

## Medical Princess 271

### Chapter 271 The Best Treasure of the Shop

"Second Miss, you are exceptionally beautiful. Wearing the two dresses that are different from the dressing styles in the capital city makes the dresses even more appealing instantly. By then, you will only need to say that these dresses are from Butterfly Clothing Shop!" Madame Dong said profoundly.

Madame Dong eyed Qin Wanru's stunning little face, which was beautiful when she was either angry or pleased. These dresses were very fairylike, and they were in harmony with Qin Wanru's countenance. Madame Dong believed her eyes. "As long as Second Miss wears these clothes, the cloth and its brand will become famous in the capital, and the name of Butterfly Clothing Shop will also be known instantly."

Even if few people knew its name and few Misses came to buy their clothes in the past, Butterfly Clothing Shop's name would be known after the banquet.

"Then, let's do it. What about opening tomorrow?"

"Okay, tomorrow is good. Will you come tomorrow, Second Miss?" Madame Dong asked. Qin Wanru was the shop's real owner, but Madame Dong was the one known by the public.

"Sure, I will, but I may not enter our shop!" Qin Wanru smiled and said. Coincidentally, she didn't have an excuse to leave the mansion tomorrow. Others might not know her shop would open, but her grandmother and mother knew it. So, it would be reasonable for her to go out.

Although she could not show her real identity in public, she still needed to take a look secretly.

"Okay. In fact, I have prepared everything; I only wait for your order, Second Miss!" Madame Dong smiled and said, full of joy. More and more, she felt that following the little master to enter the capital in the past was a wise choice.

Her master was not like some other masters, who were not professional but pretended to be, and also gave improper orders, instructing experts with their laymen's knowledge. Nothing could be successful.

But Qin Wanru allowed Madame Dong to work with her ideas and also gave her reasonable suggestions on some things. As for the situation that their ideas coincided with some things, Madame Dong was very gratified indeed.

The longer she got along with Second Miss, the less she would dare to belittle her, feeling that Second Miss was exceptionally smart, not as weak as she looked. More and more, she believed it was not a wrong decision to follow Second Miss.

Thinking of Dong Xiuer's matter, Madame Dong became more loyal to Qin Wanru!

Next, they discussed some details of the shop opening. Since it was inconvenient for Qin Wanru to appear, the truth that the Ningyuan Army General's Mansion was its backer was not revealed. There were only several nearby shops to contact. As a woman skilled at handling relationships, Madame Dong had built good ties with some of the shopkeepers in the vicinity in a short time.

No doubt, this was because there were no other embroidery shops in the vicinity.

After discussing the details, Qin Wanru went upstairs to see the embroidered maids and the layout of the second floor before she felt satisfied with everything. Then, she got on her horse-drawn carriage with Yujie.

Madame Dong accompanied Qin Wanru to her carriage, saw her leave, and turned back to the shop.

Although they had made preparation, they still needed to make new plans for some things, for the shop was to open tomorrow. Immediately, she and Dong Xiuer began to work...

After leaving Butterfly Clothing Shop, Qin Wanru let her carriage take a few turns and stop at a gold item shop.

This one was no bigger than the previous one, but there were many customers. Most of them were Misses of the aristocratic families, served by servant girls and old maids. At first sight, she knew they were not ordinary.

It seemed that the invitation letters of the palace's Flower Appreciating Banquet had made the capital's market become a little more flourishing at once.

When the carriage stopped, wearing a curtain hat, Qin Wanru got off with Yujie and walked straight into the shop. Taking a look, they found the inside of the shop was even bigger than the previous one. That was why the shop bore the words "Century-old Shop" at its gate.

During the past 100 years, different dynasties appeared. Shops which could be as old as one hundred years were not usual.

This shop only had one floor, but it was wide and with many counters. Qin Wanru looked at them one by one and finally stopped before a set of cat's eye ornaments.

The cat's eye didn't look so impressive as a ruby. At first glance, it was a little pale.

So, nearly no one cared about the ornaments, and everyone went to see the ornaments made of rubies!

Seeing a customer finally come, a shop-boy went hurriedly over to introduce it. "Miss, this set of items was customized by our shop's carving master. It is only a cat's eye, but it shines with different colors in the sunlight. Besides, it is also exquisitely made, with different sizes carved into different shapes!"

This set consisted of a hairpin, a decorative flower, two earrings, and a necklace.

The hairpin had a head shaped into a plum blossom, with a cat's eye as its yellow pistil and a gold thread set carefully along its edge. It looked exceptionally stylish, different from other hairpins indeed.

The decorative flower was also mainly made of gold threads, with a pattern of frolicking butterflies. The pistils of the flowers between the two butterflies were cat's eyes. Although they had slightly different shapes, they looked similar at first glance. Decorated by the gold thread butterflies, it looked delicate and beautiful.

Beneath the butterfly wings hung several rice grain-sized beads, which added somewhat light elegance to the flower.

Generally speaking, the set of ornaments mainly featured light elegance, in good harmony with the clothes Madame Dong tailored for Qin Wanru. Since it looked not eye-catching, it was left there alone. So, Qin Wanru got the chance to buy it.

“Pack them!” Qin Wanru nodded and Yujie said.

“Okay!” The shop-boy was overjoyed. His counter was no match for the ruby counter on the other side. Today he hadn’t sold anything. Hearing what Yujie said, he became energetic instantly, asking another one to take Yujie to pay. As he was packing the set of ornaments carefully, he introduced it to Qin Wanru cleverly.

“Miss, this set of ornaments can be counted as our shop’s best treasure, but no one recognized it. So, you’ve chosen a good one, Miss!”

“The shop’s best treasure?” Qin Wanru smiled and agreed. Looking all the way here, she felt this one was the most beautiful and exquisite one.

“Of course, it is. It was taken out just now. If it had been taken out much earlier, it would have been bought by the person knowing its value, although no one hadn’t cared about it. You have good luck, Miss!” the shop-boy smiled and said as he was packing fast.

“Why it is the shop’s best treasure?” Qin Wanru was interested, smiling, and asked.

The shop-boy raised his head to look around and whispered, “This set of ornaments was taken out by our shopkeeper today, made by our best carving master, who was uneasy to customize ornaments even if people beg!”

“Is your shop’s carving master unwilling to make ornaments?” Qin Wanru was surprised indeed.

“Of course, look at our shop, it’s a century-old shop. Without such a great master, how could our shop be a century-old shop? Many customers come because of his reputation and want him to customize items, but he only accepts orders relying on his mood. Most times, other masters accept orders. Look there, some people are still asking the master to carve!”

The shop-boy pointed to a counter around the corner, where shop-boys only received customers, but no items were seen.

“That’s where people customize products. Our small shop can customize jewelry with the gems that customers provide, but it is quite difficult to ask this master to carve!” the shop-boy clicked his tongue and said. “But they don’t know the set of ornaments of the master has long been displayed in the counter. Miss, is this not good luck?”

Hearing what he said, Qin Wanru became happy, with the corner of her mouth raised. Thinking about this, she knew she did have good luck!

Now, Yujie had paid the money and returned, showing the receipt to the shop-boy. The shop-boy received it, smiled, and handed the set of ornaments to Yujie.

Getting the ornaments, Qin Wanru didn’t linger anymore and turned around, ready to go out. She had been out for a long time, and it was time for her to return.

Just as she left the counter and walked to the shop's gate, a shop-boy from another counter scuttled over to the shop-boy who packed Qin Wanru's ornaments. He wiped away his sweat, and asked, "What about that set of cat's eye ornaments? The shopkeeper asked you to put it away. Don't sell it, there is already a buyer!"

"What? I... I just sold it!" the former shop-boy was stunned and said.

"Just sold it? Who bought it?" the shop-boy scuttling here asked quickly.

"It... it is that Miss!" the shop-boy looked around, saw the backs of Qin Wanru and Yujie, and reached out.

"Go, stop her!" the shop-boy coming to the counter said insidiously, "This set of ornaments has been ordered by someone and can't be sold!"

"But she has paid!" the shop-boy in front said awkwardly.

"What of it? Do you know who ordered this set of ornaments?" the shop-boy behind him whispered.

"Don't know!" the shop-boy in front shook his head, took a look at the back of Qin Wanru who had reached the gate, and said anxiously.

"She is the Miss of Duke Yong's Mansion whom our shopkeeper also needs to fawn on. So, he thought about announced that the set of ornaments was made by the master. Knowing this, the Miss bought it at once." Seeing the backs of Qin Wanru and her maid, the shop-boy coming later became quite anxious.

He stomped and turned around, running to the inside. As he ran, he said, "I'm going to report it to our shopkeeper. We can't deal with it!"

"We can't offend Duke Yong's Mansion, but the Miss who left the shop also looks extraordinary. She might also be some great family's lady, and our shop cannot offend her, either." Thinking about it, he decided to leave the problem to the ladies.

The shop-boy coming later ran away, but the former was shocked. Seeing Qin Wanru taking her step out of the shop, he was suddenly relieved. "Even if the Miss of Duke Yong's Mansion comes to make trouble, she can't do anything. Anyway, she can't get that lady back!"

"An aristocratic family's Miss also knows shame!"

The next moment, the shop-boy's expression turned stiff, for he saw a Miss and her two maids coming ferociously from behind. They looked unfriendly.

Seeing that she came out of the shopkeeper's room, the shop-boy knew this unfriendly Miss was from Duke Yong's Mansion. He became panic and couldn't help coming out of his counter.

He sold the jewelry. So, he couldn't escape if anything went wrong.

## **Chapter 272 Grab! Let's See Who Is Abler**

Just as Qin Wanru and Yujie walked out, they suddenly heard an angry voice coming from behind, "Please stop, the Miss in front!"

Looking around, Qin Wanru found the ladies passing by were entering the shop, but only she was walking out. Blinking her watery eyes, she turned, looking at the person chasing after her.

At a glance, she was surprised to find she knew the person!

It was Di Fenglan of Duke Yong's Mansion! Seeing her angry face, Qian Wanru knew that she would not be a nice person. So she looked at her calmly but didn't speak anything.

Qin Wanru was wearing the curtain hat that blocked her face so that Di Fenglan didn't recognize her at once. But when her eyes turned to Yujie, she suddenly opened her eyes wide and changed her expression. "Qin Wanru?"

"Miss Di, why did you ask me to stop so hurriedly?" Qin Wanru smiled and said.

"I was wondering who bought the set of cat's eyes I ordered and took them away so hurriedly. Oh, it is you!" Di Fenglan sneered.

"Miss Di, if you have nothing to say, then I'm leaving, my grandma is still waiting for me in our mansion!" Qin Wanru didn't respond to her accusation and said extremely peacefully.

"Qin Wanru, the set of ornaments you bought just now is the one I have ordered for a long time!" Di Fenglan turned pale out of anger, glaring at Qin Wanru coldly. She knew this was the work of the master who was the hardest to invite, and she would never miss this chance.

The set of ornaments was common, but with this fame, it would make her prominent among the Misses of aristocratic families.

"You have ordered it for a long time? Why didn't the shop-boy behind the counter say it just now? And he also repeated that no one wanted to buy this set, so I bought it. Now, are you going to grab it? Is it that whatever you like is what you've ordered?" Qin Wanru said.

She looked at Di Fenglan through the veil. She didn't have the idea of retreating at all, and she was also fearless!

Wearing a too low profile would only be despised by others, especially after she had paid. If she returned the set of ornaments obediently, others would only laugh at her cowardice. In the future, it would be cited as a joke by others.

No need to endure when you shouldn't.

"Second Miss Qin, you are presumptuous. Who do you think you are talking to?" One of Di Fenglan's servant girls behind her stepped forward, raised her head to look at Qin Wanru, and scolded.

Qin Wanru took a glimpse of her lightly, but didn't say anything.

Yujie looked at the servant girl up and down and replied, "Who do you think you are? When our Miss speaks, how can a minion like you dare to shout? Is this the rule of Duke Yong's Mansion? When a master speaks, servant girls can interrupt at will."

The servant girl of Di Fenglan had always been arrogant. When she was scolded by Yujie before everyone, she flushed instantly, glaring and shrieking, "Servant girl, who are you? How come you are so rude.."

"No matter how rude I am, I am better than you!" Yujie was surprised, looked at the servant girl up and down several times, and interrupted her curtly. "Do you think it is polite to stop the person who has paid for what she bought? Our Ningyuan Army General's Mansion can't understand this rule!"

"A servant girl with a sharp tongue!" Di Fenglan's turned dark.

"No, no, she is no sharper than your servant girl!" Qin Wanru smiled and said. The carefree attitude made Di Fenglan angrier, her beautiful face losing its usual color.

"Qin Wanru, this is the set I ordered indeed. If you don't believe me, I can ask the shopkeeper out." Taking a deep breath, Di Fenglan told herself that she could not be angry. Now, she was not in Duke Yong's Mansion...

"Go, ask the shopkeeper to come!" Di Fenglan said to one of the servant girls, who answered and rushed to the shop.

"Miss Di, even if you have ordered it, I've bought it. Is it that paying the money is less valid than ordering it?" Qin Wanru said as her eyes turned cold.

Initially, Qin Wanru didn't care about the set of cat's eye ornaments so much. It was exquisite and beautiful, but it couldn't be counted as something indispensable for her. But since Di Fenglan had provoked her, she would never give it up. Although the shopkeeper might have said something, the fact was the fact. She had paid the money and taken it out of the shop. Could he force her to return it?

"Qin Wanru, I ordered it earlier than you!" Di Fenglan felt that she was going to explode.

"I have paid!" Qin Wanru said coldly. After saying it, she didn't want to quarrel with Di Fenglan anymore. When they argued, people began to gather at the gate. Although she wore a curtain hat, she felt uncomfortable when others looked at her.

"Qin Wanru, are you unconfident?" When she found Qin Wanru was about to leave, Di Fenglan yelled anxiously.

"Wait, the shopkeeper comes!" The crowd parted to both sides.

A gentle-looking man came after the servant girl of Duke Yong's Mansion, looking at Qin Wanru awkwardly and then Di Fenglan. In fact, he didn't want to offend anyone.

By this time, he also blamed himself for talking too much. Miss Di came to ask the master to customize a set of jewelry, and he suggested that there was already a set of jewelry customized by the master, but the master was unwilling to say it was made by him. Then, Di Fenglan said she wanted it. But when he asked a shop-boy to fetch it, he was told it had been bought by someone. Therefore, Duke Yong's Miss was unwilling to give it up and rushed out.

In theory, buying it, this Miss was justifiable.

But Di Fenglan was the Miss of Duke Yong's Mansion, so the shopkeeper wouldn't say so.

"Miss, in fact, this set of ornaments was customized by Miss Di a long time ago, but our shop-boy didn't know it, so he sold it to you. Our shop is willing to pay for your loss and double its price to buy it back!" the shopkeeper summoned up his courage to stand before Qin Wanru and explained smilingly.

If it was sold as a common set, its price was quite normal. But if it was sold to Di Fenglan who had known that it was made by the master, the price would be doubled.

The shopkeeper was a businessman, who had a very smart calculation. With this method, on one hand, he would not offend this Miss; on the other hand, the Miss of Duke Yong's Mansion would be happy and he would not lose anything. So, after evaluating the current situation, the shopkeeper instantly thought this was the best solution.

"The mistake was made by your shop. That's your shop's matter, but this set is now mine. Selling it or not, it's my decision!" Qin Wanru took a look at the shopkeeper and said coldly.

"But Miss, we are willing to double the price to buy it back. Besides, you are now still at our shop's gate. It only happened just now!" Di Fenglan glared at the shopkeeper, who continued persuading Qin Wanru.

"I heard this set was taken out today, right?" Qin Wanru asked.

"Yes, right, but it was taken out by the shop-boy mistakenly!" The shopkeeper nodded repeatedly.

"Taken by the shop-boy mistakenly? If it is a customized product, it should have an invoice, right?"

"Shopkeeper, please show me the invoice. If you have, we can discuss this matter, but if you don't..."

Qin Wanru's tone turned cold as she said this. "If you don't, it means your shop is cheating on me. Is it that our Ningyuan Army General's Mansion is easier to deal with than Duke Yong's Mansion? So you and others cooperate to cheat on me?"

Yujie took one step forward, reached out her hand, and said to the shopkeeper crisply, "Shopkeeper, show me the invoice. Ordering or not, it's not decided by what you say. Who knows if you have taken profits from it and helps others to bully our Miss!"

The shopkeeper's expression changed dramatically, with his hands shivering. He didn't have the invoice, and he just said so.

Seeing the shopkeeper's expression, Qin Wanru knew her guess was right and became even calmer.

"Shopkeeper, please take out the invoice. When we see it, we will know everything. If you don't have it, that is..."

She didn't finish the rest of her words, but what she meant made the shopkeeper quite worried. It was a very cold day, but a cold sweat appeared on his forehead. He never thought that the young Miss before him was so clear about this matter.

"Should the daughter of an aristocratic family not be raised in the back of the mansion, remain hidden, and know nothing? Why does the Miss before me seem to be specialized in this matter?"

Certainly, the shopkeeper didn't know that, in order to open her shop, Qin Wanru had learned about the matters on the counter and the account carefully. As for product orders, she especially asked Madame Dong about their specifics.

"I will give it to you later, but you need to return the set of ornaments to the shop first. I won't owe you an invoice!" Di Fenglan said impatiently as she found the shopkeeper's momentum weakened.

"Yes, yes, Miss, please give me a favor. If she... ordered indeed, but we didn't give it to Miss Di, our shop is small and can't bear this responsibility," the shopkeeper sweated and said.

"This means whatever the price is, he wants it!"

The shopkeeper looked quite wretched as he spoke, as if she was troubling him on purpose if she didn't return it.

"Shopkeeper, your master always trusts you a lot, doesn't he?" Qin Wanru suddenly smiled and said.

As the shopkeeper heard these words, his expression changed dramatically. He looked at Qin Wanru shockingly, and his mouth trembled once, but no words came out of it.

"But no matter how your master trusts you, I suppose he still can control the shop's affairs. If he asks around carefully, he will learn the truth easily! If your master doesn't think..."

Qin Wanru spoke peacefully and gently, without Di Fenglan's disgusting sharp arrogance, but others couldn't help feeling suppressed. She talked reasonably, and she had evidence.

When the shopkeeper suddenly found that his master would know this matter, cold sweat appeared on his back. Just now, he only tried to fawn on the Miss of Duke Yong's Mansion, but he forgot that if the trouble were made, it would draw his master's attention, and his master always paid special attention to the master's affairs.

"Miss Di, as for this matter...we'd better end it now!" The shopkeeper compromised and looked at Di Fenglan, with pleading eyes!

### **Chapter 273 Qing Xue Requests to Leave**

The shopkeeper's hesitancy instantly showed that the so-called order might be false, since he looked very guilty.

The onlookers could not help roaring with laughter.

Initially, a few people truly believed that Di Fenglan had ordered the product. For Qin Wanru, buying it mistakenly was reasonable, but it did not comply with the moral standards.

As the shopkeeper became less confident, everyone knew the truth now.

Di Fenglan fumed in anger, and her face changed colors repeatedly. She felt very embarrassed.

"Miss Di, if you have nothing to tell me, I'm leaving now!" Qin Wanru turned sideways to bow to her, and walked away slowly with Yujie.

Di Fenglan wanted to go over and catch her, but she also knew this was inappropriate behavior. Recently, Ningyuan Army General's Mansion had a bad name, and the reputation of their Duke Yong's Mansion had also decreased dramatically. This time, before she came out, Countess Yong had admonished her not to behave wilfully like before!



“Miss Di, perhaps you can order again and wait for the next...”

The shopkeeper’s voice was like a buzzing fly in her ear. Di Fenglan felt angry and irritated, and shouted angrily, “Shut up!”

The buzzing in her ear stopped at once. Using the moment’s quietness, Di Fenglan looked around to find several Misses she knew, staring at her ironically, in the crowd. She could not stay any longer. Shaking her sleeves forcefully, she turned and left immediately.

Her two servant girls followed her closely.

Seeing the two trouble makers leaving, the crowd dispersed as well.

Standing in embarrassment at the door, the shopkeeper took a look at Qin Wanru, who was already in her carriage, and also at Di Fenglan, who was ready to get into her carriage. He felt angry and irritated, and blamed himself for talking too much at that time. Otherwise, the Miss of Duke Yong’s Mansion would not have rushed out. The current bad situation also made him feel ashamed.

But he dared not defend Di Fenglan anymore. Others might not know his master, but he knew him well. If his master discovered that he had given false testimony to help the Miss of Duke Yong’s Mansion, and tried to make such big trouble, his job as the shopkeeper would be gone.

“Shopkeeper, our master is here!” a shop-boy rushed over and whispered to the shopkeeper, whose expression instantly changed dramatically. He dared not say anything, and ran hurriedly to the back of the shop.

Each time his master came, he entered the backyard through the backdoor, never through the front door.

Qin Wanru went to the street market. After buying a few daily necessities, she then paid a special visit to a medicinal herb shop and bought a few herbs for Madam Dowager and Shui Ruolan, and then went home.

She bought many herbs, which were divided into three portions. Two of them were for Shui Ruolan and Madam Dowager, and the rest was for herself. After asking the two servant girls to send the two portions to Madam Dowager and Shui Ruolan, she returned to her Zhifang Pavilion.

Back at her room, she put the herbs and the set of ornaments she bought today, on the table.

Yujie rummaged curiously through the herbs Qin Wanru purchased this time, and asked, “Miss, these are all tonic herbs. You want to improve your health?”

“No. Yujie, mash up these herbs in a while,” Qin Wanru picked out several kinds of herbs and said.

Yujie took them and nodded. Glancing at the herbs in her hands, she understood instantly. “Miss, are you making some tonic pills?”

“Not pills, but meals!” Qin Wanru shook her head. Although she knew how to make the pills, it was inconvenient for her to do so in her courtyard. Besides, she had never made them before. Although she knew how to, she might not make good pills. So, it was better for her to make some herbal meals first.

"Didn't we already send some to Madam Dowager and Madam Shui?" Qingyue came in with tea, looking at her in a confused way.

"The herbs we sent just now will be used as medicines, but these will be used to nurse the health of the people from our mansion. In winter, health-nursing is necessary. We have just arrived in the capital. Although we have not been affected by the new climate, the climate is different. Making meals with herbs to nurse our health is also good!"

Qin Wanru smiled and, referring to something, spoke.

"People of our mansion? Apart from Madam Dowager and Madam Shui, it is only you and our general!" For an instant, Yujie was confused and, looking at her expectantly, said, "Our general is a military officer, and is always in good health. He also needs this nursing?"

"Eating some herbal meals is always good!" Qin Wanru said smilingly. Picking up the herbal meal prescriptions in her hand, she sat down beside the low bed, to read them one by one.

These were not the prescriptions Mingqiu Nun gave her, but what Nanny Zheng wrote for her.

"In a while, tell my mother I will prepare some herbal meals for nursing the health of our people in the mansion. Ask the kitchen staff to prepare a few more stoves, which will be specially used for boiling the meals. Do not use them to cook other things, to avoid flavor spreading."

"Yes, Miss, I will let Madam Shui know soon!" Qingyue nodded. After saying that, it seemed that she wanted to say something else, but stopped.

Yujie took the herbs and left, but she still stood beside Qin Wanru. She wanted to say something, but dared not say it casually.

"Is there something you want to tell me?" Qin Wanru noticed that Qingyue looked as if she had something to say. Now she asked, as she read.

"Miss, Qing Xue wants me to tell you that she wants to serve Madam!" Qingyue hesitated but said.

"What?" Qin Wanru's eyes glistened with a trace of sharpness. She stopped reading and narrowed her watery eyes. "How interesting!"

"Qing Xue says she wants to serve Madam!" Qingyue hesitated again, and answered.

In the past, Qing Xue left Madam Di and came to serve Qin Wanru, but she was once Madam Di's servant. So, it was very difficult for Qin Wanru to believe her. For a short time, it was also difficult to give her a suitable position. So, she became a principal maid, who had a principal maid's wage, but did not have important tasks.

Unexpectedly, she requested to leave and serve Madam Di proactively. It was hard for others to avoid thinking too much into this request.

"Why does she want to go to Madam Di?" Qin Wanru put down the prescriptions in her hands, and asked with a placid look.

"She says...since Madam wants to take her, she is willing to serve Madam Di and keep an eye on Madam Di for you. She only hopes that she can leave Qin's Mansion someday, and be rid of her servant's status!"

Since she already told her, Qingyue proceeded to reveal every detail of Qing Xue's request.

What she said made Qin Wanru silent for a while. After a long time, Qin Wanru said, "Ask Qing Xue to come here!"

Qingyue nodded and went back hurriedly. In a short time, she came back with Qing Xue, who looked slightly pale.

As soon as Qing Xue came in, she kowtowed once to Qin Wanru, then raised her head, and with tears in her eyes, looked at Qin Wanru, and said frankly, "Second Miss, I hope you can grant my wish!"

Qin Wanru eyed Qing Xue's face with a deep look that seemed to see through a person's heart, making Qing Xue, who was kneeling on the floor, shiver for a while. Now, she dared not belittle Second Miss at all.

"You want to serve Madam Di?"

"Yes, Second Miss, previously I was already Madam Di's maid. Since I came to the mansion, Madam Di had been manipulating me secretly. Since it is so, let me go straight to her and serve her, lest that she should use me to do something else!" Qing Xue bit her lip and said.

"Does she have any hold on you?" Qin Wanru's expression changed, and asked.

Qing Xue's indenture was in her hands. The day Qing Xue came to their mansion, she chose her. Naturally, the indenture was in her hands, and Madam Di did not have it.

"Second Miss, my parents are working in Duke Yong's Mansion. I dare not disobey Madam Di's orders!"

Qing Xue shed tears. As she wiped away her tears with her handkerchief, she told her everything in detail.

Initially, Qing Xue was Madam Di's maid, when she came to the mansion. That time, Madam Di did not necessarily need to deal with Qin Wanru and Shui Ruolan. She only thought she was clever and raised her as her confidant, getting teachers to train her. Since she was afraid Madam Dowager would suspect her, she had her raised on a farm.

Later, when Madam Di knew Qin Wanru wanted a few servant girls, she made special efforts to get her to enter the mansion. She was afraid Madam Dowager would find out, so she burned the previous indenture and made a new one, and sent it to Qin Wanru.

When she sent Qing Xue to Qin Wanru, she gave her parents a lot of money and promised them future subsidies. However, after becoming Qin Wanru's maid, Qing Xue was not given the key post as Madam Di had expected, and Qin Wanru seemed to try to stay away from her.

Even so, Madam Di did not want her to come back. Instead, she began to treat Qing Xue better, and even sent a few more silver to her parents.

Later, when the mansion moved to Beijing, she brought Qing Xue's family to the capital under another excuse, and also found jobs for them, letting them work in Duke Yong's Mansion. Their tasks were light, but they had high wages.

By doing this, Qing Xue's family was under the control of Duke Yong's Mansion. If Qing Xue did anything improper, her family would not have good benefits!

"Now you want to go back to Madam Di only because you are afraid your family will be hurt, right?" After hearing Qing Xue's story, Qin Wanru understood the situation and raised her clear watery eyes to look at Qing Xue, although she could not tell what she was thinking.

"Yes, that's what I think. Second Miss, now I am serving you, but I was exposed. Last time you let me off, thank you so much for your mercy. I dare not ask for anything, and I dare not let Madam Di think otherwise. So, I had better go straight to her and serve her. Then, she will not have any excuse to ask me to hurt Second Miss!"

Qing Xue wiped away her tears, raised her teary eyes to look at Qin Wanru, and said sadly.

"That means you have no other choice?" Qin Wanru said calmly and narrowed her watery eyes slightly, shooting an eerie look that made Qing Xue's heart tremble, but since the topic was gentle, she was not that worried.

Qing Xue nodded and said, "Second Miss, now this is my only choice. To thank you for your mercy, if I can get any useful information from Madam Di, I will come and tell you!"

Her words showed her gratitude, and also obviously her dilemma, but this was her only choice now!

Anyone in her situation would do that, but this did not include Qin Wanru.

Qin Wanru's eyes closed slightly and her eyelashes fluttered a couple of times, leaving shadows on her tender, white cheeks. Her voice sounded softer, but her irate mood made Qing Xue, who was kneeling on the floor, shiver. "Qing Xue, do you think I can be cheated that easily!"

## **Chapter 274 Please Save Me**

Qing Xue trembled all over and her face was as white as snow.

"In fact, you have been free during this time. In the beginning, I promised that I would give you a simple job, and keep you away from Madam Di's attention, but you stubbornly wanted to get involved in this trouble. Then, I will let you go!" Qin Wanru gave a cold snort, her watery eyes below her long eyelashes, rippling coldly.

She waved her hand, decisively, indicating that Qing Xue could leave.

"Second Miss, I am..." Qing Xue tried to defend herself, but Qingyue pulled her away.

Seeing Qin Wanru's cold and impersonal look, Qing Xue felt as if she had fallen into an ice cave. She trembled uncontrollably.

"Go. From now on, whether you live or die, our Miss won't care. Our Miss has treated you well enough. You are looking for death, so you can't blame anyone!"

Qingyue spoke as she pulled Qing Xue out of the room. When she was nearly at the door, Qing Xue suddenly pushed Qingyue away, rushed to Qin Wanru's feet, and cried out loudly, "Second Miss, save me! Please save me!"

Qing Xue spoke anxiously, as she trembled uncontrollably.

Qin Wanru turned her face sideways to look at Qingyue. Her eyes had the serenity that seemed to have seen through everything, yet still remained extremely calm. "You betrayed Madam Di before, now you want to use a drastic remedy to win her trust again, and you yourself are the drastic remedy!"

This was not a question, but was telling a fact lightly. A confident look appeared on her stunning little face, making Qing Xue feel as if she was transparent before Second Miss.

"Second Miss, save me, please!" Qing Xue choked with sobs, as she lay motionless on the floor. This time Qin Wanru did not need to ask her, and she revealed everything in detail.

The reason why she suddenly proposed this request was that her mother sent her a message secretly, asking her to do whatever Madam Di asked of her, and saying that sometime back, her younger brother was given a cruel beating, because of a small mistake he made, and he was now still lying in bed, recovering from the beating.

A small mistake would not have brought on such a cruel beating, unless it was because of her previous "mistake", which caused a flaw, in the matter of the hairpin. So, Madam Di's plot did not work on Qin Wanru, but on her daughter, instead. Madam Di had not found out the truth of it, but she could still direct her wrath at Qing Xue.

Now since Qing Xue was nominally Qin Wanru's maid, Madam Di could not do anything to her, so she vented her anger on Qing Xue's family members, instead.

Qing Xue's mother asked someone to send her a message, asking her not to disobey Madam Di, or their family would suffer in the future. She also told her frankly that she should request to leave proactively to serve Madam Di, and act as Qin Wanru's "informer" at the same time.

"Second Miss, I have no other choices, either. My family members are being controlled by Duke Yong's Mansion. I...I can only listen to Madam Di!"

After revealing every detail of the matter, Qing Xue wailed even more loudly.

It had been some time since she served Qin Wanru. Although she was not her confidant, she knew Qin Wanru had strategies through her actions, though she was still young. Madam Di and First Miss failed time after time, but did not even know the Second Miss had a hand in it. In Qing Xue's heart, Qin Wanru was not only the mansion's Second Miss.

Therefore, just now when Qin Wanru became serious and threatened her slightly, she told her every detail of the matter at once. Certainly, another important reason was that she did not want to believe Madam Di and Qin Yuru.

"Has your family been sold to Duke Yong's Mansion?" Qin Wanru asked.

"No...no, no, my family has not!" Qing Xue shook her head repeatedly, and, wiping away her tears, said, "My family only rents the fields from Duke Yong's Mansion and works in one of its farms, and the work is not laborious."

"It's only rental, why not leave?" Qin Wanru smiled, and said this in an extremely low voice.

"Can...can we?" Qing Xue was stunned, looking at Qin Wanru subconsciously. It seemed she wanted to get her support. Her family were all country-people of Jiangzhou, and had no idea about worldly stuff. After arriving in the capital, whatever they did was under the orders of Duke Yong's Mansion, thinking that they should do everything as Duke Yong's Mansion told them, because they followed the people Madam Di sent secretly to the capital.

"Of course you can, because you are only renting the fields. Although you have rented them for a long time, you only need to pay for part of the loss, and you can also leave secretly. Duke Yong's Mansion won't spend much energy getting you back. After all, you are not their servants!" Qin Wanru narrowed her eyes a little, looking at Qing Xue's face.

Qing Xue's family was her deadly point. If her family's affairs were not dealt with promptly, she would not give up making trouble, or it would not be her who would do so, but that Madam Di would not give up the idea of using her to deal with Qin Wanru.

She did not feel much sympathy for Qingxue, who was pathetic, but was also detestable. If she had been trapped by Qing Xue, who would feel sympathy for her now!

If Madam Di could use Qing Xue, and so could she!

This was a double-edged sword, which would hurt the user if it was not used wisely.

"I can guarantee that I will take away all your family members. Our mansion is buying shops and farms. Your parents can work on the farm, and your brother can work in the shops if he is bright," Qin Wanru said, her tender, dark-red lips curved in a smile.

She would not help Qing Xue without reason. So, there was a hidden condition: After she helped Qin Wanru, Qin Wanru would help her family.

Since this was her second life, she would not be the one who was only kind, and could not bear the cruelty of the world. She was but a vulnerable unmarried girl. If she could not protect herself, what was the meaning of kindness?

"Second Miss, you will help me! Second Miss, thank you, thank you!" Qing Xue was not stupid and knew Qin Wanru would not help her without reason. After learning what Qin Wanru meant in her talk, she felt thoroughly relieved, wiped away her tears, and kowtowed excitedly to Qin Wanru several times.

Not only could her parents work on the farm, but her brother could also work in the shops. This was Qin's Mansion's special favor to them. No wonder Qing Xue was moved.

This was much better than Madam Di's threat. Now, Qing Xue kowtowed to Qin Wanru several times sincerely. When she raised her head again, her face had a determined look. "Second Miss, be at ease, I will serve Madam Di and send you messages."

Madam Di's real intent was not to ask her to come back to serve herself, for she wanted to use her to send some "contradictory" messages to Qin Wanru. Qing Xue was very clear about this.

So, now when she swore her loyalty to Qin Wanru, she spoke of this matter immediately.

"Okay, I will let you go! In a while, you should write a letter and give it to me. I will ask someone to send it to your parents, asking them to get ready at any time. Once you ask them to leave, they can pack overnight and leave with my servants!" Qin Wanru gave her the detailed plan.

"Yes, Second Miss, I will write once I return to my room!" By now, Qing Xue felt at ease completely, kowtowed again to Qin Wanru, and rose to her feet. Red-eyed, she left the main room and walked back to her room. On the way, she was still wiping her tears. Servant girls and old maids who saw her, were all shocked.

All the servants knew Qing Xue was not favored in Zhifang Pavilion. Though she was not favored, she was rarely scolded. As a principal maid, she was almost transparent in the courtyard. Without anything to do, Second Miss would never call her, but now she seemed to have been scolded.

Recalling the faint noise from the main room, many servant girls thought she was pathetic. Although she was a principal maid, she had fallen into a situation that was no better than these small servant girls'. She was to be pitied indeed!

Back to her room, Qing Xue wrote a letter to her father with the brush and ink at the edge of the table. Previously, Madam Di had intended to train her as a confidant, so she taught her to write and read. Although her handwriting was not good, it was legible. As for her brother, he had learned some Chinese characters since he was young. Since the family only had one boy, her parents cherished him most.

"Finished?" Qu Le pushed open the door, walked in, and asked. Now, the two of them were still staying in the same room.

Generally speaking, two of them seemed to have a predestined relationship, either in Jiangzhou or in the capital. Although they did not like each other, they had lived together for some time.

After dismissing her idea of hurting Qin Wanru, she began to get along well with Qu Le. After all, they were both young. Putting aside their emotional entanglements, the two of them had recently become good friends.

But this good relationship only appeared in the room. Outside, they were still roommates looking coldly at each other, and they appeared very unfriendly toward each other.

"Finished!" Qing Xue put the letter on the table to dry the ink, and raised her head to look at Qu Le, as if she wanted to say something, but stopped herself.

"Anything you want to say, just say it, don't hesitate. In future, if you get married, you cannot always live in your parents' home. For the good of your parents' family, you have borne too much pain!" Qu Le snorted coldly, and seemed to be in a bad mood, as she said this frankly.

Recently, two of them had been getting along well with each other, but Qing Xue was about to leave. No doubt, she was in a bad mood! What she said sounded a little angry!

"Sister Qu Le, after I leave..." Qing Xue felt a little sad, as she said this. Initially, she did not want to get involved in the matter between Madam Di and Qin Wanru, but unfortunately, she could not run away from it in the end. Instantly, she felt sad and wiped away her tears with her handkerchief.

She usually looked cool and calm in public, but she felt inexplicably sad today.

"Well, well, don't cry. Since that side wants you to go, you should go, but remember Second Miss is your only master. Anyway, that side is but an illusion for sure! By then, Second Miss may still need to get you back!" Qu Le was straightforward. Now she also felt sad, but she waved her hand and warned Qing Xue impatiently.

"Don't worry, I will!" Qing Xue nodded, folded the letter, and handed it to her. She bit her lip, showing that she wanted to say something more, but she didn't.

Qu Le snatched the letter and said impatiently, "Anything you want to say, just say it, don't hesitate."

Once she left, she did not have to care about rules anymore. Thinking for a moment, she gritted her teeth, lowered her head, came to Qu Le's ear, and whispered a few words!

## **Chapter 275 Familiar Practice**

"What, is it true?" Qu Le said, her beautiful eyes widened and her voice unconsciously raised.

Anxiously, Qing Xue covered Qu Le's mouth with her hand and whispered, "Dear friend, not so loud. In fact, I don't know if this is true, I just overheard it while eavesdropping. At that time, I was still on the farm and didn't know Second Miss! I am not sure of this matter, so I dare not tell Second Miss!"

Stunned for a moment, Qu Le pushed Qing Xue away and nodded with effort, "Well, don't worry, I won't tell anyone!"

When Qing Xue left Zhifang Pavilion, only one little servant girl saw her off. In former days, this girl was a decent friend to her, the only one she had. The girl was Qu'er.

The others saw her taking a small package and following an old maid out. When they heard that she was to serve Madam Di, their looked at her with more sympathy.

In the past, serving Madam Di might be better than serving Second Miss, and many people would compete to be a little servant girl in Madam Di's courtyard, but now Madam Di was in a bad situation. Previously, many of her servants were driven away, and those who were left wouldn't have a promising future, either. It looked like the general did not give Madam Di a short-term detention, but a long one!

At this time, anyone who built ties with Madam Di would have bad luck. Now Qing Xue was asked to serve Madam Di, which meant she wouldn't have much hope of the future.

Many sympathized with her, but she had not been in Qin Wanru's favor, and she didn't have much rapport with others. The only one who quietly saw her off was Qu'er.

After chatting a while with Qu'er under the tree outside the courtyard's door, Qing Xue left with the old maid who had waited long and impatiently.



At the entrance to Madam Di's Yulan Pavilion stood two old maids. Seeing Qing Xue come with an old maid, they looked her up and down several times, asked a few common questions, and waved their hands to let her in, but the old maid who brought her here didn't go in with her.

Qing Xue walked into the yard alone and saw how deserted it was. Under the big tree beside the wall was a thick layer of leaves. A servant girl was feebly sweeping the leaves, but since the leaves were too many, she could not clear them off no matter how hard she tried.

Another two lifeless old maids were washing the pillars at the porch. They used warm water, and the evaporating steam shrouded their faces.

Madam Di's place was completely different from what Qing Xue had seen before. The whole place looked lifeless and dead.

Seeing someone come in, all the servant girls and old maids raised their eyes and took a look at her, then ignored her, and carried on with what they were doing.

Qing Xue had to walk in alone. She arrived at the porch and stood there, not entering the main room. She saw the curtain being raised and a small beautiful face peeked out. She was also a servant girl, but Qing Xue didn't know her.

"Are you Qing Xue?" The one at the doorway was Huangrui, who studied her several times and spoke to her in a somewhat haughty tone.

"Yes, I am Qing Xue!" Qing Xue nodded.

"Come in, Madam is waiting for you!" Huangrui's hand let go, and curtain fell. She went inside.

Qing Xue hesitated a little, raised the curtain herself, and walked into the room.

Madam Di was sitting at the center of the room, with Nanny Zhou standing beside her. Behind her was Hongye, who was massaging her shoulders. On the other side, the two original principal maids Meiya and Meibo were serving her with great care.

Huangrui took one step forward and bowed to Madam Di. After that, she too went to Nanny Zhou's side, looking Qing Xue up and down in a dismissive way.

Qing Xue came over to kneel before Madam Di, but she dare not sneak a peek and behaved very well!

"Do you feel unhappy to serve me this time?" Madam Di said with a laugh which sounded a little sharp.

"I dare not be so impudent, I am your servant girl!" Qing Xue lowered her head and said respectfully.

"I guess you dare not, you are my maid. Don't ever hope to serve Qin Wanru!" Madam Di said with a cold, sullen snort.

Qing Xue stiffened when she heard that. It was an obvious threat and it made her even more afraid to move.

Madam Di bent down to raise Qing Xue's face with her hand and observed her facial expression. Her rather fierce-looking face made Qing Xue shake uncontrollably and her eyes were full of fear.

"You look gentle and demure. What did you do to make Qin Wanru dislike you? Does she know you are my maid now?" Madam Di looked at Qing Xue's face sullenly as if she would like to strip the skin off her face.

"Madam...I...I am useless...I..." Qing Xue trembled and curled up into a ball, her face showing uncontrollable fear, which was clearly reflected in Madam Di's eyes. This made Madam Di very satisfied.

Being afraid was good, for it meant she wouldn't dare betray her.

Madam Di forcefully pushed Qing Xue to one side. She fell and her elbow hit the floor tile heavily, making a clear "clacking" sound. Qing Xue felt so much pain that her tears flowed, but she bit her lip and dared not make a sound.

"You are useless indeed. I let you stay in the little b\*tch's place for so long, but you haven't done anything useful. What's with that matter before? Why was the little b\*tch not troubled by the it, but Yuru was!"

Madam Di's sharp voice travelled out of the silent yard, making the two old maids at the entrance tremble uncontrollably. Since she was detained, Madam Di seemed to have lost more and more patience towards the great family's madam. The high-pitch voice made her sound like a shrew at the market.

"I don't know... I did everything you told me. I don't know why it ended up that way either..." Qing Xue shook her head, her eyes filled with fear and anxiety.

"Useless b\*tch!" Madam Di raised her foot and kicked Qing Xue's leg hard. After venting her anger, she didn't ask her anymore. Madam Di and Nanny Zhou had long thought this was totally Ning Caixian's doing. At that time, Madam Di wanted to trap Qin Wanru, and was even willing to cooperate with Ning Caixian secretly. She also hinted that she would agree to the marriage of Ning Caixian and Di Yan.

At that time, Ning Caixian had also promised, but she confronted Qin Yuru later, and it was not difficult to use strategies to shift the blame of trapping Qin Wanru to Qin Yuru.

Thinking about the trouble created by Ning Caixian, Madam Di made audible sounds with her gritting teeth. "Fortunately, the b\*tchy girl is dead, or I wouldn't have let her off."

Having guessed what Ning Caixian had done, Madam Di didn't question Qing Xue anymore.

After she got over her wrath, Madam Di caught a glimpse of the slender Huangrui standing on one side and said, "Qing Xue, you will live with Huangrui in the future. She has just arrived in our mansion and doesn't know the rules here. Help her learn everything. If you behave well, I will give your parents a happier life in the future!"

"Thank you, Madam!" said Qing Xue as she shivered.

"All right, leave!" Madam Di waved her hand.

"Yes!" Qing Xue stood up with difficulty and took steps back gingerly. When she went out, she wiped off the cold sweat on her forehead. Knowing she'd got through her most crucial test, she couldn't help smiling bitterly, "If I hadn't answered the way Second Miss taught me to, I am not sure if I'd be standing here now."

"Madam Di is frighteningly paranoid now. She's no longer the demure and decent general's wife anymore!"

"Hi, come with me!" said Huangrui, waving her hand as she came out.

Qing Xue followed her hurriedly.

Huangrui took her to the room on the left at the second wing and pushed open the unlatched door. She walked in first, sat on the large bed in the center, looked Qing Xue up and down several times, raised her head, and said a little haughtily, "You are Qing Xue, the one coming to serve me?"

"I'm here to serve Madam!" Qing Xue looked at the other much smaller bed in the room and said with tranquil eyes.

"Not to serve Madam, we can serve her. You're here to serve me. At the same time, you need to look for opportunities to take me to the general!" Huangrui said, catching a glimpse of Qing Xue with her flirtatious eyes. The look was very dismissive.

"To serve you?" Qing Xue stared at Huangrui and said, dumbfounded.

"To serve me, of course. Did you think you've come to serve Madam? In the current situation, Madam doesn't need to be served by someone like you!" Huangrui raised her eyes, looked her up and down several times again, and then covered her nose with a handkerchief. "In future, you will live here and only need to serve me during normal hours. If I go out, follow me, and find out more about the general's schedule!"

"You can even go out?" Qing Xue was more surprised. "The whole Yulan Pavilion has been grounded, but why can the woman before her leave the courtyard?"

Duke Yong's Mansion had sent two servant girls to serve Madam Di. But she wasn't clear about this matter.

"Why can't I? In a few days, Duke Yong's Mansion will send a batch of herbs here, and I will go and check them and report the information to the general. It is the Old Madam of Duke Yong's Mansion who sent me here!" said Huangrui haughtily as raised her head. She didn't look like a woman from a good family.

"You are familiar with everything in the mansion. When you follow me out, you can ask others if necessary, and you can deal with trouble if there is any. Don't worry, after the thing is done, it will be very advantageous for you. If Madam doesn't give you enough, I will give reward you handsomely!"

In her opinion, her condition was very generous. Being favored? That was sure. As long as she could see Qin Huaiyong more often, she wouldn't need to spend much energy seducing the Ningyuan Army General. Why was she chosen by the Old Madam of Duke Yong's Mansion and sent to Ningyuan Army General's Mansion? Yes, she was outstanding indeed.

With her methods, it was not so difficult to make a man fall for her. For what she'd learned was the skill of seducing men.

"Yes!" Qing Xue lowered her head, looking much more respectful and obedient, but she pursed her lips silently. "If the woman before me can go out, that's good enough. But to follow and serve her? She can dream on!"

She was a principal maid. In public, she would never serve the woman before her.

But now, she wouldn't tell her frankly. She would know that after she has suffered.

Thinking that she was successful in persuading Qing Xue, Huangrui pointed to the small bed and said, "You sleep there. If I need anything later, you can get it for me. Treat me as a mistress and you will be rewarded!"

"Yes!" Qing Xue didn't defy her at all and answered gently, showing no trace of embarrassment on her face. This made Huangrui happier. She stood up, walked to the dressing table, picked up a hairpin casually, and handed it to Qing Xue. "Take it, this is your first reward. If you obey me, you will get more of such things!"

A gold hairpin on their first meeting. How generous of her!

Being self-assured, she used the strategy of combining kindness and harshness. This practice was familiar to Qing Xue, who was also trained like this before...

### **Chapter 276 Butterfly Clothing Shop Officially Opens**

"Vice-general?" Qin Wanru knitted her thin curved brows. She looked at Qu Le with a sinister glint in her eyes. Qu Le's hand which was holding her handkerchief trembled a little. This was the first time she had heard information of her biological father. Of course she was excited.

"Yes, Second Miss, this is what Qing Xue said. She said during her training on the farm, she heard Nanny Zhou speak of this matter with the farm supervisor in private! But she didn't know if this was true, so she didn't dare mention it to you!"

Qu Le was reporting what Qing Xue had said before she left.

"Where did he serve?" Qin Wanru asked as she took a deep breath, trying to suppress her excitement.

"Qing Xue says she doesn't know either and she could not guarantee the truth of what she heard." Qu Le shook her head.

The room became quiet. Qin Wanru took a deep breath, fell back and closed her eyes, leaning against the back of the chair. "My father was a vice-general, one of those who put down that revolt."

But she was an unmarried lady and had no access to the files at the Ministry of War. Otherwise, she would have gone straight there to find out the vice-general's surname and name.

"Okay, you may leave!" Qin Wanru waved her hand and said hoarsely.

"Yes, Miss!" Qu Le knew Qin Wanru was upset now and left cautiously to go out. Standing at the doorway, she looked at Qin Wanru thoughtfully.

Yujie waved to her, signaling her not to worry. Then, Qu Le left to go out. Seeing it was still early, she felt Qing Xue's letter in her bosom and strode outside.

She still had the responsibility of sending Qing Xue's letter.

"Miss..." Seeing that Qin Wanru was silent, Yujie wanted to say something but refrained from doing so.

"Yujie, do you know where your parents are?" Qin Wanru didn't open her eyes and only asked slowly. Her voice was low, but it sounded extremely heavy.

"Miss, my parents died early, I am an orphan!" Yujie's eyes turned red. Without Mingqiu Nun's adoption, she would have probably had died in the mountain a long before this.

For her, Mingqiu Nun was not just a master, she was also a parent.

"Is Yujie an orphan?" Qin Wanru gave a wry smile. "I am also an orphan, even worse than Yujie. I don't even know who my parents are." She couldn't bear it.

She clasped her hands together as if this could give her strength. There was a dull pain in her heart. "Where are they? And...are they still alive?"

It seemed she was speaking to herself, but the sadness in her voice made Yujie's eyes a little redder. She excused herself and turned to wipe away a tear at the corner of her eye and changed the sad topic:

"Miss, why didn't the general respond to the information you leaked? Why hasn't Madam Dowager explained anything?"

By using the previous rumors, Qin Wanru solved the problem that the Madam of Duke Xing forced her to be her adopted daughter, and also let the public know that she was not the daughter of the master's official wife of Qin's Mansion.

It had been a few days since the rumors broke out, but Qin Huaiyong and Madam Dowager seemed to have no wish to explain it to her, as if they didn't hear the rumors outside.

"Miss, could you be mistaken?" Yujie felt a little confused. "In this situation, Madam Dowager and the general should come and have a good chat with Second Miss, but why haven't they said anything at all? They behave as if nothing happened!"

"Then we will wait!" Qin Wanru was no longer sad, but her look turned cold. With her previous life's memory, she didn't think her idea was wrong.

The current evidence also proved this point repeatedly. She even got some shocking answers through her guesses, but they were only surmises, and she still hadn't thought some things through.

She was also spot on with Qin Huaiyong and Madam Dowager's reactions. If the matter was so simple, she wouldn't have been hoodwinked throughout her previous life.

But she was determined. If their minds could not be shaken using one method, she would use two methods, if two methods don't work, she would use ten. She didn't believe wouldn't break!

"In a while, ask Nanny Yu and Wang Feng to help Madame Dong. I am afraid she will be busy and short-handed for some time. She may also not have some necessary things when she needs them. If we have them in our mansion, just let my mother know and take them!" Qin Wanru instructed slowly and calmly as she thought of tomorrow's event.

"Yes, Miss, I will tell Nanny Yu in a while!" Yujie felt relieved and smiled when she saw Qin Wanru not grieving anymore and has regained her usual calm.

Qin Wanru stood up, walked to the Tang Qianyan at her window, and heaved a low sigh. "The Tang Qianyan is disappointing and doesn't look like it will bloom. It looks satisfied just to live like this."

She picked up the scissors beside her, thought for a moment, and pruned away the extra branches. "Not sure if Prince Chen will be satisfied tomorrow. Anyway, I need to prune it carefully and try not to let him think I haven't tried my best."

"Miss, let me help you prune it!" said Yujie. She got worried seeing the big scissors in Qin Wanru's hand.

"No, I'll do it!" Qin Wanru shook her head. The prince was not easy to fool, and she had better do it herself.

The following day, Butterfly Clothing Shop was to open officially. As its owner, she needed to go and check carefully. For this reason, Qin Wanru went out.

Certainly, Qin Wanru only watched from a distance.

Hearing Qin Wanru's Butterfly Clothing Shop was to officially open, Madam Dowager and Shui Ruolan were quite surprised. Initially, they thought Qin Wanru just did it for fun, but they never thought she was serious and so quick about it. Not many of the shops that Qin's Mansion planned to open succeeded in opening. In contrast, Qin Wanru was fast.

Since they knew she was concerned about her shop, Madam Dowager and Shui Ruolan gave her a few reminders and let her out.

When Qin Wanru got on her horse-drawn carriage, the Tang Qianyan was already in it.

The carriage went out from the side door and headed for the main road. A short while and a few turns later, it arrived at Butterfly Clothing Shop.

This area was exceptionally lively. Madame Dong prepared well and also especially invited a theatrical troupe to perform at the gate. At the moment, the drama was at its peak and passers-by were shouting, "Well done!"

The stage was not big, only occupying the front of the gate. Those who were singing were not many, but their singing skills were great and their appearances were nice, and people were stunned.

Inside her carriage, Qin Wanru raised the curtain and took a look and saw Madame Dong walking here and there, entertaining guests with smiles. Although she sweated a lot, she kept smiling, looking very happy.

A shop-boy took out firecrackers and set them off. Instantly, the atmosphere became even more lively.

When the passers-by saw the lively air, they all stopped to look at the shop's name. If women passed by, they would pay a special visit to the shop to see what was inside. In a short while, they would come out with some clothes and smiles, looking very happy.

It was the opening day discounts, an idea Madame Dong and Qin Wanru came up with. Today was the auspicious opening day, and all the products were sold at discounts.

This was also one of the main reasons why the women left happily. Instantly, the shop was crowded with visitors.

Qin Wanru felt very satisfied. Madame Dong was as able as expected. In such a short time, she had put everything in order. Looks like her shop will bring in good income in future. Right now, she was already seeing Misses from aristocratic families entering the shop.

She was at a good angle to see the shop's gate from the window where she sat, and she could see it clearly.

Suddenly, she pulled hard, and the curtain in her hand made a crisp sound as if it was about to break.

"Miss!" Yujie was shocked and turned to look out from the other window.

"I thought I saw an acquaintance!" Qin Wanru looked into the crowd and searched. For an instant, she seemed to have seen a person, one who shouldn't appear in the capital city. "Did my eyes deceive me?"

Seeing Qin Wanru anxiously looking for someone, Yujie also tried to search but found no one familiar after looking again and again. So, she couldn't help turning back to ask Qin Wanru, "Miss, who did you see? I haven't seen anyone!"

Qin Wanru frowned. She didn't know if she had seen the person, either. For an instant, she didn't know what to say and only knitted her thin curved brows.

Her carriage moved suddenly. Although it was just a little jerk, she still clearly felt the carriage was moving forward.

"What's wrong? Our Miss wants to stay for a few more moments!" Yujie was surprised, speaking to the coachman outside.

"Second Miss, I have no choice, either. Our carriage is hooked to the carriage in front!" The coachman's voice came from outside.

"Hooked?" Qin Wanru said, surprised. The carriage was still moving forward, but it was steady.

Yujie raised the curtain with her hand, glaring at the carriage in front. It was so crowded that some carriages jammed together. In front of their carriage was a large carriage without any signs, but the hook at its tail had hooked the shaft of Qin Wanru's carriage.

The coachman sitting at the shaft raised his whip helplessly, but dared not let it fall.

It was too lively here, and there was a large crowd of people. He could not avoid the crowd and had to let the carriage move slowly with the carriage in front.

Seeing this, Yujie was ready to get off to remove the hook, but she stopped when she saw the face sticking out of the window of the carriage in front.

Yujie turned to look at the confused Qin Wanru, returned helplessly, and let the curtain in her hand fall, blocking the outside view.

"Miss, I saw Xiao Xuanzi in the front carriage!" Yujie said quite helplessly. She knew her master came out on invitation today, but she never thought Prince Chen would use such a way to invite her Miss. Yujie thought this prince was too mischievous.

"Tell our coachman not to panic, just follow!" Qin Wanru was also surprised about Chu Liuchen's way, but she helplessly gave her order.

Yujie nodded, raised the curtain again, glared at Xiao Xuanzi who was smiling from the window of the carriage in front, and in a low voice asked their coachman to follow.

So, the two carriages moved out of the lively street, with one after the other...

### **Chapter 277 Fortunately, the People in It Were Not Chopped**

The capital city's flower market had recently been lively, only because of the visitors. For the seeds of Tang Qianyan, almost all the good floriculturists had been invited away, and only the ordinary stayed.

But the entire flower market was still very lively anyway.

Wearing a curtain hat, Qin Wanru got out of the carriage and walked to the rows of flowerpots. Not many flowers bloomed at this time, and most of them were Tang Qianyan, which all bloomed late.

Yet, all of them looked pretty, making Qin Wanru who came to the flower market for the first time enjoy herself. As she appreciated them, she walked to the depths gradually.

There, visitors were fewer. There were many big potted plants, stopping people from seeing each other.

"Miss, this tree grows well and looks beautiful." Yujie's eyes glistened as she pointed at the potted plants. Thinking for a moment, she added, "They look like the trees at the gate of Jingxin Monastery."

Hearing this, Qin Wanru smiled sweetly. The trees at the gate of Jingxin Monastery were somewhat like the potted plant indeed.

"They have long been chopped down!" Chu Liuchen came out behind a large potted plant, his voice sounding lazy and gentle.

Qin Wanru went over and bowed sideways to him. "Your highness!"

"Is this the Tang Qianyan you take care of? Qin Wanru, you are really skillful!" Chu Liuchen's eyes turned to the Tang Qianyan in Yujie's hands.

"It... has just arrived in the capital and hasn't adapted to the climate!" Qin Wanru said with a dry smile, her watery eyes turning to the Tang Qianyan. Walking along the way here while appreciating these flourishing Tang Qianyan, Qin Wanru did feel hers was "only alive".

Even the leaves were scanty.

"You have adapted to the climate, but the Tang Qianyan that should grow in the capital city hasn't adapted to it?" Chu Liuchen touched his chin as he pondered and said with a faint smile.

Qin Wanru's pink, tender face reddened as she bit her lip. This was a hard question. Could she say that the flower had been in unhealthy condition in the beginning?



"Prince, why the trees at the gate of Jingxin Monastery have been chopped down?" Yujie came over with the Tang Qianyan, bowed to Chu Liuchen, and asked anxiously.

She was not very clear about what happened to Jingxin Monastery.

"Framed by someone. Fortunately, the people in it were not chopped!" Chu Liuchen said carelessly.

Qin Wanru was quite shocked. "What... about the people in it?"

"I have promised you, so they are fine. Don't you believe me!" Chu Liuchen's face sank, and the look in his eyes turned ice cold.

It seemed that the spring breeze-like feeling that appeared just now was just Qin Wanru's imagination.

"Thank you, prince!" Qin Wanru reacted extremely fast, bending to bow again, afraid that he would strike a pose again. It was not so easy to predict this prince's joy or anger.

"What about my Tang Qianyan?" Chu Liuchen asked in a bad tone. As that pair of beautiful eyes swept across Qin Wanru's face, she shuddered inexplicably.

"Prince, whatever you want, tell me!" Qin Wanru complained inwardly. It seemed that Chu Liuchen did want to negotiate, but negotiating with him would only end with her loss.

"Qin Wanru, I remember we have traded many times, and you have owed me a lot by now!" Chu Liuchen turned his eyes slightly sideways to her and suddenly gave out a faint smile.

"Yes!" In this situation, Qin Wanru had to admit it courageously.

"Then, it is time for you to pay!" Chu Liuchen suddenly smiled. As the corner of his mouth raised, he looked as beautiful as an ink painting.

Elegant as flowers, but cold under the cover. He was like a pool of deep water that couldn't be seen through, sucking people's souls and taking their lives.

"I will listen to your orders, Prince!" Qin Wanru's back turned cold, but she had to accept the condition. She clenched her hands in her sleeves tightly, waiting for Chu Liuchen's orders.

She should have predicted this moment a long time before.

No matter how shocked she was, she came back to earth instantly. Chu Liuchen was never only a harmless young man as he looked.

The so-called handsome young man who walked out of the ink painting was only a shell he presented to the world, among the many shells he had.

"An honest child!" Chu Liuchen praised casually, with extremely gorgeous eyes.

Fatefully, when he extended his hand, he might not think that much, but now he thought this was better. "Honest people make me feel at ease. Look, she submitted it just because of a bonsai of Tang Qianyan. This saves me energy, and I don't need to use other threats!"

He would never give up what he wanted!

"Prince, thanks for your praise!" Qin Wanru flapped her eyelashes a couple of times and said.

"In fact, it's very simple. My imperial grandmother wants me to choose a consort, but I don't want those women, so..." Chu Liuchen stared at Qin Wanru, making her back turn cold.

"Prince, what do you mean?" Qin Wanru gritted her teeth and calmed the nervousness from the bottom of her heart, looking at Chu Liuchen with her bright watery eyes, but her brain was running fast.

"In my previous life, Chu Liuchen seemed to have no consort, nor did I hear of his wedding. It seemed that everyone forgot his marriage, even including the Empress Dowager who loved him a lot and the emperor who was said to grant him whatever he asked.

"So, this event didn't happen in my previous life, but will it happen in this life? Has my rebirth changed everything?"

"What I mean is very simple. To avoid trouble, you should be my fiancée. Look at you now... I estimate that you can only be a fiancée. It happens that I don't want to marry, either!"

Chu Liuchen contemptuously looked up and down Qin Wanru, whose ontogenesis had just begun and snorted.

"Prince, if you don't want to marry, why do you need a fiancée? With your ability, it isn't a difficult matter, right?" Qin Wanru stared at Chu Liuchen's young rosy cheeks, bit her red lip, and said.

She didn't believe that Chu Liuchen could not refuse it with his means! The methods he used to refuse in her previous life could also be used in this life. The Empress Dowager would not force him if he didn't want to, because obviously, no one could force him to do anything.

"I could refuse in the past and my grandma might listen to me, but now... When I passed out again that day, Xiao Xuanzi didn't take good care of me... My grandma went furious and asked people to rectify my mansion, and Xiao Xuanzi was also beaten!"

Chu Liuchen seemed not surprised to hear Qin Wanru's question and said in a carefree manner.

"Second Miss, I was beaten indeed, and I cannot even sit down by now!" Xiao Xuanzi nodded aside and said with a wry smile.

Looking pale and gaunt, he seemed to have been beaten.

"You passed out, prince?" Qin Wanru widened her watery eyes and asked, looking Chu Liuchen up and down. She didn't know if she was wrong because she didn't believe that the prince was as weak as that.

"Yes, indeed, and I passed out in front of the imperial physician my grandma brought to me. I've heard he was found by Duke Xing for my grandma. He is a miracle-working physician, but he is also useless. He only said I... might not have many years to live!"

Chu Liuchen smiled as if he were talking about someone else's situation, without expression on his handsome face, and even narrowed his beautiful eyes tightly, showing he didn't care about it.

"What about... your health, prince?" Qin Wanru bit her lip and asked.

"I know my condition, don't worry, it's only a betrothal. By then, if I die, I will ask my grandma to break it and free you!" Chu Liuchen eyed Qin Wanru strangely and smiled eerily. His malicious attitude was a sharp contrast from his former carefree attitude.

His authoritativeness and coldness made Qin Wanru cry silently.

"These things are not important. Anyway, for me, marriage is not important." Qin Wanru had to tell him her innermost idea.

In this life, marriage was not important for her. In her previous life, she was betrayed, again and again, which had given her an inexplicable fear. In the depths of her heart, she didn't want to marry at all.

Once she had an idea that if it would be like what she guessed, she could also persuade her seniors to allow her to build a family herself in the end. Building a family as a woman had happened before. If this was impossible, she could also go to a place like Jingxin Monastery. After everything was done, she would spend the rest of her life in that peaceful place. That would also be a good choice!

Now Chu Liuchen wanted to use her marriage. In fact, she didn't care about it, and this should be the supplemental clause for their trade.

"It is quite fair, isn't it?"

"You don't want to marry? Neither do I. So, we can be a couple temporarily. When I leave the world, I will give you freedom!" Chu Liuchen pondered and said, smiling with joy. At this moment, he became an unparalleled gentleman again!

Qin Wanru opened her misty watery eyes and heaved a deeper sigh inwardly. "This prince is an excellent cheater. I suppose only the colorful snakes can have such changeable colors!"

"Whatever your ideas!" Qin Wanru nodded and said. Thinking for a moment, she added sincerely, "Prince, if you fall in love with someone one day, don't think about my feelings, just break off our betrothal."

Qin Wanru didn't take what Chu Liuchen said about his death to her heart. After all, this man was living well in her previous life.

Chu Liuchen looked at her and suddenly raised the corner of his mouth with a profound meaning, showing a cunning and charming smile. "Qin Wanru, you are very good. If the thing is done, our previous debts will be over, and I can also promise I will try to help you in the future. But now the thing is not done, so you should still deal with it yourself."

Qin Wanru suddenly had a premonition and widened her eyes subconsciously. "Prince, what do you want to say?"

## **Chapter 278 The Precondition of Being a Shield**

"My grandma will take a look at the palace banquet. You should show some affection for me!" Chu Liuchen said gently.

"This... is not in line with the code of conduct for females!" Qin Wanru raised her little face to refuse.

She could promise to be Chu Liuchen's shield, but she was unwilling to ruin her reputation. In her previous life, the series of consequences was caused by her ruined reputation.

"I don't need you to overdo it. You know medical skills, don't you?" Chu Liuchen raised his brows and showed a small smile.

"Medical skills?" Qin Wanru was surprised and took a careful look at Chu Liuchen, hoping to find something in his eyes. Yet, he was a fox. She could not figure out his thought from his changeable face!

"Since I am not healthy, that you pay more attention to me should be normal. Anyway, you know medical skills!" Chu Liuchen said in a careful guiding tone.

"This..." Qin Wanru hesitated. In the imperial palace, it was not that easy to play tricks, let alone the trick targeted the consort's position of Chu Liuchen.

"Qin Wanru, you promised me just now!" Seeing that she hesitated, Chu Liuchen's smile turned cold instantly, and a trace of deep maliciousness climbed upon his face. Patting the bonsai of Korean pine beside him, he reminded Qin Wanru, "That time in Jiangzhou Jingxin Monastery, it was me who caught that coachman for you! If you are unwilling... after you walk out, we shall never contact each other!"

That Korean pine was not big, but an ordinary person could not make it into so many pieces. So, his threat was obvious.

"Prince, I accept!" Stupefied, she took a look at the sick-looking Chu Liuchen, feeling a little nervous. Qin Wanru didn't hesitate this time and bit the corner of her red lip.

"Since I am in the plot, I cannot retreat even I wish to. In my previous life, I was not in the plot, but I was still chopped in half.

"This means I may not avoid what I want to avoid. Since I can't avoid it or refuse it, I won't need to avoid it anymore." Those who rose from the bloody hell had their ruthlessness.

At this moment, a trace of ghastly ruthlessness climbed upon her small pink face!

"That's good. Qin Wanru, I don't want you to be hit back home before you appear! You should know what I mean, right?" Chu Liuchen said, referring to something, as his long and narrow eyes were raised. That handsome face became more enchanting, showing he was in a good mood.

Qin Wanru didn't reply at once. Thinking for a moment, she raised her watery eyes, looking straight at Chu Liuchen, and said, "Prince, I can be your shield, but I also hope you can help me!"

For some things, the more she investigated, the more shocked she was, and it was even difficult to continue. But no matter what, she had reason to continue her investigation. The hatred in her two lives should be paid off with blood!

"What do you want?" Chu Liuchen seemed not to care about what Qin Wanru said and turned his head sideways, showing a gentle smile. He looked like a romantic youth, only his eyes shooting the look of heart-piercing coldness.

"I want those who hurt me to fall into hell!"

Qin Wanru stared at Chu Liuchen and said word by word. A trace of blood flashed in her deep watery eyes, and her hand held her fist tightly, giving off a kind of faint bloodthirsty air.

Why did she investigate? It was because of her hatred as well as her parents'. If what she guessed was true, she might have to confront Duke Xing's Mansion, but the Qin's Mansion was too powerless facing Duke Xing's Mansion.

In her previous life, her parents and herself contributed to others' fame and riches. In this life, the people should pay it back!

Even if she had to use herself as the price, she would borrow the immense power from Chu Liuchen...

Looking at her with curiosity, Chu Liuchen suddenly laughed and rubbed the top of her hair. Although she had recently grown taller, she was still much shorter than Chu Liuchen. Recently, he seemed to have grown very fast, still much taller than Qin Wanru.

He touched the top of her hair just as he extended his hand.

"Okay, good. Qin Wanru, you are really good!"

The icy coldness disappeared from Qin Wanru's face, the look in her eye changed, and her smile was extremely beautiful and gentle. She was thin and small, but her momentum was not suppressed by Chu Liuchen.

Yujie even vaguely thought that they were a good match. When she took a look at Xiao Xuanzi on the side and found he was looking at Chu Liuchen with excitement, she had to stop thinking about the confusion she had instantly. She clearly felt that her Miss would love to sacrifice anything for the so-called aim.

Qin Wanru didn't stay long in the flower market. Later, she found a floriculturist and asked about Tang Qianyan's growing methods and tips. The floriculturist told her everything, gave her a few suitable suggestions on taking care of her flower, and even repeated that her flower was a rare gem.

Qin Wanru had to ask Yujie to carry the Tang Qianyan back home. Actually, she wanted to leave the flower here, but Chu Liuchen asked her to take it away.

Seeing that Qin Wanru and her servant had left, Xiao Xuanzi sneaked a peek at his master's face. He looked gentle, with his hands knotted behind his back, taking a walk among the flowers and pausing at will. It seemed that he was in a very good mood. So, Xiao Xuanzi asked gingerly, "Prince, did you say that you don't need a betrothal at this moment, right? The Empress Dowager has agreed!"

"My grandma just said so!" Wearing a gentle and elegant smile, Chu Liuchen stood beside a bonsai of Tang Qianyan, extending his long hand to touch a delicate flower in full bloom on the tree. The corner of his mouth was raised.

"Prince, do you mean that the emperor and the Empress Dowager will pick a consort for you without your consent?" Xiao Xuanzi didn't understand, rubbed his head, and asked.

"Certainly, my grandma will pick one for me after I agree!" Chu Liuchen was in a good mood today, willing to explain it to Xiao Xuanzi. Again, he touched the flower gracefully. "My grandma won't ignore

my opinion, but she will still help me choose silently. If my dear grandma likes someone, she will give her more care!”

“Do you wish Empress Dowager to take more care of Second Miss?” Xiao Xuanzi thought that he could not keep up with his master’s idea.

“Naturally, I don’t mean to ask my grandma to take more care of Qin Wanru. If my grandma is satisfied with her and thinks she is sincere to me, she will have a high opinion of her. In the palace, there are always some people who have to live on their masters, but she is my girl, and I can’t let others pick her!” Chu Liuchen walked to another bonsai of Tang Qianyan and said in a carefree manner.

“The girl is so interesting. Naturally, I won’t let others have her!”

“Prince, do you really want to marry Second Miss, or you just consider her a shield?” Xiao Xuanzi turned his eyeballs and didn’t think he understood what his master said. So, he gave up all the indirect questions and asked directly.

“What’s the point of marrying her or not marrying her? I am a man who don’t know when to die!” Chu Liuchen snorted coldly. The genial complexion he had just now changed instantly, and his eyes became eerily cold.

“Master, you will recover!” Xiao Xuanzi was quite anxious.

“Recover or not, that’s not important at all!” Chu Liuchen coughed. As he stopped smiling, he looked even paler, putting his hand on Xiao Xuanzi for support as if he was about to fall.

Astonished, Xiao Xuanzi shrieked to the outside anxiously. “People, come to support my master. You will get good rewards!”

There were many visitors in the flower market, but most of them were outside. Hearing Xiao Xuanzi’s loud shriek, a few people came at once, helping Xiao Xuanzi support Chu Liuchen.

These people didn’t know Chu Liuchen, but when they saw his luxurious dressing style—a brocade robe and a jade crown—they knew he was not an ordinary person at once. In a hurry, they worked with Xiao Xuanzi to help him get on the carriage beside them.

Xiao Xuanzi took out silver to reward the helpers with many thanks and then put down the curtain, asking their coachman to drive them home. The noise was so loud that the pedestrians all stopped to watch.

In fact, Qin Wanru and Yujie hadn’t walked far away. Hearing the noise, they also stopped. Next, they saw several people escort Chu Liuchen to his carriage, which dashed away instantly. It seemed that he was not well.

“Miss, is Prince Chen really so weak?” Yujie wondered and said. Although she hadn’t felt Prince Chen’s pulse, she knew he was not so weak every time she saw him.

“He... is really ill, perhaps!” Qin Wanru smiled bitterly and shook her head. Chu Liuchen did have a disease and it should be serious, but she didn’t know why he looked fine sometimes, either.

"Certainly, he is always ill and weak in public. I remember just now he said he suddenly passed out in the palace, and one miracle-working physician from Jiangnan who became an imperial physician came to treat his disease. From this point of view, Chu Liuchen does have a disease.

"But I'm not clear why sometimes he is well and sometimes not."

The carriages of Qin's Mansion and Chu Liuchen were parked almost shoulder to shoulder on the same spot, with the latter's carriage on the outside. Now, after his carriage left, it was more convenient for Qin Wanru's carriage to drive back.

After helping Qin Wanru get on the carriage first, Yujie got herself in as well. The carriage turned back, heading to Butterfly Clothing Shop.

Arriving at Butterfly Clothing Shop, Qin Wanru stopped the carriage. The lively air had already gone, and the firecrackers' pieces scattered at the gate, looking as normal as other shops.

Looking around, Qin Wanru saw many customers. She felt at ease and asked their coachman to restart to go home directly.

Getting out of the carriage from the side door, she saw a carriage parking beside her, and its style was not their mansion's.

"Whose carriage is it?" Yujie went over, took the hand of the old maid coming over, and asked, as she found Qin Wanru was looking at the carriage.

"It is Duke Xing's Mansion coming to send gifts!" the old maid grinned and said.

"Send gifts? To who?" Yujie was stunned and asked.

"To First Miss Qi, of course, Second Miss was also talked about just now. Maybe there will be a gift for Second Miss in a while!" the old maid grinned and came to bow to Qin Wanru.

All the people in the mansion knew that Madam of Duke Xing liked Qin Wanru, and Qi Rongzhi was just the result of a coincidence!

### **Chapter 279 Standing in the Way and Insulting**

In the courtyard, Qin Wanru was stopped ferociously by Qi Rongzhi. "Qin Wanru, now I am the adopted daughter of Madam of Duke Xing and the Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion, but why are you always showing off in front of Madam of Duke Xing, getting her to send you gifts time and again!"

Qin Wanru stopped, raised her beautiful brows in a dignified and composed manner, and smiled indifferently and coldly. "First Miss Qi, this is still our mansion, right?"

"What do you mean?" Qi Rongzhi was stunned and confused.

"This is still our mansion, not Duke Xing's Mansion, so I don't know why First Miss Qi is so confident that she can shout at me in this place."

Qin Wanru smiled coldly, took a look at her calmly, as she said this.

Such eyes and such behavior almost made Qi Rongzhi explode with anger. She pointed at Qin Wanru and flushed. "Qin Wanru, look at my status, and look at yours!"

"First Miss Qi, enlighten me, what is my status and what is yours? This is but a title, a so-called adopted daughter, even without a ceremony to acknowledge your position. First Miss Qi, are you proud of yourself?"

Qin Wanru's eyes became even calmer, as she looked at Qi Rongzhi from head to toe. Her face showed no scorn, but the insinuation in her words made Qi Rongzhi want to rush over and slap Qin Wanru twice.

"Qin Wanru, you are so uneducated!" Qi Rongzhi gritted her teeth and said.

"I am uneducated? First Miss Qi, what do you do mean?" Qin Wanru said lightly.

"Yes, you are an uneducated b\*stard! Look at you, a b\*stard picked up from somewhere, but you consider yourself as the daughter of the General's Mansion!" Qi Rongzhi was infuriated by Qin Wanru's scornful attitude, and shouted angrily.

"I was picked up?" Qin Wanru sneered. "First Miss Qi, you can eat randomly, but you can't talk randomly!"

"I am not. You are someone who has been picked up. In the past, Madam Di told it to my mother. At that time, many madams heard it, not only my mother, in fact!"

Qi Rongzhi flushed and continued arguing.

Previously, she had persuaded Madam of Duke Xing successfully, not to adopt Qin Wanru, but herself. She thought she had found Qin Wanru's flaw. Now, goaded by Qin Wanru, she resurrected this matter for her good.

"First Miss Qi, you dare say it, so you should have the courage to admit it. Go, go, go, let's go and see my father. Can you say it again in front of him?"

Qin Wanru took one step forward and grabbed Qi Rongzhi's hand, ready to take her to Qin Huaiyong.

Hearing they were going to see Qin Huaiyong, Qi Rongzhi's momentum vanished. She panicked, pushed away Qin Wanru's hand, and, putting on empty airs, said, "I am not afraid of going to see your father at all, and I will go after I get evidence from my mother."

"You have evidence? What evidence?" Qin Wanru was shocked.

"Of course, there is evidence to prove that you are not General Qin's biological daughter. You are but a b\*stard picked up from somewhere!" Qi Rongzhi did not feel confident, but her voice became even louder. She glared at Qin Wanru as she said this, as if her mother really did have the evidence about Qin Wanru's identity.

"First Miss Qi, remember what you said today. If you can't prove anything, you should stay three feet away whenever you see me. If I am present, you must stay away, or..." Qin Wanru lowered her voice, eyed Qi Rongzhi with an eerily cold look, and bared her snow-white teeth at her, giving off a gruesome air.



Qi Rongzhi took two steps back subconsciously. Right now, all her momentum was lost. Stuttering, she wanted to say something defensive, but she saw Qin Wanru smiling scornfully and walked away with Yujie, ignoring her.

Just as Qin Wanru walked past her, Qi Rongzhi suddenly realized that if she caught up with her now, it would be a little embarrassing. Plus, just now when she confronted Qin Wanru, she was the loser. For now, she dared not pursue her anymore.

"Miss, let's go back now. Earlier, the supervisor of Duke Xing's Mansion said she wanted to see you about something in a while!" Chunyi walked over and whispered to her. Compared to Qi Rongzhi, she was clear that this was Qin's Mansion, and dared not show her arrogance here.

For her Miss, joining Duke Xing's Mansion was something very good, but obviously, Madam of Duke Xing didn't take her Miss so seriously. She just sent a few gifts and asked them to move to Duke Xing's Mansion to live. Yet, after such a long time, she had not said anything.

Today she sent gifts, but mainly to Second Miss Qin.

As a clever servant girl, she was clear that if her Miss continued to be so arrogant, she would not be allowed to stay in Ningyuan Army General's Mansion, let alone Duke Xing's Mansion.

"Humph, little b\*tch!" Qi Rongzhi glared at Qin Wanru's back angrily and cursed in a low voice. The more she thought about it, the angrier she became. She thought that Madam of Duke Xing had a higher opinion of Qin Wanru, only because Qin Wanru pleased her on purpose. Now she was her adopted daughter, but why did Qin Wanru try to compete with her to please Madam of Duke Xing?

Thinking about this, she couldn't help rushing out to look for Qin Wanru. When she heard that Qin Wanru had gone out, she went to the yard to wait for her.

Unexpectedly, not only did she fail to vent her anger, but she was also angered. Now, she could not bear the insult. "Chunyi, has my mother's letter arrived?"

She had sent a letter to Jiangzhou Magistrate's wife to ask about Qin Wanru's origin. She knew her mother had the evidence, but before she came to the capital, her mother did not tell her anything.

She must trample on Qin Wanru, to stop Qin Wanru from being arrogant in front of her.

"Miss, this matter...might just be a rumor that Madam heard!" Chunyi told her in a low voice.

"This must be true!" Qi Rongzhi could not be easily persuaded and, gritting her teeth, said.

"Miss...what if Madam sends a letter and says she has no evidence?" Chunyi said anxiously as she found Qi Rongzhi to be so stubborn.

"No evidence?" Qi Rongzhi sneered and turned to look at a corner near them. "Even if my mother does not have it, Qin Yuru must have it, right?"

Just now, she came up with another idea. "In this mansion, I should not be the only one who wants Qin Wanru dead!

"Now Qin Yuru may also want to trample Qin Wanru to death..."

“Go, let’s go and see First Miss Qin!” Qi Rongzhi’s face relaxed a little as she thought it through. Then, she turned and went to Qin Yuru’s courtyard.

“First Miss, this...First Miss Qin is now being detained. Is it convenient to visit her?” Chunyi scuttled a few steps, caught up with her, and said.

“It should be convenient, I will just go and see her. Previously in Jiangzhou, we were good friends. Now she is being punished, and I will pay her a visit and help her to copy some of the Woman Precepts. This also shows our relationship as sisters!” Qi Rongzhi sneered.

Now she had come up with a reason!

After she was angered by Qin Wanru, her fury began to burn ferociously in the chest. The fire was so strong that she had to let it out! “Why should the little b\*tch Qin Wanru trample on my head...”

Qin Wanru was heading for Old Madam’s Xinning Pavilion. When she arrived, Madam Dowager was talking in the room. As a servant girl raised the door curtain, Qin Wanru went in and saw Madam of Duke Xing’s servant Nanny Sheng talking with Madam Dowager happily. Both of them were smiling.

This was such a harmonious atmosphere!

When she saw Qin Wanru, Nanny Sheng hurried over and bowed. “Second Miss, our madam has sent me to see you again!”

“Thank you, Nanny Sheng!” Qin Wanru turned sideways slightly to bow. This bow was not for Nanny Sheng, but to her master, Madam of Duke Xing.

“Second Miss, we heard that you will be attending the palace banquet. Our madam is very happy and specially sent me to bring you a gift.” Nanny Sheng grinned and said, pointing at a box on the table. A servant girl went over and opened it. Inside, a pair of jade bracelets as transparent as water, could be seen.

“This pair of bracelets is our madam’s gift to you, Second Miss. You are about to go to the palace and will meet so many dignitaries, and it’s good to dress up beautifully! At this palace banquet, Misses are always dressed in their most exquisite styles!”

“This...how can I dare accept!” Qin Wanru shook her head and refused, because she knew the jade bracelets were of great value, especially when she saw their transparent material.

“Zhuozhuo, accept it, this is with the good wishes of Madam of Duke Xing!” Madam Dowager suddenly said with a smile.

A trace of profoundness flashed in Qin Wanru’s eyes. Madam Dowager was not a short-sighted woman and would not have asked her to accept such an expensive gift without reason, especially when this was a gift from Madam of Duke Xing.

Since the matter from before, although Qin’s Mansion had not done anything to Nanny Sheng, Qin Huaiyong and Madam Dowager should be clear that Madam of Duke Xing’s intent was not friendly, but why did Madam Dowager still ask her to accept the gift in this situation?

She thought of it this way, but she did not let it show on her face. She bowed sideways to Madam Dowager and said softly, "Yes, grandma!"

Seeing that Qin Wanru accepted it, Nanny Sheng smiled even more broadly. As she waved her hand, the servant girl closed the box.

"Madam Dowager, about this matter, I still have to trouble Second Miss." Nanny Sheng referred to something and said.

"Actually, it is no trouble, and I also need to thank Madam of Duke Xing!" Madam Dowager said politely.

"Madam Dowager, you are too courteous. Since the matter is settled, I should go back, our madam is still waiting for the message in the mansion," Nanny Sheng said, so she said goodbye to Madam Dowager.

Madam Dowager smiled and asked Nanny Duan to see her off.

Two clever people walked out of the door, one after the other.

As soon as Nanny Sheng left, Madam Dowager beckoned to Qin Wanru warmly, and the latter came over.

Madam Dowager held Qin Wanru's hand, signaled to her to sit down beside her, and then asked slowly, "Zhuozhuo, you were surprised that I asked you to accept the gift of Madam of Duke Xing, right?"

Qin Wanru nodded, and her long eyelashes fluttered a couple of times. She did not want to ask, but her white, tender, little face was filled with questions, which meant she was really confused!

Madam Dowager's behavior was so strange today!

## **Chapter 280 Ancestors' Bracelets**

"We have to accept the gift!" Madam Dowager heaved a sigh, her smile fading away. "I also know about the previous actions of Madam of Duke Xing. It seems that she has colluded with that side, wanting to deal with your mother and you. I just don't know why that side agreed to collude with this madam!"

Madam Dowager's expression was a little cold.

No one was stupid. Be it about Nanny Sheng's matter on that day or the family members that Shui Ruolan's ex-husband Qin Huaiyong found, Madam Dowager knew about them all. So, how come she did not know about the unfriendly intent of Madam of Duke Xing?

She was also very wary of Madam of Duke Xing.

Although Nanny Sheng came to send gifts today, Madam Dowager did not intend to accept them, after she knew about this matter.

She was not sure if the Madam of Duke Xing would do such a thing for Madam Di!

"Grandma, so why did you accept the pair of bracelets?" Qin Wanru looked curiously at the pair of bracelets on top of the box Yujie brought, and said.

Just now, she had seen the bracelets from a distance and knew they were of great value, but after taking a careful look, she found they were quite different from ordinary bracelets. The gold ornaments on the outside of each bracelet were made in the simple and old style, and each bracelet looked even brighter and more beautiful, due to the two rubies on them.

At a glance, one would think the pair of bracelets was not like one customized from a shop, but more like one handed down by ancestors.

"The bracelets are from the ancestors of our Qin's Mansion. At that time, something bad happened to your grandfather, and your father was still young. I had no choice but to sell the family treasures to save him. The bracelets were sold at that time. For this reason, I knelt in front of the ancestral tablets all night, begging for their forgiveness! But in the end, though I spent a lot of money, your grandfather still..."

Speaking of this, Madam Dowager felt sad, her eyes turning red. Putting down Qin Wanru's hand, she wiped her tears with her handkerchief.

"Grandma, why were the bracelets in the hands of Madam of Duke Xing?" Qin Wanru took her grandma's other hand in a reassuring manner, and asked softly.

"I don't know, either. The family I sold the bracelets to was not from Duke Xing's Mansion!" Madam Dowager shook her head and said.

"Then...what does Madam of Duke Xing want me to do, for returning the bracelets?" Qin Wanru looked at the pair of conspicuous bracelets, finding them inexplicably familiar. She rubbed the section between her brows lightly, closed and opened her shimmery eyes a couple of times, and said. She also seemed to have seen these pair of bracelets in her previous life!

But she could not think where, and only felt that they were somewhat familiar!

The bracelets were from the ancestors of Qin's Mansion. Just now, she did not feel that they were familiar at first glance, but after careful observation, she felt they were a little familiar.

She picked up one bracelet and rubbed the rubies on it casually.

"Zhuzhuo, there is a small piece missing, right? It is because I knocked it carelessly when I was young. Later, I stowed the pair of bracelets away. Initially, I intended to send it out as a betrothal gift when your father married, but...later, it was gone!" Madam Dowager heaved a sigh and said.

Qin Wanru looked at the bracelets in her hands, in surprise. If Madam Dowager had not mentioned it, she would never have noticed. The place where her finger pressed did have a tiny recess, and she could feel that a tiny piece was missing, but it could not be seen at first glance. She could not find the recess so easily.

"Grandma, what does Madam of Duke Xing mean?" Qin Wanru bit her lip, suppressed her heart's strong desire, and expanded the topic.

She had long known that her previous life's memory was not complete. It seemed that she could not recall some crucial parts. So, it was possible that she had seen the pair of bracelets in her previous life.

But in her previous life, it should not be the time that the pair of bracelets was returned to her grandma. So, she did not know where she had seen the pair, in her previous life, and it looked a little familiar!

"You are going to attend the banquet, and it happens that a niece of Duke Xing's Mansion also wants to go with the reputation of Madam of Duke Xing, but no other Misses of their mansion will be going to the palace. So, she wants you to take care of her, if..." Madam Dowager felt embarrassed when she spoke of this, looking at Qin Wanru hesitantly.

"No other Misses of Duke Xing's Mansion will attend the banquet? What about the Misses of their mansion?" Qin Wanru's attention was drawn by the condition—"take care of her".

"First Miss is not in the capital, Second Miss is ill, Third Miss tripped and fell a few days ago, and Fourth Miss will need to take care of her sister. All of them can't go!" Madam Dowager said.

"Duke Xing's Mansion is powerful in the capital city. Even if their mansion's niece has a low competence, it is also impossible to ask others to take care of her, but why me?" Qin Wanru's eyes were deep with unseen sharpness.

Madam of Duke Xing was different from Jiangzhou's Magistrate Qi, who only knew their family in the capital, and had to let Qi Rongzhi stay in their family.

"About this, the old maid of Madam of Duke Xing also explained, saying that this Miss's status is not prominent. Previously, her family was prominent, but their status has declined, so she is afraid to stay with the Misses from the great aristocratic families, afraid they will ridicule her. It happens you will be going to the palace, so Madam of Duke Xing asked you!" "To thank you, she sent the pair of bracelets!"

Madam Dowager became sad again instantly, as she looked at the bracelets and remembered that they were finally sent back by an outsider.

This explanation also sounded reasonable. Although Duke Xing's Mansion was powerful, the niece seemed to be a girl of a declining, small aristocratic family. When she faced the Misses of the great aristocratic families, she was bound to feel self-abased and unwilling to travel with them. This was also acceptable.

But the pair of bracelets was still an expensive gift!

Asking Qin Wanru to take care of her was not something difficult. Two of them could go together. It was unnecessary to send such an expensive gift.

"Grandma, does Madam of Duke Xing have any other requests?" Qin Wanru said, as the look in her eyes changed slightly.

"This...is a little difficult, in fact. Zhuozhuo, if you are unwilling, just forget it. At most, I only need to return the pair of bracelets to Madam of Duke Xing!"

Madam Dowager sighed as if she was caught in a dilemma and looked a little depressed.

"Grandma, tell me, maybe this is not difficult!" Qin Wanru shook Madam Dowager's hands and said. From Madam Dowager's appearance, she could tell how much the pair of bracelets meant to her, because of its value, as well as it being an heirloom, which had been handed down by the ancestors. Madam Dowager felt sorry before the ancestors of the Qin Family, for selling off their bracelets.

Now, Madam Dowager desperately wanted to take back the pair of bracelets!

Madam of Duke Xing's gift was just the one Madam Dowager wanted, and could not refuse.

"She wants you to take her niece to Rui'an Great Elder Princess!" Madam Dowager said helplessly. She really did not want to give up the pair of bracelets.

"To Rui'an Great Elder Princess?" Qin Wanru was a little shocked.

"Right, but if Rui'an Great Elder Princess really does not like the Miss, it's not your fault!" Madam Dowager said.

"Then...the gift is still too expensive!" Qin Wanru looked calm, and continued asking with a smile.

"One reason for sending the gift is to apologize to you. The old maid of Duke Xing's Mansion said that when Madam of Duke Xing came here that day, Countess Yong asked her to see Madam Di and Yuru. The map was from Countess Yong. Madam Di asked her maid to take out a letter, and Madam of Duke Xing also thought it was a family letter, but never thought there were other twists and turns to it!"

"For this, she has scolded Countess Yong, but she still feels sorry for you. By taking this chance to ask you for help, she sent back the bracelets. This can also be treated as her apology and shows her sincerity!"

Madam Dowager explained.

Not only gratitude, but also an apology. If it was only her gratitude, the gift was too expensive, but if she felt guilty and sent a gift that was a little expensive, it was possible.

What was significant was that Madam of Duke Xing was so careful and had specially sent the ancestors' bracelets of Qin's Mansion. No doubt, she was quite sincere.

As for the matter of that day, although no one explored it further, it still meant that Duke Xing's Mansion did wrong. Now Madam of Duke Xing did not come herself, but she had sent her old maid to apologize, send the gift, and also find an excuse to make the two families closer. This was also acceptable.

Everything was reasonable. It was perfect!

But Qin Wanru did not believe in such perfection. Madam Dowager might think what Madam of Duke Xing did was acceptable, but Qin Wanru had already known this was another plot of Madam of Duke Xing.

Madam of Duke Xing was really smart. With these words and an apology, she managed to allay most of her grandma's suspicion immediately, and her grandma even thought she was quite sincere.

When confronting Madam of Duke Xing, she should not be slack at all!

When all these things were put together, the sincere heart of Madam of Duke Xing could be seen. Asking her to help was but a reasonable reason to send the pair of bracelets. It was only a random favor, nothing so important.

Qin Wanru sneered silently, but did not show it on her face, and put down the bracelets, which Yujie brought to the table in front of Madam Dowager. "Grandma, Madam of Duke Xing is so sincere, so you should have no worries. Anyway, taking a person to Rui'an Great Elder Princess is not something so different. Giving me this task, Madam of Duke Xing is also showing her friendliness to our mansion!"

"I also think so, but I still feel a little uneasy!" Madam Dowager looked at Qin Wanru, tucked her falling hair behind her ears, and looked worried. "Zhuozhuo, I don't know why I feel we can't believe everything Madam of Duke Xing says. When you go to the palace, please be careful. If this Miss behaves without observing the rules, just ignore her! We know the pair of bracelets is in Duke Xing's Mansion, so we can use other ways to get it back!"

Madam Dowager was also very sophisticated. Although she lost her normal demeanor for an instant upon seeing the pair of bracelets, she was back to her normal self now. With the previous matter as her reference, no matter how perfect Madam of Duke Xing's explanation was, she would feel it was untrustworthy!

"Grandma, don't worry!" Qin Wanru smiled, but her shimmery eyes looked cold!