

## Medical Princess 221

### Chapter 221 The Man Causing Trouble

When Qin Wanru reached the study, she was led by a servant from the side door. She saw a screen, and Qin Yuru sat there, frustrated.

The servant pointed to another chair and gestured for her to sit there.

Qin Wanru nodded silently and sat down.

Qin Yuru glanced at her angrily and continued to listen to the movement behind the screen.

"You said that this is cousin's hair clasp, what is the evidence?" Qin Wanru strained her ears and heard Di Yan's voice first. Her eyes darkened as Di Yan seemed to be more dissatisfied with Qin Yuru. Otherwise, he would not have intervened in the matter.

At this time, even if Di Yan was full of doubts, he should avoid it.

Going directly to the study and intervene in the matter showed his impoliteness. In other words, he could no longer control his dissatisfaction with Qin Yuru.

"Well, the First Miss and I fell in love at first sight. When we met, we exchanged hair clasps. If you don't believe me, you can ask the First Miss. I gave her an inherited hair clasp from my ancestors. Although I am broke now, my inherited hair clasp is of excellent quality!"

A thin man knelt in the study. Although he was young, when he rolled his eyes, he looked obscene.

Though he had been beaten by Qin Huaiyong and his face was swollen, it did not stop him from insisting on his words.

"Nonsense!" Qin Yuru could no longer bear it and she stood up. Her face turned gloomy as she approached the man and kicked him hard.

When he saw Qin Yuru, the man immediately shouted, "First Miss, you, you took my token of love, and gave me an ordinary hair clasp as a gift, then disappeared. If I had not come to find you today, were you going to deny it? That hair clasp was passed down in my family. My ancestors were officers once, and that clasp was the most valuable thing left by them."

"Asshole!" As the man went past the limit, Qin Huaiyong became furious and threw a cup at him. It hit the man in his head, and he cried.

"Cousin, do you have that hair clasp? If you do, return it to him, he's not worth it!" Di Yan frowned.

"Cousin, what do you mean? Are you saying that I have that hair clasp? . I took his hair clasp and had an affair with him?" Qin Yuru cried uncontrollably. She questioned while wiping her tears away.

"I am not saying that you have the hair clasp. It's just that this man was a jerk, and if the matter continues, it would be bad!" Di Yan lowered his voice.

"Why he is sure it was me? I have never seen this person. The hair clasp is from Qin's Mansion, but I am not the only one who has a hair clasp. Second Sister can have one too, and I can also give it to others!"

Although Qin Yuru hated Di Yan for what he said, she still tried to push the blame onto Qin Wanru under Madam Di's suggestion.

"Who are you? How dare you try to frame a noble lady, don't you want to live!" Madam Di threatened him at the side.

She hated herself now. If she had known earlier, she would not have used that woman to try and frame Qin Wanru. She did not expect it to be her daughter who would be framed. When she saw that hair clasp, she understood everything. That hair clasp was from Dong Xiuer, and it was meant to spoil Qin Wanru's reputation.

The hair clasp was from Dong Xiuer, and for her own sake, she would push all the blame onto Qin Wanru.

Dong Xiuer hardly went out of Zhifang Pavilion, and with her character, most people would believe what she said. And along with the evidence that she prepared, the trap would succeed.

However, now everything happened to Qin Yuru instead. Madam Di wanted to tear Ning Caixian apart, as she was the culprit.

"That bitch, how dare she!"

She looked at Di Yan suspiciously. At first, she favored this nephew, but now she hated him in all ways. Not only was he a playboy, but he also kept a relationship with Ning Caixian, the bitch. Of course, Countess Yong had a role inside as well.

They were all jerks. If given the chance, she would make that woman's reputation even worse.

Madam Di was full of hatred and grievances. She knew the truth but couldn't say it. She could only hint that it was related to Qin Wanru, and thus, Qin Huaiyong called Qin Wanru over.

"Madam, I am in love with the First Miss, do not separate us!" The man was stubborn and insisted on his words. When he heard Qin Yuru's and Madam Di's words, he denied them.

Madam Di bellowed, trembling with fury, "My daughter is going to marry my nephew and will be the future Duke Yongkang Princess. Which part of you is worthy of my daughter? How dare you say that you are in love with her!"

Madam Di pointed at him bellowed, trembling with fury.

"Although my family is not as good as the heir of a duke, my ancestors were also famous people. Moreover, I treated Miss Qin well. When we were together, we already made out. Otherwise, I would not give her such a precious hair clasp. Miss Qin said she liked my type, so what can I do!"

A rogue is a rogue. He could say anything at this time.

Qin Yuru's face blushed, nearly losing her breath. She held onto Mei Xue and was about to kick the man again.

However, the man was prepared. When he saw Qin Yuru lifting her leg, he hugged it and pulled her. Qin Yuru lost her balance and fell onto him.

The man quickly released her leg and hugged her, excited. "Yuru, I knew you loved me. When we met privately, you said that we would have a baby together, and you might be pregnant. You have to be careful now!"

Everything happened in a flash, and before Madam Di and Di Yan could react, Qin Yuru was in the arms of the man.

Madam Di reacted fast. She pulled Qin Yuru and slapped the man in the face. Nanny Zhou, who was beside her, helped to pull Qin Yuru up and then kicked the man hard.

When beaten, the man let go of Qin Yuru.

Di Yan's face turned gloomy. His fingers trembled and he wanted to say something. However, at the sight of Qin Huaiyong's icy expression, he dared not utter a word.

In such a situation, even if whatever happened earlier was fake, Qin Yuru's reputation was considered spoilt. Di Yan felt as if she had cheated on him!

"If you don't believe it, go to Miss Qin's house and check it out. You will find that hair clasp with a small word on it, 'butterfly'. None of the ladies in your mansion has that word in their name. Of course, it would be mine!"

The man covered his chest and stood up.

"Find it!" Qin Huaiyong demanded angrily. He had been a general for a long time and was at the top in Jiangzhou. He had never encountered such a thing before.

A servant turned and left. Qin Yuru's expression changed and she ignored the man. She held Madam Di's hand and panicked. "Mother!"

Madam Di patted Qin Yuru's hand and hinted at Nanny Zhou, who then followed after the servant.

Although Madam Di felt this was a stupid affair, Qin Yuru seemed to be guilty. She let Nanny Zhou follow up in case something went wrong.

Di Yan saw Qin Yuru's panic and her interaction with Madam Di. He was glum and hinted at his servant as well. The servant then sneaked out and chased after the people in front!

"How dare you accuse my daughter! There is more than one lady in the mansion, you better check!" Even now, Madam Di tried to push everything onto Qin Wanru.

Qin Huaiyong banged the table angrily. With the deafening noise, everyone quieted down.

"Father, send him to the government!" Qin Wanru walked out from behind the screen and calmly suggested.

Upon hearing that, the man panicked for the first time and then he regained his composure. "No matter where I go, Miss Qin belongs to me. We are not just engaged, we probably have a child already and will be a family in the future. If you sent me to the government, the child would be born without a father!"

"Father, since he is so stubborn, investigate his identity first. Then ask him who was he close to recently so we can know who is trying to frame us." Qin Wanru did not panic and approached Qin Huaiyong. However, she did not stop beside him and went past him instead.

"Nonsense, we should interrogate him first!" Madam Di panicked, for fear of more things being exposed.

Seeing Madam Di's guiltiness, the man stopped panicking and got rampant, then shouted, "I am in love with the young lady. Even if you sent me to the government, I would say the same thing. If you don't spoil her reputation, I don't mind either. Anyway, I love speaking about our love stories!"

That man told him previously he would not be in trouble. No lady would do that to spoil her reputation. After all, the evidence was firm.

The man looked at Qin Yuru arrogantly. His eyes were obscene. Such a beautiful Miss from an aristocratic family was becoming his wife, how wonderful was that!

The next moment, as the man looked ahead, he became rigid...

## **Chapter 222 What a Daughter from the Family of Generals!**

Qin Huaiyong was a military officer, which was different from the other civil officials in the study. Behind him was a sword hanging on the wall.

As Qin Wanru passed the wall just now, she took it down, and put it right on the neck of the man. Feeling the chill on his neck as well as the glistening cold light from the blade, the man stood there with his whole body stiff.

"Father, this guy must have been incited by someone. He deliberately entered our mansion with the excuse of the lost hair clasp of Big Sister so that he could assassinate you. If you kill him by mistake, it doesn't count for much." Qin Wanru looked back with a smile, her face was so beautiful, like blooming flowers. In striking contrast, Qin Yuru was blue in the face and could do nothing about it.

Qin Huaiyong knew her plans, so he nodded. "He is just a nobody, father can kill him as easy as rolling off a log."

"Father, killing him is not enough, you can also choose to execute his whole clan. Although he looks like he is alone, he must be from a particular clan. Certainly, you have another choice, like digging up the tombs of those in his family that have passed away and grinding their bones to dust." Qin Wanru smiled softer than before. She even glanced at that man.

Seeing her glance, the man felt like his heart was grabbed by a weird hand. Her beautiful face meant nothing but deep terror and panic in his eyes. He couldn't help trembling with fear.

Indeed, he had lost both his parents, now muddling along as a hooligan, but his aunt was alive. She worked hard to bring him up, and he took his aunt as his dearest mother.

"Mi... Miss..."

"Now you have something to say, but it's too late!" Qin Wanru interrupted him. Her hands moved the sword slightly hard. Then the man felt some chills on his neck and immediately shouted in a panic,

“Miss, Miss, I will confess, I will confess all of them. It was someone who sent me to frame the First Miss.”

“But I have no patience to hear it. Your life, along with the lives of your whole clan and your parents’ bones, will not be settled in their graves. Isn’t it better? Just for the sake of a little money, how dare you do this!” Qin Wanru said with pity. Then she moved her eyes down to the point of the blade. It was so sharp that his neck was cut open by only a slight move, and the blood streamed down.

Di Yan couldn’t help stepping back with a pale face. He couldn’t believe that this girl before his eyes was really Qin Wanru, who always looked tender, lovely, and beautiful in former times.

Recently, Di Yan always liked to watch Qin Wanru as soon as he got the chance.

Slowly growing up to be somewhat full-blown, Qin Wanru was no longer an ordinary girl. Everyone could imagine how beautiful she would be in the future.

However, it was this girl who calmly held a sharp sword, blood streaming from its point. Her face was weird and cold.

Di Yan didn’t dare to think about this beautiful girl. He hurried to lower his head, in the hope of covering the panic in his eyes.

He had met many girls before, some of them were beautiful, tender, lovely, and some were vixens, but he had never met such a girl who smiled so beautifully while acting so cruel as well.

Even though he still had some love for her, it has all gone at the moment.

“Second Miss, Second Miss, it was the people of Ning’s Mansion who sent me to do this. It had nothing to do with me. The hair clasp was also given to me by the people of Ning’s Mansion. The supervisor thought I didn’t know his tricks, but I had my men in this region who followed him to enter Ning’s Mansion, and after that, the supervisor entered Ning’s Mansion several times.”

With a sword on his neck, in addition to Qin Wanru’s previous words, the man trembled all over. He was afraid that Qin Wanru couldn’t control herself and would kill him, so he hurried to confess everything that he knew.

At this point, he dared not hide anything. The reason why he followed that supervisor was that he was curious about the man who gave the mission. Being a hooligan, he had to be really prudent in order to stay alive.

When he found that the supervisor was from Ning’s Mansion, the man didn’t get to him immediately. He planned to blackmail the supervisor with this information after the business about Ningyuan Army General’s Mansion was done. Then he could get money from both sides.

But at this moment, his life was almost taken by others, so he could no longer dare to hide anything. In fact, he answered whatever others’ asked. Even if it was something that Qin Wanru didn’t ask, he confessed all of them so as not to piss the girl off and have her kill him.

The reason that Qin Wanru advised to kill him was totally right. He intended to kill an official appointed by the imperial court. It was normal for him to be killed on the spot, and then his whole clan would be executed.

“Ning’s Mansion? Which Ning’s Mansion? The Ning’s Mansion that Ning Caixian belongs to?” Suddenly, Qin Yuru got it. She immediately rushed at the man, shouted, and grabbed his collar.

Qin Wanru moved the sword away from the man’s neck. Qin Yuru rushed forward recklessly as if she would push the man onto the blade of the sword. Just now, Qin Yuru intended to frighten the man instead of killing him. If the man was really dead in the Qin’s Mansion, it would not be easy for them to deal with it.

Of course, if that thing did happen and the man was killed on the spot, it would have nothing to do with Qin Yuru, as it was Qin Wanru who held the sword. At this moment, Qin Yuru intended to frame her sister. Qin Wanru glanced at Qin Yuru’s face with a cold smile.

Certainly, she didn’t do this for Qin Yuru. If they were to fight each other, Duke Yong’s Mansion would be busy enough with their own business, let alone the business of Qin’s Mansion.

And now, Duke Xing’s Mansion waited for the benefit at the side. She should kill the underlings from Duke Xing’s Mansion first.

She took two steps back and turned around, moving forward Qin Huaiyong. Then she handed over the sword to Qin Huaiyong respectfully and stood behind him quietly.

Qin Huaiyong looked at the tip of the sword. There was still blood on it. Then he looked up to see Qin Yuru, who seemed to have the upper hand for now. He felt so disappointed.

“Why? Why isn’t Qin Wanru my daughter? Why can’t my own daughter be like her?”

“Qin Wanru is really a daughter from the family of generals. What Qin Yuru has done is not only meaningless, but also makes things more complicated.

“If Yuru could be as smart as Wanru, I wouldn’t be so tired. Or if Wanru was really my daughter, it would be so great!”

“Yeah, you are right. It is the Ning’s Mansion with a bad reputation. I heard that the First Miss from Ning’s Mansion kept an unknown relationship with an heir of a duke. Besides, the Second Miss had previously had an ambiguous relationship with a child from an aristocratic family.”

At this moment, the man would confess anything he knew. He was worried that Qin Yuru didn’t understand, so he explained that much.

Di Yan was standing aside. His face was terribly blue. Certainly, he knew which one the Ning’s Mansion was. For a moment, he was ashamed and angry.

He only felt that he had totally lost face because of Ning Caixian and Qin Yuru.

“Father, I am going to take my men to break down that bitch’s mansion and rip her mouth to pieces. I am sure she won’t dare do that again!” Qin Yuru turned back to Qin Huaiyong and shouted. Before, she had always been suppressed, but now she figured all of this out finally, how could she let her off? She stared fiercely at Di Yan, as she never forgot that it had something to do with him.

“Father, why not notify the local government and arrest Miss Ning. She framed the families of officers, which could be a crime.” Qin Wanru added these words slowly.

"Uncle, please wait a minute!" Di Yan was afraid he really did this, so he was so worried.

"Wait for what? Wait for what? Maybe you have some relationship with her?" Qin Yuru was crazy. How suppressed she felt before was how angry she would be now. She turned back and stared at Di Yan with clenched teeth. Totally regardless of there being so many people in the room, she growled at Di Yan loudly.

"Qin Yuru, what's wrong with you? It has nothing to do with me!" Di Yan became agitated as well.

"If it has nothing to do with you, then why did she come here to you and send others to ruin my reputation? You need to say it clearly, whether you still kept meeting with her or not? Di Yan, you must remember that it is me who is engaged to you!" Qin Yuru said with hatred. All those feelings that had been kept in the bottom of her heart had now come out in one blow.

She had kept some words so long and she had to speak them out today.

"Qin Yuru, what did you say? Do you know what you are talking about?" Di Yan felt he had totally lost face. For a second, he felt guilty and angry. So he shouted in a louder voice.

"Di Yan, maybe you never loved me and you didn't want to be engaged to me, is that right? Previously, you kept this engagement delayed until the deadline. Now I know it is because of that woman. Well, well, in a moment, I will go to break down Ning's Mansion. I will pull that woman into the street and let people know how this bitch tempted you!"

She found that instead of comforting her, Di Yan even shouted at her. All Qin Yuru felt was angry and aggrieved. If it had not been for the delay of Duke Yong's Mansion, she would never have been engaged to Qi Tianyu, let alone the business of framing Qin Wanru afterward. Also, her reputation would not have been ruined in Jiangzhou so that people all around that place laughed at her.

She had done so much for Di Yan, but he didn't feel grateful to her, and had an ambiguous relationship with another woman. Even that woman planned to ruin her reputation.

Now she had all that hatred in her heart and mind.

Qin Yuru was so angry that her eyes turned red. She approached Di Yan and grabbed his sleeves, hoping that he would explain all these things to her.

Her words aroused Madam Di's sympathy, and she stared at Di Yan coldly as well.

Di Yan shook his sleeves violently, and gave a salute to Qin Huaiyong with a blue face. Then he turned away. He thought that Qin Yuru was somehow insane.

Seeing him go off in a huff, Madam Di became more angry. Previously, she was in doubt about it, but now she was sure about it. Before, Di Yan respected his aunt so much that he would bow to her, but now, he just went away regardless of her. It had to be Madam Shi who taught him.

What she had seen in this room must have been instigated by Madam Shi. How dare that bitch ruin Yuru's reputation!

"General, I hope you can solve this problem for Yuru." Madam Di cried with her sleeves over her face, covering the hatred in her eyes.

"All right, all of you, stop crying. Someone come here and take this man out to the prison." Looking at the mess in the study, Qin Huaiyong frowned and gave the order loudly.

Frightened by his stern voice, both Madam Di and Qin Yuru couldn't help stop their crying, though their eyes were still red.

Two guards came in, and regardless of his struggling, hit him on the head and knocked him out. Then they dragged him out like a dead dog.

"Childe, childe, this is not for you! Ah, childe..." Just as the man had been cleared out, suddenly someone shouted loudly outside of the room and Qin Yuru's face changed greatly. Then she seemed to think of something and hurried to run out.

### **Chapter 223 Am I Really Not Your Biological Daughter?**

Qin Wanru followed Qin Huaiyong to go out. And when she went out of the house, she only saw Qin Yuru crying on Madam Di, whose face was livid and whose body was trembling.

A servant lay on the ground. It was the servant that Qin Huaiyong had sent out before. Mei Xue knelt on the ground to ask for forgiveness, and it could be seen that she was slapped in the face by Qin Yuru, therefore, one side of her face was swollen.

Qin Huaiyong asked in a harsh voice, "What's going on?"

Before the servant could say anything, Madam Di shrieked and grabbed the words. "General, I... I want to go to Duke Yong's Mansion!"

Qin Huaiyong frowned and asked in a cold voice, "Why do you want to go there at this special time?"

Madam Di was so angry that she didn't call Countess Yong sister-in-law, she just took her surname instead. "I... I'm going to ask Madam Shi what's in her mind. She framed both Yuru and me more than once, now she even conspired with that woman to do such a thing. I have always trusted her, but how could she do such things!"

Cause and effect, all the things together, Madam Di thought that Countess Yong was involved in all bad things that happened with the purpose of having her son marry her niece of Ning's Mansion, and she didn't want her daughter to be a part of Duke Yong's Mansion. How could she put up with all these things?

Qin Huaiyong thought about it and did not stop her from doing so, but he warned her with a cold expression, "You can go by yourself! But be aware of what you say!"

Madam Di said in hatred, "I understand!" She patted Qin Yuru in order to placate her, and then pushed her away, turned around, and left with vivid anger on her face.

Qin Huaiyong looked thoughtfully at the back of Madam Di. There was doubt in his heart. Then he turned his eyes to the servant who just got up and asked in a deep voice, "What happened?"

The servant said in haste, "General, I went to check the belongings of the First Miss and found the hairpin. Then I brought it here in order to show you. I didn't expect to encounter the heir of a duke when I just got here. He and his servants grabbed the hairpin from me and knocked me to the ground!"



Qin Huaiyong turned around and looked at Qin Yuru with a cold expression, "Is there really a hairpin?"

Qin Yuru panicked, she stammered and said, "I... I... I don't know..." Since Madam Di wasn't here, she wasn't that confident with herself as her eyes glanced around. It was easy to tell that she had secrets that she kept hidden from others.

Qin Huaiyong asked in a cold voice, with his eyes full of angry spirit, "Do you want to say it or not? If you don't say it now, then never mention it again!"

Since things had happened and the hairpin had been taken away by Di Yan, Qin Yuru would finally be forced to speak it out even if she didn't want to say anything. However, the whole thing was not easy to explain, because she had "picked up" the hairpin on the road originally. Staying calm and collected, Qin Wanru analyzed the whole thing and then looked at Qin Yuru.

"Father said so, and he would certainly act in accordance with what he said! It was actually a warning to Qin Yuru!"

Qin Yuru also seemed to realize something, and she screamed suddenly, "Father, how can you treat me like this? I am your biological daughter!"

Qin Huaiyong became very gloomy and said in a harsh voice, "What nonsense? Take her into the room and lock her up!"

The two old women beside looked at her, but in the end, they went to pull Qin Yuru timidly.

Qin Yuru threw their hands off and cried again, "Father, Father, how can you be so partial? I am your biological daughter!"

"Isn't Wanru my daughter? You don't regard her as your sister just because she wasn't born by your mother? Yuru, I always think that you are different from your mother. Although you have made some mistakes, you are at least a kind person who would not be instigated to do those evil things. But I haven't imaged that you are so stupid, and I don't know who you are cheated by!"

Qin Huaiyong's words were harsh and his look was even gloomier. Qin Yuru never saw Qin Huaiyong be so strict with her, so her face turned pale. "Father, Second Sister must have said something bad about me in front of you. I have done those evil things, but it's only because she is ill-disposed. As for the matter that she is not your biological daughter, people in the whole mansion know it and I'm not alone in saying it!"

Qin Huaiyong raised his voice fiercely and became more severe. "All the people are discussing it? Who are they? If you listen to Countess Yong's nonsense again, I'll put you in a Buddhist nunnery, so that you won't be confused by others and do silly things all day long. Judging from Countess Yong's attitude, you should know that she won't let her son marry you."

Qin Yuru burst into a rage of tears. "Father..."

But Qin Huaiyong said loudly without pity, "Why are you still here!"

Then the two old women hurried over to pull Qin Yuru. Qin Yuru glared at Qin Wanru in hatred, turned around, and cried going away with her hands covering her face.

She hated Qin Wanru. She was her father's biological daughter, but he was so protective of a bastard.

Qin Wanru lifted her brows and looked at Qin Yuru calmly. However, a hint of doubt flashed through her eyes!

Mei Xue got up from the ground at once. After a curtesy to Qin Huaiyong, she hurried to chase after Qing Yuru.

With some gloominess and sadness, Qin Wanru's voice came from behind Qin Huaiyong. "Father, am I really not your biological daughter?"

"You are certainly my biological daughter. How can you not be? Madam Di is a mean woman... and she raises your sister to be like her!"

Qin Huaiyong turned around and looked at Qing Wanru with kindness. He held out his hand and it seemed that he wanted to touch her head like he used to do when she was still a small girl. In her memory, Qin Huanyong would do such things occasionally. But it had been a long time, so long that she almost forgot.

Qin Wanru subconsciously raised her head and saw that Qin Huaiyong's hand was just in front of her head. He looked somewhat stiff. Then she saw his hand slowly fall down, but not on her hair.

Qin Wanru was surprised and she blinked slightly. "Father!"

Qin Huaiyong's hand fell down. It seemed that he aged a lot all at once. He sighed heavily. "You are a good girl, but your Big Sister... has some misunderstanding of you! In any case, you are sisters. Blood is thicker than water. I'm getting old. And you should support each other. Your Big Sister is now confused by Countess Yong!"

Qin Wanru didn't make a detailed inquiry about the things that had happened before, but turned to another topic curiously. "Is Madam Di looking for Countess Yong? Will Duke Yong's Mansion break off the marital engagement with our family?"

Her words made Qin Huaiyong feel relieved secretly, therefore his expression returned to normal.

He raised his head and looked in the direction of Duke Yong's Mansion. "They will not break off the marital engagement with our family because Duke Yong's Mansion is no longer what it used to be!"

He didn't tell her much about it, but Qin Wanru understood the deep meaning of Qin Huaiyong's words. Qin Yuru was looked down upon at first, but then she was engaged to the heir of Duke Yong. Although there was the scandal of Ning Caixian, the real reason was actually her father's official position.

A military officer with real power was not easy to offend.

Her father's official position in the capital city in her last life was lower than that in this life, but Qin Yuru still married into Duke Yong's Mansion. Although Countess Yong seemed to have always taken a fancy to Ning Caixian and disliked Qin Yuru as a daughter-in-law, she finally compromised and accepted Qin Yuru. From this, it could be seen that Duke Yong's Mansion was actually weak.

It just kept the outer appearance of the dignity of an aristocratic family.

With Countess Yong's temperament, she could even accept a daughter of such a down-and-out family as Ning Caixian, then the reality could be seen. However, all the things she did after attaching herself to Madam of Duke Xing showed that Duke Yong's Mansion was only prosperous on the surface.

Figuring out the whole thing, Qin Wanru slightly lowered her head and hid the deep emotion in her eyes. And she was still an innocent young girl when she raised her head.

"The hairpin just fell into the hands of the heir of Duke Yong... Is it all right with my older sister?"

. "It's nothing, Di Yan himself is not a man of integrity. He could do nothing even if he did have the hairpin!" Qin Huaiyong actually despised Di Yan, who was a dude. According to his mind, he would rather that Qi Tianyu would also despise him. But Madam Di hesitated because of the thing about Shui Ruolan at that time, so that things came to this position.

Every time he thought about this, Qin Huaiyong's face would become dark. In fact, he hesitated about these things. Duke Yong's Mansion was not a good place for Qin Yuru, but now it seemed to be the only choice for her.

Qin Wanru smiled and seemed to be at ease. "That's all right!" Then she left after a curtsy to Qin Huaiyong.

Seeing Qin Wanru turn away with Yujie, Qin Huaiyong stood still with his hands clasped behind his back. After looking for a long time at her little figure, which went further and further, he let out a long sigh...

After leaving the garden of the study, Yujie lowered her voice and asked, "Young lady, the hairpin was taken away by Childe Di. Is it really all right?"

In her opinion, this hairpin was like a stain on Qin Yuru's reputation, and it was also a stain that couldn't be explained clearly. If it fell into the hands of the angry Di Yan, how could he easily let it go?

Qin Wanru smiled and said without turning around, "Di Yan is very angry, as is Madam Di. My father must have reprimanded Madam Di about the plate." She felt as if she was being stared at by others, and Qin Huaiyong had to be looking at her. But she pressed down the strange feeling deep in her heart.

She should have thought more!

Yujie blinked and suddenly laughed. "Madam Di went to Duke Yong's Mansion to make trouble? That's so great, Countess Yong seemed to not be a kind person. She has been instigating Madam Di and the First Miss. It's really annoying!"

Qin Wanru cooled down. "Now we can see how they will attack each other!" The next person who would be involved had to be Madam of Duke Xing!

That plate, she remembered, had belonged to Madam of Duke Xing.

Chapter 224 Eloped with Others?

"Mother, what does Madam Shi mean? What a vicious little bitch does she take a fancy to? How dare she treat me and Yuru like that! Mother, you should redress the scales. The general severely

reprimanded me before I came here and said that if Madam Shi does that again, I shall never have a connection with Duke Yong's Mansion. Mother, what... what should I do now?"

Madam Di cried and fell in front of the old lady.

Madam Di went to meet the old lady and told her the whole story as soon as she arrived at Duke Yong's mansion. The old lady was extremely angry about the fact that Countess Yong did such a vicious thing together with Ning Caixian, and then she also blamed Qin's Mansion for damaging the royal gifts. The old lady severely smashed her crutch on the ground and she said with a fierce voice, "Go... call Madam Shi here!"

The old lady had only one daughter. And Madam Di, her only daughter, was the apple of her eye. Had it not been for the special things happened before, she wouldn't let her daughter leave home to go to a strange place. Now Madam Di finally returned to the capital city and it was time for the families to enjoy time together. How could the old lady not be angry with her daughter-in-law for sabotaging her daughter and granddaughter?

Countess Yong quickly arrived, and when she entered the room, she was harshly reprimanded by the old lady. "Kneel down!"

Countess Yong grinned, came over to pat the old lady on the back a few times and asked, "Mother, what happened? Sister, what's the matter? If Mother thinks I have done something wrong, tell me, I will definitely make amends. It's not good to be so angry!"

Madam Di sat up wiping her tears, and she gave vent to a torrent of abuse. "Madam Shi, you are so dissatisfied with Yuru that you want that little bitch to be your daughter-in-law? Duke Yong's Mansion always had a good reputation, how could you accept such a cheap whore!"

She had felt so wronged before, now she hated Countess Yong even more, so she vented all her anger on Countess Yong.

Looking at Countess Yong calmly, the old lady said nothing.

Countess Yong asked gloomily, "My sister, with whom do I feel satisfied? What has ruined the good reputation of our house? You'd better make it clear. What have I done to you and why do you think I don't like Yuru? If I don't like her, would I accept her to be my daughter-in-law?"

She was scolded by the old lady without rhyme or reason, and now even Madam Di came to put her down. Did they really think she was so good-tempered that she could be easily bullied!

"Madam Shi, do you need me to tell you who you take a fancy to? How dare you plot to ruin Yuru's reputation along with your vicious niece and let a man come to our house! The man is still in our place and will be sent to the judge soon. I'll have the officials arrest the vicious woman and gave her a severe punishment."

Madam Di gritted her teeth and spoke in hatred.

Countess Yong was greatly shocked and her expression had changed because of the bad foreboding deep in her heart. "Who is the woman you are talking about?"

Madam Di said angrily, "Who else can she be? You always want her to be your daughter-in-law, the woman who lives in your mansion and has an affair with your son. Don't tell me you don't know about the whole thing. I also want to mention the advice you gave me, if the plate was really broken, then Qin's Mansion would suffer a disaster. Of course, Qin Wanru would be punished, but Yuru and I would also get burnt!"

The more Madam Di thought of it, the angrier she became. She thought a lot on the way over here and came to feel that Countess Yong had bad intentions. And her one plan gave birth to two.

Countess Yong was shocked by her words and asked quickly, "What happened to Caixian?"

"She is about to be severely punished. Thanks to you!" Madam Di sneered. She now hated Countess Yong very much. Of course, her words were not pleasant to be heard. "Madam Shi, I've treated you well since you married into Duke Yong's Mansion. Why do you want to hurt me and my Yuru so much? What's in your mind and how can you be so vicious!"

"My sister, what do you mean by these words? What do you mean by saying that I want to hurt you and Yuru? I still don't know what happened. It was fine before. How did it get like this?" The color went from Countess Yong's face.

"You don't know? That's right. You definitely will not tell others you know about the whole thing since it has got into this position! Di Yan isn't back now. He left Qin's Mansion before me, but he hasn't arrived yet. Nobody knows where he has gone. Did he go to look for that bitch again?"

When Madam Di entered the mansion, she asked the servants at the gate and they said that they did not see Di Yan return.

"Madam Shi, can you tell me what happened?" The old lady slapped her hand heavily on the table with her face full of anger. "And also the plate, I don't remember that we had a set of royal plates. Where did you get the plates? Why did you take it to frame your sister? Tell me the whole thing!"

Countess Yong said, surprised, "What's wrong with the plates? Are they broken? Isn't that better? You don't like the girl in your mansion. She broke it, and she should bear the responsibility! Isn't it the advice I offered you when you asked me about it? And you said it was a great idea at that time."

Madam Di trembled with anger and she almost rushed forward to give Countess Yong a slap. She pointed her and said, "Madam Shi, how dare you say so! You almost hurt my whole family!"

"What do you mean?" Countess Yong was really puzzled and asked with a frown.

"If that plate really broke into pieces, Qin Wanru, as a child, couldn't take full responsibility. The general and I should also be in charge of it. What you have taught Yuru to say also cannot hold up to closer inspection. You said it's the betrothal present, but how could it be described in such a simple sentence since it's a priceless gift. That's really easy for you to say!"

Madam Di only regretted not reading the sentence clearly before, so she pointed to Madam Shi and shouted abuse.

"Madam Shi, you haven't said where the plate came from," the old lady felt that she had more secrets kept hidden from others and said sullenly.

“Mother...” The glib Countess Yong thumped.

Madam Shi immediately pointed at her and shouted, “Mother, look, she deliberately tried to scheme against me. I don’t know where she found a set of broken plates. She just wants to frame my family. The general just came to the capital city and he is greatly appreciated by the emperor. What would the emperor think if such a thing happens? Do you want to destroy my family?”

Madam Di passed the buck to Countess Yong. “Madam Shi, what’s in your mind?”

“Madam Shi, where did you get this plate?” The old lady had a bad expression, and she was full of doubts about Countess Yong. “I don’t remember that we had such a set of plates from the emperor!”

The plate was placed on the table in front of the old lady. And she had also seen the old crack.

“Mother... Mother, please have the servants leave!” Countess Yong glanced around and said perplexedly.

“You’ll not be afraid to tell others a good thing about you. Madam Shi, did you do something terrible without my eldest brother’s knowledge? And now you want me to be your scapegoat!” Madam Di asked in a bad mood.

“Withdraw from here!” The old lady waved calmly. The old women and maids on both sides retreated. The last old woman also closed the door for them.

“Say it, what happened?” the old lady frowned and said coldly.

“Mother...” Madam Di also wanted to say something, but the old lady waved to stop her. Her eyes rested on Countess Yong with a cold expression.

Being stared at by the old lady, Countess Yong trembled a little and knew that she could not hide it anymore. She gritted her teeth and said, “Mother, the... the plate is not from our family, but from Madam of Duke Xing.”

Although they were both descendants of lords, Duke Yong’s Mansion was not a patch on Duke Xing’s Mansion.

The color went from Madam Di’s face and she asked, “Why did she trouble me? I didn’t know her very well before and didn’t offend her!”

“Tell me, why did she bring the plates to you, and why did you give the plates to your sister? If you can’t make it clear...” The old lady also noticed that it was not a small thing, and her expression became more and more cold.

“Mother, it was not a big deal originally because... it was just a show of kindness of Madam of Duke Xing. She heard what happened to my sister and was angry that a widow had taken the lead. So she gave the plates to me.” Countess Yong had to be honest.

“That plate is cracked, you can’t miss it!” Madam Di said angrily.

“I didn’t pay attention to it, and I didn’t care so much about it because it’s about Qin Wanru.” Countess Yong also felt that it was not good advice then, and her face was pale.

"You took the royal gift without checking, and then you still dared to send it to your sister. If I had known you were this stupid, I would not have chosen you as the daughter-in-law of Duke Yong's Mansion!" the old lady said angrily.

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Countess Yong lowered her head in shame and said uneasily, "Mother... is there any misunderstanding... Madam of Duke Xing is such a kind person, and her relationship with our government has always been good. It should be impossible for her to have any bad thoughts. Maybe she doesn't know about the crack in the plate!" She didn't think that Madam of Duke Xing had schemed against her.

"You are really muddled!" The old lady stood up, walked around, and then returned to Countess Yong. "Invite Madam of Duke Xing here, tell her that something is wrong with the plates!"

"Emm... Madam of Duke Xing may not be free..." Countess Yong hesitated.

"If you tell her what I have told you, she will certainly come. She will also be punished if something happens to the royal gift!" the old lady sneered.

"But..."

"There is no 'but'. Although Duke Yong's Mansion is not as strong as it used to be, we are not easily framed!" the old lady said unhesitatingly.

"Ok, I will invite Madam of Duke Xing right away!" Countess Yong said helplessly.

Madam Di also knew that she couldn't solve it now. So she stared at Madam Shi and asked, "What about Ning Caixian, a bitch who schemed against Yuru?"

"Old lady, bad news, the heir of the duke has left with Miss Ning!" Suddenly, there was a voice of panic from outside the door, and all the people in the room were frozen by what she said. Madam Di was the fastest to realize what happened. She rushed to the door and opened it...

## Chapter 225 A Marriage Even the Cat Appreciates

The lofty imperial palace was tall, with layers of steps. Two rows of imperial servants lowered their heads and stood respectfully, not daring to move.

The gate of the upper palace opened wide, and Empress Dowager sat in the main hall. Around her were several beautiful and charming imperial concubines, who were talking with Empress Dowager to amuse her.

The Queen also sat beside Empress Dowager, but she didn't look well. Although she also smiled, the smile was a little stiff.

She felt humiliated for being reprimanded by Empress Dowager just now. Looking at the several concubines who were talking to Empress Dowager with enthusiasm, she was somewhat gloomy.

A maid rushed in and said, "Empress Dowager, Prince Chen is here!"

Empress Dowager said urgently, "Invite him in quickly!" She sat up straight and seemed to look forward to seeing him. Such an expression made the Queen even more resentful.

Prince Chen was a sick and weak cripple, but Empress Dowager regarded him as a treasure and ignored her healthy grandson. She felt so angry at Empress Dowager for being partial.

But even if she was angry, the Queen couldn't expose it. She adjusted her smile, restrained the resentment that she showed inadvertently, and looked at the door with a gentle smile.

Chu Liuchen was pushed in in a wheelchair. Everyone knew that he wasn't disabled, but his legs were not very strong. Empress Dowager and the Emperor took pity on him and let him enter the palace in a wheelchair.

Xiao Xuanzi carried Chu Liuchen to the palace, and he then held a cat in his arms and stood behind. Two nannies carried Chu Liuchen to the place where Empress Dowager was.

The concubines who were close to Empress Dowager immediately gathered around the Queen in order to give way to him.

Prince Chen was also known for another characteristic. He didn't like women to get close to him.

Once there was a palace concubine who thought she won the Emperor's favor. When Chu Liuchen went into the palace, she got close to him purposely. But Chu Liuchen kicked her without any hesitation.

The Emperor also knew about that matter, but Chu Liuchen wasn't punished in the end, and the Emperor even asked if he had gotten hurt. And the concubine who used to be pampered was directly banished to the cold palace under the accusation of intending to approach Prince Chen and do him harm.

With such a story, let alone the report about such a thing they heard from the Queen just now, who would dare to get close to Chu Liuchen? They all looked at Chu Liuchen with shock and panic.

"Grandmother, Empress!" Chu Liuchen was about to stand up to salute, but his hands were held by Empress Dowager. She looked Chu Liuchen up and down, and found that he was still pale and weak. Then her eyes teared up.

"Chen, sit down first!"

Chu Liuchen coughed, clutching his chest, and did not decline but sat down elegantly. He seemed weak and mild with a pair of tired eyes. But even so, he was as handsome as Adonis, making a few newcomers flush and forget what the Queen had said before, stealing a glance with obsession.

"Chen, Rui'an said you agreed before? Why did you... kill all four of the palace maids sent by the Queen!" Empress Dowager said helplessly.

The four palace maids were all exceedingly beautiful and outstanding. They left with happiness, but came back dead.

It was said that they had just entered Prince Chen's Mansion. Then the eunuch along with them received four heads on the way back. The eunuch was so frightened that he scratched and scrambled back to the Queen. The Queen was so angry that she complained to Empress Dowager, but was scolded by her.

Up to now, the Queen found it difficult to get rid of her anger.



How could Empress Dowager be so partial? Fortunately, her son would die soon. Otherwise, she might be a great enemy of her son.

"The four palace maids had bad intention toward me!" Chu Liuchen coughed again in a low voice. He raised his eyes and looked at the several concubines who were peeping at him and smiled.

Some perceptive imperial concubines quickly lowered their heads and dared not to look into his beautiful eyes.

"Queen, you're not careful enough, how dare you send maids with unclear backgrounds to Prince Chen's Mansion? If something happened to him, could you take full responsibility?" Empress Dowager snorted and looked at the Queen.

The Queen was fuming with rage. Empress Dowager had checked the maids she sent to Prince Chen and she was satisfied with both their appearance and family background. Why should she take full responsibility now?

"Sorry, Mother, I did wrong!" Even though the Queen was filled with anger, she could only suppress it and lower her head.

She had been the daughter-in-law of Empress Dowager for so many years. Of course, she knew that the more she argued with Empress Dowager at this time, the angrier Empress Dowager would get. So the only thing she could do was to be meek and subservient.

"In fact, she's not to blame. The maids were... too yucky!" Chu Liuchen excused the Queen gently.

Empress Dowager waved her hand, and all the imperial concubines, including the Queen, stood up and bade Empress Dowager farewell, knowing that she wanted to talk to Chu Liuchen in private.

When the Queen led all the imperial concubines away, Empress Dowager sighed and looked at Chu Liuchen piteously. "Chen, your uncle promised me. You'll be fine if you take good care of yourself. And both your uncle and I agreed to find someone to take care of you!"

Chu Liuchen lowered his head and seemed sad. He gave a harmless and pure smile, stretched out his hand and touched the chubby cat in his arms with no words.

"Rui'an Great Elder Princess said that you also agreed with it. And I felt relieved when she said so. But why didn't you listen to us!" Empress Dowager, of course, knew that Chu Liuchen deliberately killed those maids in public, but she still chose to support him in front of the people in case he would be scolded by the Queen.

"Imperial Grandmother, they're not sincere to me!" Chu Liuchen lowered his head. "You also knew it. When you said you'll find a daughter-in-law for boys from the royal families, all the ladies from aristocratic families looked at my other brothers. It has nothing to do with me."

Chu Liuchen stroked the fat cat in his arms. The fat cat meowed a few times, raised her green eyes, and looked at Empress Dowager.

"The ladies of those aristocratic families are not well-educated. I will choose a better one for you!" Thinking of that day, Empress Dowager also got angry. She also felt sad when she saw her most beloved grandson be depressed. His life was hard enough, and she wouldn't allow anyone to tease him again.

"No, Imperial Grandmother, ladies in the capital city all know about my illness. Maybe I'll die in the near future. And it's natural that they don't want to be a widow. Forget it!" Chu Liuchen raised his head and looked at Empress Dowager with a gentle smile.

It seemed that his sadness never existed because he was calm, gentle, and cultivated then. If it weren't for his illness, he would be her most excellent grandson!

Empress Dowager was about to cry!

"Since the ladies who grow up in the capital city have a prejudice against you, I will choose one who has just come here. It doesn't matter if she is a little young. I will help you educate her and make sure you'll be satisfied with her. Tell me who you like, I will help you!"

Empress Dowager promised Chu Liuchen. She really wanted to help Chu Liuchen choose a good wife. Then in the rest of his life, he would not be pitiful because no one cared about him.

What Chu Liuchen said before reminded her of the advantages of being young. At least, a young girl was not so sophisticated and maybe she would admire Chu Liuchen deep in her heart. What had happened to her most excellent grandson really distressed Empress Dowager.

She always felt indebted to him.

"Young! My cat should also like her!" Chu Liuchen said casually and stroked the fat cat's head. The fat cat gave out a purr for being comfortable and gave a soft "meow" to Empress Dowager!

"Have the cat like her? Prince Chen, you must be kidding!" Empress Dowager complained, "How can this be your criteria for choosing a wife?"

"Then I won't choose. If the wife that grandmother chooses for me will be harsh to my cat, and I am so weak that I can't even protect my cat, it's better dead than alive!" Chu Liuchen smiled, and he was so sincere as if he were not joking.

It felt like his death had nothing to do with himself. Empress Dowager felt so depressed about it. "What nonsense are you talking? Okay, okay. I will then choose a woman that your cat likes!"

It should not be difficult to make a cat like her. Have the person she chose accompany and stroke the cat as much as possible.

Empress Dowager already made a decision in her mind. The person she chose had to be warned to be kind to the cat. Chu Liuchen could not have such feelings.

How could her grandson feel as if he was not living?

"Then don't send me maids anymore. I don't like them, especially their hypocritical behavior." Chu Liuchen nodded gently. He raised his eyebrows and continued making a request to Empress Dowager.

"Okay, okay, there won't be such hypocritical maids sent to your mansion anymore. You shall wait for me to choose a good girl for you so that others will all envy you!" Chu Liuchen was finally relieved, and Empress Dowager would agree with all his words at this time. She smiled with delight and began to compare the little girls she had seen before.

She shouldn't be mature in case she was too sophisticated, she would despise Chen if she had a noble identity, she couldn't win her admiration if she had a low identity, and she also had to satisfy Chen's cat. Empress Dowager also felt it a headache thinking of all of this. It was ok to win a human being's appreciation, but she should also have the girl win the cat's appreciation. What was wrong with the world!

But even if it was not a reasonable request, Empress Dowager felt that she still needed to satisfy him. He never made a request to her, and it was his first time to do so.

Empress Dowager was serious about finding Prince Chen a wife. However, Qin Wanru, who was in Ningyuan Army General's Mansion, got amazing news.

Di Yan had eloped...

### **Chapter 226 Making Trouble Again, Kneeling at the Mansion's Gate**

"Ran away?" Qin Wanru blinked her watery eyes twice shockingly.

After such an event occurred, first, Madam Di came home to complain tearfully to Qin Huaiyong; then, Qin Yuru rushed to his study and made such a loud noise that some well-informed servants in the mansion knew it at once.

"Miss, this Childe Di usually looks smart, but how did he do such an unduly thing? Or does he treat this Miss Ning so well indeed? But why did he agree to marry the First Miss, also lived in our mansion, and guaranteed he and that Miss Ning had broken up thoroughly?"

Yujie pursed her lips and took a cup of tea to the table in front of Qin Wanru.

Although she was now Qin Wanru's servant girl, she had been brought up in Jingxin Monastery and dared to fearlessly say what other common servant girls dared not to.

"How come he ran away!" Qin Wanru gave a small smile, took up the teacup in her hand, warmed her hands, and, seemingly referring to something, said, "If he runs away, it means he gives up Duke Yong's hereditary title, but Di Yan is not that resolute!"

Initially, she thought making trouble was unavoidable, for Qin Yuru wouldn't let Ning Caixian off. With concrete proof and the fact that Di Yan also got the hairpin Qin Yuru had hidden, this was also an unclear matter. Undoubtedly, they didn't know that it was Qin Wanru who asked Qing Xue to lose the hairpin deliberately in front of Qin Yuru.

With her disposition, Qin Yuru was bound to stow such an exquisite hairpin.

"If he didn't run, why did she make trouble? Making such big trouble would also disgrace the man. With stains on his character, does this heir of the duke want to be an official in the future, or does he only wish to spend a playboy's life with the hereditary title's salary?" Yujie was confused and asked.

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"Miss, does the marriage of the heir of the duke and our mansion still exist?" Qing Yue worried about another aspect, not about Qin Yuru, but that Qin Wanru might be affected.

The two servant girls paid attention to different aspects, but one thing was sure: They all agreed that Di Yan was insane. Qin Wanru's deep-red corners of her mouth were raised slightly, along with a trace of nearly unperceivable ridicule. If truth be told, Ning Caixian had really smart strategies, seducing Di Yan to make such trouble.

It seemed that even if her reputation was ruined, she would also drag Di Yan down.

This was a good strategy, forcing Madam Di and Duke Yong's Mansion to be more separated. In her previous life, Ning Caixian and Madam Di plotted together against Qian Wanru, but she didn't think its complexity through. So, in this life, she wanted to see how they would bite each other like dogs.

The messier, the better. With such a mess, the pusher behind the scenes might become anxious!

"Di Yan will return and the marriage will also be settled, but the two parties' compromises are still unknown!" Qin Wanru raised her head and narrowed her eyes to look at the sunshine outside the window. "He might have been found by now!"

Qin Huaiyong was the commander of the Imperial Guards Team. Although he couldn't use the team members to look for a person for him, he could ask for help in private and it would be much faster than others.

Military officers could mobilize manpower more easily than civil officials!

"Second Miss, Second Miss, Duke Yong, Countess Yong, and their son have all come!" Nanny Yu scuttled in from outside.

"So quick, my father's ability is also excellent as expected!"

She rose, walked to the window, saw the tall wall outside the window, and frowned. "All of them went to my grandma's place?"

Her grandmother was not well. In the past, no one took her so seriously, and Duke Yong and Countess Yong had never gone to see her when they came. At most, they would ask an old maid to send their greetings, but now, all of them went to her place to make trouble.

"Yes, all of them. Just now, our general, Madam, and First Miss also went there!" Nanny Yu answered.

"What about Miss Ning?" Qin Wanru thought and asked.

"She didn't come. Just now I also asked about that, but I didn't see her!" Nanny Yu said. For such a thing, Childe Di had been found, so should Miss Ning have, but only Childe Di came. So, Nanny Yu also felt it strange.

"Come on, let's take a look!" Qin Wanru turned and walked to the outside.

"Miss, for such things, you can't go!" Nanny Yu was quite anxious, stepping forward to stop her. "As an unmarried Miss, you can't get involved in such dirty things. Madam Dowager will be angry!"

"I will only go and listen in the back. I am afraid my grandma can't bear it!" Qin Wanru said, knitting her thin and curved eyebrows slightly. She was sincerely worried about her grandmother and never thought the matter had been taken to her grandmother so soon. So, she was a little dissatisfied.

“Why didn’t father solve the problem himself? Why take it to my grandma?”

“Recently, Madam Dowager has been relatively well, and she should... be fine, right?” Nanny Yu hesitated but said. In fact, Madam Dowager had been a little better, but she was old after all and could not take the burden. The messy situation was difficult to be dealt with, and it was also related to Duke Yong’s Mansion. By then, if something terrible happened, Madam Dowager would not be able to bear it with her poor health.

“Let me go and see. Nanny Yu, go to Madam Shui and tell her not to come, my grandma’s place must be in chaos now. With her poor condition, if she goes now, she will not help my grandma and may meet with trouble. If so, that will be very bad. As for my grandma’s situation, tell her not to worry, I will take care of it secretly.”

Calming herself down, Qin Wanru had made her decision and spoke slowly.

“Miss, anyway, this... is not so good!” Nanny Yu was still hesitant. Although she also thought this idea of her Miss was very good, she was still worried about the very unsuitable situation that Qin Wanru got involved in this scandal.

For this matter, anyone getting involved would not have a good reputation.

“I will be fine. I will only hide in the back to listen. In my grandma’s room, there is a side door, which no one usually goes through and is always locked. Previously, my grandma worried it would be so far for me to enter her yard from the front door, so she specially made a key and gave it to Qing Yue. I can go in from that side, and no one will notice.”

This was not a bad idea. Nanny Yu and the others looked at one another and nodded helplessly. For now, this seemed to be the only way!

So, Nanny Yu went hurriedly to Shui Ruolan’s yard to stop her, while Qin Wanru took Yujie to Madam Dowager’s Xinning Pavilion from the back.

On the way, Qing Yue panted and caught up with her. “Miss, Miss, don’t go to Madam Dowager’s place, they have gone to the mansion’s gate!”

“What happened?” Qin Wanru stopped to wait for Qing Yue to come, asking.

“It’s said that Miss Ning is kneeling at our mansion’s gate to beg our mansion to let her and Childe Di stay together!” Qing Yue panted heavily and said.

“Troubling our mansion?” Qin Wanru raised her eyebrows. This made her think of the same scene in her previous life: Ning Caixian and her younger sister, Ning Xueqing, used this way to trouble the Duke Xing’s Mansion, forcing Duke Xing’s old Madam to approve of her position.

In her previous life, not only Ning Xueqing but also Madam Di, Ning Caixian, and Madam of Duke Xing were involved in the calculation. But in this life, Ning Caixian did it alone. She wanted to see if Ning Caixian could also realize her dream.

“Come, let’s also go to the gate and take a look!” Qin Wanru turned decisively and said.

When Qin Wanru arrived at the gate, she didn't go out straight away, but stood at the side of the gate, watching the outside through the gate's crevice.

Outside the mansion, she saw layers of people.

At the gate, a lady with ruffled hair in plain white was kneeling without any decoration from head to foot, which made her look quite wretched. Beside her knelt a servant girl, who supported her. It was Ning Caixian, who, nearly leaning against the servant girl, knelt there.

Since she lowered her head, no one could see her expression clearly, but the pale clothes indicated her current poor situation.

"Miss, Miss, are you all right? Don't scare me! The heir of the duke went in just now, and you don't have to kneel here anymore. With the heir of the duke, every problem will be solved!" The servant girl's tears flooded down, looking like another poor creature. Her tears were still running. It seemed that the Ningyuan Army General's Mansion that everyone saw was ill-treating this poor lady.

"I am fine... I am waiting for my cousin. He... he was alone... he was alone, how can I bear it!" Ning Caixian's voice was very low, but several people near her heard her words clearly, then spread them.

Instantly, everyone had a very good impression of the lady, who was ill and weak, but was devoted to her love.

"But the heir of the duke told you to have a good rest, said everything would be fine, and he would give up his engagement with Qin's Mansion and marry you. If the heir of the duke knows, he will worry about you." The servant girl wiped her face with her handkerchief and cried in panic, showing she was worried about this First Miss indeed.

"Anyway, I... My cousin and I have wasted the time of the First Miss of Qin's Mansion... My cousin and I feel sorry... Even if I knelt all the time, I should do that... Now whatever I say just proves I am not sincere enough!" Ning Caixian's voice was as ill and weak as before, on and off.

Then, these words were spread by those who heard them, and all the onlookers nodded. "This miss does not behave like a good girl, but she dares to admit what she did at least, and she is also quite devoted to her love."

The following scenes were that the servant girl said something from time to time, and Ning Caixian also replied in the same way. These scenes showed that she had a very good character, but was forced to choose this disgraceful way, and they also hinted that Qin Yuru even wrongly accused her of framing others for the sake of staying with Di Yan.

After uttering a few words, she nearly passed out, looking extremely weak.

So poor, so vulnerable, even if she did something unruly, she would earn much sympathy of others. Instantly, sighs came from the onlookers at the gate, and many of them had chosen the "vulnerable lady's" side, thinking that Qin's Mansion had ill-treated her too much with their power. Since the man and the lady were so faithful to each other, why did the mansion still use brutal ways to separate them? Then, some began to gossip about the rumors of Qin's Mansion.

“Speaking of First Miss Qin, she is the daughter of Madam Di of Qin’s Mansion. Previously, Madam Di was already an evil woman, and I’ve heard she also tried to murder Madam Shui...”

As the crowd chatted, the mansion’s gate suddenly opened...

Chapter 227 Acting, the Plaintive, Kind White Lotus

Qin Wanru was standing at the side door, which didn’t open, only with a small crack. From there, she could see the outside clearly. Now, the mansion’s gate opened, and she saw her grandmother, her father, and those of Duke Yong’s Mansion walk out of the main entrance. With a blink of her watery eyes, she turned sideways to look at the servants at her grandmother’s heels.

She asked Yujie to come near and whispered something to her.

Yujie nodded and went to join them silently. Now, many people came out of the gate, forming a messy crowd, in which there were every master’s servants. With her wits, Yujie found one of the servant girls usually led by Nanny Duan, pointed at Nanny Duan’s location, and returned silently.

That servant girl also looked bright. She didn’t go over right away. After waiting a while, she jostled her way over to Nanny Duan and whispered something.

Qin Wanru stood behind the door crack, still watching Ning Caixian.

Feeling that people were coming out of the gate, Ning Caixian raised her exhausted head, looking at Madam Dowager standing among them. Suddenly, she pushed away her servant girl supporting her forcefully, kowtowed hard several times toward Madam Dowager, and said sadly, “I hope Madam Dowager can let my cousin and I stay together. Even if I became his slave or maid, I would be willing!”

Just as she finished these words, she passed out immediately.

The servant girl who was pushed away was stunned, but she rushed to her instantly, wailing, “Miss, Miss, please wake up, please wake up!”

Madam Dowager frowned, wishing to say something, but Nanny Duan whispered something in her ear. Madam Dowager nodded, eyed Countess Yong, and said with a cold look, “Countess Yong, is this the reason for your mansion to break the betrothal with Yuru?”

As she finished speaking, she stepped back, leaving the space in the center for Countess Yong, who was standing on the side.

Countess Yong was stunned and said anxiously, “Madam Dowager, we never thought so, how... can we... deal with this now? Madam Dowager, please tell me!”

Madam Di gritted her teeth, ready to say something, but Qin Huaiyong glared at her angrily. So, she had to shut up, only glaring at Countess Yong angrily. Now, she hated her to the bone!

The thing had been messed up. Even if Yuru were married to the family, that would be a scandal, but apart from Di Yan, Qin Yuru could not get another suitable match at this time.

“Countess Yong, your words sound funny. This girl is your niece, she had private love with your son, then ran away with him, but why did you bring this affair to our mansion on purpose? Countess Yong, since

you are dissatisfied with my granddaughter, let's break the betrothal, and you don't have to deliberately make it look like our mansion doesn't allow your mansion to get your son married!"

"No, we won't break the betrothal. Take the woman away!" Duke Yong, who had been silent, couldn't help saying with a cold expression, as he saw that Madam Dowager unusually asked to break the betrothal.

Qin Huaiyong was now a new bigwig, so getting this marriage was much better than the current one with Ning Caixian for Duke Yong. Not only had Ning Caixian's name become stinky, but their so-called runaway had also made others think that Di Yan was a joke.

"Let's break the betrothal!" Qin Huaiyong said coldly from the side, as he raised his eyes to look at the pale face of Ning Caixian, who fainted, and forced some ridicule on his cold, hard face. "Take the woman who smeared others' images to the officials. My daughter is not that easy for others to plot against. Then, whatever measures your Duke Yong's Mansion wants to take to save her, it will not be our mansion's business any longer!"

Qin Huaiyong hadn't spoken much even until now because he had been hesitating. So, he allowed Madam Dowager to make the decision. But now when he saw that Madam Dowager was determined, he stopped hesitating at once.

When Qian Wanru saw the nearly imperceptible movement of the fainted Ning Caixian on the ground, an eerie coldness appeared on her lips. "She is acting indeed, and her acting is brilliant, but she would never have thought that my father would deal with this matter so decisively, would she? My grandma's attitude did influence my father's."

"Father!" Qin Yuru shrieked.

"Shut up!" Qin Huaiyong interrupted Qin Yuru severely, scaring her into silence and all the onlookers into shutting up.

"Yuru, you listened to your mother and wanted to marry your cousin, and I didn't object in the beginning, but look at the woman whom your cousin seduced! Not only did she find a man to frame you and smear your image, but she also instigated your cousin to run away after their plot was found out. Now, taken back, she also worked out such a way: coming to our mansion to cry and playing the miserable one. Guards, take her to the yamen!"

Qin Huaiyong spoke, dark-faced.

His words stirred waves. Previously, a man at Qin's Mansion's gate said firmly he wanted to marry Qin Yuru as if it were happening now. "Is that really the trick of the woman? If so, the woman is too scary. Letting her enter the mansion will make the mansion inharmonious, not to mention marrying her."

"What would want such a woman?"

Two family guards came and pushed the wailing servant girl away, ready to take Ning Caixian. Qin Huaiyong's iron-fisted action was beyond many people's imagination, petrifying Countess Yong and even Duke Yong. The only one who reacted fast was Di Yan.



He rushed over and lifted Ning Caixian up, imploring Qin Huaiyong loudly, "Uncle, please forgive her, she has been really wronged. She is so kind, how could she have done such things? It is the mansion's supervisor who had an evil idea and made such trouble. She has been really wronged!"

"What's the use for you to say this to me? Go and tell the officials!" Qin Huaiyong eyed Di Yan coldly and said sharply.

Stunned, Di Yan never thought his uncle, who was usually kind, would speak this way, seemingly petrifying him instantly.

Guards came and pushed him away, but he held onto Ning Caixian and implored his parents loudly, "Father, Mother, please save my cousin. She has never done anything evil, she doesn't know anything, either, and Cousin Yuru has unclear relations with others indeed. That hairpin is really in Cousin Yuru's hands..."

"Smack!" A hard slap came and shocked all the people on site.

Aware of it first, Countess Yong felt the pain and trembled all over, glaring at Qin Huaiyong furiously. "What do you mean by this? Why slap my son? What's the problem even if he doesn't want to marry your daughter? Can't he give up your daughter? Qin Yuru's reputation has not been good, is that untrue?"

Countess Yong's words were also her first reaction, but after saying them, she saw that Madam Di wearing a dark face had rushed over and slapped Ning Caixian, who was still faking being faint twice, making her eyes roll. This time, she nearly passed out.

"Take her away..." The scene happened so fast that Madam Dowager couldn't even have time to stop it. Angered, she became pale and soft and fainted.

Instantly, everyone at the gate acted in a panic. Qin Huaiyong was also anxious and had to deal with Madam Dowager's condition first.

No one thought this matter could get so out of control. After Madam Dowager fainted, Countess Yong and Duke Yong became embarrassed instantly. This was the gate of Qin's Mansion. The two of them were also the younger generation of Old Madam Qin, but they allowed Di Yan and a woman with an unclear image to make Old Madam Qin faint. If such words were to be spread out, Duke Yong would even be impeached by the imperial censors.

Qin Wanru still stared at Ning Caixian, finding that she had now opened her eyes sadly. With tears running down, she pushed Di Yan away, looking depressed and extremely hopeless. She swayed, turned, and walked to the outside, and the people at the gate couldn't help but give way.

The crowd at the gate all looked at Madam Dowager. Countess Yong saw the scene, but she blinked and pretended she hadn't seen it. Di Yan reached out his hands to support her, but he was stopped by one of Countess Yong's old maids. He dared not shout any longer, but sadly looked at the swaying back of Ning Caixian.

Nanny Duan suddenly whispered something to Qin Huaiyong, who turned and saw Ning Caixian, who had walked away, shouting severely, "Guards, take her to the officials!"

Hurriedly, two guards went over and grabbed Ning Caixian.

Ning Caixian never thought that Qin Huaiyong would not let her off even until now. She bit her lips, panicked, and, wearing that depressed and desperate expression, turned to Di Yan instantly. As her tears dropped down, she implored Di Yan silently.

Seeing her movements, Di Yan felt his guts become knotted and he pushed away the old maid's hands, ready to rush to her.

"Grab the heir of the duke!" Qin Huaiyong shouted severely again.

The two guards at the gate grabbed Di Yan from either side, and he couldn't move at once.

"Cousin, I... I would never break up with you even if I died..." Ning Caixian had sensed the danger and wailed as she was pulled away.

That Qin Huaiyong dealt with this matter in a sweeping manner was beyond everyone's imagination. Seeing the guards take her away so ruthlessly, the people at the gate were all shocked.

"Shouldn't such inner yard affairs be dealt with by Madam or Madam Dowager? Why take this lady to the officials for this matter? Is it true that this woman who was here just now has done something so evil that the officials have to meddle in it?"

Since Qin Huaiyong took action decisively, many people who had sympathy with Ning Caixian just now began to suspect her. After all, Qin Huaiyong sent her to the officials and did not deal with her in private. When she was in the yamen, the following trial would give her justice clearly.

If it were only the runaway affair of the son of Duke Yong with a woman, how come it was taken to the officials?

"These of you, what happens next will have no relations with our mansion, we will return your betrothal gifts as soon as possible, please leave now!" After Ning Caixian was taken away, Qin Huaiyong eyed Duke Yong and his wife coldly. As he finished these words and didn't wait for their reply, he turned to support Madam Dowager, who had been woken up through great efforts, followed by Madam Di and her daughter, walking into their mansion.

With a "bang", the door closed, leaving Duke Yong and his family outside, along with the crowd at the gate, looking at one another.

"Duke, how dare they act like this!" Countess Yong trembled out of fury, pointed at the closed door, and said severely.

But what answered her was a slap.

## **Chapter 228 Kneeling at the Gate to Beg for Forgiveness**

"Father, don't beat my mother. For this matter, I am not wrong, my mother is not, either!" Di Yan was stunned and said anxiously.

As Qin Huaiyong left, the two guards had already released his hands. When he saw that his mother was slapped, he was stunned and also ran over to her instantly.

“Smack!” Another slap sounded, but it fell on Di Yan’s face this time. Duke Yong looked vicious, walked over, and kicked Di Yan hard, making him shake and kneel on the ground with a heavy thud. His foot bumped into the bluestone slate in front, and so he screamed out of the pain and could not stand up any longer.

“Duke, what are you doing?” Countess Yong regained consciousness at this time. Regardless of the palm print on her face, she pounced over to protect Di Yan, preventing Duke Yong from beating him again.

“Let him kneel until our brother-in-law forgives him!” Duke Yong said ruthlessly.

“Duke, why are you so cruel? Yan’er is your son!” Countess Yong felt the pain and screamed. When she saw that Di Yan could not stand up because of the pain, her eye sockets turned red.

“My son? Does he look like a man with responsibilities now? His eyes were blindfolded by that woman and he could not see through her evil intentions, and he still hasn’t seen that even until now. That woman, all the evidence, and the testimony said by the man whom she asked to hurt Yuru have been prepared and placed in the government. Do you still want to save her? To get the woman, will your son not be an official in the imperial court in the future and be a punk forever?”

Duke Yong felt disappointed and shouted angrily.

Concrete evidence and facts also provided one of the reasons why Qin Huaiyong was so determined. No matter what Ning Caixian’s intention was, she could do nothing when facing such facts.

Or you could say that Ning Caixian’s opinionated backyard strategies, including playing the wretched one, winning others’ sympathy, and her wishes of creating public opinion, were useless in front of Qin Huaiyong, who took iron-fisted action.

This was also one of the important reasons why Ning Caixian was taken away.

This situation proves the Chinese saying: Sheer force destroys all strategies.

Qin Wanru smiled coldly and continued observing Di Yan’s reaction. Now, he seemed to be a fool. Not only did his uncle beat him, but his father also kicked him and made him kneel. Hearing the surrounding buzzes, he felt the pain, was also ashamed, and couldn’t help hating Ning Caixian silently.

Di Yan’s so-called deep love was but a passion. Now, he became clear-headed due to the pain. Thinking that he nearly ditched his real business because of a woman, he didn’t struggle anymore.

Initially, he only went to see Ning Caixian and remind her to run away soon, but he never thought that Ning Caixian would complain tearfully to him that she knew nothing. Later, they asked the supervisor to come, and the supervisor also admitted that he had trapped the First Miss of Qin’s Mansion because he was angry that the First Miss of Qin’s Mansion bullied their miss.

Later, Ning Caixian spoke of the past stories between them in a wronged, vulnerable tone, and also claimed that if she could not marry him, she would rather die, and she only loved him in her entire life. Then, Di Yan turned silly and promised inexplicably to run away with her. His servant persuaded him along the way, but was also driven away.

But he never thought that before they reached the city gate, they would get caught and taken back!

Countess Yong was also shocked by Duke Yong's words, turning pale instantly. After all, her niece was but a distant relative, and she was not happy to sacrifice her son's prospect for her. Besides that, she also hated deeply that Ning Caixian dared take her son to run away.

"Kneel here until your uncle forgives you. How can the betrothal between our two mansions be broken by your being taken away by a woman? This is an event settled down by our two families' parents." Duke Yong finished his talk and turned coldly, leaving Di Yan there alone.

"Yan'er..." Countess Yong took a look at Duke Yong, who was walking away, and also her son, feeling sorry for him.

"Mother... you... you leave first, I will beg my uncle and cousin to forgive me!" Di Yan felt ashamed and guilty, blushing.

He was astonished by Duke Yong's meaning. At his age, he could become an official. Now, if something terrible happened and he was impeached by the imperial censors, his entire life would probably become hopeless.

Previously, he had been thinking about protecting Ning Caixian, only feeling that she was the kindest and gentlest girl, but now he found that he had nearly been destroyed. Immediately, cold sweat flooded down.

In the past, he had been preparing to be an official, and Duke Yong also invited some special masters to teach him some things about the officialdom. Formerly, he didn't think about such things, but now when he thought it through, his romantic feelings vanished.

Without these feelings, Di Yan became clear-headed, knowing now he should beg for Qin's Mansion's forgiveness, making this big trouble become small and disappear to cover up his scandal.

"You... Alas... Okay!" Since Di Yan himself said so, Countess Yong felt sorry for him but was helpless, left a servant to take care of him, and had to leave with her face covered.

As for how to handle the current problem, she had to go home and discuss it. At the gate of Qin's Mansion, it was unsuitable to speak more, with so many people around. Although Countess Yong thought that Ning Caixian was once gentle and obedient, she hated her so much now and would never wish to save her.

Like Di Yan, now Countess Yong also hated Ning Caixian deeply, thinking that everything that happened this moment was her fault, but she forgot that she had been indicating that Ning Caixian could marry into Duke Yong's Mansion. Besides that, she had been allowing them to remain quite ambiguous, and she even knew the two had long passed by a pure, romantic relationship.

After seeing Countess Yong and Duke Yong leave, Qin Wanru left.

First, she went to Madam Dowager's Xinning Pavilion to feel her pulse by herself and was relieved as she found her pulse was steady. "Fortunately, grandma accepted my suggestion and also faked fainting like Ning Caixian, or something terrible would have happened.

“Grandma is unhealthy and cannot stand the means of faking a fool or being the vulnerable one that Ning Caixian used. By then, if grandma is angered, that will be terrible, and her condition won’t be better than today’s.”

Others in the room had already left. Seeing that Madam Dowager woke up and was well, Qin Huaiyong left with Madam Di and her daughter.

“Zhuzhuo, will your father break the betrothal with Duke Yong’s Mansion?” Madam Dowager sat, leaning. Qin Wanru looked at her position and fetched her another cushion to make a more comfortable leaning.

After asking, she also smiled. “Such a little child, how can she know such things? I am too anxious and asked the wrong person!”

“Grandma, don’t worry, my father won’t!” Qin Wanru smiled and said.

“Oh, why?” Madam Dowager became curious, asking confusedly, “The thing has gone so bad. Childe Di also wants to protect that woman, and it is clear their relationship is not pure. How can Madam Di keep silent and allow that lady to marry into the mansion?”

“She won’t, and my father does have evidence about that lady!” Qin Wanru smiled and said, “If my father decides to take action, that lady won’t have a good result!”

Qin Wanru was clear about Qin Huaiyong’s character. He usually didn’t care about the backyard matters, but if he did meddle in them, he would be very prudent and never only talk. Especially when he spoke in front of so many people at the gate, every word should have proof.

Otherwise, he wouldn’t have slapped Di Yan or countered Duke Yong. Without concrete evidence and with his disposition, Qin Huaiyong wouldn’t have done it so thoroughly.

“In fact, it is better to break... this betrothal. At that time, Madam Di was also blindfolded. How could she think that Di Yan was better than Qi Tianyu? Apart from his family background, Di Yan has nothing better than Qi Tianyu!” Madam Dowager heaved a sigh and thought Madam Di was blind.

Qi Tianyu looked more handsome than Di Yan, had superb habits, behavior, and scholarly attainments, far better than Di Yan, who only had a good family.

Recalling that Qin Wanru was nearly destroyed by this betrothal at that time, Madam Dowager disliked the betrothal even more. If they had had a prediction, they should have let Qin Yuru and Qi Tianyu get married a long time before, and there wouldn’t have been so much following trouble.

“Grandma, don’t worry about such things, let my father deal with them. You had better take care of your health, or if something bad happens, you will take responsibility and become unwell!” Qin Wanru patted Madam Dowager on the back to make her breath smooth and spoke as she grinned.

What she said made Madam Dowager silent for a while. No doubt, she knew what Qin Wanru meant. Since she knew it, her smile was bitter for an instant. Anyway, she was not Qin Huaiyong’s biological mother, and Qin Yuru was not her real blood. Some things she could not meddle in because she was one generation removed.

She would be disliked and wouldn’t be appreciated in the end.

This was also the most important reason why she accepted Qin Wanru's suggestion just now and passed out decisively after saying those words.

Her position sounded the most respectable in the mansion, but it would be worth it only with others' sincere respect.

Madam Dowager patted Qin Wanru's hands and nodded. "Zhuozhuo, don't worry, I won't meddle in your Big Sister's matter. I will need to take care of you and Ruolan and won't get ill and pass away!"

This was a joke, but it made Qin Wanru's eye sockets red. In her previous life, her grandmother was ill and passed away!

"Grandma, I don't allow you to speak so, you will live up to 100 years old and always protect me," Qin Wanru lowered her head, buried her little face in Madam Dowager's palms, and said with her eye sockets slightly red. This life was different from her previous one, and she would stop her grandmother from dying early.

Coming out of Madam Dowager's courtyard, Qin Wanru thought and turned to go to another direction, not to her Zhifang Pavilion, but straight to Qin Huaiyong's study.

As soon as she arrived at the study door, she saw Qin Yuru kneeling under the tree at the yard's entrance, weeping miserably. She stood there for a while, her eyes turning a little deep, but she didn't stop, walking to the door of the study...

Behind her, Qin Yuru raised her head, her swollen eyes looking at Qin Wanru's back with venomous hatred...

## **Chapter 229 Leaving Temporarily to Avoid Trouble**

In the study, Madam Di was kneeling in front of Qin Huaiyong's desk, sobbing. Hearing a sound, she raised her head, took a look at Qin Wanru, and began to wipe away her tears again with her handkerchief, ignoring her.

In the study, there were no other people because Yujue didn't follow her in. First, Qin Wanru stepped forward to bow respectfully to Qin Huaiyong, who waved his hand to let her up, then lowered his head to continue reading the case records in his hands. In the room, only Madam Di's sobbing could be heard.

The silence was eerie!

Qin Wanru backed off to the side and hesitated, seemingly wishing to say something.

Qin Huaiyong took the records to read, waited a long while, but didn't hear her voice, then raised his head again to look at her and asked, "Wanru, what's up?"

"Grandma is not well!" Qin Wanru said.

"Didn't your grandma already wake up just now?" Qin Huaiyong frowned.

"Yes, she did, but after she was angered like this... She has been unhealthy. After today's trouble, I am afraid Grandma won't get out of bed for a short while," Qin Wanru said softly.

"Then ask your grandma to have a good rest." Qin Huaiyong nodded.

"Father, could Grandma go and stay in Huaguang Temple for a few days and enjoy its peace? These days, I am afraid our mansion won't be peaceful." Qin Wanru looked at Qin Huaiyong, a little hesitant.

Her words made Qin Huaiyong silent for a while, for he surely knew the matter was not over yet. Duke Yong's Mansion would still send their people here. It was hard to predict the chaos of the future, and also the ones that would follow.

No doubt, their mansion wouldn't be peaceful in the coming days.

"You, your grandma, and Ruolan may go to Huaguang Temple together and spend a few days there!" With a moment of thinking, Qin Huaiyong made his decision. Not only Madam Dowager but also Shui Ruolan, who had no close relations with this matter, would be annoyed and wouldn't rest well if they stayed in the mansion.

"My mother can also go? What about the mansion's affairs?" Qin Wanru said peacefully. She came here for this aim: Take her grandmother and mother away, so they wouldn't have to get involved in the matter of Qin Yuru and Di Yan.

"Let these supervisors and my concubines manage it now. Previously, when Ruolan was unhealthy, they were also given the right to do the job," Qin Huaiyong thought about the possible time of solving this issue and said.

Solving the problem fast was good for everyone!

"Yes, father, when should we leave?" Qin Wanru tried to be relaxed in her tone.

"In a while, go help your grandma and mother pack, and go to Huaguang Temple now!" Qin Huaiyong thought and said.

"Yes, Father!" With her aim achieved, Qin Wanru bowed low to Qin Huaiyong, and turned, walking to go outside without saying anything else, but she heard Madam Di's voice. "General, why do you let them leave now? Do you want to let others know our mansion is inharmonious?"

"You know whether we are harmonious or not. At this time, do you still want to build a marriage bond with Duke Yong's Mansion?" Qin Huaiyong's voice was as cold as always.

"What if we don't? Yuru's reputation..." Madam Di cried again. The following words were a little light, and Qin Wanru couldn't hear them from off in the far distance.

In the yard, Qin Yuru was still crying. As Qin Wanru walked past, she didn't raise her head either, as if she didn't see her coming. Mei Xue, who knelt alongside her, took a look at Qin Wanru timidly and lowered her head instantly to bow.

Qin Wanru walked past her slowly. After she passed, she could perceive Qin Yuru's solidified cold look at her back.

"Second Miss, why does the First Miss hate you so much? This matter has nothing to do with you, and it was not you who asked Miss Ning to come and make trouble!" Yujie turned her head to look at Qin Yuru's behavior, confused.

Qin Wanru smiled and, referring to something, said, "Some people are born to think that others should be trampled on!"

Being selfish and conceited, Qin Yuru sometimes didn't need too many reasons to generate hatred. Even an impossible or funny reason in others' eyes could become a great indication that others tried to hurt her. In this respect, she was the same as Madam Di.

Fortunately, in this life, Qin Yuru could not destroy her as she did in her previous one.

The ones who would be destroyed slowly were only her and Madam Di.

Di Yan was a man without progress, but admiring his hereditary title, so many people appreciated him. Ning Caixian failed, but there were still others out there.

From Ning Caixian's case, some people would learn more lessons!

As the Chinese proverb goes: Beat the grass to startle the snake. Sometimes it was a good thing to frighten the venomous snake early!

Since they would only stay for a few days, Madam Dowager and Shui Ruolan didn't pack many things, and Qin Wanru packed even less. After packing roughly, several horse-drawn carriages pulled out of Ningyuan Army General's Mansion, heading for Huaguang Temple.

Qin Huaiyong had already appointed their supervisor to reserve guestrooms in Huaguang Temple.

When everyone arrived at Huaguang Temple, the guestrooms had already been prepared. Madam Dowager and Shui Ruolan couldn't stand walking along Wenxi Road, and fortunately, their horse-drawn carriages could pull in straight through a side door on another slope.

The shortcut was mainly prepared for the sick and weak who visited Huaguang Temple. Most who could walk themselves would take Wenxi Road.

It was said that the Buddha would only hear more of the hearts of those who took Wenxi Road, and they were also more heartfelt.

Qin Wanru still brought Yujie to the mountain, and also Qu Le, who helped deal with trifles. Compared with Qing Xue, Qu Le looked more valued in Zhifang Pavilion, although she was a second-level servant girl.

What happened in the past also made Qin Wanru trust Qu Le gradually.

As for Qing Xue, Qin Wanru felt that she had better transfer her to another place in a period of time. Although Qing Xue had to stand on her side now, it was hard to tell whether or not Qing Xue would be forced if Madam Di took action. Regarding such a person, she thought that Madam Di would not give up.

What on earth would happen? Nanny Yu persuaded Qin Wanru to give Qing Xue more time, saying that she felt Qing Xue was also a poor girl. As a servant, she had no choice.

Qin Wanru thought about it, postponed the matter, and still asked her to stay at Zhifang Pavilion.

The following days were peaceful, but Nanny Yu still sent her messages each day. It was said that Duke Yong's mother visited Ningyuan Army General's Mansion herself soon after Qin Wanru and Madam



Dowager left. Initially, she wanted to see Old Madam Qin, but since Old Madam Qin was absent, she went straight to Qin Huaiyong.

No one knew what they said in the study, but then Qin Huaiyong went to their mansion's gate and asked Di Yan to come in. Later, he specially invited a doctor to treat Di Yan's injuries. Duke Yong's kick had injured his leg indeed. Even until now, he was still recuperating in Qin's Mansion.

As for Ning Caixian's case, it was dealt with more directly. The yamen had an open trial right away. All the concrete evidence proved that Ning Caixian had evil wishes and smeared Qin Yuru's reputation silently. Qin Yuru and Di Yan were absent, but a supervisor of Qin's Mansion appeared, and Duke Yong's Mansion sent some of Di Yan's evidence: the letters that Ning Caixian wrote to Di Yan in the past. It was said that these letters' wording was extremely shameful and didn't look like what an aristocratic family's miss would use at all.

Ning's Mansion was also an aristocratic family. Although it was a ruined one, not all the family branches were ruined. Yet, all its females were affected by this case, and people in the capital city were all spreading the rumors that its females were quite disgraceful, and their talks with men were even filthier than those of whores.

These things came in pieces to Qin Wanru's ears gradually.

Although she was not in Qin's Mansion, she had been observing this matter, which sounded simple, but Qin Wanru could still get its clear meaning. Fortunately, her grandmother and mother had long been taken out, or they would have been annoyed. For this matter, neither her grandmother nor her mother could make the decision.

Her father dealt with the whole thing himself. It was his duty.

At least by doing so, the matter would not be spread to her grandmother or mother. Sometimes, the aftermath would also kill people. One had better not stand too close while watching dogs bite one another as an outsider...

In the dark cell, a woman was sitting in one corner, unkempt. Dressed in thin and pale clothes, she looked bloodless, with only a trace of red in her eyes, looking solitarily cold and miserable.

A sound came from the tightly closed door of the cell. The female jailer shook the keys in her hand, brought down two people, opened the lock on the door, and shouted, "Ning Caixian, you have visitors!"

Ning Caixian raised up her glazed eyes, turned them, and called out excitedly, "Cousin!"

"No cousin, but your younger sister who has been hurt terribly by you!" Ning Xueqing walked in, looked down at Ning Caixian, and said dismissively, "At this time, your cousin is with a beauty and will never think of you, and you are but a woman he abandoned!"

The servant girl behind her gave a purse to the female jailer, who raised the corner of her mouth to ridicule Ning Caixian. "You two had better be quick. This is not your mansion, and you cannot talk freely."

What Ning Caixian did made every woman feel sick, and the female jailer had been unhappy with her for a long time. Ning Caixian pretended to be vulnerable as if a gust of wind could make her fall, but she

looked as normal as ever even after being thrown into prison. It was heard that she was a beauty who would fall if a wind blew her. That was but acting. Most of the women the jailer had seen were like this!

"Yes, yes, yes, we will be very quick." The servant girl flattered her with a smile.

The female jailer gave a cold snort, and turned and left. The servant girl backed to the side and lowered her eyes, motionless, as if she did not exist.

"Ning Xueqing, is that you?" When Ning Caixian saw Ning Xueqing, who had been unfriendly with her, before her, the expectation on her face ebbed, and she lowered her head.

"Ning Caixian, are you sincere?" Ning Xueqing squatted, looked sideways at Ning Caixian's face, and ridiculed her, "Di Yan has been treating you like a toy. Don't you know that? The letters you wrote have become known to the entire capital. It is said that they have also become the samples of the brothels in the capital!"

Ning Caixian raised her eyes with a slight trace of blood and, staring at Ning Xueqing sullenly, said, "Shut up!"

"What's the use of getting angry with me? If you have the ability, go to Di Yan and Qin Yuru! Look at you now! Not only I but also the members of our Ning Family want to sink you to the river in a pig's cage. Ning Caixian, you are poor indeed!" Ning Xueqing ridiculed Ning Caixian mercilessly.

"Take me away!" Ning Caixian suddenly looked at Ning Xueqing and said insidiously, with blood-shot eyes!

### **Chapter 230 The Scenery on Wenxi Road**

"What if do I take you away? What else do you want to do? Look at what you are like now. Even if you were a concubine, Duke Yong's Mansion would not want you. It is in vain that you think that you have controlled Di Yan. Now it's just like a joke!" Ning Xueqing sneered coldly.

"Take me away, and I'll help you marry Wang Shengxue, or you should not be so stupid to believe that he will marry you!" Ning Caixian said with gloomy and cold eyes.

"Why wouldn't he marry me? He'll certainly marry me, but it's a bit too early now. It'll take a while to wait for a suitable time..." Unwilling to show her weakness in front of Ning Caixian, Ning Xueqing raised her head proudly.

"Do you believe this reason?" Ning Caixian asked in a gloomy way.

Ning Xueqing opened her mouth and wanted to refute her.

"Take me away and I'll help you. I will not recoil from death." Ning Caixian interrupted her words coldly again. She raised her head with the color of blood in her eyes, which looked very scary.

Ning Caixian knew clearly that she was ruined! She originally thought that if Di Yan insisted, she would certainly be able to enter Duke Yong's Mansion. Anyway, she had given up the idea of being the legal wife and only wanted to be a concubine. Ningyuan Army General's Mansion could say nothing about that. She didn't believe that Qin Yuru would ignore her own reputation and dare to refuse her before she married into Duke Yong's Mansion.

Also, because she took Di Yan everywhere she went, everyone knew their businesses. What's more, she had even knelt at the door of Ningyuan Army General's Mansion. Anyone in this case would have to accept her. Even though he just pretended his magnanimity, he would show it in a grand way.

As long as she entered Duke Yong's Mansion, with her own means, who would gain supremacy was still a question.

But she didn't expect it to be an accident. The message from the Madam of Ningyuan Army General's Mansion was supposed to deal with the Second Miss of Qin's Mansion. But later on, because Qin Yuru had ruined her own reputation and Qin Wanru was not excellent enough to impede the way of Ning Caixian, this matter was imputed to Qin Yuru.

But this matter was exposed. So what? As long as she denied this matter uncompromisingly and the supervisor recognized this matter on his own, it would have nothing to do with her.

Ning Caixian knew clearly about her own means. With these methods, it was not difficult for her to gain the chance to enter into Duke Yong's Mansion. What was beyond her expectation was that Qin Huaiyong, as Ningyuan Army General, stepped into this matter without any hesitation. But in the end, it was Di Yan who gave her the hardest blow and took out all the letters she had written to him as evidence in court.

Ning Caixian, who grew up in Ning's Mansion during her childhood, knew some twists and turns in the officialdom. And some of the civil servants' behavior in her eyes was not much different from the means in the backyard. But she didn't know martial arts, a blow from which had to be hit. This was why she miscalculated the personality of Qin Huaiyong and she also overestimated Di Yan's so-called affectionateness.

Ning Caixian passed away and was taken out of the prison because nobody could cure her illness.

Ning Caixian was the heir of a duke in Ning's Mansion. Since nobody was killed in this matter, at first her crime would not lead to her death. But at that time, reputation and integrity were even more important than heaven. Many families could not bear the stigmatization; therefore, they would ask the woman who had made mistakes to commit suicide so that they could seek reputation and integrity for the other offspring of their family.

The news of Ning Caixian's death came out a few days after Ning Caixian was taken out of the prison. At that time, there were a lot of rumors going around. Although it was said that Ning Caixian died of illness, people all suspected privately that the Ning family had forced her to commit suicide for the sake of the reputation and integrity of the Ning family.

Anyway, the news about Ning Caixian's death and the matter about her and Di Yan were known by everyone in the capital city. But people dying was like lights out. There were some people who took pity on her but most of them would blame Di Yan because it was his desertion that brought Ning Caixian into this situation.

It was also because of her death that some of the rumors about Ning's Mansion had changed gradually. Compared with the one who still enjoyed a high position and great wealth, a dead woman weighed nothing. Things in the world were just like this. People tended to say few words about dead people. Many people were likely to extend a kind of tolerance for those who had died.

The door of Ning's Mansion was also closed tightly after that. At first, there were a few people watching this matter. But later on, they found that there was nothing to look at so they became indifferent to it.

Ning Caixian's funeral was also held hastily. No one noticed that on the night of Ning Caixian's funeral, a small sedan left through the back door of Ning's Mansion, followed by only an old maid and a servant girl. Later, they disappeared in the vast darkness.

No one had thought that the girl who had "died" in the eyes of people would appear again and step into the troubled place of the capital city...

When Qin Wanru got the news about Ning Caixian's death, she was on Wenxin Road going toward Huaguang Temple.

Before the time she arrived at Huaguang Temple, because she needed to accompany Old Grandma and Shui Ruolan, she got no chance to walk on this Wenxin Road. After a few adjustments, she took Yujie with her to walk on that Wenxin Road again.

Erasing the sweat stains from her forehead and looking up, she saw layer upon layer of steps winding with twists and turns. She deeply exhaled and asked, "She has died?"

"Yes, indeed. But I am not sure whether it is true or not," Yujie answered. "Just now when I came here, I saw Nanny Duan, the person who told me this piece of news."

"What do you think about it?" Qin Wanru smiled faintly and walked a few steps forward.

"I think... it is possible. Although Miss Ning was not the type of person who would commit suicide, her body was really not very good, and it was possible for her to die from illness if she had been hit so hard!" Yujie said after a few thoughts.

"You also think she's in bad health?" Qin Wanru asked.

"When I looked at her face, it seemed to be very faint. So I think she was not in good health. But before someone said that... her illness was not so serious. Actually, I am also very confused," Yujie said, catching up with Qin Wanru quickly.

Qin Wanru lightly closed her lips. Yujie had some medical skills, but didn't understand some of the ways of personal relationships and worldly wisdom. Ning Caixian's body was indeed not very good, but she was not in delicate health. She once knelt at the door of the mansion for a long time, but nothing happened to her. She even managed to yell touchingly when she was dragged away.

So she was not very sick or weak.

At first, maybe she pretended she was ill in order to gain sympathy from others. When she got used to it, she herself also repeatedly implied that she was sick and weak, and could not go through anything. Such an implication even deceived herself, so that Ning Caixian always looked sick and weak with a lack of energy.

It seemed to be true.

"Ning Caixian wouldn't die!" Qin Wanru said confidently, with her smile widening a little bit.

"Why not?" Yujie was puzzled and asked.

"A person like her would never really die in this way!" Qin Wanru said with a gleam flashing at the bottom of her eyes as the corners of her lips moved upward. The Ning sisters were women of means, but Ning's Mansion at their back was really insignificant so that neither of them could get a good marriage.

However, despite her identity as a daughter from an aristocratic family, she could put herself out there to make this matter bigger and be willing to be a concubine. This originally showed that Ning Caixian was not a simple person. Such a woman who was not simple would not die easily.

"How about telling the general about this and have the general send someone to find out?" Yujie said in doubt.

"No! It is none of our business!" Qin Wanru shook her head. This matter was an affair in complete disorder between Di Yan and Ning Caixian, and she didn't want to get involved at all.

What if Ning Caixian was dead? What if she was alive? It didn't have a tiny jot of connection with her. The reason why she took her grandmother and mother away from Qin's Mansion early was to disassociate herself from this matter. On the one hand, she wanted to prevent her grandmother and mother from being disturbed; on the other hand, there came the idea above.

Since Qin Wanru spoke like this, Yujie thought for a while and felt justified. The First Miss in Ning's Mansion was not a good person either. She had once intended to plot against her Miss and she had done it with Madam Di. After thinking of this, Yujie felt very happy because at least Madam Di and Ning Caixian were now in a dog fight and neither of them was a good person.

Whoever won or lost, it had nothing to do with them.

Looking up at the layers of steps above, Yujie no longer mentioned the matter of Ning Caixian and said, "Miss, do you want to take a break? There is still a long way to go. It is impossible to climb up in one breath."

"Let's go up a little further. It is too close here!" Qin Wanru shook her head and also took a look upward. They were not even halfway there. If they rested now, they might have to rest again after a while.

"Miss, your body is not in very good condition either. Having walked this distance is enough. Actually, after this walk, I am fine, but I am afraid that when Miss gets tired, you may feel difficult to come around!" Yujie advised. She was really worried about Qin Wanru's body.

How could a Miss from an aristocratic family, who seldom walked out of the door of the mansion or stepped out of the door of her room, have much energy to walk such a long distance?

"Just a little further and I will take a rest!" Qin Wanru said. Yujie nodded reluctantly and followed behind Qin Wanru, carefully guarding and protecting her.

They walked all the way without noticing that they had already become scenery in others' eyes.

Qin Wanru's face turned red, and her white and tender skin was almost full of a rosy color. All her hair was tied up with a chignon, only wearing two hairpins with butterfly wings, which looked simple and beautiful. Her pair of clear eyes were just like being immersed in water. When her pretty eyes were

flowing back and forth, words were about to come from her small cherrylike mouth, which seemed to be painted vermilion red. All of this reflected her features smarter and prettier.

Such an outstanding girl didn't know that when she walked on the road, she had attracted many other pilgrims who were also on Wenxin Road. Every time someone walked by her, they looked back frequently. Seeing that such a weak girl could climb so high in a breath, everyone continuously praised her as a persistent girl.

"Whose Miss is she?" In a pavilion for resting on the side of Wenxin Road, after her eyes fell upon Qin Wanru, a Madam Dowager with magnificent clothes looked Qin Wanru up and down and asked an old maid who was standing aside serving her.

"Madam Dowager, please wait. Let me ask about her immediately!" The old maid followed the Madam Dowager's gaze, looked at Qin Wanru, and also couldn't help praising this Miss in her mind. "What a gorgeous beauty! She looks not only beautiful but also particularly persistent. There is no doubt that our master would think highly of her because such a girl doesn't seem to be someone who was brought up in common wealthy families."

"Miss, would you take a rest?"

When Qin Wanru was walking upward and getting tired and out of breath, she suddenly heard a gentle voice coming from the front. She raised up her head so quickly that she felt dizzy in front of her eyes at the moment and her body fell backward. Yujie quickly noticed and held her with agile hands.