looked for her earring as they walked, walking away slowly.

The courtyard quieted down again. Qin Yuru felt bored and poured another cup of tea for herself. The tea was very good and its flavor would be left in her mouth and on her lips for a long time. She reached for her dress and saw that a large of wet place happened to be in the front. How could there be so much water in that fruit tray, and most of it spilled onto her?

Qin Ruyu held her long skirt and wanted to see if it was wet inside. As soon as she lifted it up, she heard something clicked. She looked back, and suddenly changed her look in horror...

Chapter 190 The First Miss Is Missing!

Among of the rooms close to her, the end room was suddenly opened. A beautiful man in a snow-white underpants appeared at the door. He was stunned when she saw Qin Yuru, who was sitting on a stone bench and lifting her skirt. Then he actually let out a shrill scream of terror and hid in the room.

Qin Yuru was also stunned. She looked at the scene in dismay and did not know how to react for a moment. She had wanted to scream, but the man screamed first, so that she did not know what she should do.

The opposite room was quiet again, as if nobody had ever been there before.

Qin Yuru suddenly realized that there was a man here! Then she stood up, turned around, and was about to run away. Suddenly, she could see nothing and fell on the stone table. After that, a guard appeared behind her.

After stunning her, the guard went to the room whose door was opened before, softly knocked on the door, and whispered, "Master!"

"What's the matter?" A cold voice rang out.

"Duke called me in for something just now." The guard's forehead began to sweat. He did not expect that a woman would come into the courtyard just after he left for a while, and would sit there with a mess dress and drink his master's tea.

Qin Yuru's skirt was lifted just now, but the guard did not see it clearly, so he thought that she dressed improperly and specially came here to seduce his master.

The man inside coldly asked, "Do you know who she is?"

"I don't know. I haven't seen her before!" The guard shook his head.

"Throw her at the back door!" The voice behind the door paused for a second and rang out again.

Because they did not know the identity of Qin Yuru, the master inside the room dared not act rashly. Some of the Madams and Misses who came to the banquet today were not simple. If something serious happened, it would not be good for both Duke Xing's Mansion and him.

If she really was a noble and extraordinary Miss, he could do nothing to her. Anyway, the woman did not see him just now.

Nevertheless, he did not intend to let her go as she had destroyed his plan!

"Yes, I'll do it later!" The guard knew what to do next and nodded now.

The door was opened again, and the beautiful man came out with a pale face. Behind him was a man in a cape and cloak, whose face could not be seen clearly.

The man in the cloak walked to Qin Yuru and looked at her face, but did not recognize who she was. He snorted coldly and kicked over the stone bench over. The guard bowed his head more in fright. He knew that his master was angry now.

The mysterious man remembered her face in his mind. This time he could do nothing to her, which did not mean that he also could do nothing next time. After looking at her face, the man turned back and walked towards the back of the courtyard, where there was a small door, which led to the back door of Duke Xing's Mansion.

When he left the Duke Xing's Mansion quietly with the beautiful man, the guard came to pick up Qin Yuru, who had fainted, and took her to the back door of the Duke Xing's Mansion. After half-opening the door, he threw Qin Yuru into the door, then turned quickly and left.

When Qin Wanru followed the old maid back, she saw in distance that Mei Xue and Yujie were going back and walked to them with the old maid.

Yujie twinkled and cleverly asked, "Miss, how did you get out?"

Qin Wanru said, "My earring is missing. I can't find it anywhere!"

"How can it disappear? I'll find it with you!" Yujie looked panicked, but she was relieved in her mind. She had been worrying about Qin Wanru just now, so she ran back in a hurry after fetching her clothes.

She clearly remembered that Miss' earring was still there before leaving.

"Second Miss, where is our Miss?" Mei Xue also ran very fast behind Yujie. She had to run fast. If Qin Wanru's clothes arrived first and Qin Yuru had not got her clothes, she would certainly suffer a lot after returning.

Qin Wanru said while pointing to the courtyard at will, "Your Miss entered the courtyard alone and is drinking and waiting for you!"

Mei Xue gave a look at the direction and hurried to leave them and ran to the courtyard.

Qin Wanru continued to look for her earring with the old maid and Yujie. It was dry in the autumn. Between now and then, Qin Wanru's dress almost had been dry. When they returned to the banquet, Mei Xue rushed back with a pale face.

At the banquet, people enjoyed flowers and feasts, happy and busy. Suddenly, they saw a girl servant rushing in. They all realized that something had happened and began to ask each other who the girl servant was.

Mei Xue's face was pale. How could she take her actions into account when she was in a panic? She ran behind Qin Wanru and shouted, "Second Miss, the First Miss is missing!"

People close to them clearly heard what Mei Xue said, and some people stood up in surprise!

Something happened. Unexpectedly, a Miss suddenly disappeared. This time, the noise here was so loud that Madam of Duke Xing also heard the news even though she was quite far away from them. Immediately, she stood up, and rushed over with a few girl servants and old maids.

Seeing that Madam of Duke Xing stood up, some other Madams and Misses also stood up, and came to Qin Wanru.

When Countess Yong, outside the crowd, saw that Qin Wanru was there, but Qin Yuru was not there, her face darkened suddenly.

“Big Sister was with me just now. How could she not be there?” Qin Wanru narrowed her eyes, turned to look at the old maid of the Duke Xing’s Mansion, and said, “When we left just now, was my Big Sister sitting under a tree and drinking tea?”

“Yes, yes. I saw it clearly. She was sitting and drinking under the tree!” the old maid spoke in a continuous voice.

“How could she disappear?!” Mei Xue cried out in panic.

“Let’s go and see!” Qin Wanru decidedly said, and turned around, ready to leave.

“What happened?” The voice of Madam of Duke Xing came from behind the crowd, who then made way for her.

“Madam of Duke Xing, just now a girl servant of your mansion did not hold the fruit tray steady, and all the fruits and water fell on my Big Sister and me, so that our clothes were wet. Then the girl servant found this old maid and said she would help us change clothes. But when we came to the courtyard, I found that one of my earrings was missing. So we came back to look for it, and my Big Sister stayed alone in the yard and drank tea. But now, her girl servant said she was missing!”

After hearing the question, Qin Wanru said the whole story in a very orderly way.

But the meaning of her words was also clear. If something really happened, the cause was the people from the Duke Xing’s Mansion and they could not get rid of it.

“Which girl servant overturned the fruit tray?” The face of Madam of Duke Xing darkened.

The old maid hurried to answer, “I don’t know her. Just now, a girl servant came to ask me to take the two Misses to change clothes. There were so many people at that time, so I did not recognize who she was. I just wanted to take the two Misses to change as soon as possible!”

“Doesn’t she know the girl servant? If I had gone in by myself, the old maid would have disappeared. Then there would be no evidence for what my words!”

Qin Wanru slightly raised her eyes and looked at the old maid quietly. She saw that although the old maid was in a panic, her looks and manners were somewhat orderly. For a moment, Qin Wanru darkened her eyes.

Realizing that she could not get any more information, Madam of Duke Xing could only say, “Let’s go and look for her over there. Maybe the girl servant did not carefully find her master!”

A large group of people followed her to the remote courtyard. After entering the courtyard, everyone began to find Qin Yuru. How could a person be missing for no reason?

Qin Wanru's eyes landed on the stone bench where Qin Yuru sat before. The stone bench did not look different, but Qin Wanru clearly remembered that just now the pattern of plum on the stone bench was facing her, and now it was on the other side.

Of course, Qin Yuru would not do such a thing, and she was unable to move it even if she wanted to.

Then Qin Wanru looked at those quiet rooms, which seemed to be the same as before.

"Miss, that room is unlocked!" Yujie stood beside Qin Wanru and said in a low voice. She had cheated others with Mingqiu Nun like that.

The lock was on the door, which did not mean that the door was locked. The lock was just hung on the door, so that it looked like that the door was locked.

Qin Wanru was sure that there must be something wrong with that room!

But it had nothing to do with her, so she just glanced at it and turned away. She gently pinched Yujie's hand, then Yujie understood her meaning and also turned her eyes away, as if she had not noticed anything unusual about the room.

"We found her. She is at the back door!" Someone shouted behind the house.

The crowd turned quickly and saw that the back door of the courtyard was not far from the back door of the Duke Xing's Mansion. Qin Yuru, whose clothes were turned up in disorder, was lying on the ground, motionless.

Mei Xue rushed to Qin Yuru and screamed, "First Miss, what's wrong with you?"

She stretched out her one hand to feel her breath, and breathed a sigh of relief after knowing that her master was alive.

Qin Yuru was awakened by a sharp cry. She opened her eyes and saw there were many faces in front of her, then she closed her eyes again. She had a headache and felt that she had been hit by something.

"First Miss, First Miss, wake up!" Seeing her wake up, Mei Xue was ecstatic.

Qin Yuru opened her eyes again. This time, she clearly saw the people in front of her. For a moment, she stared at them in astonishment, turned left and right, lips shivering. Suddenly, she remembered the screaming man in white underpants she saw.

"Where, where is the person?"

Qin Yuru murmured in confuse.

"Miss, who else is here? No one else is here. Did you faint?" On hearing what Qin Yuru said, Mei Xue immediately warned her loudly. How could there be people in such a secret place? If Qin Yuru really wanted to see anyone here, the person would not be a good person since he or she chose such a place.

It would be misunderstood easily if they met in such a remote place.

“Where is that man?” Qin Yuru was still confused, and did not understand the meaning of Mei Xue. She was stunned for a moment, and asked in a panic. She still did not understand what had happened.

Someone suddenly pushed open the back door and said in surprise, “Huh? The door is open. Did someone run away from here?” Outside the door was a small alley with courtyard walls on both sides.