

Medical Princess 191

Chapter 191 The Secret Man in Duke Xing's Mansion

There was nobody outside!

Everyone looked at each other, wondering why she reacted like that. When they thought of that the First Miss Qin was lying here with mess dress, they guessed that if someone had intended to rape her and stunned her when he found that someone had come.

It seemed that this was the only possibility, otherwise she would not look for the man in panic.

They did not know whether First Miss Qin was lucky or not. Fortunately, nothing serious had happened. Although her clothes were messy, they were still on her. People here were clever. At first glance, they all knew that nothing had happened. However, it still would influence the reputation!

Especially, it would greatly influence the reputation of young girls.

"Come and help First Miss Qin. It's lucky that you're fine!" Madam of Duke Xing asked servants to help First Miss Qin up and said, as if nothing had happened.

Qin Yuru was fully awake at this time. As she was held and walked ahead, she made a sound in fear when she saw that room, but she could not speak for a while.

"First Miss Qin, what do you want to say? Did you see anything scared? Tell us, and we'll help you!" asked Madam of Duke Xing with a smile and a kind look.

But Qin Yuru could not say a word. She could not say that she had seen a man in his underwear. For the sake of her fame, she could only say that she had seen nothing.

"Thank you very much, madam. I was drinking tea here, and then fainted." Qin Yuru's face was pale and she said in a trembling voice.

But Qin Wanru stopped and calmly said, "Madam, please check that if somebody else was here just now."

"No one will come here. The women were all at the banquet just now. If..." Speaking of this, Madam of Duke Xing hesitated. Obviously, she thought it might have nothing to do with women.

Qin Yuru's hands shivered when she heard that. She took the hands of Madam of Duke Xing and said in a panic, "There's no need to check... the man should have escaped... the man escaped from the back door doesn't come from your mansion!"

She was afraid that Madam of Duke Xing would really investigate this matter. Although she only glanced at the man, she knew that he was not a noble young master from an aristocratic family according to his scream. If they did find such a person and found that he was only a servant, how would it end then?

Qin Yuru would rather not find this man.

Others were confused when they saw Qin Yuru was so flustered. Did First Miss Qin come here to see somebody? If not, why did she stop Madam of Duke Xing from finding that man?

But if she really came here to see somebody, why did that man stun her? Or did she pretend to faint?

Things that somebody pretended to faint and coquetted almost happened in the womenfolk place of wealthy and influential families every day, and a few Madams here had seen people pretended to be sick, stupid, and dizzy. Some of them covered their mouths with their handkerchiefs and laughed at Qin Yuru in their minds. It seemed that First Miss Qin had no personality.

They were confused that why such a thing was so coincident even though it happened by chance, but they all were curious when they thought that it might have something to do with the people from Duke Xing's Mansion.

It was said that the Heir of Duke Xing was young, handsome, and promising. Did it have something to do with him?

But a lot of people thought that it was impossible after carefully thinking about it. The Heir of Duke Xing was quite good, and it was said that he never flirted with women. It should be impossible that he was related to this matter. Were other male masters of Duke Xing's Mansion related to it? It was said that Duke Xing liked flirting with women. It was unknown whether it was his plan.

Qin Wanru glanced at the people with an indifferent look, and saw all their expressions. She sneered in mind, "It turns out that it was prepared for me."

"The girl servant and the old maid first would try to get me to the remote courtyard, then the old maid would leave. Yujie would go to fetch my clothes. Then I would be the only one in the courtyard. After that, I would be stunned and thrown at the back door of the courtyard, because I would see something I should not see. Today is the day of the banquet in Duke Xing's Mansion, so they would not kill me."

"Then I would look like Qin Yuru, even worse, when I wake up. I may can't find the girl servant who hits me by the fruit, or the old maid who leads me. At last, they would inevitably say that I come here to secretly see a man. After all, if things go on as they planned, there would be no witness."

Qin Yuru's words aroused many Madams' and Misses' doubts, which made Madam of Duke Xing angry. She shook away Qin Yuru's hands, and said with a cold look, "Miss Qin, it must have nothing to do with my family. I'll ask people to figure it out later, so that you won't be wronged."

How could she not know how others thought about it? If Qin Yuru did not say that, others would not doubt Duke Xing's Mansion. Now after she said that, it really made people think that it was related to a male master of Duke Xing's Mansion.

One family knew about their own affairs, which was the most annoying thing for Madam of Duke Xing.

"Thank you very much, Madam!" Qin Wanru said before Qin Yuru in a neither humble nor pushy way.

"You're welcome. This is what we should do. Second Miss, you are Hao'er's benefactor, so we must put your Big Sister's affair in mind!" Madam of Duke Xing calmed down, and her face was gentle again. Although she was still unhappy with Qin Yuru, it could hardly be noticed.

Qin Wanru and Qin Yuru changed their clothes. When they returned to the banquet, Shui Ruolan held her hand and anxiously asked in a low voice, "What's the matter?"

"It's all right!" Qin Wanru softly patted Shui Ruolan on her hands. Before she left, she told Shui Ruolan not to come no matter what would happen.

She was afraid that Countess Yong would also come and make trouble. If so, Shui Ruolan would be in danger.

As soon as Shui Ruolan saw Qin Wanru, she knew that something had really happened before, but it should not be a big problem. Qin Yuru, who had changed her clothes, closed her mouth tightly with a livid face and said nothing.

The matter happened all of a sudden, so that she still had not figured out who wanted to frame her. She looked at all the people present and turned to Countess Yong. She felt that only Countess Yong was the most credible.

Therefore, she stood up and walk to the table where Countess Yong sat regardless of the surprised eyes of others.

"Aunt!" As soon as she saw Countess Yong, Qin Yuru's eyes turned red and she called her in a low voice.

When she saw Qin Yuru coming over, Countess Yong stood up quickly, smiled to the Madams around her, and took Qin Yuru aside to talk.

Just now, Countess Yong did not come to the courtyard with others.

Countess Yong said with concern, "Yuru, what's the matter? What happened just now? I intended to go and have a look, but was stopped by several Madams."

Countess Yong clearly knew that her mother-in-law valued Qin Yuru very much.

"Aunt!" Seeming to see her own family, Qin Yuru said in a low voice, then rushed to Countess Yong's arms and sadly cried.

"Don't cry, what's the matter? Did the two frame you?" Countess Yong patted Qin Yuru lightly on the back and said as she pacified her.

This reminded Qin Yuru, who then cried and said in a low voice, "Auntie, are they? The girl servant and the old maid are from Duke Xing's Mansion! "

Of course, she knew that Countess Yong was talking about Qin Wanru and Shui Ruolan.

Countess Yong said, "There are so many servants in Duke Xing's Mansion. It's easy to bribe two. You are so silly!"

Qin Yuru said with great hatred, "It must be them. I was confused that I don't know anyone here, but why someone framed me. It turns out to be them!" She doubted them at the beginning, but she could not figure it out for a moment, so she was not sure. After hearing what Countess Yong said, she was immediately sure that it was Qin Wanru and Shui Ruolan who framed her.

"Qin Wanru, Shui Ruolan, I will not forget what you did to me today."

"Don't cry. It's not beautiful for a beautiful girl to cry, and Yan'er will think I have bullied you!"

Realizing that her words were useful, Countess Yong continued to persuade Qin Yuru in a low voice.

Qin Wanru drew back her sight and stopped looking at Countess Yong and Qin Yuru. "Needless to say, Countess Yong will tell Qin Yuru that this matter was planned by me and my mother." Thinking of this, Qin Wanru showed coldness in her eyes.

She was not afraid of being framed by Qin Yuru and Madam Di. Originally, Qin Yuru and Madam Di always wished that Qin Wanru and her mother would die as soon as possible. They had framed Qin Wanru and her mother in Jiangzhou many times, which led them to a desperate situation every time. Qin Wanru did not mind that there would be one more thing that made Qin Yuru and Madam Di hate them.

But she did not want to be a sharp weapon of somebody else!

She was clear that this matter was planned by Countess Yong. But why did Countess Yong know so well about the affairs in Duke Xing's Mansion? It was obvious that Qin Yuru had seen what she could not say, so that she was stunned.

The courtyard was also strange. The courtyard was close to the back door, and it was convenient to come in and go out. It belonged to neither the inner womenfolk place nor the menfolk place. It was a convenient place to hide something there.

Since there were secrets hidden there, it should not be found casually. If Madam of Duke Xing had not got involved in this matter, it would not have been done!

"In order to deal with me, they actually are willing to expose a secret. It seems that they pay much attention to me and broke a fly upon a wheel this time. Is it not over yet?"

Qin Wanru slightly narrowed her watery eyes, and thought about if there were other possibilities under this situation...

The man sat at the window and asked in a cold voice, "Who is she?"

A fat man replied respectfully, "She, she is the eldest daughter of Ningyuan Army General who comes back to report his work!"

The man repeated without missing a word, "Ningyuan Army General, Qin Huaiyong?"

"Yes. It's he!" The fat man nodded.

"He's a good choice!" The man sneered, and his eyes fell on a file on the table in front of him. He looked through it and said, "Have you settled it?"

The fat man quickly lowered his head, and said, "Don't worry, it's all settled!" There were not only the lists of the important officials in the court, but also the comments and portraits of some Misses of aristocratic families.

"A picture of your daughter? For me, you have done your best!" The man picked a picture and smiled.

The fat man lowered his head more and respectfully said, "It's my pleasure to serve you!"

Chapter 192 The Servant Girl with a Hairpin in Her Sleeve

The man asked with a deep gaze, "Are there any activities after the banquet?"

The fat man thought about it for a second and said, "No. It's a plum appreciation meeting today. After the banquet, most of the women will leave!"

"Don't let it affect me!" The man's cold voice sounded fierce, low but frightening.

The fat man hurriedly said, "Don't worry!" His forehead had already begun to sweat. If this man really wanted to start today, it would be troublesome.

"Behave yourself!" The man snorted coldly, stood up, and strode out.

The banquet held in Duke Xing's Mansion was successful, apart from a small episode about Qin Yuru. Qin Yuru was not one of the famous Misses of aristocratic families in the capital. People thought what happened to her today was humiliating and thought that this young Miss had no personality.

But the whole matter did not influence the banquet in Duke Xing's Mansion. After all, nothing serious had happened and they all did not see the man. Everything was their guess.

And the reputation of the First Miss Qin was clear to everyone. At least they would not consent to her marrying into their families. However, when they saw Qin Yuru walk beside Countess Yong, some curious Madams immediately asked about the relationship between the two families. So there was more talk of somebody from Qin's Mansion would marrying into Duke Yong's Mansion.

It was the First Miss Qin.

For a time, many Madams looked at Countess Yong with pity, which made Countess Yong quite angry.

But they all said nothing in front of Countess Yong, so she could not find a chance to explain even if she wanted to.

For evil news rides fast, while good news baits later. This matter spread quickly as soon as it spread from Duke Xing's Mansion, which immediately made many people curious about Qin's Mansion.

Then well-informed sources spread the previous rumor again. It was said that Madam Di, who came from Duke Yong's Mansion, was not in charge of the household affairs. The reason was that Madam Di was said to be unkind and always made trouble in Qin's Mansion. She even wanted the co-wife Madam Shui to lose her baby. Such a vicious person, of course, could not be in charge of the household.

Originally, what Madam Di had done was just spread in the streets, but did not spread to aristocratic families. However, what she had done was related to Qin Yuru's affairs this time, so the rumor came from the streets, and aristocratic families became more and more unpleasant to hear it, and it spread all over the world.

When Madam Di heard the news from Duke Yong's Mansion, she almost fainted in anger!

Although it was only a rumor and there was no evidence, because many people had seen Qin Yuru's affair, this rumor became more and more vivid. Even some people made up some sexual content. For a while, the rumor was extremely unpleasant to hear.

Although things about the womenfolk courtyard of Qin's Mansion were not good, Qin Huaiyong's appointment was settled at this time.

He was promoted to Vice Commander of the Imperial Guards Team, a vice third-class official. Besides that, he still owned the title of Ningyuan Army General!

But now this title was different!

This was a high-ranking position that Qin Huaiyong never thought of. He was just a fifth-class official before!

As soon as the news came to Qin's Mansion, all the people were very happy. The plaque with the words "Qin's Mansion" on the front door was removed and replaced with a plaque that said "Ningyuan Army General's Mansion".

In the capital where there were so many high-ranking officials and aristocratic families, a vice third-class official was not important, but it was close to His Majesty. Besides, the Imperial Guards Team and other teams were in charge of the security of the capital. If somebody was not valued by the emperor, he would not join the Imperial Guards Team.

As soon as the news was spread out, those who had something to do with Qin's Mansion were all enthusiastic and came to express their congratulations.

Madam Dowager also felt refreshed, and recovered a lot. She looked as if she was not sick.

She called Qin Huaiyong over and suggested to hold a return banquet with proper etiquette because so many people had come and congratulated them, and it was troublesome to thank them one by one.

Qin Huaiyong agreed and asked Madam Dowager and Shui Ruolan to do it.

Shui Ruolan was pregnant and her belly was getting larger. Fortunately, it was not obvious now. With the advice of Madam Dowager, she could also hold the return banquet.

This was the first time for Shui Ruolan to hold a banquet since she came to the capital. Naturally, she could not be careless, and wanted to hold the banquet with all her heart. Qin Wanru saw that she was very tired sometimes, so she did her a favor.

With the guidance of Madam Dowager and Qin Wanru's help, Shui Ruolan was able to take over the household of Ningyuan Army General's Mansion.

There were also two concubines helping her manage affairs. The whole Ningyuan Army General's Mansion was in order.

After a busy half month or so, Yujie suddenly caught a servant girl one day.

As soon as Yujie entered the room, she said, "Miss, this servant girl sneaked out and was caught by me!"

Qin Wanru put down the accounting book in her hands and looked at the servant girl, who was young and timid. At first glance, Qin Wanru knew that she was just the most common servant girl. She blinked her eyes and looked at Yujie with doubt. Such a kind of thing did not need to be reported to her.

Qin Wanru massaged between eyebrows and asked, "What's the matter?"

Yujie angrily said, "This servant girl works in our courtyard and used to follow Qing Xue all the time. This time she sneaked out!"

Qin Wanru glanced at the servant girl and her eyes turned cold.

"Tell me, what happened?" After listening to Yujie, Qin Wanru did find that this servant girl was familiar. She actually worked in her courtyard.

There were many servants girl and old maids in the courtyard, so Qin Wanru wasn't able to know everyone!

The servant girl knelt down and said in a fluster, "Second Miss, I... I really have something important to do... Sister Xiu'er is ill and wants to see Nanny Dong, so she entrusted me with the task of visiting Nanny Dong!"

"Is Dong Xiu'er ill?" Qin Wanru slightly narrowed her watery eyes and looked at Yujie. Recently, she had been busy with many things, so she did not pay much attention to Dong Xiu'er. Nanny Dong was also busy managing the shop outside the mansion, and only occasionally asked others to bring her words in. Qin Wanru really had not seen Nanny Dong for a long time.

Yujie replied, "Yes, she's sick, but it's not serious. Nanny Yu had invited a doctor to treat her. The doctor said she would recover after taking medicine!"

"Is it necessary to find Nanny Dong for such a thing?" After she heard that, Qin Wanru's eyes darkened. Dong Xiu'er was not a child. How could she do this kind of thing without consideration?

The servant girl hurried to say, "It's... it's the meaning of Sister Xiu'er. She hasn't seen Nanny Dong for a long time, and she is ill now, so she wants to see Nanny Dong."

Qin Wanru's face darkened and she said, "If Dong Xiu'er wants to see Nanny Dong, she can come and tell me. Why did she ask you to sneak out? Yujie, find if there's something on her."

The servant girl's expression changed greatly to one of fright and she covered her cuff subconsciously.

Yujie went over and took out a hairpin, together with her handkerchief, that was tightly covered in her sleeve. It was a beautiful hairpin, the one that Qin Wanru had seen Dong Xiu'er wearing that day. At that time, Dong Xiu'er could not afford such a hairpin, nor could she afford it now.

"She's dared to steal something from the mansion. Miss, look at the hairpin!" Yujie handed the hairpin to Qin Wanru as she said in a sharp voice, "Servants who dare to steal something from the mansion will be beaten and driven out of the mansion."

"Second Miss, Second Miss, I did not steal it. Sister Xiu'er asked me to hand it to Nanny Dong. It was not stolen by me." The servant girl's face turned pale when she heard that she would be beaten and driven out of the mansion if she really stole the hairpin. Her hands shook and she cried.

Qin Wanru looked at the hairpin and asked, "Does this hairpin belong to Dong Xiu'er?"

"Yes... it's Sister Xiu'er's. She just asked me to put it in Nanny Dong's place. She was not relieved to keep it herself!" The servant girl said, "Sister Xiu'er said that it would be embarrassing if it was exposed or known by you, so she asked me to sneak out and give it to Nanny Dong!"

"Did Xiu'er say where Nanny Dong is?" Qin Wanru slowly asked, hiding the coldness in her eyes. "Did Dong Xiu'er just want to give this hairpin to Nanny Dong?"

Originally, the background of this hairpin was unclear. It was most likely that it came from Qing Xue. Now, Qin Wanru felt that it was not simple. Dong Xiu'er actually thought that it would be safer to put it in Nanny Dong's place than to keep it herself. How many things had she lost, so that she felt her place was not safe?

Since she came in, Nanny Yu had managed the courtyard very well. She had never heard that anyone had lost anything. Why was Dong Xiu'er so worried that she wanted to hide her hairpin in Nanny Dong's place outside the mansion?

"Sister Xiu'er told me that Nanny Dong is managing a shop. I know where to find Nanny Dong." The servant girl hurried to say, afraid that Qin Wanru would not believe her if she spoke slowly.

"Why is there a word on it?" Qin Wanru raised her eyes, and sharply looked at the servant girl. The word on it was not very clear. It was small and looked like a flower. If one did not look at it carefully, he or she would only think it was the shape of a flower.

"I... I can't read!" the servant girl said with a blank face.

"Did Dong Xiu'er give it to you?" Qin Wan's face darkened. "Does this servant girl know nothing?"

"Yes... it was Sister Xiu'er who gave it to me." The servant girl nodded her head.

"Is there anyone who can prove it?" Qin Wanru narrowed her eyes.

"No, there were only Sister Xiu'er and me in the room at that time." The servant girl panicked and cried, anxious and scared.

Qin Wanru leaned back and softly said, "If there is no one to bear witness, you can't make it clear. Go and get the punishment yourself!"

Hearing what Qin Wanru said, Yujie went over and was about to take away the servant girl. When she saw that Yujie really was going to take her away, the servant girl said in a panic, "Second Miss, Second Miss, Sister Xiu'er can prove it."

"What if she doesn't admit it?" Qin Wanru showed a cold smile on her face. "In the eyes of all, it's a misfortune. Do you still think that Xiu'er will admit that this hairpin belongs to her? The hairpin is engraved with the word 'Qin', but I haven't give Xiu'er any hairpins. Then how did she get this hairpin?"

The servant girl was stunned by Qin Wanru's words, and her face turned pale. According to what Qin Wanru said, Dong Xiu'er had gotten this hairpin by improper means. If so, Dong Xiu'er would certainly not admit that it belonged to her.

And she would be the scapegoat!

The servant girl was regretful and afraid. She wanted to explain as she tried to push away Yujie. Suddenly, a flash of inspiration flashed in her mind and she said loudly, "Second Miss, Second Miss, another man was there at that time. I saw it!"

Chapter 193 The Plan Is Discovered

"Who?"

"Sister Qing Xue, it's Sister Qing Xue. She happened to walk pass the window. I saw her!" The servant girl was so anxious that she sweated all over her head.

"Qing Xue?"

"Yes, it was Sister Qingxue. When Sister Xiu'er was talking to me, Sister Qing Xue happened to pass by. I saw her walking very slowly, and she looked in through the window. She would have seen me taking the hairpin from Sister Xiu'er's hand!" The servant girl seemed to be fighting for her life as she said in dismay.

"Is there anything else?" Qin Wanru lowered her head and meditated.

"Nothing else!" The girl servant thought for a second and shook her head.

"Then go and take it to Nanny Dong!" Qin Wanru suddenly smiled, her red lips slightly raised.

"Miss!" Yujie was also stunned for a moment, and let go of the servant girl.

Qin Wanru softly said as her eyes fell on the girl servant, "Deliver the hairpin to Nanny Dong yourself, but I don't want Xiu'er and Qing Xue to know that I know about it. If they do... this is what you three colluded with!"

"Yes, yes, I understand. Thank you, my Lady!" The servant girl thanked Qin Wanru for giving her such chance to prove herself.

"Go!" Seeing that the servant was actually smart, Qin Wanru smiled and handed over the hairpin in her hands, with a meaningful gaze.

It looked like someone would be busy again!

"Yes, I'm leaving now!" The servant wiped tears off her face, carefully took the hairpin, and nodded hard. "Second Miss is giving me a chance to prove my innocence. I will certainly not make it known to Xiu'er and Qing Xue. Otherwise, Second Miss will think that I stole things from the mansion with them."

"If this matter is exposed, I will not escape!"

Although the servant was one of the lower servants of the mansion, she was smart. Originally, she thought that it was good to be close to Qing Xue who she thought was very kind, and was a principal maid in the courtyard. Unexpectedly, she was almost caught as a thief before benefiting from the close relationship with Qing Xue. How could she not be afraid?

After tidying her face, the girl servant came out of the main room with red eyes and hurried out of the courtyard. However, as soon as she got out of the courtyard, she was stopped by Qing Xue who had been hiding behind a tree. Qing Xue took her behind the tree, took a look at the tears on her face, and asked, "Qu'er, what happened?"

"I accidentally bumped into Sister Yujie just now, and she scolded me!" Qu'er lowered her head and wiped the tears around her eyes. She dared not tell the truth.

Qing Xue looked at the gate of the courtyard and found that no one noticed them. Then she asked in confusion, "Then why did you go to Second Miss's main room?"

The servant said grievously, "Sister Yujie was holding something for Miss in her hand, which was damaged by me, so she took me along to explain it to Miss!"

"Is there nothing else?"

"Yes, there's nothing else!" Qu'er nodded.

"That's good. Sister Xiu'er mentioned you just now. What did you do for her? Have you finished yet?" Qing Xue breathed a sigh of relief, and showed a smile on her face, as if she knew nothing.

"Ah, I have to leave now, or I will delay what Sister Xiu'er asked me to do!" Qu'er exclaimed and hurried off.

At first, she thought that Qing Xue knew little about the hairpin, but now after hearing what Qing Xue said, Qu'er immediately realized that she knew it. "Sure enough, they want to frame me!"

Qu'er was angry, and ran to the back door.

When she got to the back door, she was stopped by the old maid guarding it. The old maid asked where she from. Qu'er said that she came from Zhifang Pavilion and was going to buy some snacks for Sister Qing Xue. Then she was allowed to go!

The principal maids in the mansion occasionally asked the lower maids to buy something for them. It was nothing unusual. Besides, Qing Xue was Second Miss's principal maid.

After going out of the back door, Qu'er went to the place designated by Dong Xiu'er. Qu'er was born and grew up in the capital, so she found the place quickly. She looked at the shop being renovated, and was about to enter, but was stopped by an ordinary young male servant.

"Are you the maid of Qin's Mansion? Are you here to deliver something to Nanny Dong?" The young male servant stopped Qu'er and asked directly.

"Yes, who are you?" Qu'er was stunned for a moment. Unexpectedly, Xiu'er had already told Nanny Dong this matter.

The young male servant pointed to shop and said, "Nanny Dong is busy now. If you have something to give her, please give it to me. I will give it to Nanny Dong in a moment!" The shop was being decorated, and there were sounds of carpenters working. It sounded very busy.

But Qu'er hesitated.

"Don't you believe me? If Nanny Dong didn't tell me, how could I know you came from Qin's mansion, and that you are the maid of Second Miss. I know that you were asked by Dong Xiu'er, the daughter of Nanny Dong, to bring this to Nanny Dong!" The young male servant held out his hand and impatiently said, "Hurry up! I will go up to help Nanny Dong carry things in a moment."

The young male servant kept urging her. Besides, what he said was also in accordance to what she knew, so Qu'er hesitated for a moment more before she took out the hairpin wrapped in a handkerchief from her bosom.

As soon as he saw the hairpin, the young male servant grabbed it and ran to the store as he shouted, "Go back quickly, and don't let the others find out that you've been out for long time!"

Seeing that he was running to the shop, Qu'er felt relieved. It seemed that he was really asked by Nanny Dong to come. On thinking that she had handed over the hot potato, Qu'er felt relieved and turned away.

The young male servant entered the shop, which was in a mess. Workers were working, and Nanny Dong was directing people to place things in the right place. When she saw a strange young male servant come in and looking around as if he was interested in the decoration, Nanny Dong frowned and ignored him.

The young male servant stood in the shop for a while, then looked around the door and turned away, as though he was bored with observing.

Nanny Dong was busy, and she did not notice when he left.

Qin Wanru, in the second floor of a teahouse diagonally facing the shop, saw the young male servant came out of the shop, stood at the door, and looked around. After finding that the girl servant had left, the young male servant dusted the ash on his clothes and swaggered towards where she was.

Yujie kept staring at the young male servant. Seeing that he came over and entered the shop downstairs, she said, "Miss, he really comes to this teahouse!"

"It's supposed to be here!" Qin Wanru said thoughtfully. She came here by carriage, so she arrived a little earlier than Qu'er. After looking around, she found that she could drink tea, and wait for someone only in the teahouse on the opposite side!

That was why she chose this teahouse. Since the hairpin was sent out of the mansion, there must be someone outside of the mansion waiting for it. It was uncertain when Qu'er would leave the mansion, so she had to come here earlier and wait.

Qin Wanru had got along with Nanny Dong for a long time, so she knew what kind of person Nanny Dong was, and thought that the hairpin would not be handed to Nanny Dong. Therefore, she decided to wait here!

Qin Wanru said, "Go to the door!"

Yujie nodded, dropped the curtain she was holding, walked to the door, opened it slowly and looked into the stairway. When they just went upstairs, Qin Wanru especially entered a private room facing the stairway.

Yujie heard the footsteps coming from the stairs. The young male servant who came looking out of breath was the one they saw just now.

And the room the young male servant entered happened to be on the right of theirs.

When she saw the young male servant enter the room, Yujie came over and quietly said while pointing to the room on the right, "Miss, they are in this room!"

Qin Wanru looked at the wall, which was a wood siding wall. This room was different from some private rooms which were separated by screens, so it was impossible to hear clearly what they were saying. They could only hear the voice of the young male servant who seemed to be saying something.

Qin Wanru stood up, walked to the wall on the right side, and put her ears to the wood wall. She heard the voices then.

Yujie also came to learn from Qin Wanru.

The voice of the young male servant stopped, and then it was a woman's voice.

Qin Wanru was slightly taken aback to hear a woman's voice, but she was not too surprised. She listened, but could only hear some unclear words.

Then the two went on talking. It seemed that one was asking and the other was answering. From time to time, they also said something else. After a while, the talking in the room stopped. Next, the sound of a chair being pulled came from the next room. It seemed that they were going to leave.

Qin Wanru thought about it for a second, then she lightly walked to the door, and peeped through the slightly opened door.

The door over there was opened, and the young male servant walked out first, and stood respectfully to one side, and then a woman came out with a servant girl. The woman was not tall, but thin. Looking from here, Qin Wanru found that her servant was taller and looked stronger than her.

Because the woman was standing sideways, Qin Wanru could not see her face.

After thinking for a moment, Qin Wanru silently pointed to the empty teacups on the table. Yujie immediately understood, and hurried to take one. Qin Wanru took it from her, opened the door a little, and threw out the teacup, which hit the stairs.

The young lady came out of the private room, and was about to go downstairs. However, she was so scared by the cup which was suddenly thrown at the stairs that she almost fell down. The maid hurriedly reached out to help her, and the two stabilized themselves with great effort. Then, the young lady turned to Qin Wanru's private room, her face pale. Her servant was very angry and was about to come forward, but was stopped by the young lady.

"Miss, I dare not make trouble again. Please forgive me!" Suddenly the voice of a woman begging for mercy could be heard in the private room, and then came sounds of something heavily bumping into planks.

It turned out that a master was scolding the servant. The young lady frowned and carefully avoided the debris under her feet as she walked downstairs with her maid. The young male servant fell behind at a distance, but was also close to them.

In the private room, Yujie stamped her foot while looking outside. She was making the sound of a maid begging for mercy.

Qin Wanru's eyes went a shade deeper when she saw the young lady's face. She recognized who this woman was...

Chapter 194 It Seems to be An Old Acquaintance

Ning Xueqing?

Was this Ning Xueqing, who secretly slept with Qin Wanru's first fiancé in the last life?

Qin Wanru still had not figured out the reason for her first engagement. Some of the memories about the engagement were lost, but Qin Wanru remembered that her first engagement seemed to be related to an accident. To hush up a scandal, it was hurriedly arranged for her to be engaged with the man.

Qin Wanru concluded later events that Ning Xueqing was the cousin of her fiancé Wang Shengxue, and there would've been a long-term relationship between them. The reason why Wang Shengxue postponed the wedding was that he was a libertine. He flirted not only with Ning Xueqing, but also other women, and he did not intend to marry Ning Xueqing.

Madam Di and Madam of Duke Xing must have framed Qin Wanru and forced her to be engaged with Wang Shengxue. Wang Shengxue was Duke Xing's nephew. He felt honored when Madam of Duke Xing found a match for him and immediately agreed. As for Ning Xueqing, he had already forgotten her.

Unexpectedly, his cousin, Ning Xueqing, was scheming. First of all, she said nothing about Wang Shengxue's engagement. After she got pregnant, she immediately made a fuss and exposed her relationship with Wang Shengxue during the birthday party of Madam Dowager of Duke Xing, and then asked Madam Dowager to agree to their marriage. Before so many people, Madam Dowager of Duke Xing had no choice but to agree even if she was not happy!

All in all, it was a happy ending!

But now Qin Wanru had nothing to do with Ning Xueqing, and she also had no relationship with Wang Shengxue. Why did she deal with Qin Wanru now?

This was the first time Qin Wanru had seen Madam of Duke Xing, let alone Wang Shengxue, Duke Xing's nephew. Madam Di and Madam of Duke Xing had not met yet. It was impossible that they colluded to frame Qin Wanru now.

Then why did Ning Xueqing come here? How could two people who had little relationship in the last life suddenly have a connection? If Ning Xueyan had not made a fuss in the last life and Qin Wanru had not been taken to see her, she would not have known Ning Xueqing!

Qin Wanru looked at Ning Xueqing suspiciously. She suddenly stopped in the middle of the stairs.

As soon as she stopped, the maid who followed her hurriedly came to help her, and anxiously said, "Are you okay, Miss? Do you want a rest? Did you have a fright just now?"

"Was she frightened by the cup I threw just now?" Qin Wanru frowned and looked at Ning Xueqing's back. Looking at her from behind, Qin Wanru found that she was really delicate.

In the last life, such a scandal happened in Duke Xing's Mansion. Although Wang Shengxue was not the young master of Duke Xing's Mansion, his scandal still disgraced Duke Xing's Mansion, because he was

Duke Xing's close nephew. Madam Dowager was so angry that she overturned the table on the spot and smashed so many things. However, Ning Xueqing, who was present, was not scared at all!

What did Ning Xueqing want to do this time?

"I'm fine!" Her voice was soft, and it made people think the speaker was very weak.

The maid angrily glared at the door of Qin Wanru's private room and said, "What kind of a person is that? Why didn't she wait till she went back before scolding her servants? She must be ill-bred. Miss, how about resting for a while before leaving? I'm afraid you will feel uncomfortable along the way."

"Okay, let's have a rest!" The woman held the maid's hand and turned around. At this time, Qin Wanru could see her pale face, and she widened her eyes at once.

This was definitely not Ning Xueqing!

At first glance, Qin Wanru thought the woman looked like Ning Xueqing, but in fact, she did not. She looked more soft and gentle, which would make men take pity on her. Although she was not particularly beautiful, her delicacy and temperament was special and attractive to the opposite sex.

"But I was framed by such a woman!"

Qin Wanru saw her approaching slowly and entering the previous room. Then there was a sound of a chair being dragged. After that, she saw the young male servant running out in a hurry and coming back with a doctor. It seemed that they had talked about something in the room before the doctor left. After a while, the woman and the maid reappeared at the door, followed by the young male servant.

This time, they went down the stairs and left the teahouse without stopping.

Throughout the whole process, Qin Wanru stood quietly behind the door and watched them. She had the feeling that this woman had something to do with Ning Xueqing, but she was not Ning Xueqing.

Actually, it had nothing to do with her. And in this life, she would never have any relationship with that libertine. But there was a voice in her heart reminding her that this woman was framing her and it must have something to do with Ning Xueqing. Qin Wanru felt very comfortable when she thought of it.

It seemed that something in her heart would break out, and her hands and feet were cold.

Yujie cried when she found that her condition was not normal, "Miss, Miss!"

People had gone, but Qin Wanru was still staring at the corridor, which made her feel flustered.

Qin Wanru did not answer. Her ruddy face turned pale, her mouth was tightly closed, and she tightly clenched her hands. She gave people a feeling of coldness.

This Qin Wanru made Yujie worried. She reached out, grabbed Qin Wanru's clothes, and gently shook them as she said, "Miss!"

Her voice was not loud, but enough to rouse Qin Wanru, like a bell in the morning. Qin Wanru woke up from her past memory. She took a deep breath, moved her stiff feet, and went to the chair to sit down.

The warm sunshine outside came in through the window, and also slowly filled her heart, which made her a little warm. Now that she had reborn. She was not the sad woman who had been framed and then cut in two at the waist in the Kingdom of Dongcang in the last life!

Qin Wanru took a sip of tea on the table, and calmed herself down. When she looked up again, she had regained her calm look. She moved her legs and said, "Yuru, let's go!"

Yujie thought that Qin Wanru wanted to go back to the mansion, and asked in confusion, "Are we going back to the mansion? Don't we investigate that woman?"

"We'll certainly investigate that woman!" Qin Wanru stood up. Because she had just moved her legs, her legs were no longer numb.

"But they have gone."

Qin Wanru stood up and said, "Let's find a clinic!"

The young male servant came back soon, bringing along the doctor he'd invited for the woman, which meant there was a clinic nearby. Besides, he did not ask anyone where the clinic was when he went down. Obviously, he was familiar with the location of the clinic.

When Yujie went to check, Qin Wanru asked the accountant at the counter where the clinic was, then she went to the clinic on the right side of the teahouse with Yujie.

The clinic was in a small alley on the right, and it was easy to find. After they entered, a young male servant came over, and asked with a smile, "Miss, are you going to see the doctor? Do you want to see a doctor here or invite a doctor some place?"

This was a small but pretty good clinic. There were many flags hanging on the wall. They must have been sent by the patients after they were cured.

The doctor on duty was not outside, but inside.

"The woman who saw the doctor in the teahouse just now was our Miss's cousin. She forgot to ask the doctor something. Then she happened to encounter my Miss, so she specially asked my Miss to ask the doctor for her!"

Yujie came forward and said.

The young man knew that a doctor had gone outside to see the patient, so he smiled and said, "I see, please wait a moment!"

As he said that, he went into the inner room, and soon out came an old doctor, who was the one Qin Wanru just saw.

After coming out, the old doctor directly sat down. He looked at Qin Wanru and impatiently said, "What's wrong with First Miss Ning? I have made myself clear. She just need to relax and needn't take medicine. It's not a big thing at all. Every time she feels ill, she will make a fuss as if something big is going to happen!"

When she heard the address of “First Miss Ning”, Qin Wanru was a little surprised. But she did not show it on her face. She politely asked with concern on her face, “Is there really nothing serious?”

“Yes, there’s nothing serious!” The old doctor massaged his forehead, and really thought that Qin Wanru was a family member of the patient, “She just has been spoiled too much. She was healthy, but you always made a mountain out of a molehill when she felt uncomfortable so that now she thinks she is weak. There is nothing serious, and she needn’t take medicine!”

Qin Wanru helplessly said, “But she is always so weak!”

“That’s because you spoil her too much. If you don’t pay attention to her, nothing will happen. Every time I saw her, I thought she was seriously ill. I have something else to do now, so I have to leave.” The old doctor became more impatient. He stood up, turned around, and walked in, directly leaving Qin Wanru.

“Hey, you...” Yujie was a little angry.

“Miss, I’m really sorry. There are patients in our clinic now, that’s why he was in a hurry and angry. Please forgive us!” The young male servant hurried to apologize and ask for forgiveness, then he continued, “But First Miss Ning is really... it’s not our doctor’s fault to say those words. She’s always shocked just by some small things, that’s why our doctor was also upset!”

Qin Wanru continued to ask while keeping her countenance, “This is not the first time?”

“Of course this is not the first time. Just a few days ago, it seemed to be the heir of Duke Yong, no, it was the heir of Duke Yong, whom I haven’t seen before, who sent her here. It was said she was seriously ill and almost died. But in fact, there was nothing serious. If First Miss Ning’s face hadn’t been so pale, our doctor wouldn’t have paid any attention to her!”

The young male servant said helplessly.

This First Miss Ning was really a person who liked creating a disturbance. But in fact, there was nothing serious every time. At most, she was a little shocked by something, or was angry and comfortable by what other people said. She originally enjoyed good health, but now she looked like she would be easily blown down by the wind.

It made people speechless.

The young male servants, of course, did not dare say these words. Even the doctor could only say that she should relax her mind and take a good rest. But to what extent she could recover depended on herself!

Although the young male servant did not speak out his meaning clearly, both Qin Wanru and Yu Jie understood it. They looked at each other and knew the answer. First Miss Ning suffered from anxiety, rather than a real illness. For example, a healthy person, who always said he was ill and felt that he could not be shocked, would be really ill one day.

So, did this First Miss Ning fall ill because of herself?

“Does the heir of Duke Yong have a good relationship with her?” After a second, Qin Wanru suddenly thought of a key question, and asked with a smile on her face.

She was guessing that this was the key as to why this woman framed her.

Chapter 195 The Books Sent by Wen Xichi

“Didn’t you say you are cousins?” The young male servant was stunned for a moment, as if he did not understand why Qin Wanru did not know the Heir of Duke Yong.

Yujie cleverly explained, “Our young lady is Miss First Ning’s cousin, but she has nothing to do with Duke Yong’s Mansion!”

“Oh, I see!” The young male servant thought he had understood it. Qin Wanru was a relative of First Miss Ning’s mother, while the Heir of Duke Yong was the relative of First Miss Ning’s father, so it was possible that Qin Wanru did not know the Heir of Duke Yong.

Qin Wanru asked again, “Does a few days ago mean half a month ago?”

“Yes, half a month ago. Alas, it was annoying and she seemed to be dying at that time!” The young male servant shook his head with a mature look.

“Can I go to Ning’s Mansion directly from here? I just arrived in the capital, so I don’t know the way!” Qin Wanru showed a modest smile and changed the topic.

“Yes. Go from here without going through the opposite street, and turn right at the end. The second house on your right is Ning’s Mansion...” the young male servant said enthusiastically. He even said some trivial things. Then he went to the door and pointed out, and specially told Qin Wanru the house number.

Qin Wanru remembered what the young male servant said, then said thanks with a smile on her face and left with Yujie. When they got to the door, she looked in the direction the young male servant had pointed and turned to the way they came before.

The carriage was parked near the teahouse. But Qin Wanru did not go back to the carriage directly. She went to her shop to see Nanny Dong instead.

Nanny Dong was asking people to carefully move things inside. Seeing Qin Wanru coming, she quickly wiped her sweat and greeted her with a smile.

“Second Miss!”

“How is it going?” Qin Wanru looked at everything inside. Although it was still a mess, it could be seen that it was brighter than before, and the layout was better.

“Nanny Dong, you’ve had a long day. Thank you!” Qin Wanru said with a smile.

“You are welcome, Miss. This is what I should do!” With a smile on her face, Nanny Dong looked more energetic than she was when Qin Wanru first met her.

“When will it open?”

“It can open in a month if we are fast. If we are slow, it will be a little later,” Nanny Dong thought for a moment then said.

It meant that it could be done before the Spring Festival, which was a good time to open a shop because there would be more customers than usual. Qin Wanru was satisfied with this.

Then she nodded and said, "Nanny Dong, if you need anything, you can come to me directly!"

After listening to Qin Wanru, Nanny Dong hesitated and wanted to say something.

Qin Wanru tentatively asked with a smile on her face, "Are you worried about Xiu'er?"

"Yes, I'm worried about Xiu'er. I haven't had time to see her in so many days. I'm afraid that she will cause trouble for you!" Nanny Dong said while forcing a smile on her face, "She grew up with me. Although she is not young, she is very innocent and naive. Before, I found that she had a good relationship with Qing Xue in your courtyard. But I think that Qing Xue wants to be more than just a servant girl and Xiu'er shouldn't know her. But Xiu'er didn't listen to me. I'm afraid that she..."

Qin Wanru gently asked, "Have you advised her before?"

"Yes, I have advised her not to play with such a scheming people. She is innocent and will be used by others. But she... didn't obey my suggestion!" While speaking of Dong Xiu'er, Nanny Dong was sad and helpless. She paused for a second and continued to say with slightly red eyes, "I've protected her so well that her character now is..."

Qin Wanru meditated for a moment and made a decision in her mind. She soothed Nanny Dong with a soft voice, "Don't worry, Nanny Dong. I'll separate her from Qing Xue for some time!"

This matter was still unclear. She also had not figured out how Qing Xue knew First Miss Ning. But needless to say, it had to have something to do with Madam Di and her daughter. She did not expect that the accident of Nanny Zhou would make Madam Di come up with such an idea.

She had thought that it had been so long before Madam Di and Qin Yuru made any trouble. Although Madam Di seldom came, she was quiet and calm when she came and had done nothing, which made people suspect for no reason. Now it seemed that this matter was planned by them.

Now that she had found out the details, she had made Madam Di's idea clear!

She would figure out Dong Xiu'er's affairs!

"Thank you so much, Second Miss!" Nanny Dong sighed with relief. She really did not like the servant girl named Qing Xue. At first sight, she knew that she made friends with Xiu'er for a reason. Nanny Dong had seen many people of different kinds. How could she not know that Qing Xue had other intentions? But her daughter knew nothing about it. And what she received with her kind suggestion was her daughter's anger.

Nanny Dong had suffered a lot when she was young, so she was most afraid of this kind of scheming servant girl. But she found that the Second Miss of Qin's Mansion was more outstanding. Now, the one she most admired was Qin Wanru. With her promise, Nanny Dong was relieved!

Since she was relieved in her mind, she immediately showed a happy look on her face!

"Second Miss, I really have something to tell you. I've been too busy these days, so I haven't gone to the mansion. But I think it's not urgent anyway!"

Nanny Dong went inside as she spoke. Soon after, she came back with some books. "Second Miss, these are the books sent by Mr. Wen that day. He said that you wanted to read these books!"

Nanny Dong then handed over the books she was holding. Qin Wanru took them and browsed through them with a smile on her face. Wen Xichi was indeed a gentleman who kept his word.

What she wanted was to get close to him to repay his kindness to her that day. It was necessary for her to communicate with him. But she was a girl who had not gotten married. This identity was inconvenient for her to get along with him for a long time and remind him of the affairs between his second brother and his cousin from time to time.

Qin Wanru tapped her hand with the books, and slightly frowned.

Nanny Dong hesitated and said, "Second Miss, Mr. Wen said that if... if you can't understand these books, you can ask someone to ask him." In fact, she did not think it was appropriate. Although her Miss was young and could do nothing with a man, she was, after all, not seven years old.

Qin Wanru's eyes brightened as she asked, "Is that what he said? Did he say where I can find him?"

A man like Wen Xichi would never let her go to Deputy Prime Minister's Chambers to find him. But since he said she could find him, he would certainly find a safe place.

"Er..." Nanny Dong really thought it was improper. But when she saw Qin Wanru's clear eyes, she thought she should tell her. After a moment's hesitation, she clenched her teeth and said, "Second Miss, I don't think it's very good. You shouldn't see him. Besides, he and you don't know each other!"

Nanny Dong was afraid that Qin Wanru would be deceived by Mr. Wen.

"Mr. Wen is outstanding and well-mannered, and must be a Young Master of an aristocratic family in the capital, but so what? If the Second Miss really falls in love with him and they secretly date, she will be really destroyed in the future!"

Thinking of a past event in her mind, Nanny Dong felt that she could not allow the Second Miss to fall into the same situation as herself.

She had been too young and naive, which was why she was in such a difficult situation now. She was the only one who knew how difficult and painful it was for a lonely woman to live with a child.

"Nanny Dong, don't think that I have anything to do with Mr. Wen." Qin Wanru looked at Nanny Dong in amazement and smiled. "I just appreciate Mr. Wen's talent. I think that I didn't learn much in Jiangzhou, and it would be a good thing if I could follow him to learn."

Looking at Qin Wanru's clear and calm watery eyes, Nanny Dong was ashamed and shook her head in embarrassment. "I've thought too much!"

There was no sense of shyness and affection in her watery eyes. Thinking about little Qin Wanru, Nanny Dong blushed. She had thought too much. "Second Miss is such a little, young girl, what does she know about love?"

Since she knew that Qin Wanru did not like Mr. Wen, Nanny Dong answered straightforwardly, "Mr. Wen said that if there is something you can't understand, you can go to Huaguang Temple to find him."

In the first few days of each month, he will pass Wenxin Road to go to Huaguang Temple and play chess with the abbot!”

Huaguang Temple, and Wenxin Road? And it was also the beginning of a month. It was such a coincidence!

Qin Wanru nodded and talked with Nanny Dong about the arrangement of the shop. She gave her advice to Nanny Dong, but the decoration was still up to Nanny Dong.

After talking about this for a while, Qin Wanru left the shop, which was being decorated with Yujie!

Yujie had gone outside first and called the carriage, and Nanny Dong saw them off before leaving. However, the carriage did not go back to the mansion directly, but went to the place where the young male servant in the clinic had told Qin Wanru about.

The coachman was found in the capital, so he was familiar with this area. After a short time, they came to a door. It seemed that the mansion was not small and it was also a large family. But the surface of the road outside was very old, and there was almost no open space outside the mansion.

It looked like a ruined mansion.

Qin Wanru’s carriage was parked on the side of the road. She slightly lifted the curtain, and saw the words “Ning’s Mansion” on the door. The calligraphy was great, but people could see black on the golden words, which showed that the gilded characters were no longer magnificent.

Its insides had been exposed.

There was no one at the door. But it seemed that there were people inside.

Qin Wanru reminisced about the past, and knew that this was exactly the place she wanted to come. Then she sat in the carriage and waited.

Yujie wanted to ask about something, but was stopped by Qin Wanru, who had a guess now. Qin Wanru would like to wait and see whether her guess was right. If so, she was really confused in the last life!

Because there was no place outside the mansion, and there were shops beside it, the carriage was not impressive!

The gate of the mansion was very quiet. No one went to the gate and no one came out. The door of the mansion was slightly open, so they could not see the view inside. But Qin Wanru looked around patiently. She was waiting!

Finally, a carriage slowly passed by her carriage, heading for Ning’s Mansion, and finally stopped at the gate of the mansion. A man jumped out of the carriage and reached out to the carriage. Qin Wanru was shocked when his face was exposed...

Chapter 196 Miss, Is This a Brothel?

The man helped a woman down from the carriage. Then the woman stood beside the carriage and seemed to say something to the man. At first glance, one could know that the two were passionately in

love. It seemed that they had a lot to say, so they stood there and talked for a while, after which the woman slightly turned her head, looking pretty delicate.

The man seemed to be leaving, but the woman gently pulled his sleeve and refused to let him go! Then they seemed to talk for a while. After that, when the woman wanted to talk again, the man got impatient and was about to leave.

But this time, he was grabbed by the woman again. The woman turned her head and whispered in the man's ear. Although they could not see the expression on her face in the distance, her manner and demeanor let people know that the woman was coquettish at this time. After that, the woman covered her face and went to the door.

The man behind looked very happy and laughed loudly.

Before entering, the woman looked back again and smiled. Then she entered the mansion. The man watched the woman entering the door with a good mood. Later, he got in the carriage, which then started out slowly and left. When it passed the carriage of Qin Wanru, a man could be seen sitting in the carriage through the window whose curtain was lifted.

He did not look very outstanding, but looked a bit refined, as if he was a gentleman.

But according to his behavior just now, one could find that there was nothing similar to the so-called gentleman in him. He actually flirted with an unmarried woman in front of the mansion, which even engaged couples would not do. However, the two seemed to be proficient at what they did just now.

It could be seen that they had done these things more than one or two days!

In fact, the two people were not an engaged couple. Qin Wanru looked at the window, where the face of the man flashed by. She was greatly shocked and her hands holding the handkerchief were cold!

It was Wang Shengxue, who was her first fiancé in the last life, a man who looked quite decent. Although his face was not outstanding, his righteousness would make people think that this was a real gentleman, which was the reason why she agreed with Madam Di's arrangement in the last life.

He looked like a gentleman, but he never did what a gentleman should do. The woman just now was really Ning Xueqing. In the last life, Qin Wanru always thought that Ning Xueqing was also a resolute woman. Although she was scheming, what she had done was for her lover.

Now she found out that Ning Xueqing was not resolute, but so obsequious. As a young lady of an aristocratic family, she should not have flirted with a man at the door, even though her family had declined. All kinds of her behaviors would make people think that she did it intentionally, and had no shame.

Such a woman who had no sense of shame and could do everything for her own interest was Ning Xueqing.

If her guess was right, the woman she saw in the teahouse was Ning Caixian, Di Yan's cousin. Originally, she did not know anything about it. It turned out that this was another trap that Madam Di and her daughter had set for her in the last life.

Besides, there was another pair of bad sisters in this game.

Qin Wanru bit her lips tightly, and swallowed the blood surging up from her throat with ferocity in her eyes.

Although Qin Wanru's reputation was not good when she first came to the capital, Jiangzhou was far away from the capital. Madam Di and her daughter had the upper hand in Qin's Mansion, so even though most people felt that she was inferior, some people still felt that she was framed by Madam Di. There was much competition among the women in aristocratic families, so some people could clearly see what had happened.

So the matter that the engagement was broken off happened later.

Wang Shengxue's appearance made people think he was upright, so nobody thought that Madam Di had done something wrong when Qin Wanru was framed and forced to marry such a man. Qin Wanru's family background was mighty, but her reputation was bad. So what else could she ask for? It was good for her that such a person was willing to marry her!

No one said that Madam Di had done something wrong regarding this marriage.

However, the breaking off of the engagement that happened in the capital made Qin Wanru's reputation worse. The world had always been tolerant of men. After the breaking off of the engagement, they did not say that Wang Shengxue had misbehaved, but said that Qin Wanru was not only low, but also cursed. They also said that it was not good for anyone to know her, and people who were of good conduct would become bad if they knew her!

Since then, no one in the capital was willing to marry her. Then Madam Di framed her for the second time...

Qin Wanru twisted the handkerchief in her hands.

"Miss..." Yujie looked at Qin Wanru uneasily and asked carefully.

Qin Wanru took a deep breath, and showed an expression that looked like a smile on her face. In her eyes, there was a strong grumpiness. This grumpiness, which almost came from hell, made Yujie, who grew up in Jingxin Monastery, scared and speechless for a while.

Qin Wanru suppressed the coldness in her heart, and slowly said, "He is Duke Xing's nephew." The bloodshot in her eyes caused by the grumpiness slowly disappeared.

"Then... who is that woman? Isn't this a brothel?" Yujie had few contacts with the world when she was in Jingxin Monastery. She had heard of brothels, but she had never seen one. She thought that woman was a prostitute when she saw her behavior just now, so she asked in doubt.

But she did not think so after thinking about it more. At least the words "Ning's Mansion" on the door were different from what the pilgrims used to say. However, maybe the customs in the capital were different from those in Jiangzhou.

"It's not a brothel, it's Ning's Mansion!" Qin Wanru showed a slight smile on her face and she had figured out the whole matter. "Let's go back!"

Now that she had seen what she wanted, what would happen next could not be decided by them!

Yujie started the carriage off in a daze, then looked at Qin Wanru, wishing to speak but stopped on second thought!

Qin Wanru, knowing that Yujie was full of doubts, leaned over in the carriage and said slowly with cold eyes, "The former First Miss Ning should have a good relationship with Di Yan, and the later Miss Ning should have a special relationship with Duke Xing's nephew!"

Unexpectedly, neither of the two sisters of Ning's Mansion were well-behaved girls. They were not only contemptible but also vicious. For themselves, they would sacrifice everything of others.

Therefore, the reason why Ning Caixian finally married into Duke Yong's Mansion was Qin Wanru, which also was the reason why Madam Di and Qin Yuru compromised!

Qin Wanru knew Madam Di well. Since Ning Caixian was sure to marry into Duke Yong's Mansion, she must at least seize some interests for herself. And Qin Wanru was the only reason why Qin Yuru treated Ning Caixian kindly. And it was also a good thing for Madam Di that Ning Xueqing forced the people of Duke Xing's Mansion to accept her and forced Wang Shengxue to marry her on such an occasion.

Otherwise, how could there be such a wonderful time!

If Qin Wanru had seen Ning Caixian in the last life, she would have figured out the whole matter. But she had never seen Ning Caixian. Of course, she also did not know her name. She only knew Di Yan's cousin, Madam Ning, but she did not expect that Madam Ning and Ning Xueqing were sisters!

Every dog has its day and retribution will come. Unexpectedly, an unintentional act of Qin Wanru let herself find out the truth that she had not found in her last life.

If she had not led that servant girl to the mansion, things would have gone the way they had gone in the last life. In the last life, Ning Caixian, who had fought Qin Yuru with wits and courage and also occupied the upper hand, finally married into Duke Yong's Mansion. In the end, for the sake of her own good life, she helped Madam Di and Qin Yuru deal with Qin Wanru.

For this reason, Qin Yuru also promised that if she gave birth to a son, she would be promoted to be the co-wife.

She had now figured out what she could not figure out since her rebirth.

For the sake of their own interests, the sisters of Ning's Mansion pushed Qin Wanru into a deeper abyss. She even had sighed with emotion for Ning Xueqing. It turned out that her passion of love and determination was her camouflage. Under such a camouflage, it was so dirty!

Yujie did not know who Ning Xueqing was, nor did she know who Duke Xing's nephew was, so her focus was on Ning Caixian. After listening to Qin Wanru, she thought about it for a second then asked in surprise, "Since First Miss Qin likes the Heir of Duke Yong, why does she deal with you? Shouldn't she deal with First Miss?"

"She must have been directed by Madam Di!" Qin Wanru's expression turned cold and her smile was like a sharp knife.

"Madame Di's guidance?" Yujie blinked in doubt.

“After Nanny Zhou came back that day, nothing has happened, has it? Obviously, she had gone to Duke Yong’s mansion several times later and had already found Madam Di’s delicate cousin, who had a special relationship with Di Yan, but nothing has happened. It wasn’t the usual style of Madam Di!”

Qin Wanru spoke slowly. It seemed that she was explaining it to Yujie, and it also seemed that she was whispering.

Yujie was not stupid. After hearing Qin Wanru’s words, she suddenly widened her eyes, and her voice rose unconsciously. “Nanny Zhou must have made her think that you are the key for her to marry the Heir of Duke Yong, so she plans to frame you, right? She looks so delicate, almost like she will be blown over by the wind. I did not expect her to be so vicious and selfish!”

Qin Wanru kept silent. The key was not hard to be figured out.

Since Madam Di could use Ning Caixian in the last life, she also could in this life.

Nanny Zhou’s parents were the servants of Duke Yong’s Mansion, so she was very familiar with Duke Yong’s Mansion. Even though the people of Madam of Duke Yong would not say it, the people of Madam Dowager of Duke Yong would certainly expose Ning Caixian. Since she and Di Yan grew up together, her existence was unable to be hidden in Duke Yong’s Mansion.

In the past, Qin Yuru did seek out Ning Caixian because she did not expect that Di Yan would betray her, so she did not ask Di Yan.

So, this was a series of plans, and each of them was vicious!

Though things were different in the past life and this life, their real intentions were vicious in both lives!

Qin Wanru showed a vicious smile on her face. This life was different from the last one. It was her who had survived bloody hell and was reborn...

Chapter 197 The Chipped off Screen

Qin Yuru would not have done this if she had known about the matter. In her last life, she had allowed Ning Caixian to marry into the family because she had no other choice. As for how Ning Caixian, together with Qin Yuru, framed her because she wanted to gain something from it and had no other alternatives, Qin Yuru had decided to endure it and let it go since this was insignificant compared to winning Madam of Duke Xing’s favor. Anyway, Ning Caixian was going to marry into Duke Yong’s Mansion no matter what happened.

Madam Di was aware of this matter. Given that Madam Di was out to get her, she would naturally make use of any resource she could lay hold of. Since Ning Caixian was harboring ill intentions against Qin Yuru, there was not stopping Madam Di making use of her!

Since Nanny Zhou was capable of hinting to the cousin that she was the reason Di Yan and her could not be together, Ning Caixian would definitely try to tackle her by entering the mansion to find out more information about Qin Wanru and to secretly harm her. Qing Xue, the chess piece placed in the mansion earlier on was indeed useful!

Although Qin Wanru was still young, the people who were serving her, be it Yujie or Qing Yue, were always loyal to her. The only person who was close to her, but was feeble-minded was Dong Xiuer!

“Miss, what do we do with Dong Xiuer?” Something seemed to have come to Yujie’s mind as she continued, “Madame Dong had always been true and faithful to Miss, and Dong Xiuer is her only daughter!”

Qin Wanru bowed her head as a cold look appeared in her eyes!

When the horse carriage arrived at Ningyuan Army General’s Mansion and entered the side gate to reach the parking place, Qin Wanru alighted from the horse carriage and accompanied by Yujie, she headed towards Old Grandma’s Xinning Pavilion.

Before she left the mansion, she had instructed Qing Yue to inform the Old Grandma of her leave. Now that she had returned from the trip and it was only right that she informed the Old Grandma. Coincidentally, she had something to enquire the Old Grandma about!

Before she arrived at Xinning Pavilion, she spotted many screens being placed outside the gates of the pavilion. They were of different shapes and sizes but were all around the same height. This made her stop in her tracks.

A group of girl servants was busily cleaning the screens. One girl servant, having good eyes spotted Qin Wanru and hurried over to inform Nanny Duan, who emerged shortly and came up to Qin Wanru.

“What’s happening here with so many screens?” Qin Wanru asked, staring at the screens in puzzlement. She did not recall seeing so many screens in the mansion.

“Madam Di had borrowed them from Duke Yong’s Mansion because we will be holding a banquet in our mansion, but our main hall was not big enough to host the banquet. The general and Old Grandma had discussed over the matter and decided to hold the banquet in the courtyard. The weather had been favorable lately. It’s a good idea to have the banquet held in the courtyard. Not only was the fragrance from the osmanthus flowers in the courtyard wonderful, the courtyard is also a very scenic spot in the mansion!”

Nanny Duan wiped her perspiration and continued, “However, the occasional breezes can be chilly. The screens are meant to block the wind as well as to cordon out the area which is the more scenic.”

“Had all these been moved from Duke Yong’s Mansion?” asked Qin Wanru, although she did ask for the reason why these were not sent to Shui Ruolan’s courtyard. She knew that since they were from Duke Yong’s Mansion, they would not go through Shui Ruolan, but sent them directly here. On one hand, it was so that Old Grandma would recognize the power of Duke Yong’s Mansion. On the other hand, it was to make clear Duke Yong’s stand. It was meant to kill two birds with one stone.

“All of these went sent from Duke Yong’s Mansion. However, just now...” Nanny Duan said helplessly as she pointed towards one screen by the corner and continued, “Just now, the corner of that screen collides into something! By then, it would be too embarrassing to return this screen with a chipped off corner.”

“It’s been damaged? Who did it? Was it the people from Duke Yong’s Mansion or the people from our mansion?” a stunned expression flashed across Qin Wanru’s face as she asked methodically.

“I have no idea. It was rather chaotic. After the movers sent the screens over, all the movements and cleaning up meant there were many people in the courtyard going in and out. We can’t really figure out

who did it. Regardless, given that this happened in our mansion, we have to consult Madam Di as to what we should do!”

Nanny Duan sighed. The person Old Grandma dreaded to see most would be Madam Di. However, the people in Duke Yong’s Mansion would not be pleased if it were any other person other than Madam Di who would inform them even though this was not a big deal.

Qing Wanru kept quiet as she walked toward the broken screen.

This was an eight-fold screen and a beautiful picture of the four seasons was painted on it. The scene of each season was painted on two folds of the screen. It was very beautiful indeed. In the picture, there were beautiful, smiling people among the flowers, who half-covered their white-washed faces.

This screen was considered the one with the best quality. It was no wonder that Old Grandma was troubled over the damage.

Moreover, Madam Di was half-grounded at this moment. Old Grandma would not want her to go to Duke Yong’s Mansion. Given her character, she might well create another wave of trouble if she went.

The chipped off portion was actually at the right most edge of the frame. The tallest corner of it had been chipped off. Though the chipped-off corner was placed in that position, the damage was conspicuous.

This screen was obviously destroyed. Which family among the aristocratic families would use a broken screen to humiliate herself?

As Qin Wanru reached out her hand to go over the surface of the screen, she squinted and in a heartbeat, she asked, “Who was the one that sent the screens today?”

“It’s Duke Yong’s son!” said Nanny Duan.

“Where is he now?” asked Qin Wanru.

“When he came, he went to pay respects to Madam Di. I’m not sure if he is with Madam Di or First Miss!” Nanny Duan said after pondering for a while. Not only had she been so busy in the courtyard, Di Yan was also a frequent visitor, therefore Nanny Duan did not bother question Di Yan’s whereabouts.

“I’m going to go speak to Childe Di. If need be, I’ll go ask for forgiveness from Countess Yong!” said Qin Wanru casually.

Taken aback by Qin Wanru’s comment, Nanny Duan immediately tried to stop her, saying, “Second Miss, I believe it’ll be wiser to let Old Grandma handle the matter!”

Nanny Duan was obviously aware of Madam Di’s evil intentions towards Qin Wanru, as well as the fact that the entire Duke Yong’s Mansion did not like Qin Wanru. If she allowed Qin Wanru to go to Duke Yong’s Mansion to seek forgiveness, Countess Yong would, without a doubt, take the opportunity to humiliate Second Miss!

“Not to worry, Nanny Duan. Not only am I the young mistress of Qin’s Mansion, but also the young mistress of Ningyuan Army General’s Mansion!” Qin Wanru purposely mentioned her status and smiled as she reassured Nanny Duan.

Nanny Duan was out of words for a moment. She knew Qin Wanru was trying to put the emphasis on the status of "Ningyuan Army General". Not only was the Qin's Mansion still Qin's Mansion, it was also Ningyuan Army General's Mansion. Though not comparable to Duke Yong's Mansion as yet, no one would ever know what would happen in the future. At the very least, no one would dare to offend the emperor's trusted subject.

"But Second Miss, Duke Yong's Mansion was not a regular mansion!" Nanny Duan reminded Qin Wanru, unable to feel at ease.

It was not because she looked down on Qin Wanru. In fact, having seen the many things that happened, Nanny Duan no longer treated Second Miss as a childish little kid.

Nevertheless, the fact that Duke Yong's Mansion was Madam Di's mother's household, while no other households dared offend Ningyuan Army General's Mansion, this was not true for Duke Yong's Mansion.

"I don't think it's a problem, Nanny Duan. Moreover, I may not go directly to Duke Yong's Mansion after all. I'll go speak to Di Yan first regarding this issue," said Qin Wanru, smiling, as she tried to reassure Nanny Duan.

The screens were supposed to be very sturdy. She had never encountered such a thing as a screen being chipped off at its corner.

While it was possible that mishandling could result in the screen being warped or scratched. However, it was rather unlikely that an accident could cause the screen to be chipped at its corner.

It was not difficult to see through the intention of the people in Duke Yong's Mansion. Anyway, she was just about to make a trip to Duke Yong's Mansion to see that frail-looking Cousin Ning Caixian, who appeared there once in a while.

At first, Qin Wanru had wanted to ask Old Grandma some matters concerning Duke Yong's Mansion to see if there was any chance she could meet with Ning Caixian. She surprised that the opportunity just came to her.

She tried to camouflage the coldness in her eyes with gentleness as she smiled at Nanny Duan.

"Alright, if you don't manage to settle it, then Second Miss, you should report this to Old Grandma before deciding what to do!" Nanny Duan reminded Qin Wanru while she finally agreed with her despite feeling a little worried still.

"Rest assured, Nanny Duan!" Qin Wanru nodded in response. For the last time, she studied the corner of the screen which broke off, then with a relaxed expression on her face, she turned and headed towards Zhifang Pavilion.

Since she had decided to go ahead, she had to make herself presentable by cleaning and dressing herself up anew.

Back in Zhifang Pavilion, Qin Wanru had Nanny Yu and Qing Yue find out more information from Di Yan while she prepared herself.

She let down her thick fringe to cover her delicate eyebrows, pulled her hair up into two loops and put in place by inserting four to five hairpins. Finally, her hair was adorned with pearls and jade ornaments so much so that her head alone looked like a beautiful butterfly.

She picked a dress which was the color of the waterlily. She had a growth spurt recently so she had outgrown all the dresses which she tailored not long ago. Just a few days ago, Old Grandma had instructed her to choose a few sets of her clothes to wear. However, the dress she wore now was both too short at the hem and at the sleeves.

The moment her face was partially covered by her fringe, immediately she looked oily and filthy. Together with the clothes she was wearing, not only did she look inconspicuous, it showed that she did not groom herself. Was it really a good idea to dress up like this, given that the Qins were an upstart family?

"Miss, this... you don't look like yourself!" Yujie said, staring at Qin Wanru.

She was especially uncomfortable with her mistress concealing her beauty.

"This is great!" Qin Wanru straightened her sleeves. She thought finally she was looking more like an eleven-year-old girl. With her clothes looking too small on her, it made her look like she was entering into adolescence, yet the other adornment she had still made her look like a child.

Not only did she look like a child, but one who was ignorant and sloppy.

Her appearance definitely did not evoke a likable feeling!

Moreover with the butterfly-like hairpins, her head looked like a pot of flowers which was offensive to the eyes!

Yujie had the feeling that whoever saw her, be it a male or a female, would be repulsed by her looks. People would definitely conclude that her mistress was either weird or worse, she did not have any dress sense and made herself look like a silly imbecile!

However, Qin Wanru was totally satisfied with how she looked. As she spied the foolish looking self in the mirror, a smile crept up on her face!

Great, she looked absolutely repulsive!

"Miss, I've found Childe Di. I..." As the curtain to her room was lifted, Qing Yue's voice echoed from the door. However, she was shocked to see Qin Wanru dressed up in this way, so much so that she froze in place!

Chapter 198 Making an Unreasonable Scene in the Garden

Qing Yue blinked and blinked again. She could not believe the person before her eyes was her young mistress. Where had her delicate and pretty young mistress gone?

She turned to look at Yujie as if she was waiting for an explanation.

Yujie smiled at her helplessly and interrupted her delusion, saying, "This is the young mistress!"

"Miss, why are you... you taking things too hard... if you are clueless about how to dress up, let, let your servant girls help you!" said Qing Yue with a sullen expression. Having the mystery solved by Yujie, Qing Yue's imagination had been shattered.

She thought that Qin Wanru was trying to dress herself up to look prettier, but ended up looking terrible because she had no dress sense.

"Doesn't this look good?" asked Qin Wanru as she used her hand to brush her thick fringe to the side to see Qing Yue more clearly. Not only did Qing Yue find Qin Wanru's thick fringe glaring, it also blocked her line of vision.

She was doing this to put Qin Yuru and Duke Yong's wife at ease! In addition, Miss Ning was probably not expecting her to look this plain and inconspicuous!

"How is this good? This..." Qing Yue was at a loss of how to explain and her mouth hung open but no words came out of it.

If it were not Qin Wanru standing before her eyes, knowing that this was indeed her young mistress, Qing Yue might have bluntly commented, saying, "You look like a ghost!"

"This is just right. Have you found Childe Di? Where is he?" Qin Wanru asked with a smile as she let down her thick fringe.

"He's in the garden. Coincidentally he had bumped into Miss Qi, so they started chatting with each other!" Qing Yue replied, helpless, and continued, "He had specifically said he was going to see First Miss earlier. Now that he's bumped into Miss Qi and there he is, striking up a conversation with her!"

"Will you get a maid to look for Di Yan and ask if Qin Yuru knows that if he had gone there?" Qin Wanru said, lifting her gaze.

Given Qin Yuru's character, if she found out that Di Yan was here and that he said he was going to look for her, but she had not seen him after such a long time, she would definitely go to look for him. What she would see would provoke her to anger!

"Yes Miss, I will instruct a maid to go right away!" Qing Yue immediately understood Qin Wanru's intention. She tried to wipe away the non-existent perspiration on her forehead, and then turned to walk out!

"Yujie, the other time Nanny Yu mentioned that there is a rather reputable physician in the capital city. Do you know where he is?" Qin Wanru asked abruptly when she saw through the window the maid leaving in a hurry.

"Miss, I know where he is. Nanny Yu and I had gone there before!" said Yujie confidently with a nod after a short pause.

The reason she was able to remember it so clearly was because Yujie had been to the physician with Nanny Yu!

"Let's go and have a look!" Qin Wanru said in an unhurried manner after she made a mental calculation and concluded that it was time Qin Yuru found Di Yan.

Di Yan was indeed here to deliver the screens and had seen Madam Di. He had wanted to see Qin Yuru but unexpected bumped into Qi Rongzhi on the way. He stopped in his tracks and started chatting with Qin Rongzhi.

They had not met each other for quite some time so when they finally got to speak to each other again, there was some element of mutual attraction in their conversation, although not expressed, there was a tacit understanding when they encountered each other in the garden.

Di Yan was a ladies' man by nature. He had a liking for Qin Yuru because of her outward beauty. However, he had found her increasingly displeasing after he witnessed her repulsive behaviors on a few occasions. Qi Rongzhi, on the other hand, was as pretty as Qin Yuru, but was of a much gentler disposition. She was like the Qin Yuru Di Yan used to know at the beginning. For this reason, Qi Rongzhi quickly found a way into his heart.

While the two were chatting away, his servant and her girl servant kept watching over the surroundings to see if there were any intruders. Qi Rongzhi was bashful while Di Yan was feeling tender-hearted towards her. Much time passed without them even realizing.

At the moment when they were chatting enthusiastically, Qi Rongzhi leaned over to want to say something to Di Yan when she accidentally stepped on something slippery and she lost her footing.

Di Yan instinctively reached out to hold on to her and her hand. Although their hands separated shortly upon contact, Qi Rongzhi's cheeks immediately blushed from embarrassment.

Di Yan thought that by doing so, he had forgotten his manners and quickly apologized to Qi Rongzhi, but she just shook her head and looked taciturn. Just when they were behaving intimately with each other, Qin Yuru, together with Mei Xue, her maid, suddenly appeared. What she witnessed made her shake with rage.

Qin Yuru had arrived from the direction where Di Yan's servant was. He had wanted to warn his master, but the way Qin Yuru's eyes bored into him and looked as if she was about to swallow him whole, he felt his legs giving way and was not able to make any noise to warn his master.

By now, Qin Yuru was approaching Di Yan.

Di Yan's senses had been dulled at this moment when he was immersed in the romantic feeling with Qi Rongzhi and by the time he spotted Qin Yuru, she was right before his eyes. In an instant, she gave Qi Rongzhi a tight slap across her cheek. Through her clenched teeth, she shouted, "Slut! You're a slut!"

Thereafter, Qin Yuru grabbed on to Qi Rongzhi's sleeve and hauled her onto the ground.

Di Yan was shocked when Qi Yuru appeared and before he could explain himself, Qin Yuru was already flying with rage. When he recovered from the shock, he quickly grabbed on to Qin Yuru's in an attempt to separate her from Qi Rongzhi. In a frenzy, he pulled too hard and Qi Yuru cried out in pain before he let go of her.

"Cousin Yu, listen to me first!" Di Yan said urgently, turning pale from anxiety.

"How dare you hit me because of this slut!" said Qin Yuru angrily as she pointed at Di Yan with her face glowering in rage.

"Please listen to me, Elder Sister Yuru. Childe Di and I had bumped into each other coincidentally... It really isn't what you think!" Qi Rongzhi said, looking pitiful as tears rolling down her cheeks. At this juncture, Chun Yi, her girl servant ran up to Qi Rongzhi to help her get on her feet.

"Slut! Slut!" Qin Yuru bellowed. She could feel herself exploding from anger. Did those two think she did not see them tugging and pulling each other? Although they eventually let go of each other, it was easy to see that there was something going on between them. How dare Qi Rongzhi tried to defend herself.

Qin Yuru took two steps towards Qi Rongzhi and was about to grab on to her hair.

Chun Yi quickly reached out to stop her as Qin Yuru ended up grabbing on to Chun Yi's hair and yanked hard on it. It was so painful that Chun Yi burst out in tears.

Seeing that Qin Yuru tried to make a scene, Di Yan stepped forward and stood in between her and Qi Rongzhi. With a severe tone, he said, "That's enough, Cousin Yu. Are you going to make this known to the entire mansion? Even if there really is something going on between us, has it much to do with you?"

Although there was an agreement between the two, it was not firmed up. Di Yan's words made sense after all.

However, Qin Yuru almost fainted from Di Yan's words!

"Cousin, you..." She pointed at Di Yan, but was at a loss for words. At the same time, her face was drained of colors.

"Alright, Cousin Yu, there really was nothing going on between Miss Qi and me. I was on my way to see you, but bumped into her half-way. We were just chatting for a while. Am I forbidden from speaking to other people?" Di Yan, worried that Qin Yuru's anger might lead to something more serious, quickly tried to appease her as he softened the tone of his voice.

"Are you sure there's nothing going on?" said Qin Yuru, articulating every word.

"Rest assure, Cousin Yu. You're the only one in my heart. Don't you trust me? Although you used to be intimate with... from Qi's Mansion, I never stopped liking you, did I?" Di Yan said, trying to pacify her.

His words had exposed Qin Yuru's weakness, who remembered the fact that Qi Rongzhi was Qi Tianyu's younger sister, so she would have known all about what happened in Jiangzhou. Immediately Qin Yuru felt a pang of guilt.

If Qin Yuru continued to argue with Di Yan, Qi Rongzhi might lash out given her character.

However, Qin Yuru could not swallow what she clearly witnessed a moment ago. There obviously was something going on between Qi Rongzhi and Di Yan.

Qin Yuru bit her lips and glared at Qi Rongzhi. How she wished she could claw on Qi Rongzhi's pretty face and disfigure her.

She was sure this slut had taken a fancy to Di Yan and had attempted to seduce him.

She was preoccupied with the thought that Qi Rongzhi was at fault. Never once did she realize that nothing would happen between those two if Di Yan had been an upright man.

“Big Sister, Master Di and Miss Qi, what happened to you?” Qin Wanru’s voice sounded as she suddenly appeared at this awkward juncture.

Everyone present turned to look at Qin Wanru. At the sight of Qin Wanru’s dressing, Qin Yuru, who was gnashing her teeth a moment ago, could not help but feel a mocking laugh bubbling up from within her. Surprisingly her anger was somehow abated.

Did Qin Wanru dress up in this way to catch Di Yan’s attention too? However, Qin Yuru found the sight of her so repulsive!

The first reaction Qin Yuru had when she saw any of the girls was to think that they were trying to seduce Di Yan. While she did not think this way before, she could not help having the idea when she saw Qi Rongzhi’s behavior just now!

Di Yan was stunned and stupefied when he spotted Qin Wanru. He was at a loss of words. His first thought was that Qin Wanru had wasted her beauty and elegance by dressing up in this way. Was she presentable at all dressed like this?

Qi Rongzhi was also stunned. However, she was quick to react by bursting out crying as if she had been wronged. “Little Sister Wanru, I, I had been misunderstood by your elder sister, Yuru. She is so mad with me. Will you please put in a good word for me to Elder Sister Yuru?”

“Miss Qi, you’ll have to deal with your problem yourselves. I’ve somethings to discuss with Childe Di!” said Qin Wanru with a serious expression on her face and she scanned their faces.

Given that she was dressed in this manner, Qin Wanru definitely did not look like she had any serious business with Di Yan. Moreover, they could not really tell her expression with only a small part of her face exposed.

Qin Yuru looked wary. She snorted and said, “What business do you have with cousin? Were you hoping to bump into him coincidentally? Was that why you had dressed up in this way?”

“What are you talking about, Elder Sister? It was only right for me to dress up when we have guests in our mansion. I can’t be dressed casually as on normal days!” Qin Wanru said, giving Qin Yuru a look of indifference. She had never gotten along with Qin Yuru anyway, so there was no need for her to pretend that they were close sisters. Qi Rongzhi was aware of this, so did Di Yan. They were not surprised at her words!

“Did you dress yourself this way? Not bad, not bad at all!” Qin Yuru snorted. She was rather happy. If Qin Wanru continued to adorn herself in this manner, there would be nothing for Qin Yuru to worry about. At this thought, she turned to look at Qi Rongzhi. Her focus now was on this slut, standing before her eyes.

“Master Di, one of the screens you delivered was broken. Please have a look at it and decide what to do. We certainly have to follow the protocol when something like this happens!” Qin Wanru said to Di Yan, ignoring Qin Yuru.

“What about a broken screen?” Di Yan paused for a moment before reacting.

"I'm talking about the screens which you had lent us. One of them had a corner chipped off. It's in my grandmother's courtyard. Shall we go and have a look and then decide how to handle this!" said Qin Wanru.

"Go! Go! Go!" Di Yan repeated a few times. Leaving this place was what he wanted to do most at this moment. He turned around and followed behind Qin Wanru.

Qin Yuru gave Qi Rongzhi one last hard glare before she trailed behind them.

Qi Rongzhi was a little hesitant. She bit her lips, but eventually followed behind them...

Chapter 199 Meeting up with Duke Yong's Mother, The Old Madam.

"This, this screen is my grandmother's favorite!" said Di Yan helplessly. He did not think much of the matter until he saw the broken screen and he frowned.

"This screen is indeed my maternal grandmother's favorite. When I went to visit her the other time, she even talked to me about it. Seemingly it belongs to my maternal grandmother's family in the past!" Qin Yuru curled up the corners of her lips and cast a mocking look at Qin Wanru as she continued saying, "Second Younger Sister, this is going to serious!"

Obviously Qin Yuru had not gotten over her rage and at this moment, everyone was objectionable to her.

Qin Wanru did not bother about Qin Yuru's comment, but fixed her eyes on Di Yan and said, "Master Di, how about I follow you back to Duke Yong's Mansion and speak to your grandmother so we could get everything clear?"

"This... actually that is not necessary!" Di Yan pondered for a moment and decided that it would be making a big fuss over a minor issue.

"I think it would be a better idea to make a trip there. Otherwise, if maternal grandmother gets angry, our cousin will have to face her alone, which makes me feel bad," said Qin Yuru. She got increasingly irritated seeing that Qi Rongzhi was still following them, but could not find a good reason to chase her away. She could only stop shooting her peculiar looks and pretended to look as if she was helping to think a solution for their problem.

"This..." Di Yan kept silent for a while. He knew that his grandmother would definitely inquire about the broken screen. He smelt trouble as he looked from Qin Yuru to Qi Rongzhi and thought it wise to get away for now. "Alright!" he said, nodding.

Once they decided to go to Duke Yong's Mansion, Qin Wanru, who was representing the Qin's Mansion to apologize to them, naturally had to go. On the other hand, Qin Yuru claimed that she wanted to see Duke Yong's mother, as well as to put a good word for Qin Wanru, so she had to go too. Di Yan had no objections, so he instructed men to fetch the horse carriage, and then headed out with the two sisters.

Di Yan also instructed men to bring the broken screen back. Although he was aware that a broken screen was useless, he had to bring it back since it was his grandmother's favorite!

While Qi Rongzhi was unhappy that she could not follow them, she knew nothing good awaited her there. All she could do was to stand helplessly and watch them with a glum expression as Di Yan brought the sisters with him.

She also spotted Qin Yuru's mocking smile when she turned to look at Qi Rongzhi! She tightened her grip on the handkerchief in her hands and all of a sudden, she thought Di Yan was not the best match for her.

Qin Yuru was the granddaughter of Duke Yong's mother, therefore, Qi Rongzhi did not expect that old lady to fancy her. However, she was unwilling to let go of Di Yan, who possessed the best qualities among her suitors. Moreover, Di Yan seemed to understand her thoughts. Although they did not express their feelings towards each other, they had good impressions of each other.

What if the Old Madam of Duke Yong's Mansion did not agree to this? Qi Rongzhi furrowed her brows. She had to ponder over this carefully. No matter what, she would not be defeated by Qin Yuru, the fickle-minded woman!

After Di Yan led Qin Yuru and her sister up onto the horse carriage, it immediately set off for Duke Yong's Mansion. Along the way, Qin Yuru did not open her mouth to speak, neither did Di Yan. The atmosphere in the horse carriage was rather gloomy. It was much unlike the past when Qin Yuru would be speaking gently and softly to Di Yan.

On the other hand, Qin Wanru was totally at ease. She just comfortably by the window and gently drew the curtains to look at the scenery outside. She seemed to be very curious about the street markets and the people walking in the streets.

She did not open her mouth to speak, neither did the other two break the silence. Because of what happened a moment ago, Di Yan and Qin Yuru were at a loss of words even though they had calmed down by now.

However, this awkwardness did not seem to affect Qin Wanru at all. She was feeling cosy and comfortable, and was in a good mood since she did not have to pretend to speak nicely to Qin Yuru.

Eventually, the horse carriage arrived and stopped at the gates of Duke Yong's Mansion. Di Yan alighted from the horse carriage, still looking glum, while Qin Yuru bit her lips as she followed Di Yan down from the horse carriage and Di Yan reached out to help her down.

Qin Yuru held on to Di Yan's hand as she alighted. Just when she was about to step onto the ground, her legs gave way and she leaned onto Di Yan.

"What happened?" asked Di Yan as he quickly supported her with his hands.

"My feet bumped into something, it's so painful!" Qin Yuru held on tightly to Di Yan as she tried to find her footing. Frowning, she lifted her leg and shook it and realized that it seemed to be injured.

"Can you still walk?" asked Di Yan, looking concerned.

Qin Yuru tried to take a few steps forward, but immediately cried out in pain. She frowned deeply, lifted her countenance and looked pathetically at Di Yan and said, "Cousin, my foot is so painful!"

"Let me help you in!" Di Yan said after he paused to think for a moment. He reached out to hold on to Qin Yuru's hand and secretly breathed a sigh of relief when he saw the old Qin Yuru, who was gentle and demure.

"Erm!" Qin Yuru responded with a gentle voice. She leaned her upper body on Di Yan and allowed him to support her as they entered the mansion.

Qin Wanru, who followed them down from the horse carriage stared at the two, who were leaning into each other. With a smile on her mouth, but not her eyes, she followed slowly behind them.

At this juncture, Qin Yuru certainly knew how to pretend to be helpless. The reason she was able to control Qi Tianyu was not merely because Qin Yuru was a domineering person. On the matter regarding the romantic relationship between a couple, Qin Yuru always knew the next step to achieving victory. She had lost to Ning Caixian in the last life because Ning Caixian was an expert in the same way as her.

The three entered the mansion. The servants, seeing that their young master had returned with his cousins, had quickly gone to inform Duke Yong's mother. Therefore, when Qin Wanru entered the old madam's courtyard trailing behind Di Yan and Qin Yuru, she was not surprised to see Qin Wanru.

However, what surprised her was Qin Wanru's dressing. She looked Qin Wanru up and down before she broke out into a gentle smile on her face, while there was a mocking look in her eyes. Her thoughts were that Qin Wanru had indeed come from outside the city. Qin Wanru ought to think she looked very pretty dressed in this way, when in fact, she was an embarrassment.

The old madam looked from Qin Wanru to Qin Yuru and a feeling of satisfaction rose in her. She thought her granddaughter definitely outshone her. From Qin Yuru's dressing, one could clearly see that she was a well brought-up lady from a reputable aristocratic family. Her daughter had raised her granddaughter so well that all the ladies in the other aristocratic families in the capital city may not be better than her.

In comparison, the old madam of Duke Yong's Mansion was very satisfied. For this reason, she treated Qin Wanru rather kindly.

After inquiring about Old Madam Qin's health and general conditions, the old madam of Duke Yong's Mansion also asked if there was any chance Old Madam Qin would pay a visit to Duke Yong's Mansion. It had been a long time since these two old women met. It seemed that the last time they met was during Madam Di's wedding.

After exchanging conventional greetings, Qin Wanru bowed guiltily towards the old madam of Duke Yong's Mansion and said, "Thank you, Madam for lending us your screens. However, I'm not sure which clumsy mover had chipped off a corner of one of your screens by accident. I heard from Master Di that this particular screen was Old Madam's favorite. Wanru had especially made the trip to apologize to you and to let you know that we are ready to pay for any loss!"

Qin Wanru bowed respectfully, adhering strictly to the etiquette.

"What screens?" Old Madam dazed before she recovered and turned to Di Yan.

"She was referring to your favorite four-seasons screen with eight folds," explained Di Yan.

"When was the screen delivered to the Qin's Mansion?" the Old Madam turned to ask the old maid standing beside her as her expression darkened and face fell.

The old maid went out to investigate the matter and returned after a while, whispering something into the Old Madam's ear. As she did so, the expression on the Old Maid's face was even more severe.

Her eyes came to rest on Qin Wanru and her expression softened as she sighed and said, "Forget it. I guess you did not damage it on purpose. I had thought that this particular screen was not being brought out from here. It came with me into Duke Yong's Mansion when I married into the household. For many years, it was safely kept here. Who would have expected the steward to allow it to be delivered to the Qin's Mansion, and it was accidentally broken at its corner?"

This was to say that the people from the Qin's Mansion had damaged other people's property!

"Old Madam, my grandmother intends to repair the screen by replacing the frame of the screen, so she was inquiring about where we can find such frames? My grandmother had just arrived at the capital city and did not know where to find such frames," Qin Wanru said.

"This..." the Old Madam hesitated.

"Maternal Grandmother, please feel free to tell her since paternal grandmother offered to repair the screen. If you refuse, it would appear that the Qins are stingy!" said Qin Yuru, who was sitting next to Duke Yong's mother, the Old Madam, as Qin Yuru tugged at her sleeves and sounded bashful.

"I'm afraid you can't find it anywhere nowadays. Given that it was from such a long time ago, I doubt if you can find a similar one now!" Old Madam said sadly as she reached out to stroke Qin Yuru's beautiful hair.

"There must be other top-quality frames which we can use to replace the broken one with!" At this moment, Qin Yuru was keen to please the Old Madam by saying all the nice things. Before Qin Wanru could continue, Qin Yuru had interrupted her and acted like she was the one making a decision.

"Forget it. The screen is old anyway. Every time I set my eyes on it, it brings back memories of the people I loved. Its value is not in itself anyway!" the Old Madam said with a smile.

What she meant was that this piece of antique was very valuable, therefore nothing was comparable to it in the market nowadays. Qin Wanru remained silent as she understood it as that the Qin's Mansion had caused a great loss to the Old Madam.

"Old Madam, there is no harm trying. It might still be possible for us to find such frames. What about you let Wanru go into the markets to look for a similar frame," Qin Wanru said respectfully, showing her sincerity in making up for the damage.

"But..." the Old Madam was about to refuse Qin Wanru's offer when Qin Yuru interrupted her and said, "Maternal Grandmother, please let my younger sister and me go and check it out. Perhaps there really is something which looks similar!"

"Alright then!" the Old Madam's eyes twinkled as she finally nodded in agreement.

The old maid had instructed for the damaged screen to be brought into the courtyard a moment ago.

Qin Wanru and Qin Yuru came into the courtyard and started inspecting the damaged corner of the screen. Qin Wanru even reached out her hand to touch the chipped off corner as she asked Di Yan, saying, "Master Di, do you have similar screens in your mansion with the colors of the four seasons which are brighter in color?"

"I've not taken special notice!" Di Yan replied, shaking his head. He did not usually take note of such things.

"I heard from my grandmother that I've a cousin living in your mansion. I wonder if she knows of any latest model of frames for screens in the capital city?" Qin Wanru said casually, lowering her head.

All of a sudden, Qin Yuru's face fell. As she remembered how Qi Rongzhi was with Di Yan just now, she had tried to force herself to trust Di Yan, thinking that he was faithful to her, but at the mention of another girl living in Duke Yong's Mansion, Qin Yuru's heart was hanging in midair once again...

Chapter 200 Confrontation

"Cousin, is there a cousin in your mansion?" Qin Yuru looked up at Di Yan, trying to hide her curiosity. She had been in the capital for a while, but she didn't see any cousin in Duke Yong's Mansion and thus she never asked before.

"Nope, she had left a long time ago!" Di Yan's heart skipped a beat, and he turned his head away in guilt, pretending to examine the broken frame of the screen.

"Gone?" "When did she leave?" Instinctively, Qin Yuru sensed something fishy. She was still smiling, but her eyes were full of doubt.

Di Yan coughed. "Before you came. She left for something at home!"

"She left before I came, why didn't I know about it?" At this time, Qin Yuru was sure this was not a matter as simple as it seemed. Though she was furious, her expression became even more gentle.

"It's not a big deal. She used to come occasionally to visit my mother and would stay for a day or two." Di Yan felt more and more uncomfortable. He knew his affairs at home, and surely, Ning Caixian had some relationship with him.

Countess Yong had always wanted him to marry Ning Caixian. Although Ning Caixian's family was not as good as Duke Yong's, she was related to her. If Ning Caixian married Di Yan, it would be to her advantage, and they would be in the same boat. Since Countess Yong married into Duke Yong's Mansion, Madam Duke Yong had been hard on her, and she held grudges against her.

If Ning Caixian married in, she would be closer to her, and for this one reason, Countess Yong wanted to make things work between Ning Caixian and Di Yan.

However, Madam Duke Yong opposed the matter. While Qin Yuru lived in Jiangzhou, Countess Yong asked Ning Caixian to live in the mansion from time to time, to bond with Di Yan.

Ning Caixian naturally grasped this opportunity, while she flattered Countess Yong, she hung out with Di Yan. They were almost getting married when an elder of Ning Caixian passed away. Madam Duke Yong then took the chance and dragged the matter out. Later, she claimed that Ning Caixian's birthdate was contrary to Di Yan's, and she proposed to get Qin Yuru instead.

Madam Duke Yong reproached Countess Yong, who then reluctantly offered marriage to Madam Di in Jiangzhou. After Qin Yuru reached the capital, it would be inconvenient for Ning Caixian to appear in Duke Yong's Mansion. After Qin's Mansion had settled in the capital, Qin Yuru would go back. It was only then that Ning Caixian would stay in Duke Yong's Mansion for a night or visit Countess Yong occasionally.

However, now that Qin Huaiyong had re-emerged as Ningyuan Army General, his status was much higher. Though his position was not very high, he was close to the emperor and was also a Vice Commander of the Imperial Guards Team. Qin Yuru's status was way beyond Ning Caixian's, and they were not on an equal match!

Under such circumstances, Countess Yong had no choice but to end her idea of a marriage with Ning's Mansion.

However, Ning Caixian refused to do so and continued to have rendezvous with Di Yan, and their relationship eventually got better.

Of course, everything happened behind the curtains. On the surface, Ning Caixian was just the niece of Countess Yong and a cousin of Di Yan.

The affair between Di Yan and Ning Caixian nearly got approval back then, so many people in the mansion knew about it.

However, Qin Yuru never asked, so the people did not dare to say anything. Everyone buttoned their lips.

"Why have I never met her?" Qin Yuru smiled and said, hiding the jealousy in her eyes and replacing it with curiosity.

"Maybe she had something happen in her own family. After all, she does have her own mansion and can't stay here forever!" Di Yan replied impatiently. He got up and looked at the screen, then turned and walked into the house. He was very annoyed by the mentioning of Ning Caixian, and he did not know how to deal with it.

He had feelings for both ladies.

He had known Ning Caixian since a young age, and though she was not as good-looking as Qin Yuru, she was gentle and obedient to him. Their love sparkled since young, and they made their vows. However, Qin Yuru was good as well—she was pretty and had a strong family background, which would be helpful for his future.

He wanted both cousins!

After Di Yan entered the room, Qin Yuru's face sank, and her eyes were cold. Gritting her teeth, she turned to Qin Wanru and questioned her. "How did you know brother Yan's cousin was living in his mansion?"

"Big Sister, you didn't know about it? Grandmother said that all the people in Duke Yong's Mansion knew. Once Nanny Duan went to Duke Yong's Mansion and heard people gossiping about this and assumed the whole mansion knew about it. I thought of changing a new frame for the screen just now,

and since that cousin is about the same age as Big Sister, she will know the latest trend. Thus I wanted to ask her for some suggestions!”

Qin Wanru spoke after she patted the frame and took two steps back.

Yujie passed her a handkerchief, and she picked it up casually and rubbed her hand, then she looked at Qin Yuru’s sullen face and said, “Big sister, let’s go in too. We must do the frame well. Otherwise, we will be at fault!”

“You go!” Qin Yuru had no mood to flatter Madam Duke Yong now. When she thought of the fact that Di Yan had a cousin beside him and everyone knew about it, she felt horrible. Suddenly, she recalled the scene where Di Yan was together with Qi Rongzhi.

Qi Rongzhi was only in Qin’s Mansion for a short period, and Di Yan hardly saw her, yet the two fell in love. This so-called cousin had lived in Duke Yong’s Mansion for some time and had a much closer relationship with Di Yan. Something must have happened between them.

“Big Sister, you are not going in?” Qin Wanru was about to step forward and heard Qin Yuru’s words, so she turned and looked at her, puzzled.

“I have other stuff to do!” Qin Yuru said firmly then walked outside. She had lived in Duke Yong’s Mansion for a while and knew the place well.

As she walked out of the courtyard, she walked toward Di Yan’s courtyard. She remembered that Di Yan had two servant girls, and she had always found them bitchy and thought of getting rid of them after she married Di Yan. However, she would like to give them a chance.

Seeing Qin Yuru leave with a cold face, Qin Wanru grinned and then re-entered the house.

After she paid her respect to Madam Duke Yong, she said, “Madam, if I can’t find the original frame, can I use the most up-to-date framework in the capital?”

“Sure!” Madam Duke Yong had said that she would not care about it, so of course, she nodded as she did not want to make things hard for Qin Wanru.

Since the matter had been solved, Qin Wanru decided to leave. After making another bow, she left with Yujie.

Di Yan did not intend to go to Qin’s Mansion. However, as a host, he still sent Qin Wanru out.

When he reached the gate of the mansion, he did not see Qin Yuru. His expression changed and he asked the servant on the side, “Where is cousin Yu?”

“I don’t know. I saw her leaving the courtyard just now!” the servant answered in confusion.

“Let’s go!” Di Yan hurried back.

However, he came across Qin Yuru halfway. When he saw Qin Yuru, who looked rather calm, Di Yan heaved a sigh of relief and quickly approached her. “Cousin Yu, where did you go just now? I thought you were waiting at the gate of the mansion!”

"I took some things from the yard where I used to live. I used to go to the street when I was here, and I left them here when I hurriedly left for home!" Qin Yuru grinned.

Although deep in her heart she was gritting her teeth, she did not reveal anything on her face. That bitch actually had a relationship with her cousin a long time ago. They even vowed to marry one another.

Earlier on, the relationship between Qin Yuru and Di Yan had yet to be settled. However, after Qin Huaiyong was appointed, it was decided. The two servant girls also knew that Qin Yuru would be their madam in the future. Thus, when Qin Yuru asked, they did not hide from her anything related to Ning Caixian.

Not only did they tell her about Ning Caixian and Di Yan, but they also said that Ning Caixian once sent people to Qin's Mansion to find Di Yan, saying that she was ill and asked Di Yan to go to Ning's Mansion. It was said that Miss Ning was delicate and fainted while talking to Di Yan.

The reason why these two servant girls knew about this matter was that Di Yan had sent people to his yard to get some good ginseng for Miss Ning to use.

The two servant girls also mentioned that they had witnessed the delicate cousin fall into the arms of Feudal Lord a couple of times!

Whenever Qin Yuru recalled what the two servant girls said, she would get furious. However, she knew it was not the time to get angry. What happened earlier with Qi Rongzhi had annoyed Di Yan.

"Oh, well, what else do you need? You had left somethings at my place too!" At this time, Di Yan only wanted to send Qin Yuru away. Thus he complied with her on everything.

"Just leave them there!" When Qin Yuru looked at Di Yan's expression, hatred grew inside her. She clenched her handkerchief tightly, but her face remained calm.

"Well then, I shall send you out. Cousin Wanru should have left by now, I will get another carriage to send you back!" Di Yan said enthusiastically.

"Thanks!" Qin Yuru whispered.

"It's nothing, your business is my business!" Qin Yuru's femininity had always fascinated Di Yan, with such a pretty face. Di Yan answered gently, reaching out and helped Qin Yuru up. For a moment, he refused to let her go.

"Cousin, let's go!" Qin Yuru blushed under his gaze and gently nudged him.

"Ya, ya!" Di Yan was so fascinated by her that he stuttered his words.

The two spoke for a while longer, and Qin Yuru reluctantly boarded the carriage of Duke Yong's Mansion. The carriage left Duke Yong's Mansion, but it did not go to Qin's Mansion. It swerved into another direction to "Ning's Mansion" where the two servant girls had told her about!

How could Qin Yuru let this matter go...