

## Medical Princess 241

### Chapter 241 I'm Also Not Resigned to It. Let's Unite!

In the afternoon of the next day, Madam Dowager, together with a group of people, left Huaguang Temple and returned to Ningyuan Army General's Mansion.

It was quiet in front of the door of General's Mansion and there were few onlookers. But farther away, someone pointed at here and there and seemed to be talking about something.

When Qin Wanru got off the carriage, she saw Madam Di and Qin Huaiyong standing next to Madam Dowager. Their faces looked very sullen.

After stepping forward and saluting to them silently, Qin Wanru went back to one side.

"Zhuzhuo goes home first, and Ruolan comes with me!" Madam Dowager said with sullen face. It was obvious that Qin Huaiyong and Madam Di had told her something before. But Madam Dowager didn't want to involve Qin Wanru into this thing, so she dispatched Qin Wanru away.

Qin Wanru nodded her head and was about to turn around and go away. Suddenly she turned back and asked Qin Huaiyong, "Father, what's the problem with the plate? It's a gift given by the emperor. If it has any problem, we'll be in trouble!"

Qin Huaiyong's brows jumped slightly. He nodded casually, smiled and said with milder voice, "I know how to deal with it. Just rest your heart!"

Madam Di's face became galling at that moment and she was even a little bit flustered. She glanced at Qin Wanru coldly without saying a word.

Now, this thing had not come to its end. She and Madam of Duke Xing were both very happy, but as to Qin Huaiyong, she still wanted to find an opportunity to "explain" more. But she hadn't thought that Qin Wanru would suddenly mention it at this time, which made her unprepared for this situation.

Qi Rongzhi was also observing Madam Di and she could hardly control the hatred in her eyes. But finally she gritted her teeth and turned and followed Qin Wanru to go away.

After a while, when Qi Rongzhi turned around and couldn't see Madam Dowager and other people behind her, she hurried up her steps and stopped Qin Wanru. "Sister Wanru, wait for me. I want to say a few words to you!"

Qin Wanru stood still and waited for her to come. She asked with dim light in her eyes, "What is it?"

"Sister Wanru, I am sorry. I misunderstood you before. Qin Yuru and Madam Di must deliberately make me misunderstand you. I'm here to say sorry to you!" Qi Rongzhi even saluted formally to Qin Wanru with a sincere and apologetic look.

"It doesn't matter!" Qin Wanru said carelessly. She turned around and wanted to leave.

Qi Rongzhi hadn't thought that her "true heart" was only paid by such a few careless words. She almost couldn't keep the smile on her face. But then she said right away, "Sister Wanru, I know that you have

no idea about Third Young Master Wen. I am short-sighted, but both of us are destroyed by Qin Yuru and Madam Di. Will you be resigned to this?"

"What if I am not resigned to it?" Qin Wanru squinted and said indifferently.

"If you are not resigned to it, you can certainly resist them. You are the Second Miss in General's Mansion and no worse than Qin Yuru. But she and Madam Di don't want to live with you everywhere you go. When you were in Jiangzhou, they had behaved like this. Now you are in the capital city, they will certainly do as the same. There is no way for you to live. Even if it is your marriage, I am afraid that they will manipulate it. This is a life-long thing!"

Qi Rongzhi said sincerely and seemed to care much about Qin Wanru.

"So, what should I do?" Qin Wanru smiled. Her long eyelashes flicked a few times, hiding the coldness in the depth of her eyes.

"Sister Wanru, I am also not resigned to them, so let's join hands!" Qi Rongzhi's voice was very low, but it became more and more sincere. She gnawed her teeth and said with hatred, "I am not resigned to the fact that I have almost lost my life. And I'm not willing to die without finding out the culprits. I checked it last night. Someone did something on my carriage. One of the wheels was broken. If someone deliberately hit it somewhere, the possibility of accident was very big!"

Qin Wanru was not surprised at this result.

Since Madam Di wanted to let Qi Rongzhi have an accident, this was the best way. It was not difficult to make a trace of damage on the wheel. Then, when it went downside, it would hit trees. The carriage would fall apart and the horse would crash and die.

"I don't know how to do it. You should be careful later!" Qin Wanru said carelessly.

"This... was going to kill me. How could I be more careful? Qin Wanru, you should not be so useless!" These careless words annoyed Qi Rongzhi and she said angrily.

"What else could I do? This is the capital city instead of Jiangzhou!" Qin Wanru looked at Qi Rongzhi with a cold look, reminding her, "You can still rely on your father to fight against my father in Jiangzhou, but not here."

She glanced up and down at Qi Rongzhi with scorn in her eyes. "Here, you can't rely on anyone. What can you do on Big Sister on your own? You can't even do anything on Big Sister, how could you deal with Madam Di? Qi Rongzhi, I suggest that you should not go out again and not stay alone. Otherwise you will really have accidents! I am not worried about you, but I am afraid that you will blame it on me. Qin Yuru is good at doing nothing but imputing curse to others."

Qin Wanru finished her words this time and she didn't wait for Qi Rongzhi to say anything, turned and left.

"Qin Wanru, Qin Wanru!" Qi Rongzhi's impetuous voice came from behind. Qin Wanru did not look back, and she took Yujie to go away slowly.

The face of Qi Rongzhi turned green because of anger. She kicked on the trunk at one side, gnawed her teeth and said with hatred, "This useless gimmick! There is no wonder that she has always been bullied by Qin Yuru. She deserves it!"

"Miss, we are now living in General's Mansion. If you really want to assault... I am afraid that it won't work!" Chun Yi reminded her on the side cautiously.

She felt that Qin Wanru's words were quite right. Under this situation, it was really not easy to fight against Qin Yuru and her mother directly.

"I have no one to rely on? I still have my big brother. My big brother is the flaw of Qin Yuru. Qin Yuru now has a bad reputation and we will make it worse. She won't dare to plot against me at that time!" Qi Rongzhi had already been annoyed by Qin Wanru, and now she felt that even her servant girl also looked down upon her. She shouted and turned to give a slap on the face of Chun Yi.

"Yes... everything Miss says is right!" Chun Yi covered her beaten face and slammed down with a sound of "flop".

"Go, let's go back and see what my big brother would say. If my big brother shields this gimmick again, I will sever the brother-sister relationship with him," Qi Rongzhi said with hatred. She had already let Chun Xi sent her letters to Qi Tianyu before and told this thing to him so that he could come up with some ideas to help her deal with Qin Yuru.

To this point of this moment, she didn't believe that her big brother would believe what Qin Yuru said.

The thing between Qin Yuru and Di Yan had just come to an end. When everyone in the capital city was talking about this thing, some other old stories about Qin Yuru which happened when they were in Jiangzhou started to be talked by people.

It was said that this First Miss Qin and Qi Tianyu, the son of the magistrate in Jiangzhou, were a love match and childhood friends. And the two families had also had an alliance about their marriage. They had agreed to hold a wedding before Qi Tianyu went to the capital city to take exams. But it was unexpected that Madam Di and Qin Yuru climbed up the high branch of Duke Yong's Mansion. So they refused the marriage with Qi Tianyu.

Moreover, they even pushed out the innocent Second Miss Qin as excuses. At that time, this thing had caused the great turmoil in Jiangzhou, and it was the biggest scandal of Jiangzhou.

Nobody knew where this news came from and it became more and more popular. It was said that there were some businessmen who transferred from Jiangzhou to the capital city to do business also talking about this thing, which made the story more vivid.

Things that had just been forgotten before caused great turmoil again because of this thing. Not only ordinary people in the capital city were talking about this thing, but also some aristocratic families were spreading this.

Qin Wanru looked like a child and her face was exquisite but childish. Nobody believed that she would really fall in love with Qi Tianyu. What did a child of that age know? She was destroyed by Qin Yuru and her mother like this. They were so hateful like the vicious stepmothers.

And as the news came out, another guess came out silently. It was said that the reason why Madam Di and Qin Yuru treated Qin Wanru so badly was that she was not the daughter of Qin Huaiyong but was picked up in the midst of war. Although the rebellion had gone for many years, many people still remembered it.

Some of the past family affairs of Ningyuan Army General's Mansion were turned over. And with these affairs, Yamen had also caught an escaped servant. It was said that he was escaped from the troupe of Ningyuan Army General's Mansion when they entered the capital city. After having been caught, he said again and again that it was Madam Di that asked him to do this thing. The purpose was to kidnap the Second Miss and sell her to some dirty places.

The words of this escaped servant immediately shook the whole capital city. After the great turmoil in the capital city, the reason why Shui Ruolan was married to Qin's Mansion was also turned over. On the one hand, she was plotted by Madam Di; and on the other hand, she needed to take care of Qin Wanru, the child without parents.

This was not just a rumor, and it was actually a great shock to everyone which was unbelievable. But at this time, the wife of Duke Yangqu's son said that she was in Jiangzhou too then and she was actually there when this thing happened.

So much news came out one after another, and it was like summer thunders bombed over the sky of the Qin's Mansion. The atmosphere in the mansion was unprecedented nervous. Qin Huaiyong and Madam Dowager had discussed for a long time with doors closed but they could not decide. Finally they put her under house arrest and dispatched old maid to manipulate the Yulan Pavilion in which Madam Di lived.

Not to mention Madam Di, even if the other people in the yard were not allowed to enter or exit at will and Madam Di was separated directly. Qin Yuru was also put under house arrest and copied Woman Precepts and Daughter's warns in her own yard.

The things in Qin's Mansion had something to do with the inner court. Recently, all the people in the Qin's Mansion did not appear in front of anyone. Even people who were curious could not find people to ask. But Qi Tianyu was different. As the person who had experienced the whole thing, it was convenient to ask him. So there were some curious people who asked Qi Tianyu whether it was true or not.

But none of the people who asked Qi Tianyu gained a confirmed answer. Qi Tianyu always answered with nothing to do with the questions. When he had to answer, he only said that people in Qin's Mansion were of good characters. As for other things, he didn't know them clearly.

To this moment, he still had the heart to protect the reputation of Qin's Mansion. Everyone praised this Mr. Qi.

In the evening of that day, two people were dressed up like servant girls and sneaked away from the backyard door!

## **Chapter 242 Breaking the Betrothal or Not?**

"Miss, First Miss and Mei Xue did leave from the back gate secretly. Don't know where they are going at this time?" Qin Wanru had asked Yujie to keep an eye on Qin Yuru. So, when she found Qin Yuru left Qin's Mansion dressed as a servant girl, she returned hurriedly to report it to Qin Wanru.

Qin Wanru was reading the medical book Mingqiu Nun gave her in the very quiet room. As she heard what Yujie said, she raised her head but shook it. "Don't care about that. At this time, she must be going to meet Qi Tianyu."

As she spoke, she took up the small scissors on her side slowly and cut a part of the dancing wick and the long tears of the candle. Just now, the flame was dancing, not steady, but now it became peaceful.

"Is she going to beg First Young Master of the Qi Family to prove the previous matters are all lies? Miss, what shall we do? He is bound to help First Miss!" Yujie became anxious as she heard it because she knew First Miss' great influence on him.

"Qi Tianyu won't help her!" Qin Wanru smiled. Her beautiful hair had already been re-combed, with her double rings unknotted, and she only made a braid and let it dangle from her shoulder, looking more charming and beautiful.

"Why won't he? Qing Yue had told me once in Jiangzhou, First Young Master of the Qi Family came to trouble you because he meant to help First Miss!" Yujie said.

Qin Wanru narrowed her watery eyes, took a look at the candle tears on the candlestick, and had a small smile on her beautiful lips. "Today is different from the past. The cause of this matter is because of Qi Tianyu, and how can he disgrace himself!"

"Because of First Young Master of the Qi Family?" Yujie was shocked. These days, there was too much trouble, the entire mansion seemed to be messy, and its atmosphere was also depressing. Everyone knew the matter had clear evidence and wouldn't be solved easily, but people of the mansion guessed that the matter's cause was related to Shui Ruolan and Qin Wanru.

Unexpectedly, Qi Tianyu was the cause of it.

"Qi Rongzhi was hurt so much, how can she keep quiet? No doubt, she will ask Qi Tianyu to help her!" Qin Wanru said slowly.

"First Young Master of the Qi Family trusts First Miss most, doesn't he?" Yujie was befuddled. As for the previous details, she was not very clear, but she heard most from Qing Yue and then knew it.

"The times are different. If Qi Tianyu hadn't thought it through until this moment, he was extremely stupid!" Qin Wanru's smile turned cold. She never thought Qi Tianyu was stupid, or he could not have won the third place in the national civil examinations in her previous life, and she even felt that Qi Tianyu never had such deep love that he showed.

Some of the things that came out this time were within expectations, and some were not, but the result was good.

Qi Tianyu asked his men to spread the rumors, but it was Qin Wanru who asked Chu Liuchen to release the cart driver later. As for letting the cart driver tell the truth, it was easy for Chu Liuchen. Yet, the honest words of the wife of Duke Yangqu's son were unexpected. Initially, Qin Wanru thought even if the wife of Duke Yangqu's son had wanted to be her witness, she wouldn't have done it at this time.

Undoubtedly, this was a better time, but it was easy to push the wife of Duke Yangqu's son to the frontline!

For the reaction of the wife of Duke Yangqu's son, Qin Wanru felt very grateful. In the beginning, she wanted the cart driver to come out at some special moment after the wife of Duke Yangqu's son saw him. But now was a better opportunity. She could advance step by step, then spread the matters that happened in Jiangzhou, and also prove some of them.

For some rumors, it usually happened that if one part of them was proven, people would believe the rest firmly!

Qin Wanru had long learned this effect!

At that time, there were many peddlers' family members in Jingxin Monastery. In the past, when no one mentioned it, these people dared not speak anything, but now when everyone began gossiping, they also became witnesses and would not cover up what they saw and heard.

The more the rumors were gossiped about, the truer they became in people's eyes!

"First Young Master of the Qi Family doesn't meddle in, but what about Duke Yong's Mansion?" Yujie felt relieved, but she suddenly thought of Duke Yong's Mansion and said.

Qin Wanru remained silent this time, but gave a small smile, which had a profound meaning!

Duke Yong's Mansion couldn't do anything any longer!

The following day, Duke Yong visited Ningyuan Army General's Mansion. Qin Huaiyong invited him to his study, and they sat down according to the guest-and-host rules.

Once sitting down, Duke Yong showed a cold expression, banged the table with his hand, and, wearing a sullen face, said to Qin Huaiyong, "Brother-in-law, what do you want by locking my sister up? Is it that you wish to love your concubine but kill your wife?"

In this way, Qin Huaiyong got the accusation "love your concubine but kill your wife". Since he had no relations in the capital city, if such an accusation were believed, his official's career would be hard to advance.

"Elder Brother-in-law, what do you mean?" Qin Huaiyong said calmly.

"What do you mean by locking my sister up? Do you think our Duke Yong's Mansion is dead? You locked up my sister only because of hearing some rumors." Today, Duke Yong came to help Madam Di, with enough ferocious airs, and he didn't believe Qin Huaiyong dare offend him.

"Elder Brother-in-law, don't you know the rumors in the air?" Qin Huaiyong asked coldly. There were so many rumors in the air, which he didn't like, either, but since the problem happened, he must solve it with the least sacrifice.

"It must be your mansion's people spreading the rumors. It is enough if you investigate Madam Shui and your second daughter. It must be them, who envied my sister and Yuru and spread these rumors. Brother-in-law, I need to remind you: If you can't handle your family's affairs, how can you serve as a general?"

Duke Yong sneered and said.

“Not them!” Qin Huaiyong said firmly.

“Brother-in-law, is it that you are covering them up? Who else apart from them? Look at it, is it something moral one should do? If my sister is in a poor condition, will your mansion be good?”

Duke Yong’s eyes nearly shot fire. “If anyone should be grounded at home, it should be them. If you ground them, the problem is solved!”

“When the trouble began, they were still in Huaguang Temple, and they didn’t use their servants. It’s not them! As for the cart driver, they could not have meddled in because they have no so much ability,” Qin Huaiyong said. The trouble suddenly broke out, and he did suspect Shui Ruolan and Qin Wanru, but after his investigation, he found they had no relations to it.

“Qin Huaiyong, so what do you mean now? Do you want to imprison my sister for a lifetime?” Duke Yong was unhappy and eyed Qin Huaiyong sharply.

“What other choices do I have now? Or do you wish to let Yuru bear the burden of the trouble?” Qin Huaiyong ignored Duke Yong’s angry face and said coldly.

Not only Duke Yong but also he was in serious trouble, and these terrible things were caused by Madam Di. So, he had reason to be angry! At this time, he suppressed hard the fire of anger in his chest and spoke to Duke Yong.

Now, he didn’t want to break ties with Duke Yong, for this was neither good for him nor Duke Yong.

“Yuru is only a child, if she bears the burden...” When he found he could not overpower Qin Huaiyong in airs, Duke Yong turned his eyes and lowered his voice. Before he came, Countess Yong also told him another possibility. Although he disagreed, now he also felt it was feasible.

“No! Elder Brother-in-law, are you dissatisfied with Yuru?” Before he finished talking, Qin Huaiyong’s face had turned fierce because he already knew what Duke Yong was about to say!

“Yuru is young after all. As long as my sister is with her, her problem will be solved!” Duke Yong explained hurriedly but anxiously.

“Let Yuru take responsibility for the trouble, then Di Yan can break his betrothal with Yuru. Is this what you mean, elder brother-in-law?” Qin Huaiyong’s smile turned eerily cold. Although he was dissatisfied with Di Yan, he also knew Di Yan was Qin Yuru’s best choice at this time. At this point, he shared the same idea with Madam Di.

“Why do you... you think this way! I also want to solve the current problem!” Duke Yong stuttered, but instantly he made his upper body stand straight and said loudly, trying to show his selflessness. In fact, this was the idea of Countess Yong.

Before he came, he had discussed this issue with his wife. Repetitively, Countess Yong said that Qin Yuru bore a bad reputation and would hurt Di Yan if they were married. At this time, they should use the chaos to break the betrothal and get him another good lady from a renowned family, who would lead him to the right track, not to worsen his reputation.

Initially, Duke Yong didn't agree. Madam Di was his sister and the one he loved most, but when Countess Yong kept speaking of Di Yan's future, he compromised a little inwardly. Although he didn't promise his wife, he said he would act as circumstances dictated by the time.

Now, he changed his way of thinking and got this idea, which was becoming stronger and stronger. Anyway, his son couldn't be affected by Qin Yuru, or he would achieve nothing and also have a worse reputation in the future!

"The betrothal should still be effective, can't be broken!" Qin Huaiyong said unquestionably.

"Brother-in-law, this betrothal has been unsuitable since the beginning. Yan'er has been brought up along with Caixian, and they have loved each other a long time before. He did want to marry Ning Caixian, but later my mother said he must marry Yuru, and their bond was broken. Yet, Yan'er has been adoring Ning Caixian. This time, we can say Ning Caixian was forced to die by Yuru. If they are forced to live together, in fact, they won't have happiness."

"Elder Brother-in-law, you must break the betrothal?" Qin Huaiyong looked more sullen.

"This is also good for them. Anyway, we cannot let them become a couple hating each other. Thus, later... they two won't have happiness. Without Ning Caixian's death, perhaps they could still marry, but now Ning Caixian is dead, and the dead should be respected. If she becomes Yan'er's dream goddess, when Yuru marries into... I am afraid... even after we break the betrothal, we are still relatives, and our family will help Yuru get a better match!"

Duke Yong spoke hypocritically, pretending he thought in the place of Qin's Mansion. With gentle and tough words said, he didn't believe he could not break the betrothal!

"What about the imperial plate?"

### **Chapter 243 Kneeling at the Place Gate to Ask for the Title of Honorary Lady**

Duke Yong was shocked as if he confronted an enemy. "I've heard the problem has been solved, haven't I?"

"Elder Brother-in-law, many have seen that imperial plate, and many have also heard the previous reason. Until now, you haven't given me an explanation of why that plate appeared in our mansion. It was a betrothal gift as your mansion said, but there is no it on the betrothal gift list. Besides, on the plate, there is also crack which was made a long time ago."

Qin Huaiyong spoke word by word, and his eyes were deep and sharp, giving off eerie, cold air.

Even if it was a misunderstanding, the plate with a crack was already a crime. Since all the imperial objects had records, their owners were clear.

Let alone this also had relations with Duke Xing's Mansion. Duke Yong dare not wager and couldn't afford to wager.

"Then, what shall we do now?" Speaking of this problem, Duke Yong felt not confident, had to soften his tone, and dare not mention breaking the betrothal!



"Madam Di should take all the blame for this and be locked. As for other things, Madam Di is also the culprit," Qin Huaiyong said slowly. He was already clear about this matter when Madam Di was locked. Only by letting Madam Di take all the blame could the loss be reduced to the least.

Suddenly, he thought of what Qin Wanru once said to him. Now it should be the right time to ask for the title for Shui Ruolan. The rumors were not good to Madam Di, but they were good to Shui Ruolan. Also, it was Shui Ruolan who ran their mansion now. Once, he also promised Qin Wanru that he would ask for the title for Shui Ruolan at the right time.

Now was the best opportunity, and this could also show that, apart from Madam Di, all others were good in the mansion!

"No, if so, my sister is ruined!" No matter how Duke Yong was threatened by Qin Huaiyong, he couldn't help roaring angrily at this moment.

"Madam Di is only locked up, what's the point of ruining or not? We can restart the talk after the trouble is shot, and she won't lose her chance to get out!" Qin Huaiyong said lightly.

"How long for shooting the trouble?" Duke Yong said unhappily.

"Naturally, after all the rumors are gone. The sooner, the better!" Qin Huaiyong raised the corner of his mouth. Certainly, he wouldn't be frank with Duke Yong because he didn't want to release Madam Di. Not only so, but he also wanted to transfer Madam Di's title of Honorary Lady to Shui Ruolan. Compared with Shui Ruolan, who was pregnant but still managed the house affairs, Madam Di was not the type he liked, for she caused trouble, which nearly hurt the entire Qin's Mansion.

Although he wouldn't hurt Madam Di because of Qin Yuru, he didn't want to end this matter easily.

"When will the rumors be gone? This matter has been known by the entire city, and the rumors won't be gone and will also possibly involve you. Aren't you anxious at all?" Duke Yong looked sullen. He was anxious, very anxious, but he didn't worry about Qin Huaiyong, but himself.

Madam Di was born in Duke Yong's Mansion after all.

"We two can work together to silence this matter secretly. With our joint efforts, we shall see a quicker result!" Qin Huaiyong knew what Duke Yong worried about, but he didn't disclose it and also comforted him with such words. Then, he added lightly, "Do we have any other choice?"

These words made Duke Yong wordless. In the current situation, what they could only do was silence the rumors, or other measures were all wrong.

"Fine, that's it, but don't forget she is my sister. If she is in critical condition, my mother will do anything." Duke Yong rose, gritted his teeth, and threatened Qin Huaiyong in a disguised angry manner, saying that if Qin Huaiyong did hurt Madam Di, he would fight him with his life.

"Don't worry, Yuru still needs to marry into your mansion!" Qin Huaiyong stood up to see him off.

To some extent, these words soothed Duke Yong, who gave a cold snort with a sullen face, and then turned and left. Today, none of his aims of visiting Ningyuan Army General's Mansion had been achieved. When he thought of it, he felt gloomy.

Qin Huaiyong stood in the hall, did not see him off to the outside of the mansion, and only saw his back, with unclear meanings in his eyes...

The following matters turned more confusing. First, imperial censors impeached Qin Huaiyong for poorly educating his wife, saying that such a woman didn't deserve the title of Honorary Lady. The Ministry of Justice had received the cart driver's testimony, but it was a little hard to put Madam Di on trial. So, the case was also handed over to the emperor.

No matter how wrong Madam Di was, she was an Honorary Lady. So, she couldn't be put on trial randomly.

Therefore, the case then went to Madam Di's title of Honorary Lady. Instantly, everyone thought she shouldn't be an Honorary Lady any longer.

At this time, Qin Huaiyong knelt at the palace gate, asking for the crime of poorly educating his wife. He also said that Madam Di was not a good wife and her title of Honorary Lady should be removed, and Madam Shui, who had been protecting and brought up his second daughter, was a quiet, dignified woman, and she should have the title. So, he begged the emperor to transfer Madam Di's title to Madam Shui.

No one had ever seen or heard of such things.

Qin Huaiyong knelt at the palace gate, but the emperor in the palace hadn't given him any messages after a long time. So, he continued kneeling at the palace gate.

This matter went from the folk to the place, shocking the entire court. Some thought even if Madam Di's title of Honorary Lady was removed, it shouldn't be transferred to Madam Shui, who was but a second wife. How could she have a higher position than an official wife?

But some thought it was reasonable. The mistress of Ningyuan Army General's Mansion should have the title, or she could not run the mansion lawfully. Since the official wife was unqualified, it was natural the second wife should have it.

A second wife was also a wife!

Outside the palace gate, Qin Huaiyong continued kneeling. It had been two hours since he knelt at the gate. Until now, no one had come out to ask him to enter the palace. So, he lowered his head and kept kneeling respectfully.

"Who is this? Why kneel here? Did anything happen?" A gentle voice suddenly came from the silent earshot, and then came the turning sounds of wheels.

Qin Huaiyong raised his head, eyeing the handsome young man in the wheelchair excitedly. Chu Liuchen sat against sunlight, looking elegant. It was not wrong to think he was a graceful immortal, but the wheelchair seemed to drag him from the immortal status back to the mortal world.

"Your Highness, this is Ningyuan Army General, and he comes to ask for the title of Honorary Lady for his second wife!" the little eunuch who was asked lowered his head and answered respectfully.

"Ask for the title of Honorary Lady for his second wife? He is a man with love and faith! If he does this for the person whom he cares about sincerely, he is worth our compliment!" Chu Liuchen eyed Qin Huaiyong's face, praising lightly.

"Prince!" Qin Huaiyong calmed down now and kowtowed respectfully to Chu Liuchen once on the ground as a solemn ritual.

"Up!" Chu Liuchen waved his hand casually. "My emperor uncle has no time to see you?"

"The emperor is busy! As a subject, my matter is small!" Qin Huaiyong lowered his head and said.

"Small? Is it only a matter of a woman? My emperor uncle is busy with something eventful indeed!" As he finished talking, Chu Liuchen gave a small, gentle smile and said.

Xiao Xuanzi turned the direction of his wheelchair and took Chu Liuchen to other places to wander, as if this was but a meeting by chance.

But this meeting was reported by someone to the emperor at once. In a short while, a eunuch ordered someone to ask Qin Huaiyong to enter the palace.

That Qin Huaiyong went to kneel at the palace gate was within Qin Wanru's guess. By the routine time, he should have come back, but Madam Dowager and Shui Ruolan didn't see him and became anxious, asking their servants to watch at the Chuihua Gate, and so did Qin Wanru.

But they had been waiting until the afternoon. Since Qin Huaiyong was not back, the whole mansion's masters didn't have the mood to eat and felt quite anxious.

Later, Shui Ruolan went to Madam Dowager's place. After getting the information, Qin Wanru also went to Madam Dowager's Xinning Pavilion to chat with them.

But the previous jokes only made Madam Dowager smile reluctantly, and Shui Ruolan was in lower spirit. Finally, an old maid rushed in to report Qin Huaiyong's return. Immediately, the entire room became lively and joyful.

As Qin Huaiyong strode in, Madam Dowager looked at him quite excitedly. When she found he had no serious problems other than a little pale face, she was relieved and sat down again.

Shui Ruolan asked a servant hurriedly to pour the tea Qin Huaiyong loved. Despite her bulging belly, she wanted to go over to support Qin Huaiyong, but he stopped her with his hand, escorted her to the chair on the side, let her sit down, and then kowtowed to Madam Dowager.

"Sit down; everything is right?" Madam Dowager let Qin Huaiyong sit down and asked anxiously. She was really worried, for there were only women in the mansion, and Qin Huaiyong was their only backbone. If something bad happened to him, the entire Qin's Mansion was over.

Qin Huaiyong sat in the chair, took up the teacup a servant girl gave him, sipped it, rested for a while, and said smilingly to Madam Dowager, "Mother, I am fine!"

"Why were you so bold? I told you this matter was not urgent. If something bad happened to you, what should I, Ruolan, and Zhuozhuo do?" Madam Dowager's expression returned to normal, and she blamed.

"Mother, our Ningyuan Army General's Mansion also needs a madam who can engage in social activities!" Qin Huaiyong looked calm and said. He could not rely on Madam Di anymore, and so if he didn't ask for the title for Shui Ruolan, she would probably have no chance for a long time.

After all, asking for a title should depend on the court's orders issued to Qin Huaiyong. Without orders, he would have no opportunity to render meritorious services, and Shui Ruolan's title would be too far to reach. When the women of Ningyuan Army General's Mansion attended parties, they would be scorned by others, and this would even affect Qin Wanru's marriage.

It was not important whether Madam Di's title of Honorary Lady was removed or not, but the important thing was Shui Ruolan must have one!

In many families, parents were already looking for a match for their eleven-year-old girls!

Madam Dowager knew it, heaved a deep sigh, but shook her head helplessly. "So, what is the result?"

"After the Ministry of Rites approves of it!" Qin Huaiyong smiled. In his view, since the emperor agreed, other departments would not stop the matter. It would be successful sooner or later!

As for Madam Di's title of Honorary Lady, the emperor meant to put the matter aside for now. Anyway, she was an official wife and also Duke Yong's sister. Besides, it seemed someone had said a good word about her. The emperor meant to deal with this matter after all the details were cleared, but he didn't speak of interrogating the cart driver again.

Qin Huaiyong knew what this meant, and so he didn't mention Madam Di's matter anymore.

Hearing his words, Madam Dowager felt relieved, but she thought a moment and hesitated again. "Duke Yong's Mansion won't agree. If they try to make trouble, what about Yuru's marriage?"

"The trouble has become so sensational, but it is all Madam Di's fault. Duke Yong's Mansion also knows that when the trouble has become so terrible, we don't have solutions, either. For Yuru's good, we must do this. On Yuru's wedding, there should be a mother guarding everything!" Qin Huaiyong said calmly.

Qin Wanru had been standing quietly on the side and turned her eyes away from Qin Huaiyong's face, but the look in her eyes shook invisibly, leaving a ripple.

"Mother, I met Madam of Duke Xing on my way home just now, and she said she wants to see you!"

#### **Chapter 244 The Child's Nickname Is Zhuozhuo?**

"Madam of Duke Xing wants to meet me?" Madam Dowager was dumbfounded for a while and then sat up straight. Upon arrival in the capital, she had lived a secluded life in the mansion and never met any guest. She didn't know what this Madam of Duke Xing, who she had never met before, intended to do!

Although Madam of Duke Xing had been here before, she met Madam Di, which had nothing to do with Madam Dowager.

"Yes, she said she wants to express her gratitude because of Wanru's help for the young master of Duke Xing's Mansion! She was in a hurry last time without bringing a gift, so she didn't meet you!" Qin Huaiyong glanced at Qin Wanru beside him and said.

It could be considered the reason why Madam of Duke Xing came to the Qin's Mansion last time to meet Madam Di without meeting Madam Dowager.

"She comes over at this time... We are in a mess now. I'm afraid it's not a good time," Madam Dowager said after hesitation.

"Madam of Duke Xing said it doesn't matter and she should come over at this time!" Qin Huaiyong said.

She should come over? Qin Wanru secretly sneered. Madam Di was grounded in the yard, which made Madam of Duke Xing unable to meddle in the affairs of the Qin's Mansion, so she had to come over.

"Madam of Duke Xing is really a sympathetic person!" Madam Dowager sighed. The Qin's Mansion was on the cusp of a mess, and no one with discerning eyes would be willing to be involved in it at this time.

Madam of Duke Xing's action of coming to the Qin's Mansion to visit her could be considered a support to the Qin's Mansion to some extent. How could Madam Dowager not be moved? Even Shui Ruolan, who sat beside Madam Dowager, nodded repeatedly and had a good impression of this Madam of Duke Xing, who she had never met.

Qin Wanru bowed her head slightly, looking towards the exquisite patterns carved on the chair corner with a trace of gloom across her eyes. This Madam of Duke Xing really wouldn't miss any chance to leave a good impression on others. Her grandma and mother probably considered her really amiable and respectful at this moment. They didn't know she was the person who trapped them secretly.

Madam of Duke Xing came to the Qin's Mansion on the second day with lavish gifts for every master of Ningyuan Army General's Mansion. Even Qi Rongzhi, who lived here as a guest, got a few pieces of cloth and a few pieces of jewelry.

Qi Rongzhi was overjoyed, and then went to Madam Dowager's yard with Chun Yi to express her gratitude to Madam of Duke Xing.

Qin Wanru came a little late. After reaching Madam Dowager's yard, she heard ceaseless laughter there. She instantly raised her dress and walked in slowly, followed by Nanny Zheng.

This time, she did not bring Qingyue or Yuru, but only Nanny Zheng with her.

In the house, Madam Dowager sat in the left-hand seat with a smile on her face. She was dressed in a dark blue robe with the patterns of the character "fu (blessing)", with a dark blue headband with a big red jewel in the middle, looking quite good. Shui Ruolan sat on her right side!

It was Madam of Duke Xing who sat in the guest seat, and Qi Rongzhi sat beside her. They were talking with delight. Seeing Qin Wanru come in, Madam of Duke Xing looked up and down at her and said with a smile, "It hasn't been long since I met Second Miss Qin, but Second Miss Qin becomes increasingly pretty. Madam Dowager is so fortunate to have these outstanding granddaughters!"

On hearing her words, Madam Dowager even had a wider smile. She reached out to ask Qin Wanru to bow to Madam of Duke Xing.

Qin Wanru stepped forward to bow deeply to Madam of Duke Xing as she was asked. As she was about to get up, she found her hand was pulled by Madam of Duke Xing, who seemingly liked her a lot. "It

would be great if I have a daughter like Second Miss Qin! Madam Dowager, what do you think of the previous proposal?"

She said and looked at Madam Dowager.

With her heart pounding abruptly, Qin Wanru immediately realized something was wrong. She quietly pushed away the hand of Madam of Duke Xing and bowed to Madam Dowager and Shui Ruolan.

"I really appreciate your great kindness, but I should have a talk with Zhuozhuo," Madam Dowager said with a smile, looking over at Qin Wanru with her eyes full of appreciation.

"This child is really pitiful. Who can imagine she had such an experience. Her nickname is Zhuozhuo?" Madam of Duke Xing looked slightly strange, but immediately returned to normal. If Qin Wanru hadn't kept an eye on her, she would miss her strange expression.

It was the only name called by her grandma. Did it remind her of anything?

"It's true! This child is poor indeed!" Madam Dowager sighed and felt increasingly sorry for Qin Wanru. Glancing at Qin Wanru's lovely and agreeable face, she only felt grieved. Qin Wanru had been an orphan at such an early age. How could she not be pitiful? The most hateful was Madam Di, who was so vicious. She had promised to treat Zhuozhuo like her biological daughter, but had actually trapped Zhuozhuo!

"I only have a daughter, but she has dedicated herself to giving lectures and usually spent little time with me. I really wish I could have such a lovely daughter. I've liked Second Miss Qin since I met her, but I didn't dare to take a rash act. I came to your mansion last time with the intention of asking Madam Di's opinion. I thought Madam Di was Second Miss Qin's mother, but unexpectedly I made a mistake!"

Speaking of this, Madam of Duke Xing smiled at Shui Ruolan with guilt.

Shui Ruolan responded with a gentle smile. She did have some doubts about this matter, but now considered Madam of Duke Xing's words made sense. People in the capital all knew that Madam Di was Qin Huaiyong's wedded wife, while no one knew who she was. It was excusable that Madam of Duke Xing came to the Qin's Mansion to visit Madam Di.

"Come on, bring the gifts I've prepared for Second Miss Qin." Madam of Duke Xing smiled and said to an old maid behind her. The old maid nodded, and the two maids presented the brocade boxes in their hands.

"You are so generous, but you've sent a gift to her!" Madam Dowager repeatedly waved her hand. Upon arrival at the Qin's Mansion, Madam of Duke Xing had given the gifts, and the gift for Qin Wanru had been sent to Zhifang Pavilion. Qin Wanru came in a hurry to express her gratitude to Madam of Duke Xing because of this gift.

Madam of Duke Xing gave her gift again. Qin Wanru pretended to be very embarrassed, but took two steps back without accepting them. Only her gaze became increasingly sullen, even with a trace of rage. Madam of Duke Xing had given her a set of clothes that she couldn't wear casually, and now she gave her gifts again.

A person would never show her kindness for nothing. She could almost be sure that Madam of Duke Xing wanted something from her this time.

Stealing a glance at Madam Dowager and Shui Ruolan, she found both of them looked very joyful and obviously had been deceived by Madam of Duke Xing's acting.

They didn't know what vicious thoughts were behind her gentle smile. At the sight of Madam of Duke Xing, Qin Wanru remembered she forced her grandma to kneel down to make an apology in the last life. The kind of humiliation was deeply rooted at the bottom of her heart and had almost eroded her heart.

In this life, as the situation had changed, Madam of Duke Xing's attitude had also changed. She seemingly wanted to be on friendly terms with the Qin's Mansion and sounded like she attempted to take advantage of her in another way.

"I can give Second Miss Qin other gifts now besides the previous one. They are the token of my appreciation. I really like Second Miss Qin." Madam of Duke Xing looked at Qin Wanru with an amicable face and an increasingly gentle smile.

She stood up, walked to the front of the maids and reached out to open a brocade box. A set of head-ornaments inside immediately made Qi Rongzhi jealous and furious with a blank stare.

The pearl as large as a longan was the most valuable. It was inset in a gold hairpin inlaid with jade, along with dozens of small pearls around it. It was made meticulously with immeasurable value.

Madam of Duke Xing was really generous. The value of this hairpin was equivalent to the sum of the gifts she had given before, not to mention the matching jewellery.

"I recently have this hairpin made, and it contains the most precious pearl among my dowry. I'll give it to Second Miss Qin today. I hope Madam Dowager and Madam Shui are satisfied!"

Seeing everyone's shocked face, Madam of Duke Xing proudly picked up the hairpin and waved it, and then opened the second brocade box. It was a pair of translucent jade bracelets, which made people feel joyful at first sight. Qi Rongzhi had seen many jade bracelets, but none of them could match this pair.

With her heart pounding rapidly, she felt she liked them a lot!

"I've also got this pair of bracelets recently. Now I'll also give them to Second Miss Qin!" Madam of Duke Xing said with a smile.

"Madam, you are way too generous. How, how dare I accept such valuable gifts from you?" Seeing Madam of Duke Xing look over, Qin Wanru stepped back and softly refused. "If I accept such valuable gifts from you, what will others think of me? They will definitely think that our Qin's Mansion wants you to repay us after helping you. It would be terrible!"

"We appreciate your kindness. These gifts are too lavish indeed, and we can't accept them!" Madam Dowager also waved repeatedly.

"Madam Dowager, if you agree to my suggestion, this is not a big deal. You can consider them an elder's gifts for a junior at the first meeting. Besides, if we are closer to each other, our duke can help Ningyuan Army General handle some things. Otherwise, we can't help you with no excuse, even if we want to!"

Madam of Duke Xing said with a smile. She didn't get angry because of Qin Wanru's refusal, but her smile became increasingly friendly. After talking to Madam Dowager, she turned to say to Qin Wanru,

“Second Miss, don’t rush to refuse. I sincerely like you and wish I could have a junior like you. If you become my junior, our mansion will naturally offer you dowry in the future!”

She indicated that her mansion would like to promote Qin Huaiyong and expressed her sincere affection for Qin Wanru. Moreover, she indicated that her mansion would help her find a good match and even offer her dowry. Such a good thing was really too good to be real.

Duke Xing’s power in the capital was incomparable to that of an average noble family!

Madam Dowager looked at Shui Ruolan in embarrassment, and Shui Ruolan was hesitant and looked towards Qin Wanru. But it was inconvenient to ask Qin Wanru directly for her opinion in public. In the moment, everyone in the room fell silent...

“Madam Dowager, before I came here, I’ve reported this matter to the Old Madam of our mansion. Our Old Madam also likes it very much. If you agree, we can ask the Queen in the palace to recognize her identity. She could certainly live with the Young Madams of our Duke Xing’s Mansion later and be raised in the name of our Old Madam!”

Seeing them moved, Madam of Duke Xing immediately smiled and became increasingly hearty. She did not believe that she couldn’t persuade them in this way.

If Qin Wanru could be raised in the name of the Old Madam of Duke Xing with her identity recognized by the Queen in the palace, she almost enjoyed the same treatment as the Young Madams of Duke Xing’s Mansion. It was very beneficial to Qin Wanru’s marriage in the future. With an increasingly brilliant smile, Madam Dowager glanced at Qin Wanru, sat up and was about to settle this matter!

#### **Chapter 245 Someone Resisted, While Someone Accepted the Mother!**

“Grandma, what are you talking about? Why can’t I understand?” Qin Wanru looked at Madam Dowager in astonishment and then looked at Madam of Duke Xing. Her blank expression became surprised, “Could it be possible that you’ve found my mother? Where is she? Is she alright? Is she really in the capital? No wonder Rui’an Great Elder Princess...”

Speaking of this, Qin Wanru seemed to feel that she had slipped out and hurriedly stopped talking.

“What did Rui’an Great Elder Princess say?” With her face involuntarily changing, Madam of Duke Xing said hurriedly.

After finishing talking, she found that she was too hasty and then hurriedly said to Madam Dowager with a helpless smile, “Madam Dowager probably doesn’t know about the relationship between our mansion and Rui’an Great Elder Princess. Rui’an Great Elder Princess has always disliked our mansion because of my sister-in-law. I am afraid that I happen to do something offensive to Rui’an Great Elder Princess!”

On hearing her words, Madam Dowager also looked towards Qin Wanru with concern. She didn’t know about the resentment between Duke Xing’s Mansion and Rui’an Great Elder Princess’ Mansion. Nevertheless, based on Madam of Duke Xing’s behavior, she could tell there must be something wrong between them.

“This...” Qin Wanru hesitated.



“Second Miss Qin, please tell me what Rui’an Great Elder Princess said. I know that I’m just a nobody in front of Rui’an Great Elder Princess. I dare not make any conjecture!” Madam of Duke Xing smiled bitterly.

“What... Rui’an Great Elder Princess said before seems to be related to my mother!” Qin Wanru said hesitantly, seeming to not want to say it but have to, “But Rui’an Great Elder Princess asked me to wait... I am not very sure of the details!”

Qin Wanru bowed her head and pinched the handkerchief in her hand.

“Have they really got the news of your mother?” Madam Dowager was overjoyed and looked at Qin Wanru with excitement. For a time, she forgot about the matter mentioned by Madam of Duke Xing.

“Rui’an Great Elder Princess seemingly meant that. But it is still being verified, and I don’t know if it is true!” Qin Wanru took Rui’an Great Elder Princess as the excuse.

Now she was basically clear about Madam of Duke Xing’s intention.

In the last life, Qin Yuru was raised in Duke Xing’s Mansion. It was said that the Old Madam especially liked her and doted on her, and even kept her in Duke Xing’s Mansion for a few more years before she got married. After that, with Duke Xing’s Mansion’s support, all the noble ladies in the capital did not dare to look down on her.

Now it seemed to happen to her, but she didn’t like it.

Madam of Duke Xing seemingly intended to play tricks to persuade Madam Dowager to agree on this matter. Moreover, she said she liked Qin Wanru and spoke of her daughter. It seemed that she intended to adopt Qin Wanru as her daughter.

With the power of Duke Xing’s Mansion, if Qin Wanru was adopted as Madam of Duke Xing’s daughter, she could naturally intervene in Qin Wanru’s marriage. Madam Dowager and Shui Ruolan had regarded her as a nice person, and she was good at pretending to be kind. At that time, it would be difficult for Qin Wanru to decide her marriage.

Now what she could do was certainly to make her drop the idea!

Or... She silently looked towards Qi Rongzhi, who was jealous and furious beside her, and slightly lifted the corners of her lips, showing a barely visible sarcastic smile!

“Rui’an Great Elder Princess intends to help you look for your mother?” Although Madam of Duke Xing was still laughing, her smile seemed to be a bit stiff and less intelligent.

“She should mean that!” Qin Wanru replied softly.

“Madam Dowager, who is Second Miss Qin’s birth mother?” Madam of Duke Xing suddenly turned to Madam Dowager and asked. Her words dumbfounded Madam Dowager.

Such things were basically secrets. Although Madam of Duke Xing had expressed her affection for Qin Wanru and wanted to adopt Qin Wanru as her daughter, now Qin Wanru was not her daughter yet. In fact, it was very rude of her to ask about this thing as a family member at this moment. As the Madam of an aristocratic family, it was impossible that Madam of Duke Xing didn’t know it.

However, she asked this question, and Madam Dowager didn't know how to answer her.

"Grandma, you haven't told me about my birth mother, right? You haven't told me before." Qin Wanru raised her watery eyes to stare at Old Madam Qin with sorrow and grief.

This made it more difficult for Old Madam Qin to make it clear.

At the sight of Madam Dowager's expression, Shui Ruolan also knew that she was embarrassed. So she immediately saved Madam Dowager from embarrassment with a smile. "Wanru, there's no need to rush. Your grandma will tell you about your birth mother when she is free."

Shui Ruolan certainly meant they should not talk about it here. Anyway it was a secret and couldn't be heard by miscellaneous people.

"Thank you, grandma!" Qin Wanru bowed lightly, and then stood up with red eyes and stepped back to stand beside Qi Rongzhi.

At the moment, they were the only two unmarried girls in this room, so it was normal for them to stand together.

"Madam Dowager, have you met Second Miss Qin's birth mother?" Madam of Duke Xing said anxiously. Despite the easy-going smile on her face, her words became increasingly rude. Shui Ruolan had already indicated that they should first tell Qin Wanru about this kind of thing, but at the moment, Madam of Duke Xing showed a great interest.

It made Madam Dowager a little unhappy!

At this time, Madam of Duke Xing should not ask so detailedly. What was more, she kept asking, which brought Madam Dowager a sudden inspiration.

"Madam, I have met her naturally, and everyone in our mansion knows her!" Madam Dowager said lightly.

"Madam Dowager, can you tell me about Second Miss Qin's birth mother? As the woman who gave birth to a smart and beautiful girl like Second Miss Qin, how outstanding should she be!"

As Madam of Duke Xing seemed to have an increasingly great interest, her words became increasingly rude. After finishing speaking, she also felt embarrassed. She looked at Qin Wanru with guilt and said, "I really like this child."

"This thing... It's really a long story. It's not convenient to talk with you about it here!" Madam Dowager said and coughed in a low voice to conceal the displeasure in her eyes. She did have a good impression of Madam of Duke Xing, but Madam of Duke Xing repeatedly asked about Qin Wanru's birth mother, which slightly annoyed her.

If she could talk about this kind of thing, it was unnecessary for her to keep it a secret up to now. Even if Madam of Duke Xing expressed more affection for Zhuozhuo, Madam Dowager considered her an outsider now.

“Madam of Duke Xing comes here today to adopt a daughter?” Qin Wanru stood beside Qi Rongzhi and lowered her voice to ask curiously. Qi Rongzhi came earlier than her and had heard more, so she guessed Qi Rongzhi should know about it!

“Yes!” Qi Rongzhi gave Qin Wanru a hard look and also lowered her voice to answer. Why was Qin Wanru so lucky that she was chosen by Madam of Duke Xing?

“What a pity!” Qin Wanru sighed in a low voice.

“What do you mean?” Qi Rongzhi almost strained her ears.

“Madam of Duke Xing means that she wants a well-behaved and obedient daughter who will be raised in the name of the Old Madam of Duke Xing. But I am afraid I can’t accept it. Rui’an Great Elder Princess...” Qin Wanru said hesitantly in a low voice and looked towards the boxes held in the two maids’ hands, seemingly coveting them.

Who could refuse such beautiful pearl head-ornaments and the pair of bracelets?

“Unfortunately, Big Sister is not here, otherwise she can volunteer!” Qin Wanru sighed with remorse.

With her eyes suddenly lighting up, Qi Rongzhi involuntarily breathed rapidly. She looked at Madam of Duke Xing and the boxes held in the two maids’ hands and tightly grasped the handkerchief in her hand.

Qin Yuru could volunteer, why couldn’t she? She could also be a well-behaved and obedient daughter. Thinking of the meaning behind it, Qi Rongzhi was involuntarily moved.

This was a good opportunity...

“Madam Dowager, what about the matter we discussed before? I really want such a well-behaved and obedient daughter!” Madam of Duke Xing also knew that she acted too eagerly, so she hurriedly concealed the anxiety in her eyes and picked up the subject again.

“This...” With such an interruption, Madam Dowager hesitated and looked towards Qin Wanru. Seeing Qin Wanru shake her head quietly, she became increasingly indecisive.

She had seen Qin Wanru’s performance during this period. Although this granddaughter was young, she had a good head on her shoulders. Since she expressed her disapproval, she naturally had her reason. Madam Dowager still considered Madam of Duke Xing a good person and it was greatly helpful for Qin Wanru to recognize Madam of Duke Xing as her mother. However, Qin Wanru was not willing to do that, so she couldn’t decide it at the moment.

“Madam, can I answer you after Huai and I think about it?”

“Okay... fine!” Madam of Duke Xing said helplessly. She knew that she was so eager that she lost her composure and aroused Madam Dowager’s doubt, but she changed very quickly and instantly said with a gentle smile, “Even if I don’t have the pleasure to adopt Second Miss Qin as my daughter, I still need to express my gratitude!”

She said and waved. The two maids holding the gift boxes understood, immediately came up to Qin Wanru and respectfully presented the gift boxes, which meant regardless of the outcome, she still had to give Qin Wanru the gifts!

"Madam, I would like to recognize you as my adoptive mother and show my filial respect for you in future." Seeing the two boxes of gifts presented in front of her, Qi Rongzhi breathed rapidly with greedy eyes. Thinking about it, she finally failed to suppress her urge. She took two steps forward to kneel in front of Madam of Duke Xing and say respectfully.

She acted so abruptly that everyone in the room didn't expect it and looked at her blankly.

Although Qi Rongzhi was flushed, she respectfully kowtowed to Madam of Duke Xing. "Madam, rest assured. Even if your biological daughter is not around, I will consider myself your biological daughter and show my filial respect for you."

Qi Rongzhi was ready to risk everything this time for wealth and rank. With both her face and neck turning red, she still looked at Madam of Duke Xing eagerly, hoping that Madam of Duke Xing could adopt her as her daughter and she could stand out among others after that.

Since Madam of Duke Xing had specially prepared gifts for her, she must have a good impression of her. She firmly believed that she could do better than Qin Wanru and show more filial respect for Madam of Duke Xing.

It happened suddenly. Madam of Duke Xing was still preparing to say something to settle the matter of adopting Qin Wanru as her daughter, but it was spoiled by Qi Rongzhi. Seeing Qi Rongzhi's expectant and greedy eyes, Madam of Duke Xing shook her hands in anger. She was thinking about how to trick Qin Wanru to join Duke Xing's Mansion, but did not expect that she was also the target of someone else!

It inevitably enraged Madam of Duke Xing who had always considered the overall situation was under her control!

At this moment, it was a stalemate. Should she accept it or not?

#### **Chapter 246 Why One Chased and the Other Escaped?**

"Miss Qi, please stand up. We can discuss it later after your parents come to the capital!" After thinking for a while, Madam of Duke Xing said slowly with a sullen face.

The old maid behind her hurried forward to help Qi Rongzhi stand up.

Being rejected to her face with a barely acceptable reason, Qi Rongzhi still blushed with shame. She burst into tears, turned around, covered her face and ran out in tears.

"Grandma, I'll take care of Miss Qi!" Qin Wanru said hurriedly and chased after her.

Nanny Zheng, who stood at the door and waited for Qin Wanru, originally wanted to follow Qin Wanru. Qin Wanru shook her hand to her, and reached out to point inward. Nanny Zheng understood. She called a maid to follow Qin Wanru, while she was still standing outside the curtain of the door.

It was advantageous for her to stand here. The people inside couldn't see her, but she could hear the sounds inside.

"Thank you for your great kindness. We can talk about it later. So we can't accept the gifts now!" In the room, Madam Dowager said with a smile, but not as kindly as she had been.

"In this case, I won't insist on it. Madam Dowager can discuss it with Ningyuan Army General. If Second Miss Qin hadn't helped Hao'er, I wouldn't come over at this time!" Madam of Duke Xing said with a smile. At this time, her expression had returned to normal. She sat in the chair in dignity, and the two maids stepped back to stand behind her.

"Thank you for your kindly tolerance!" Madam Dowager said sincerely.

Madam Dowager considered anyone, that came over at this time, sympathetic and righteous. Maybe she could talk about it with Zhuozhuo later. It would only benefit Zhuozhuo indeed to join Duke Xing's Mansion.

"Miss Qi was quite bold, but our Duke Xing's Mansion can't accept anyone casually. But after all, it's not so good to reject her. Nanny Sheng, go to check on her and give her this bracelet of mine. We are probably predestined to meet!" Madam of Duke Xing took a bracelet from her wrist and said.

She originally intended to find a chance to send someone out to inquire about the information. Since she bumped into Qi Rongzhi, Qi Rongzhi could make it simpler for her to do that.

Her words were extremely decent.

"Yes, Madam!" The old maid behind her hurriedly stepped forward to take the bracelet respectfully and then left.

It was a matter between Qi Rongzhi and Madam of Duke Xing, so it was inconvenient for Madam Dowager to intervene in it. She originally intended to ask someone to lead the way for the old maid, but the old maid had lifted the curtain and left.

They continued talking in the room. Nanny Sheng of Duke Xing's Mansion came out of the yard, asked an inferior old maid in the yard about the yard where Qi Rongzhi lived and then went outside without asking anyone to lead the way.

However, when she went out of the yard, after identifying directions, she hurriedly walked over in another direction instead of the direction indicated by the inferior old maid.

Not far behind her, Nanny Zheng fixedly stared at her and followed her all the way.

After turning a few corners, the old maid went to Yulan Pavilion expertly. She actually went to Madam Di's yard and was very familiar with the route. If she had not been there several times, someone must have given her a detailed map.

At the entrance of Yulan Pavilion, the door was tightly closed with two interior old maids guarding there. After looking over there in distance, the old maid stood firm and frowned. It seemed to be impossible for her to enter Yulan Pavilion directly.

While hesitating, she suddenly saw the door was slightly pushed open and there was a slight crack. Mei Xue walked out with a small food basket. She expressed her great gratitude to the two old maids at the entrance, while taking two purses out of her cuffs and handing over them to the two old maids.

The two old maids took the purses with a smile and waved their hands to let Mei Xue go!

After coming out, Mei Xue did not leave immediately. She walked around and saw Nanny Sheng of Duke Xing's Mansion beckoning for her at the next intersection. With her eyes lighting up, she looked around, and cautiously ran over in a hurry after confirming the two old maids guarding the Yulan Pavilion didn't notice her.

Nanny Sheng pulled Mei Xue to hide behind a big tree and lowered her voice to ask, "What did your master say?"

"My master said it all depends to your Madam. Look, these are the residences of those people." Mei Xue quickly took a letter out of the food basket and handed it to Nanny Sheng.

Nanny Sheng hurriedly took it and put it in her arms. After that, they turned away in other directions.

Nanny Sheng went to the guest yard, where Qi Rongzhi lived, this time. The reason why she was so clear about the location was that everyone's residence was meticulously depicted on the map that she received before.

However, even if Nanny Sheng had remembered it clearly, she still reached out to take out a hand-drawn map from her bosom on her way and intended to read it again. She clearly remembered the route from Madam Dowager's yard to Madam Di's yard, but was not so sure of the route from Madam Di's yard to the guest yard where Qi Rongzhi lived.

What had happened between Qi Rongzhi and Madam of Duke Xing was originally an accident, but it happened to be used by Madam of Duke Xing.

Nanny Sheng stood firm to have a look, and then held the hand-drawn map after identifying the direction. After walking for a while, she took it out again to have a look at it. Since she went out with the excuse of checking on Qi Rongzhi, she had to go to the guest yard to have a perfunctory look.

Having performing her task properly, Nanny Sheng was very relaxed at this moment and not as alert as she was before. When she took out the map again, someone suddenly came from the opposite direction and happened to bump into Nanny Sheng heavily. Nanny Sheng took two steps back and fell heavily to the ground.

The map in her hand had already fallen.

"You haven't got eyes!" Nanny Sheng was knocked down so heavily that she couldn't get up in a while and shouted in anger. As the henchman of Madam of Duke Xing, she had always been arrogant in Duke Xing's Mansion.

"Have you got eyes?" Nanny Zheng picked up the map from the ground, read it and said coldly without helping Nanny Sheng up.

"What do you mean? As a servant, you are so arrogant. Who makes you dare to do that!" Nanny Sheng was so angry that her face darkened. She got up with a tree beside her and rebuked Nanny Zheng in a sharp voice.

Although the person on the opposite side seemed to have a brilliant appearance and great majesty, she was dressed like a servant. Nanny Sheng was not afraid of a servant of Ningyuan Army General's Mansion.

"Aren't you a servant?" Nanny Zheng said coldly and waved the map in her hand, "Say it, where did you get this map? Why do you have a hand-drawn map of our mansion? And it's so detailed. What do you intend to do?"

"Give me the map!" Nanny Sheng panicked. She looked around and lowered her voice to say.

"Do you want to hurt the masters of our mansion?" Nanny Zheng stepped back, with her face turning increasingly cold.

"You are such a mean servant. What nonsense are you talking about? Give it back to me, or I'll make you sorry for it!" Nanny Sheng threatened her. With no one else around at this moment, Nanny Sheng was relieved. Nanny Sheng bet she, who was just a servant of Ningyuan Army General's Mansion, didn't dare to offend her!

"You have a plot against the masters of our mansion and dare to threaten me. Well, well, let's go to report it to Madam Dowager and see what she will say!"

Nanny Zheng sneered, stepping back and raising the map in her hand, "She will ask you where you got this map and what you were looking for with this map!"

"Give the map back to me!" Seeing that Nanny Zheng was going to report her behavior, Nanny Sheng was angry and anxious. She reached out to put her hand on her waist and threatened Nanny Zheng loudly, "I am the servant of Madam of Duke Xing and came here with my master today. Even if I intend to do something, what can your Madam Dowager do to me? As long as I say this map is yours, Madam Dowager wouldn't embarrass my master!"

Nanny Sheng also understood she had better avoid making a scene.

"Madam of Duke Xing came to our mansion to visit our Madam Dowager, but secretly sent you to find someone with a map. You should come from Madam Di's yard, right? You actually secretly went to meet Madam Di. Could it be possible that Madam of Duke Xing actually came to our mansion to contact Madam Di rather than to express her gratitude to our Second Miss?"

With her face changing, Nanny Zheng said loudly.

Her speculation was very close to the truth. She had almost figured out the interaction between Madam of Duke Xing and Madam Di. With her face changing, Nanny Sheng rapidly rushed at Nanny Zheng in an attempt to grab the map in her hand.

Nanny Zheng had already prepared. She stepped back and ran away. Nanny Sheng chased after her, while shouting, "If you dare to talk nonsense, my master will definitely ask your Madam Dowager to punish you. Let's see your Madam Dowager will believe you or my master!"

Madam of Duke Xing had an identity far beyond that of Madam Dowager of the Qin's Mansion. Considering this point, Nanny Sheng felt flustered, but had not lost her composure.

As Madam Dowager of just a Ningyuan Army General's Mansion, she wouldn't dare to embarrass Madam of Duke Xing!

"Your Madam of Duke Xing has a plot against our General's Mansion!" Nanny Zheng was much younger than Nanny Sheng, so she naturally ran very fast. Besides, she was familiar with the route. Therefore, Nanny Zheng took a shortcut to Qin Huaiyong's study after turning a few corners.

"You... stop... How, how dare you steal my master's stuff. Stop now!" Nanny Sheng suddenly shouted loudly, and even seemingly hoped that it could be heard by others, which was completely different from her sneaky behavior.

Unfortunately, Nanny Zheng ignored her and turned to go into a yard in front.

In the yard, a servant was guarding at the door. On hearing the sounds from outside, he hurriedly ran out to have a look and met Nanny Zheng who had run to the door.

"Is general here?" Nanny Zheng said in a low voice.

"Yeah... He is inside!" The servant nodded in a hurry. He knew Nanny Zheng. "Is Second Miss looking for general?"

"There is an old maid from Duke Xing's Mansion searching for something with this map in our mansion. Give this map to general!" Nanny Zheng handed the map to the servant, but didn't go into the yard. Instead, she ran forward around the yard.

Later, Nanny Sheng finally caught up with her, out of breath. Seeing Nanny Zheng resting against the wall in front of her, she immediately quickened her pace to rush over.

"Are you seeking death? Return the map to me. As long as I say that you stole my master's stuff, you can only be beaten to death!" After coming up to Nanny Zheng, Nanny Sheng was exhausted. She gave Nanny Zheng a hard look and threatened her with her hand on the wall.

#### Chapter 247 Sophistry, the Master and the Servant Put on a Show

There was only a high wall here with no other people around. Nanny Sheng was really not afraid to be heard by others.

"Where did you get the map? Why is there such a detailed map of our mansion? What did you do in Madam Di's yard? Does your Madam of Duke Xing intend to do something, that can't be known by others, with Madam Di?" Nanny Zheng raised her brows and looked at Nanny Sheng aggressively.

Although Nanny Sheng was Madam of Duke Xing's intimate Nanny and had experienced a lot, she was a little inferior to Nanny Zheng.

Nanny Zheng had stayed in the palace for so many years during which she was promoted to a henchman from an ordinary palace maid. Her experience was incomparable to that of a Nanny of a Madam from an aristocratic family.

"Are you seeking death eagerly? How dare you talk nonsense like this. Let's see whether your master can protect you or my master can kill you!" Nanny Sheng said ferociously.

"Your master? Madam of Duke Xing came to our mansion today with another intention?" On hearing the majestic sneer from a man, Nanny Sheng suddenly turned around with her face changing



dramatically, only to see a door closed inside the high wall was opened and Qin Huaiyong stood at the door with his hands clasped behind his back and a gloomy face.

Nanny Sheng actually did not know Qin Huaiyong, but she had experienced a lot. Knowing there was only one person dressed like this with this kind of vigor in the Qin's Mansion, she instantly panicked so much that her face changed.

"General!" Nanny Zheng stepped forward to bow to him.

"Nanny Zheng, have you found anything?" Qin Huaiyong could definitely not regard Nanny Zheng as a general servant, so he asked her with a gentler expression.

"Ningyuan Army General, this servant in your mansion framed me up. She deliberately said something plausible and brought me here in an attempt to trap my master and put me in unrighteousness." At the sight of that, Nanny Sheng was anxious. She immediately defended herself in a loud voice, while ferociously staring at Nanny Zheng.

She did not believe that an old maid of General's Mansion was more convincing than what she said!

"Search her and find out what she has brought with her!" Qin Huaiyong said coldly.

The two servants behind him came over and caught Nanny Sheng on both sides. Nanny Zheng came over and searched her. She immediately took an envelope from her bosom and then presented it to Qin Huaiyong with respect. At the sight of this, Nanny Sheng only felt dizzy and involuntarily trembled all over.

Nevertheless, she wasn't an ordinary person. She bit her teeth hard without saying a word and decided to remain silent before her master came over. Anyway there was no other information in the letter, so it couldn't be considered a piece of important evidence. Ningyuan Army General's Mansion wouldn't dare to offend her master because of a servant's words.

This matter was more bark than bite, and they could only reduce the trouble into a minor one!

Qin Huaiyong took the letter and turned to the yard, followed by two servants seizing Nanny Sheng.

Nanny Zheng also followed them and closed the side door here.

When Madam of Duke Xing was invited to come over, Nanny Sheng was forced to kneel down in the porch. Seeing Madam of Duke Xing come in, Nanny Sheng hurriedly cried, "Madam!"

"What is going on?" With her face darkening, Madam of Duke Xing was about to walk over to ask the two servants to let go of Nanny Sheng.

"Madam, please come in. My father is waiting inside!" Qin Wanru said with a slight smile. When Qin Huaiyong sent someone to invite Madam of Duke Xing to come over, Qin Wanru happened to return to Madam Dowager's Xinning Pavilion. So she volunteered to accompany Madam of Duke Xing to come over.

It was out of line to let go of the servant before meeting the master.

“Let’s go!” Madam of Duke Xing realized it at this moment, said slowly with a smile reappearing on her face and stared at Qin Wanru with her deep eyes.

In the study, seeing Madam of Duke Xing come over, Qin Huaiyong, who was originally sitting, stood up to slightly bow to her. After that, they respectively sat in the master seat and the guest seat. Qin Wanru took a few steps forward and stood behind Qin Huaiyong. She glanced at Nanny Zheng who was standing beside her, and Nanny Zheng nodded at her silently with a faint smile.

“Ningyuan Army General, what do you mean by detaining my old maid here? Could it be that my old maid has done something offensive to you?” Madam of Duke Xing asked lightly after sitting down.

Qin Huaiyong glanced at Nanny Zheng, and Nanny Zheng nodded, stood out and narrated what had happened again with a serious face. She saw Nanny Sheng actually went to Madam Di’s yard after asking about the route to the guest yard where Miss Qi lived. It caught her attention, so she followed Nanny Sheng.

Nanny Zheng’s narration was very organized. She had seen the whole process with a simple map and a letter as the evidence. The evidence was now placed on Qin Huaiyong’s desk, and Qin Huaiyong had already seen it.

The map was very detailed, and even some special places like corners were clearly marked. In terms of the envelope, there were the names of several people and an address. Qing Huaiyong failed to figure out what these were at the moment.

Madam of Duke Xing was very calm. Although Nanny Zheng told everything in detail with evidence, she did not panic. After Nanny Zheng finished talking, Madam of Duke Xing slightly lifted the corners of her mouth, revealing a sarcastic smile. “Ningyuan Army General’s Mansion just confirms my servant has done something offensive based on the one-sided statement of a servant of your mansion? Do you consider the servant of our Duke Xing’s Mansion interior to the servant of your General’s Mansion?”

Qin Huaiyong was only an official at deputy third level, while Duke Xing was an official at first level from the Duke Mansion at first level. From this point of view, Duke Xing’s Mansion naturally was incomparable to Ningyuan Army General’s Mansion. Moreover, servants could also be divided into various levels, and the servants of Duke Xing’s Mansion were undoubtedly at the highest level.

Madam of Duke Xing’s words were penetrating, and she was sure Qin Huaiyong definitely didn’t dare to reply.

“Madam, you are telling the truth. Nanny Zheng is actually incomparable to the old maid of your mansion!” Qin Wanru replied with a smile. She slightly bowed to Nanny Zheng with respect, and Nanny Zheng stood straight up and stepped aside after accepting half of Qin Wanru’s bow.

Nanny Zheng then bowed to Qin Wanru. Every act and gesture of hers was impeccable!

With such acts and gestures, she actually dared to accept half of her master’s bow. All of these indicated that she was not a general servant.

“Who is she?” Madam of Duke Xing’s face changed slightly for the first time.

"She is a Nanny released from the palace, as well as my etiquette instructor. She is originally incomparable to general servants. She serves as a servant in our mansion in order to better instruct me. Madam, do you think I'm right?" Qin Wanru said leisurely.

Qin Wanru deliberately took Nanny Zheng with her instead of Qingyue and Yujie because of Nanny Zheng's overwhelming identity. The etiquette instructor released from the palace was originally incomparable to general servants, even if this servant served Madam of Duke Xing.

Madam of Duke Xing's face darkened dramatically. She certainly knew this Nanny Zheng, and had a plot behind what had happened at that time. However, she didn't expect the situation to change later.

This Nanny Zheng was actually not just an etiquette instructor in the palace, and was also related to other things. Thus, when Nanny Zheng was released from the palace, no one dared to hire her. Nevertheless, it did not hinder those, who knew the inside story, from fearing her, because she had been a chief palace maid.

"Madam of Duke Xing, the words of a servant of your mansion are more convincing than me?" With her gaze falling on Madam of Duke Xing, Nanny Zheng said slowly.

"Nanny Zheng, you are telling the truth, but there may be misunderstandings behind it!" Madam of Duke Xing immediately adjusted her thought and said with a smile.

"Can I ask my old maid what is going on here?"

"Madam, go ahead!" Qin Huaiyong nodded and asked someone to bring Nanny Sheng.

As soon as Nanny Sheng entered the door, she freed herself from the hands of the two servants, rushed toward Madam of Duke Xing and cried out loudly, "Madam, it's the mean servant who framed me up. It is clear that everything was schemed out by her. I don't know what I did offend her and made her start such a rumour!"

Since Madam of Duke Xing had come, Nanny Sheng wasn't afraid of anyone at the moment. She reached out to point at Nanny Zheng and scolded in anger.

Suddenly, Nanny Sheng was slapped so hard that she sat on the ground. She stared blankly at Madam of Duke Xing, who looked stern, and failed to recover for a while. "Ma-madam!"

"This is the etiquette instructor Nanny Zheng from the palace. Now She teaches Second Miss Qin in Ningyuan Army General's Mansion. You are just a servant. How can you point at her at will?"

Madam of Duke Xing said coldly and rebuked her in anger.

Nanny Sheng was dumbfounded, but immediately reacted. After exchanging glances with Madam of Duke Xing, she loudly cried out about her grievances, "Madam, I'm wronged. I just went out in the direction for which I have asked. Later, I found I took the wrong way after encountering a maid and asking her for directions. Regarding the map, I just picked it up on the road."

Seeing the interaction between Madam of Duke Xing and Nanny Sheng, Qin Wanru secretly sneered. Nanny Sheng had been the henchman of Madam of Duke Xing for many years indeed. At the sight of Madam of Duke Xing's action, Nanny Sheng immediately realized what she meant.

Qin Wanru silently glanced at Nanny Sheng's face and then looked down. Sometimes it didn't need much evidence to tell whether someone was telling the truth.

"You got lost and then picked up a simple map of General's Mansion?" Madam of Duke Xing frowned and asked helplessly.

Qin Wanru raised her eyebrows and continued to listen silently without refutation!

"Yes, yes, it is the truth. Madam, I'm really wronged!" Nanny Sheng said in an increasingly loud voice and even made her eyes turn red by rubbing them, looking extremely aggrieved.

"You are such an old servant. Why are you so incautious that you didn't come over and report it to me immediately!" Madam of Duke Xing beat Nanny Sheng's shoulder hard and said exasperatedly.

"Madam, I thought I could report it after coming back, but didn't expect there will be such a misunderstanding!" Nanny Sheng cried out about her grievances again.

"Ningyuan Army General, what do you think of it?" Madam of Duke Xing beat Nanny Sheng's shoulder with hatred and sighed, "It was caused by my lax discipline for my servant indeed. I'm sorry that you've seen this embarrassing situation!"

Chapter 248 Whose Names Were on the Letter?

"Since it is a misunderstanding, Madam, you can leave now!" Qin Huaiyong said lightly, stopping asking whether it was true or not, even without seeking proof.

Nevertheless, he said that in an obviously suspicious tone, looked much colder and faintly seemed to ask her to leave, which embarrassed Madam of Duke Xing a lot. But Qin Huaiyong directly cut off this topic, so she had to stop talking.

Madam of Duke Xing had prepared a lot of words to explain it, only to find her explanation was useless. She felt like being ready to attack but finally punching on the cotton. In the moment, she looked embarrassed.

Fortunately, after being embarrassed for a while, Madam of Duke Xing stood up and said with displeasure, "Since it is a misunderstanding, we are okay after making a clear explanation. I'm leave now!"

Qin Huaiyong nodded and stood up, seeming like about to see her off. Anyway he should show necessary respect for Madam of Duke Xing.

"Father, I am going to see Madam of Duke Xing off," Qin Wanru said softly.

Qin Huaiyong nodded and did not insist on it. He sat down again with his gaze falling on the two "exhibits" on the desk, which made Madam of Duke Xing slightly panic with knitted brows. Nevertheless, she thought there was no detailed information on the letter and Qin Huaiyong would have no clue even if he saw it!

She instantly turned and left, followed by Qin Wanru.

After taking a few steps, Madam of Duke Xing slowed down, looked back at Qin Wanru and gently waved at her to motion for her to go forward.

After she came forward, Madam of Duke Xing said affectionately, "I wanted to adopt you as my daughter. I really like you, want to raise you as my biological daughter and make you the Miss of our Duke Xing's Mansion. But at the moment, I seem to be unable to make it happen, since your father may be biased against me!"

Qin Wanru sneered secretly. In this case, Madam of Duke Xing still deceived her as if she was an ignorant child!

"Thank you for your great kindness!" Qin Wanru slightly rolled up her sleeves and said.

"You are so likable. Your grandmother has agreed on it. I didn't expect to meet with such a mishap. If you can be my adopted daughter, you will at least be a famous Miss of an aristocratic family in the capital. With the background of Duke Xing's Mansion, you can even marry a prince!"

Madam of Duke Xing said in a tempting tone, and then sighed. She seemed to be talking to herself, but happened to be heard by Qin Wanru, "I'm wondering who created such a disturbance. It's such a coincidence. The old servant has always been capable in our mansion."

She meant that someone made use of Nanny Sheng and made her wronged for what she had done in the Qin's Mansion today with the intention of spoiling the thing that was greatly beneficial to Qin Wanru!

Qin Wanru's butterfly-like long eyelashes fluttered twice, concealing the gloom in her eyes. Madam of Duke Xing really treated others like fools as always. In this case, she still tried to deceive her by saying Nanny Sheng was trapped by someone with an ulterior motive and shifting the blame onto Madam Di.

She shifted all the blame onto Madam Di!

With slight gratitude on her face, Qin Wanru did not reply. She looked slightly simple-hearted and naive like a child.

"Your grandma is old, and your mother is pregnant now. They may not be able to help you even if they want to. No matter whether I can adopt you as my daughter, if you come up against difficulties in the future, you can still turn to me directly. I will help you as much as I could. We could be considered predestined to meet today!"

Madam of Duke Xing sighed with satisfaction.

On their way, Madam of Duke Xing coaxed Qin Wanru, praised Qin Wanru and kept expressing her sincere affection for Qin Wanru. Qin Wanru just smiled at her without telling the truth.

After sending Madam of Duke Xing to the gate of the mansion, Qin Wanru turned to go to Qin Huaiyong's study.

In the study, Qin Huaiyong was still looking at the names of several people and the address on the envelope. He failed to figure out to whom these names belonged after pondering over it for a lingering moment. Regarding the address, it was very normal and didn't look like the name of a mansion.

"Father, who are these people?" Qin Wanru looked at the names on the envelope curiously after coming in and bowing.

"I don't know. I haven't heard of them!" Qin Huaiyong shook his head.

"If so, why did Madam give this letter to Madam of Duke Xing..." Qin Wanru said in astonishment. After finishing her words, she seemed to realize she had made a slip of the tongue. She stopped talking sweetly and looked at Qin Huaiyong pitifully.

Anyway Madam of Duke Xing hadn't admitted her contact with Madam Di.

"I don't know!" Fortunately, Qin Huaiyong said gently, seemingly not intending to blame her.

"The map is good. It is really a simple map. Madam of Duke Xing also said so. But who drew it?"

Qin Wanru raised her small face, pointed at the simple map placed aside and said, seemingly wanting to change the subject.

Madam of Duke Xing did have mentioned the simple map, but she had not seen the map before saying that.

It could be seen that she had told a lie!

Qin Huaiyong's gaze shifted from the letter to the simple map, and his face darkened. The simple map of General's Mansion was so detailed. If it fell into the hands of someone with an ulterior motive, it would cause trouble easily.

There were not many people capable of drawing such a detailed map in the mansion.

After thinking for a while, he stood up, put the two pieces of "evidence" into his sleeves and said to Qin Wanru, "You can go back now. I'll handle it!"

"Yes, father, I'm going to spend some time with mother and grandma!" Qin Wanru nodded obediently and turned around to leave. Suddenly she seemed to have thought of something and hurriedly turned to say, "Father, those people seem to share the surname with mother's former husband!"

Her words made Qin Huaiyong instantly look fierce. He suddenly thought of someone...

"Madam, we came here for nothing today?" The carriage of Duke Xing's Mansion moved slowly. In the carriage, Madam of Duke Xing didn't look as gentle as in the Qin's Mansion. She leant against the mat with a cold face and half-closed eyes. Nanny Sheng glanced at her expression and asked carefully.

"In view of what happened today, I probably can't make them let down their guard and make Qin Wanru accept me as her adoptive mother!" Madam of Duke Xing said in a cold voice and slowly opened her eyes to stare coldly at Nanny Sheng.

"Madam, it's all my fault. I didn't expect that the servant is actually from the palace. If I knew it, I would have striven to take the items back at that time!" Seeing her master's cold face, Nanny Sheng directly knelt down in the carriage and slapped herself relentlessly.

Her face became swollen immediately.

"Enough, it seems that someone kept an eye on you!" Madam of Duke Xing said with a sneer. It was such a coincidence that Nanny Sheng seemed to have been targeted since she went out.

"It shouldn't be a deliberate move... since General's Mansion did not say anything about it later..." With no time to care about the pain of her face, Nanny Sheng said hurriedly.

If she had been deliberately targeted and didn't realize it, she would be too useless. Maybe Madam of Duke Xing wanted to change a henchman.

Her words made Madam of Duke Xing fall silent. She couldn't figure out it was a real accident or a deliberate move. If it was a deliberate move, who was behind it?

It was unlikely to be Madam Di, seemingly also unlikely to be Madam Shui, and even more unlikely to be Madam Dowager who had wanted Qin Wanru to accept her as adoptive mother directly. Could it be Qin Huaiyong?

A general would care about the matter of the inner court? It was impossible at the thought of it!

Except for them, Qin Wanru was the only possibility, but Madam of Duke Xing directly vetoed this answer. She had observed Qin Wanru's expression on the way, and it seemed to be impossible!

"Madam, what are we going to do next? It's the address of the residence of the family of Madam Shui's former husband. We don't know where they live now!"

Nanny Sheng did not read the letter, so she did not know the address offered by Madam Di. They had secretly passed the news before. This time Madam Di found the address of several close relatives of the family of Shui Ruolan's former husband in Jiangzhou and gave it to Madam of Duke Xing. Madam of Duke Xing would instruct them to make trouble.

"We'll leave it aside. We haven't taken it over yet. Even if something goes wrong, we won't get involved," Madam of Duke Xing said coldly. The fallen curtain blocked the light, which made her look a bit gloomy.

"But... we'll lose contact with the Qin's Mansion again. You won't be able to... adopt Second Miss Qin!" Being afraid of taking the blame, Nanny Sheng secretly looked at Madam of Duke Xing's expression, while reminding her cautiously.

Reminded by her was better than reminded by others!

"Humph, even if she doesn't want to get involved with me, I'll make her have to get involved with me, come to me and beg me!" Madam of Duke Xing sneered and bent the corners of her lips, showing a sarcastic smile. "A small Ningyuan Army General's Mansion dares to challenge our Duke Xing's Mansion. They consider themselves powerful enough to do that!"

"It's true. A small General's Mansion considers itself the family of an influential official upon arrival at the capital. They are not qualified to do that!" Nanny Sheng hurriedly despised Qin Huaiyong with her master.

She then lowered her head and asked cautiously, "Madam, what are we going to do next?"

"Just wait and see. I will definitely take control of Qin Wanru!" Madam of Duke Xing said sinisterly, with a sharp sparkle in her eyes. She couldn't leave this girl alone.

"Has Rui'an Great Elder Princess known something?" Nanny Sheng was shocked and shrank her neck, only feeling her head ran cold. She was not afraid of challenging Ningyuan Army General's Mansion, but afraid of challenging Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

Although Duke Xing's Mansion was a first-class Duke's Mansion, Rui'an Great Elder Princess had a nobler identity!

"She won't know. How could she know! Zhuozhuo, it's her!" The voice of Madam of Duke Xing sounded extremely gruesome in the narrow compartment, and her faint smile even made people shiver. "She had always overwhelmed me. Now I'll let her know who the noblest one is. Now she is... humph, just a fool. She is unqualified to compete with me! Spread the news that I'm going to adopt Qin Wanru as my daughter and I'm quite satisfied after specially visiting her in the Qin's Mansion!"

Nanny Sheng did not dare to talk. She deeply lowered her head with cold sweat on her back. Even as a henchman, she knew not much and didn't dare to hear too much. She would rather have never heard of this kind of thing...

#### **Chapter 249 Do You Really Have Any Morality?**

"Lady, the general just went to find the First Lady! Did she paint that picture?" Yujie reported.

Qin Wanru raised her eyebrow and answered firmly, "No!"

"If she didn't do that, then why would the general go get her so angrily?" Yujie asked very confusedly and she also supposed that it shouldn't be the First Lady who painted that picture before!

"It is Madam Di who did that!" Sitting casually in a pavilion, Qin Wanru answered unhurriedly. It was a nice day with little wind and warm sunshine. This pavilion beside the garden rockery was built in a good place where it not only could keep out the wind but also was bathed in the sun.

Moreover, she enjoyed the wide view here!

"If it is Madam Di who painted that, then why would the general go to find the First Lady? It seems that she has nothing to do with this event, right?" said Yujie.

"Mei Xue is the one who contacts the old maid of Duke Xing's Mansion while she is one of Qin Yuru's servants. Although Duke Xing's Mansion can slither out of this event, Mei Xue is unable to do that. Father locked Madam Di up and grounded Qin Yuru. However, Mei Xue went to find Madam Di. This is wrong!"

Qin Wanru explained slowly. Compared to Madam Di, it was better for her to start from Qin Yuru. Moreover, Mei Xue, Qin Yuru's servant girl, got involved in this event.

Yujie was a clever girl. Hearing Qin Wanru's words, she quickly understood and kept nodding. "I got that wrong. It is the First Lady who led to this trouble. However, why did Madam of Duke Xing do that? Isn't she very close to our mansion? She came to our mansion and even showed gratitude to you. Is everything fake?"



If the event of Nanny Sheng had not happened, people in the mansion would have considered Madam of Duke Xing as a madam who was affectionate and faithful in that she not only was good to Qin's Mansion but also very appreciated Qin Wanru.

"Why would Madam of Duke Xing like me?" Qin Wanru meant it with a smile.

"Because she appreciated that you saved Master Hao!" answered Yujie.

"Does Madam of Duke Xing treat Hao'er well?" Qin Wanru shook her head and leaned against a pillar lazily.

"Well, no. However, she has to posture!" Yujie quickly understood but then felt confused.

"Why didn't she do this earlier? Why did she choose this time?" Qin Wanru squinted. "Madam of Duke Xing didn't look strange while grandma called me 'Zhuozhuo'. However, when I looked at her more carefully, I could tell her venom."

"It seems that my nickname shocked Madam of Duke Xing."

Although her malicious expression disappeared instantly, Qin Wanru still caught sight of her vicious and shocked face.

Madam of Duke Xing had heard of this name!

"Well, well, I have no idea. Does she need to prepare for her plan?" asked Yujie.

"It is possible!" Sitting up straight, Qin Wanru chuckled. She looked at the person who was walking toward her and sneered. "As expected, Qi Rongzhi could not stand!"

The reason that Qi Rongzhi was able to live in the capital city and to stay in Qin's Mansion might be that she got something on Qin's family. Otherwise, Magistrate Qi, the cunning one, would not let his daughter live here without worrying. "Good, it would help me!"

Yujie had a look along her eyesight and found that Qi Rongzhi was walking toward them resentfully and sulkily. Then Yujie quickly stood behind Qin Wanru.

"Lady just said that she was here to wait for Lady Qi." Thinking this, Yujie increasingly admired her second lady. She used to consider herself as Qin Wanru's elder sister for she was older than her lady and thus, she always tried her best to teach her second lady. However, to her surprise, her second lady who looked like a Barbie doll had a sharp brain.

But she felt at ease and quite convinced when being with this clever second lady!

Servants of Zhifang Pavilion also felt more and more emboldened because of Qin Wanru!

"What do you mean, Qin Wanru!" Qi Rongzhi came to her resentfully. When she came, she sat on the stone bench right in front of Qin Wanru and said angrily.

"I... What? What are you asking about?" Qin Wanru answered unhurriedly.

"You instigated me to say such things! Why did you do that and what do you want? Qin Wanru, though you look small, you are so evil! You are trying to let Madam of Duke Xing hate me, aren't you?" Flushed with fury, Qi Rongzhi shouted at her.

"What would benefit me if I did this?" asked Qin Wanru lightly. Qi Rongzhi was such a woman. Whatever she did, she would blame others if anything went wrong and imputed her failure to others forcibly every time. However right or wrong, she would be the innocent one all the time!

She used to not know the reason that Qi Rongzhi treated her maliciously but now she figured it out!

Qi Rongzhi must find that it would be the best choice to blame this event on Qin Wanru when she found out she could not use Qin Yuru as a scapegoat.

Some people were born to be malicious and evil, just like Qi Rongzhi, as well as Qin Yuru.

"You, you tried to get on Madam of Duke Xing's good side!" Qi Rongzhi was stopped by her question but she then fought back with anger.

"No, I want neither to please Madam of Duke Xing nor to be her accepted daughter. I have no purpose!" Qin Wanru answered and smiled coldly.

"Bullsh\*t! You just covet the wealth of Duke Xing's Mansion! The reason you did this was to make Madam of Duke Xing think that I had bad conduct and feel that you are so well-behaved! Qin Wanru, I should not have trusted you! What an evil woman you are!" Qi Rongzhi scolded. She glared at Qin Wanru tightly and it seemed that she just thought in this way!

The more she thought, the angrier she was. Then when she couldn't stand it anymore, she decided to come here to query Qin Wanru.

"Morality? Qi Rongzhi, you are talking about morality to me! Do you have it?" Squinting, Qin Wanru stared at her with her sharp eyes.

Her piercing gaze seemed to needle the darkness in Qi Rongzhi's heart. Qi Rongzhi turned around uncontrollably but quickly turned back and stared at Qin Wanru. "Nonsense..."

She would not feel guilty when facing others. However, while she met Qin Wanru, she would feel guilty in that it brought back the memory of what she did to Qin Wanru before.

However she felt guilty, Qi Rongzhi knew that she could not show her fear. She was convinced that she would suppress Qin Wanru!

"Qi Rongzhi, I don't care what you are going to do but you need to know that I don't like Madam of Duke Xing no matter who she is. I would not be her adopted girl! If you want, then you go by doing anything you can! I would not compete with you for this!" Qin Wanru raised her eyebrows and smiled scornfully.

"You sure?" Qi Rongzhi paused and then became excited. She looked up and changed herself into an arrogant look. "Do you dare swear that you, plus the whole Qin's Mansion, would go to hell if you have any such kind of purpose towards Duke Xing's Mansion?"

"Qi Rongzhi, who do you think you are?" Qin Wanru smiled, grimly.

Qi Rongzhi shivered suddenly and felt a kind of chill she couldn't tell down to the bone.

"My 'no' means 'no'. As for others, you need to know that you are alone in our mansion now. Although Madam Di and my elder sister might owe you, my grandma, my mother and I never owe you! If I want to kick you out of our mansion right now, what do you think?"

Qin Wanru stood up and sneered.

"What? What do you mean?" Qi Rongzhi quickly stood up and stepped backwards vigilantly. She couldn't tell why she would be guilty.

"What do I mean? Qi Rongzhi, you know better than me. Now you have no backer in the capital city and you, aren't comparable to me!" Qin Wanru smiled at her scornfully and examined her carefully. Then she chuckled, turned around and decided to leave here.

Yujie who followed her gave two more glances at Qi Rongzhi and also laughed, with sort of ridicule. Then she ran to follow Qin Wanru.

Qi Rongzhi who was left behind trembled with anger and banged her hand on the table heavily. Gnashing her teeth, she just wanted to smash Qin Wanru! How dare Qin Wanru talk to her in this way!

Where was the innocent and gentle Qin Wanru? Why was she like a different person!

"Lady, calm down! You are in Ningyuan Army General's Mansion!" Chunyi, Qi Rongzhi's servant girl, reached out and tried to stop her in that she feared that Qi Rongzhi would hurry to catch up with them.

"Do you also think that I couldn't win her?" Qi Rongzhi asked with her teeth gnashed.

"No, no!" Chunyi immediately lowered her head and was afraid that Qi Rongzhi would vent her anger on her.

"Well, she is a bast\*rd. Does she really consider herself as a lady from an aristocratic family? I must let others know that she is not the daughter of Ningyuan Army General!" Qi Rongzhi was so angry that her face became livid. She couldn't help imagining the scene that she tore Qin Wanru's disgusting face when Qin Wanru was in front of her.

"Lady, lady! They, they are back!" Chunyi stammered and tried to mention Qi Rongzhi.

Qi Rongzhi looked up and quickly stepped backwards! She tightly stared at Qin Wanru who just walked back and she looked embarrassed. She knew clearly that she could not win Qin Wanru right now for she was incapable of suppressing Qin Wanru.

"Lady Qi, if you hope to stay in Ningyuan Army General's Mansion, then you'd better hide in your guest court and go nowhere! I hear that it's you who reveal and spread my elder sister's secret!"

Qin Wanru came to her with a bright smile and said in a soft voice. However, for Qi Rongzhi, her words sounded like thunder! She even could barely stand because of Qin Wanru's words. She quickly held a pillar in the pavilion. She looked at Qin Wanru, shocked and frightened. It was a secret and only her brother knew except for Qi Rongzhi herself! Why would Qin Wanru know?

“Are you wondering why would I know this secret? Qi Rongzhi, nothing would keep secrets forever. If father and Madam Di know that it is you who led to this, how do you think what you would become?”

Qin Wanru smiled more gently but Qi Rongzhi only felt coldness and grimness. She couldn’t help holding the pillar tightly with a livid face. She tried to shout at Qin Wanru just as she did to her before but she felt that Qin Wanru was very dangerous now and she dared not to fight back.

Qin Wanru glanced at Qi Rongzhi scornfully and left directly without turning back.

In the pavilion, Qi Rongzhi gradually calmed down. Looking at Qin Wanru’s figure, she gnashed her teeth. “We are not finished!” She would try her best to be the adopted daughter of Madam of Duke Xing. However, Qin Wanru’s words and behavior made her understood that she could suppress Qin Wanru only if she became the adopted daughter of Madam of Duke Xing.

Moreover, she would definitely show others Qin Wanru’s background in order to not let Qin Wanru become the adopted daughter of Madam of Duke Xing but also the daughter of Ningyuan Army General! Then nobody would treat her as a lady from an aristocratic family but a bast\*rd! Did Qin Wanru really want to suppress her and be the honorable lady of Duke Xing’s Mansion?

## **Chapter 250 Qi Brothers Came**

Qi Tianyu and Qi Baiyu were asked to come the next day.

They went together to the guest court where Qi Rongzhi lived.

“Brother! You finally came!” Seeing Qi Tianyu standing in the doorway, tall and handsome, Qi Rongzhi was so excited and ran over to him. However, when she found Qi Baiyu standing behind Qi Tianyu, she immediately stopped and rolled her eyes. She asked unhappily, “Brother, why is he here?”

“Manners, Rongzhi! Address him as second brother!” Qi Tianyu looked slightly sulky.

“Second brother!” Although Qi Rongzhi was reluctant to do that, she still listened to her first brother and addressed her second brother. Then she pointed at the court and said, “Then second brother, you can walk around by yourself, because I have something important to tell my first brother!”

She quickly held Qi Tianyu’s hand and walked towards her inner court, leaving Qi Baiyu alone in the outer court.

Qi Tianyu turned around and apologized to Qi Baiyu. “Baiyu, you’d better walk around and wait for me in the outer court. I will come to you when I am done!”

Qi Baiyu’s mouth twitched and he nodded indifferently. Looking around, he did not go too far but sat in a porch in the outer court, and started admiring the view.

Even though Qin’s Mansion was small, it had a great view, especially the guest court. Every design showed the inventive and unique mind—exquisite rockworks, tall trees and slightly tilted roof corners.

“Brother, do you know Qin Wanru is not General Qin’s natural daughter?” When they came in the room, Qi Rongzhi quickly asked everybody to leave, and then she spoke to Qi Tianyu.

“What is going on?” Qi Tianyu frowned and asked unhappily.

"Brother, I know you are clear about this. Father and mother must have shown you evidence!" Qi Rongzhi replied hurriedly. Then she pulled at his sleeves and started to whine. "Brother, let's spread the evidence!"

"What do you want to do?" Qi Tianyu's face was slightly flushed, but he did not deny it.

"I want to be the accepted girl of Madam of Duke Xing but she was so hesitant and could not decide whether to choose Qin Wanru or me. If we tell others about Qin Wanru's true background, Madam of Duke Xing would know Qin Wanru is a bast\*rd and will definitely not choose her!"

Qi Rongzhi answered proudly.

"Madam of Duke Xing?" Qi Tianyu was slightly stunned. He looked at Qi Rongzhi doubtfully. He knew what his sister was like, and he always felt that she would not have anything to do with Madam of Duke Xing.

"It is true! Madam of Duke Xing came to Qin's Mansion yesterday and I received presents from her. Look!" Qi Rongzhi shook her head and showed the pair of glittering earrings which looked brilliant. Even though Qi Tianyu did not know much about jewelry, he could tell her earrings were expensive.

"Is this true? Would it benefit me?"

His eyes got darker and he stared at Qi Rongzhi. "Is Wanru going to compete with you for the position?"

"Yes, she is that kind of person! She used to compete with Qin Yuru and now she wants to compete with me! She needs to know who she is, and to see if she is on my level!"

Qi Rongzhi sneered indignantly. She knew about this secret long ago, and that was why she dared to bully Qin Wanru. Moreover, she was clear that Madam Di would not protect Qin Wanru.

Qi Tianyu frowned, but did not say anything.

"Brother, you wouldn't treat this b\*tch well, would you?" Qi Rongzhi looked at Qi Tianyu fussily.

"Nonsense!" A disgruntled look came into his eyes, and his face was gloomy.

"Fine! Fine! I will stop talking! Brother, you must help me! If I were to become the accepted girl of Madam of Duke Xing, I will live in Duke Xing's Mansion! Then they will support me in whatever I do! They even could help you to prepare for the exam!"

Qi Rongzhi shook Qi Tianyu's sleeve slightly, and acted coquettishly.

"Does Madam of Duke Xing like you?" Qi Tianyu did not answer, but asked her after thinking for a while.

"Yes! Please believe me! She does like me! Look, you could tell that she likes me very much from her presents to me! I heard that the first daughter of Madam of Duke Xing is not with her these days. Thus, if I were to get in the Duke Xing's Mansion, I will make Madam of Duke Xing like me! But if not, we would have nothing!"

Qi Rongzhi's impatience grew. "Brother, please help me! If I were to be treated well, it would benefit you! Come on, we are the best brother and sister! Or am I only comparable to an outsider?"

Qi Tianyu was very quiet for a while. Qi Rongzhi felt anxious when she saw her brother saying nothing. She was about to continue when Qi Tianyu raised his head and said, "Fine, I will help you but you need to promise me..."

He hesitated and stopped talking.

Qi Rongzhi's words sounded reasonable, but Qi Tianyu thought that he should not show his trump cards at this time.

"Brother, I understand. Don't worry, I will not kill her!" Qi Rongzhi kept nodding, with a bright smile.

Qi Tianyu frowned and did not reply her immediately. After a while, he stood up and said, "Then I will go back now! Be careful! You are now in Qin's Mansion in the capital city and we don't have many backers here!"

Seeing how the matter had been resolved, Qi Rongzhi was now satisfied and started to say something that sounded good. "Don't worry, I will be very careful! We don't have any backer in this capital city and thus we need one. Duke Xing's Mansion is a good choice and it will benefit both of us!"

What she said was true, but her meaning was very doubtful.

Qi Tianyu took a deep breath, nodded and walked out of the room. Qi Rongzhi also walked with him to the door, and then rolled her eyes at Qi Baiyu. She did not talk to him, but went back directly to the room.

When he saw Qi Tianyu walking out, Qi Baiyu quickly jumped out of the corridor and came to Qi Tianyu in a relaxed manner. "Brother!"

"Don't blame her. She never bothers about her manners, and always feels that she is still in Jiangzhou!" Qi Tianyu sighed and set his elegant eyes on Qi Baiyu. "If she still treats you like this, please forgive her for me. You know she will marry someone one day, and we are the ones who will be staying in the mansion! Only us!"

He meant that Qi Rongzhi would move out of Qi's Mansion. Moreover, in consideration of her age and the short period she stayed in Qi's Mansion, she would have little to do with Qi's Mansion, after she was married.

He also suggested that they were the real mainstay of the Qi Family.

Qi Baiyu answered unconcernedly, "Brother, I know. I will not fuss about those things with Rongzhi. By the way, how is she doing here? Is she fighting with anyone?" Qi Baiyu nodded and squinted.

"Ningyuan Army General's Mansion treats her very well and she is doing well here, though sometimes, she is still childish and unreasonable. You know, girls! Anyway, let's go. She knows that she is not in Jiangzhou now!"

Qi Tianyu was resigned and shook his head. Then he went outside with his hands behind his back. Qi Baiyu gave an almost invisible smile and caught up with his brother and asked, "Brother, don't we need to meet Ningyuan Army General? We are here now. If we don't meet him, it will not seem polite!"

"You are right! Let's go!" Qi Tianyu did not think of this before, but it did sound reasonable. Thus, he turned around and walked out directly.

When the Qi Brothers came to Qin Huaiyong's study room, they met Qin Wanru who was just walking out. Seeing them, Qin Wanru stopped, looked at them and bowed in a very polite way. Then she stood up and made way for them. She wanted to leave after they got into the room.

"Second Lady!" Qi Tianyu called her suddenly. He had never addressed her in that way before.

"Master Qi?" Qin Wanru raised her eyes and asked calmly.

"Is General Qin dealing with something important in his room?" Qi Tianyu set his eyes on Qin Wanru's beautiful and delicate face. Although his eyes became darker, he still looked calm. It was as if they had never sworn that they would be together forever, until death set them apart.

"No, you could get the servant tell him that you are here." Qin Wanru answered.

"Thank you for taking care of my sister when she was living here!" Qi Tianyu suddenly bowed deeply to Qin Wanru!

Qin Wanru winced, and did not accept his thanks. "It is very kind of you to say that. It is my grandma and mother who makes all the arrangements! I have nothing to do with that!"

Although she replied very politely, she tried to be distant and seemed unwilling to have anything to do with Qi Rongzhi.

"I have something to do, so I am afraid that I am not able to stay here with you!" Qin Wanru bowed politely and left slowly, with Yujie.

Qi Tianyu stood still and stared at Qin Wanru in a complicated way. After a while, he lowered his eyes, and let a servant get in the room to announce that they wanted to see General Qin.

Later, the servant told Qin Huaiyong, and both of them were invited into the room.

"Lady, why did you let them meet the general at this time?" Yujie asked, confused, as the Qi Brothers walked into Qin Huaiyong's study room.

Actually they did not leave, but stopped in a corridor near the study room. Yujie did not ask Qin Wanru the question, until she was sure that Qi Brothers had met Qin Huaiyong.

"Father is asking about Duke Xing's Mansion!" Qin Wanru smiled slightly, which showed a hint of her mockery.

"Why is Madam of Duke Xing still unwilling to give up? Why does she like Lady so much?" Although Yujie did not know much about the ways of the world because she grew up in Jingxin Monastery, she still had her doubts. "What does she want from lady?"

Madam Dong reported that there had been rumors of the story that Second Lady Qin wanted to be the accepted daughter of Madam of Duke Xing in the capital city, which sounded like a true story. They were all wondering if Madam of Duke Xing came to Qin's Mansion yesterday, for this thing and now she had her answer!

Yesterday they just talked a little bit about this thing, but today, everyone knew about it! If servants of Qin's Mansion were not the ones who spread the news, then it must be Duke Xing's Mansion who did it.

Duke Xing's Mansion was a noble aristocrat family with strict family rules, and thus they should not have spread this obviously fake story in public. If they did, then there was only one reason left — Madam of Duke Xing must have asked her servants to spread it deliberately!

Her purpose was to force Qin Wanru to agree, and to become her accepted daughter.

She, the first madam of Duke Xing, had shown her favor towards Qin Wanru and even came to find her in person, which meant that this thing almost succeeded. If Qin's Mansion still refused her suggestion, then it showed that they opposed Duke Xing's Mansion deliberately!