

Medical Princess 321

Chapter 321 True Feeling or Hypocrisy?

"Can you take it out and show it?" Old Madam said.

"Yes, Old Madam!" Qin Yuru took out a seal from her cuff and presented it respectfully.

An old maid came over to take the seal and transferred it to Old Madam on the couch. Old Madam saw the pattern on it clearly and her tears fell down. Suddenly her face was full of tears.

"Old Madam, please don't be so sad. Now that you have got news now, it is better than no news!" The old maid who presented the seal comforted her in a low voice.

"Why is he so cruel? He just left at that time. He really forgot his mother when he had a wife. And he had left for... so many years without any message. He, he..." Old Madam couldn't help but cry and her tears fell down constantly.

"Old Madam, don't be so sad. The plan of heir of the duke was temporary and he did not really want to fight against you... But who would have expected that this would happen... If heir of the duke knew this... he would not have done it!" The old maid comforted Old Madam in a low voice.

There were also several servant girls in the room standing with their heads lowered, who were just like clay sculptures.

"But he... Why didn't he just understand that for whom I did all these things... He had got married for such a long time without a child... Could it be that she was right..." Old Madam cried and said angrily.

"Old Madam you are right. Your decision at that time was certainly right. If heir of the duke knows that, he would certainly agree with you... But now the accident happened, right... If heir of the duke was here now, he would have already known his mistake. Old Madam really did everything for him..." The old maid continued to persuade her.

These words seemed to comfort Old Madam and she wiped her tears, raised her head with red eyes, turned around with soft eyes and waved to Qin Yuru. "Child, come here, let me see you!"

"Yes!" Qin Yuru said softly, stepped forward, and walked in front of Old Madam.

Old Madam's eyes fell on the face of Qin Yuru softly, and the color of her eyes was very soft. She looked at Qin Yuru up and down.

"You see, Old Madam. She really looks like heir of the duke!" the old maid said on one side with interest.

"You see, her eyes are exactly like those of heir of the duke!"

Old Madam nodded, then said carelessly, "The other parts of her are not like his but her eyes are really like his."

"Other parts should be like those of princess..." The old maid fawned on her with smile, but she was interrupted by Old Madam impolitely. "Don't tell me her things!"

"Yes, yes, I said something wrong!" The old maid apologized carefully.

It was true that she had said something wrong. Old Madam always did not like the former Princess. That she mentioned her made the Old Madam unhappy.

"Child, have you thought about coming to Duke Xing's Mansion?" Old Madam looked at Qin Yuru kindly and said.

"Old Madam... We need to plan it for a long time." The old maid reminded Old Madam of that on one side.

Old Madam nodded, looked at Qin Yuru and reached out to touch her head. "If your mother beats you again, just come to find me. I will help you!"

She was overwhelming with such an attitude to help Qin Yuru deal with everything. Qin Yuru's eyes became red and she nodded hard. "Thank you, Old Madam!"

"You don't need to thank me. I am your..." Old Madam paused here, and didn't say any more after a thought. She sighed heavily. "Your mother is wayward!"

Qin Yuru didn't understand her words for a while. She didn't know she was blaming Madam Di or other people. But looking at Old Madam's absent-minded eyes without any focus, Qin Yuru didn't think that she was talking about Madam Di.

But the appearance of Old Madam was a little frightening. There were no people where she looked at. But Old Madam seemed to see somebody there and became angry on her face. "See what you have done! You have made such a noise with just several servant girls sent to you. You don't have the royal manner."

"Was Old Madam talking to herself and did she see anything?" Qin Yuru couldn't help but feel frightened. She stepped back subconsciously, seeming to be scared.

"Old Madam, Old Madam..." After the old maid stared at Qin Yuru, she comforted Old Madam with a soft voice. Seeing that was useless, she reached out to stretch her sleeves.

Old Madam's eyes moved a little bit, and she seemed to be awakened by her old maid. She turned to look at Qin Yuru with kind eyes. "Do you want to be the granddaughter of Duke Xing's Mansion?"

The question was as abrupt as before, and Qin Yuru looked like she did not know what to answer.

Seeing that Qin Yuru stayed still there, Old Madam seemed to know that Qin Yuru could not accept it at once. She smiled and said, "Go back and ask your mother that would she let you be the granddaughter of our Duke Xing's Mansion. I will ask Wanyan to take you as her foster daughter. How do you think about it?"

The so-called Wanyan was the name of Madam of Duke Xing.

"Thank you Old Madam!" Qin Yuru bit her lips, feeling surprised and excited.

"This was originally the fate. When I saw you, I felt that it was fateful! Now you can go home!" Old Madam sighed and thought that the Madam in Qin's Mansion wouldn't refuse this thing.

Things were changing so quickly that Old Madam could not calm down yet. She had something in her heart and waved to Qin Yuru to let her go home.

"Yes, Old Madam!" Qin Yuru's heart fell to the ground, and she couldn't hide the happiness on her face. She lowered her head in a respectful way and said, hiding the joy in her eyes.

Just as what her mother said, as long as the Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion saw this seal, she would put forward the statement to let her come to the Duke Xing's Mansion. This was originally Qin Yuru's and Madam Di's plan.

Before she was a little frightened. But she didn't think that things could go so smoothly.

Since then, she was the Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion, who was exalted among Misses from aristocratic family. Thinking about this, Qin Yuru couldn't help but laugh. Qi Rongzhi was nothing, who was only accepted by Madam of Duke Xing without any care. She was the only person that got the affection of Old Madam of Duke Xing.

As for Qin Wanru, in the future, she would hold her in her hands. If she wanted her to die, she would never live.

Of course, there was also Shui Ruolan. Her mother had said that as long as she could successfully enter Duke Xing's Mansion, her father would certainly let her mother go out. Shui Ruolan wanted to fight against her mother. How could she?

A woman without any background dared to think about the position of legal wife in Qin's Mansion. Even if she was pregnant, her mother would not let the child be born.

After retreating to the outside gate of the courtyard, Qin Yuru couldn't hide the joy on her face. She laughed softly with a low voice and turned around with a handkerchief covering her face, afraid of being seen by others.

"Old Madam, she is the daughter of heir of the duke?" Qin Yuru had left and the room became quiet. After a while, the old maid asked cautiously.

"She is the daughter of my first son. I have found her after so many years. But the child is pitiful for regarding another person as her mother for a long time. Seeing from the behavior of her just now, she would protect her adoptive mother. Even if her adoptive mother treated her like this, she didn't say anything bad about her. And she even cheated herself!"

Old Madam sighed and said.

"First Miss Qin's temper is just the same as that of Old Madam before. From this we could also believe that First Miss Qin is the daughter of heir of the duke!"

The old maid said quickly with interest.

Old Madam nodded again and again with a slight smile on her face, but then the smile disappeared. "Can't I recognize her publicly?"

"The meaning of the Madam is this. You know that Rui'an Great Elder Princess dislikes our mansion all the time. If we recognize her publicly in a big way, some other things would happen. Moreover, if we

finally really recognize her, Rui'an Great Elder Princess would take her away just like what she did on Master Hao. Our mansion had brought him up for so many years carefully. But when Great Elder Princess said what she wanted to Empress Dowager, Master Hao was taken away!"

Her words made Old Madam become angry on her face. She patted the case beside her hands. "It was so deceiving. I didn't like people in the mansion of Rui'an Great Elder Princess at first because she would have a poor fate. Now it was true in that she lost her father when she was young!"

At that time, Old Madam was extremely opposed to that marriage. But she could do nothing because heir of the duke Shao Jiang fell in love with Qinghua Princess and asked the emperor to allow them to get married.

"That's the truth. Old Madam's words were always right," the old maid answered carefully. If the words came out, she might lose her life as an old maid.

But at this time she said in front of Old Madam, which seemed to be very sincere.

Old Madam sighed heavily and kept silent for a while. She said after a while, "Just follow what Wanyan said. After all we let her go back to our mansion. Whether she could admit her ancestors is not a big thing. After all she is only a daughter. Although she is the daughter of my first son, we don't care it so much because of Hao'er. But the child is suffered for being the real Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion with a name of foster daughter!"

Speaking of this, Old Madam felt sad, her eyes turning red. She wiped her tears with her handkerchief.

"Old Madam, don't be sad. Your body can't stand it. Besides, even if First Miss Qin can't clearly recognize her ancestors, Old Madam loves her a little more so that people should know that although First Miss Qin is the foster daughter of Madam, she gets the affection of you. The value of her would be increased."

The old maid comforted her again in a low voice.

Old Madam nodded and said, "I can only think like this now! The newly received girl with the last name Qi should be put aside. Yuru is my own granddaughter, so let Wanyan pay more attention to her. Don't treat her the same as the girl with the last name Qi!"

"Yes, I will explain to Madam later and tell her that you have recognized the identity of First Miss Qin!" the old maid nodded and said.

After saying this, she seemed to have something else to say. But she felt it difficult to say it out.

Immediately, Old Madam felt her embarrassment and wiped her tears with her handkerchief and said, "Say, what else do you want to say!"

"It's that shadow wall of heir of the duke. Madam asked me to ask..." The old maid became more hesitated and said with a helpless face.

Chapter 322 Eldest Grandson and Youngest Grandson, Which One Is More Important?

"I did agree to cover the screen wall with paint, didn't I?" Old Madam knew what the old maid was saying and said unhappily.

The courtyard was prepared for the generations of the heirs of Duke Xing's Mansion to live in, but it had been unoccupied for so many years. Today, to request for the title of the heir for her eldest grandson, letting him live in the courtyard was indispensable,

Thus, the characters on the screen wall must be cleaned.

If the current heir resided in the courtyard, the characters on the screen wall at the gate were still the former heir's, and the two owners were not father and son, the latter would feel uncomfortable and this would also bring some bad luck.

Old Madam liked her eldest grandson very much, and so she was unwilling to see that he was gossiped about. Besides, Old Madam always cared more about the theory of "bad luck". In the past, one of the important reasons why she didn't appreciate Infanta Qinghua was that Infanta Qinghua's father died early. So, Old Madam thought she was an inauspicious woman, unwilling to let her marry into Duke Xing's Mansion.

Although her mother was Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

"Master Hao doesn't allow the covering. Just now he also made serious trouble in the courtyard, and Madam doesn't know how to deal with it, either!" the old maid said helplessly.

"What, Hao'er has come back, but where is he? Why not ask him to see me?" Old Madam never thought Great Elder Princess would allow Shao Yuanhao to return. Immediately, she was quite surprised and said, ignoring the great trouble Shao Yuanhao made. Previously, Shao Yuanhao also made lots of trouble in Duke Xing's Mansion!

"Master Hao has left!" the old maid said anxiously.

"What, has left? What's wrong? Why not tell me when Hao'er came back!" Old Madam went furious.

"It's not that we didn't come to tell you. A short while ago, Master Hao had been playing outside and didn't enter the inner courtyard. Today we had so many guests, and Madam didn't notice him. When she noticed him, she had found him making trouble in the inner courtyard. Later, he also turned over the ink buckets and then returned to Rui'an Great Elder Princess' Mansion!"

The old maid was worried. As she found Old Madam was angry, she explained instantly.

"Why not ask him to stay?" Old Madam said angrily, looking terrifying. Shao Yuanhao had been living with her since he was very young. Besides, his parents had passed away, and so Old Madam gave him special care. If Rui'an Great Elder Princess were not powerful and had also claimed that Shao Yuanhao was her only family member, Old Madam would not have given him up, no matter what the causes.

"Master Hao was very angry at that time, and no one dared to stop him. He also said that no one was allowed to cover the screen wall with paint. Otherwise, he would act rudely and would storm into our mansion with Rui'an Great Elder Princess. He said he would send people to demolish the wall and carry it to Great Elder Princess's Mansion!"

The old maid gave a wry smile with very deep wrinkles.

“Naughty child, naughty words!” Old Madam heaved a sigh, and her anger was eased by Shao Yuanhao’s childish words. How could that wall be carried out of Duke Xing’s Mansion? If it was demolished, it would not be the original wall, let alone the style of the characters on it would not be reserved.

At this time, Old Madam only thought Shao Yuanhao said so only because he was an ignorant child.

Although she had given the permission, Old Madam felt a little hesitant now. She knitted her eyebrows tightly and leaned back. “If so, don’t demolish the wall because it is the only legacy he has!”

“Old Madam, if so, what about First Young Master? The position of the heir has not been approved for a long time, and the message leaked from the palace says that our First Young Master doesn’t have a righteous position in our mansion. That is the courtyard of the heir. Could we keep it unoccupied forever?” the old maid said with a flattery smile.

These words addressed the matter Old Madam cared about most. How could the position of the Heir of Duke Xing’s Mansion be postponed again and again because of the small legacy for her?!

She loved her youngest grandson, but she loved her eldest grandson even more.

Her eldest grandson who always behaved well and had manners was the pride of Duke Xing’s Mansion, and so Old Madam loved him as she loved her eldest granddaughter.

Compared with him, her youngest grandson had to be neglected, but if Shao Yuanhao didn’t return in the future, he would be the heir of Rui’an Great Elder Princess, and her son only married a wife but was not married into that family. Thinking of this, Old Madam became angry and irritated, feeling Rui’an Great Elder Princess had gone too far.

Surnamed Shao, Hao’er was the blood of Duke Xing’s Mansion, but with the reason that she didn’t have other family members, Rui’an Great Elder Princess cruelly separated her from Hao’er, the blood of her family.

She didn’t know what Rui’an Great Elder Princess had said to Hao’er so that he didn’t come to see her at first when he returned to Duke Xing’s Mansion, and so she was angry. Thinking about this, she more strongly felt that Shao Yuanhao living with Rui’an Great Elder Princess was not a good thing.

However, she could not get Hao’er back. Although the Empress didn’t say anything directly, what she meant was clear: now Rui’an Great Elder Princess only had this family member and let Shao Yuanhao stay with her; as for the future matters, they could negotiate in the future, let alone Hao’er himself was now also willing!

These words made Old Madam wordless, and she could not ask for justice from anyone else.

This was not only the idea of the Empress, but it should also be the idea of Empress Dowager, for Rui’an Great Elder Princess had a good relationship with Empress Dowager.

Angry and wronged, Old Madam even more strongly felt that her previous decision was correct. Infanta Qinghua had a short life, and Old Madam’s son had bad luck because of her. Now the two children even lived an extremely painful life.

In her heart, Old Madam already regarded Qin Yuru as her biological granddaughter.

"When we adopt the daughter of Qi's Mansion with gentle words in a while, take a pair of jade bracelets to her in my name and tell Madam this is my idea; and also go to my storehouse and take the pair of blood jade bracelets to Yuru," Old Madam instructed.

Giving a pair of jade bracelets to Qi Rongzhi and another pair to Qin Yuru sounded fair, but the meaning and the gifts were quite different.

When Qi Rongzhi became the adopted daughter of Madam of Duke Xing, she also became the adopted granddaughter of Old Madam. On such a day, Old Madam should give a gift.

Her adopted granddaughter Qi Rongzhi only got a pair of ordinary bracelets, but the guest Qin Yuru got a pair of much more expensive blood jade bracelets. This was the idea of Old Madam, or perhaps the idea of Duke Xing's Mansion.

"Just say she and I have a predestined relationship, and I like her very much!" Old Madam closed her eyes slightly, thought for a moment, and said. She thought she could only do this now and believed Madam of Duke Xing would understand. As for her daughter-in-law who was also her niece, Old Madam was very satisfied. In the beginning, she wanted her niece to be engaged to his eldest son.

To make the lady and her eldest son engaged, she brought the lady to her mansion a long time ago, hoping they would live together and build a romantic relationship, but she never thought her eldest son had a crush on Infanta Qinghua. At last, to marry Infanta Qinghua, he ignored her opinion and went to the palace to implore the emperor to issue an edict to allow them to marry.

Every time she thought of this, she would feel quite unhappy and also sorry for her niece.

Fortunately, her second son and niece were obedient. When her niece heard of the emperor's edict, she cried for several days in her room and then accepted everything she arranged for her.

Old Madam felt satisfied and guilty but didn't want to let her go, and so she had to marry her to her second son. In the eyes of Old Madam, her second son was much incomparable to his eldest son in whatever means, including appearance and other aspects.

But the worldly affairs were always unexpected. Finally, Duke Xing's position was inherited by her second son. Thinking of this, Old Madam felt sad but also thought this was no doubt a compensation for Madam of Duke Xing.

Anyway, she finally became Madam of Duke Xing. Perhaps, this was something arranged by Heaven, and her niece was the rightful Madam of Duke Xing. Since her eldest son disagreed with her and Heaven, he had such bad luck at last!

Thinking of this, Old Madam joined her palms before her and murmured the words of a sutra.

"OK, I will go in a while!" the old maid nodded and said. As she found Old Madam began murmuring the words of a Buddhist sutra, she winked at the servant girls on the side.

The servant girls began moving smartly.

The servant girls took out a sutra book, a string of beads, and a small wooden fish, put them in front of Old Madam, and then left respectfully.

Old Madam closed her eyes, wore the Buddhist beads on her neck, skillfully picked up the wooden fish beside her, knocked it gently, and murmured a few words. She merely opened her eyes to read the book before her when she forgot some words and then continued murmuring.

The old maid left silently and said to the girl servants at the door, "Old Madam is murmuring Buddhist sutras and doesn't want to be disturbed. If Old Madam has any needs, go inside immediately to serve her, and I am going outside to send the bracelets to Madam!"

"Yes, Nanny Yu!" the servant girls bent their knees and said.

Nanny Yu looked at Old Madam behind her again. When she saw Old Madam murmuring solemnly in a sitting position on the low bed, she knew Old Madam wouldn't stop in a short while and then turned and left.

After looking for Qin Yuru along the way but seeing no her trace, Qin Wanru turned and went back. On the way, she saw many Misses and madams flocking to one direction and heard that the adopting ceremony Madam of Duke Xing held had begun. It was being held inside the flower hall over there, and so she followed the crowd to the place.

More and more people appeared on the way. Everyone had learned the news and was heading for that direction!

Qin Wanru came with the crowd to a flower hall, which was very big but was not the previous one.

From a distance, she saw her grandmother and Shui Ruolan were there. Although they were not on the main seats, they were somewhat near them. Beside their seats were also seats, which were arranged in a fan shape. Behind the front seats were some smaller chairs, which were prepared for the madams and Misses from different mansions.

Coincidentally, Qin Yuru had already arrived, just behind Madam Dowager.

A small girl servant was standing at the door, watching. When she saw Qin Wanru appear at the door, she came out of the crowd immediately and said to her with a grin, "Second Miss Qin, you've finally come. Your mansion's Madam Dowager wants you to go over quickly!"

Chapter 323 Fighting with Open and Secret Means

As she nodded, Qin Wanru went in with the servant girl and came to the back of Old Madam Qin.

When Old Madam Qin saw Qin Wanru, her slightly pale face was relaxed. She held Qin Wanru's hands with her slightly cold hands and whispered, "Zhuzhuo, where have you been?"

The sweat on her cold palms suggested that the old lady was scared!

"I just took a walk." Qin Wanru smiled and comforted Old Madam Qin. She knew that the thing that happened outside just now must have come to Old Madam Qin's ears and scared her.

"Did anyone want to frame you?" Shui Ruolan looked gloomy and also heaved a sigh of relief as she saw Qin Wanru now.

It was not convenient for her and Madam Dowager to leave, for they only had one servant and could not leave, but they heard the madams and Misses talking about the matter of Wang Shengxue as they came in sporadically. The two of them were so worried but didn't know where to look for Qin Wanru.

Qin Yuru raised her eyebrows, glancing sideways at Qin Wanru with some pride and venomous hatred.

Previously, Qin Wanru slapped her twice, and she remembered that clearly. Now she realized her dream and didn't care about Qin Wanru for the time being. When her identity was confirmed someday, she would use the power of Duke Xing's Mansion to deal with Qin Wanru and Shui Ruolan. Her mother said that, by then, her father would not dare to say anything when taking Duke Xing's Mansion into account.

With such confidence, she could ignore Qin Wanru.

"Grandma and mother, I am fine, and the trouble has been cleared. Now the person in trouble is Childe Wang, and Madam of Duke Xing also knows it."

Qin Wanru said with a smile.

"That's good. That's good. As long as you are fine!" Madam Dowager murmured these words and finally felt relieved as she saw Qin Wanru's normal appearance.

More and more people came into the flower hall, and all of them were women. By now, nearly everyone had arrived, and all the seats were almost occupied.

A long and distant chime came from nowhere, and everyone became quiet instantly.

Madam of Duke Xing announced smilingly, "Today is an auspicious day for me to adopt the daughter. I especially chose this day only because I wanted all of you to be my witnesses!"

"Congratulations, Madam of Duke Xing!" many people said with smiles in chorus.

Madam of Duke Xing smiled and nodded to thank everyone. When everyone was quiet, she said with a smile again, "The daughter I am about to adopt is Qi Rongzhi, the eldest daughter of Jiangzhou magistrate and his wife. Her parents are not in the capital, and so her elder brother has agreed to this matter and has been approved by Madam Dowager of Qin's Mansion, where she lodged temporarily. From now on, Rongzhi will live in our Duke Xing's Mansion and be treated like our mansion's Miss!"

She meant that Qi Rongzhi would be the Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion and also hoped that all the madams and Misses here could think highly of her in the future.

The banquet of Madam of Duke Xing was excessively grand. Generally speaking, asking a few relatives and friends to witness the process was enough. After all, Qi Rongzhi was only an adopted daughter and would not be recorded under the name of Madam of Duke Xing, and there was no need to make a new family tree.

Let alone Qi Rongzhi didn't have a noble identity, and it was unnecessary to hold such a grand ceremony. However, Madam of Duke Xing had held such a grand ceremony and invited so many madams and Misses of aristocratic families, and it seemed that she was quite satisfied with Miss Qi. Of course, some madams and Misses flattered her with sweet words.

In their view, Qi Rongzhi was not important at all, but that Madam of Duke Xing was happy was important.

Undoubtedly, they also admired Qi Rongzhi's good luck silently. Not only did Madam of Duke Xing like the daughter of a small Jiangzhou magistrate, but she also held such a grand banquet for her. Some madams already began thinking if there were unengaged sons in their mansions. If suitable, they could make Qi Rongzhi their daughter-in-law, for it was not that easy to marry a biological daughter of Duke Xing's Mansion.

Their eldest daughter's good name was especially widely spread. She was not only exceptionally beautiful, among the few gorgeous ladies in the capital, but she also had outstanding literary talent and good manners. Although she was now not in the capital, she was missed by many aristocratic families in the capital.

But the families that missed her were all great families, and some of the others were seriously considering the possibility of marrying Qi Rongzhi.

Two lines of neatly dressed servant girls were entering slowly from the outside, with jewelry and clothing made of brocade in their hands.

Each piece looked extremely rare.

Dressed in luxurious clothing, Qi Rongzhi walked in respectfully behind two Nannies and kowtowed to Madam of Duke Xing in front of everyone.

Madam of Duke Xing rose, lifted her up herself, took out a hairpin from a gift box, and put it into Qi Rongzhi's dark hair.

"Rongzhi, you will be my daughter in the future. If you have anything, you will need to tell me. Even if it is your marriage, I can also intervene!"

Madam of Duke Xing said with a smile.

Blushed, Qi Rongzhi lowered her head and whispered, "Yes, foster mother!"

"Good, good, good!" Madam of Duke Xing laughed as she heard "foster mother", pulled her to her side, and let her stand there. Apparently, Madam of Duke Xing had been pleased by this call, looking quite happy.

"Go to Old Madam Qin and Madam Shui, and bid them goodbye!" Madam of Duke Xing pulled Qi Rongzhi's hands and said after she laughed.

"Yes, foster mother!" Qi Rongzhi took small steps, walked in dignity past several distinguished madams, came to Old Madam Qin, and bowed low. "Since I went to Qin's Mansion, Madam Dowager and Madam Shui have been taking care of me. Thank you for that. Now I have a foster mother, and I won't need to bother Madam Dowager and Madam Shui. If Madam Dowager and Madam Shui have free time, please often come here to see me!"

"First Miss Qi, you are too courteous. Our two families are as good as one family. This is nothing!" Old Madam Qin smiled and said kindly.

Qi Rongzhi stood straight, turned her eyes from Madam Dowager to Qin Yuru and then to Qin Wanru, and invited them smilingly and warmly. "Elder Sister Yuru and Sister Wanru, please come to see me when you are free. We have grown up together since we were young, and don't let our feelings fade because I left!"

What she said sounded that her relationships with Qin Yuru and Qin Wanru were very good and also seemed that she cherished the feelings so much.

Qin Wanru didn't say anything, only bowed sideways, and glanced over Qi Rongzhi's dress, which was bought from her Butterfly Clothing Shop. Since she wore the two dresses to visit the palace last time, Madame Dong said that the shop's business had become exceptionally good. They could not nearly make the ordered clothes on time, and so she recruited many embroidered maids and let them work with others over time.

"First Miss Qi, you are really courteous, but will you not come to see us in the future? Didn't you say you would come back when you left, did you?"

Qin Yuru said with a smile. These words seemed like she was close with Qi Rongzhi and ridiculed her, but they sounded a little inexplicably jealous for the listeners.

Also, they seemed to accuse Qi Rongzhi of getting a higher status and looking down upon Qin's Mansion, and so she asked the people of Qin's Mansion to visit Duke Xing's Mansion to see her.

Of course, Qin Yuru was unhappy. Just now she was slapped twice by Qi Rongzhi. Although she had used ice to remove the swelling on her face silently, her face was still faintly painful now.

When she became the Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion, she would not let Qi Rongzhi off, either. Qi Rongzhi begged and became an adopted daughter, but she thought she was highly treasured. Qin Yuru didn't believe she could not defeat Qi Rongzhi.

The two of them had many fights before, but they did not fight each other face to face because Qi Tianyu was their mediator. After Qin Yuru and Qi Tianyu's marriage was over, the two of them fought each other even more fiercely and could fight even without good reason.

They would never care about other things.

But now in public, they just accused each other vaguely. Qin Yuru just wanted to make Qi Rongzhi unhappy and didn't want to see her smile joyfully.

Qi Rongzhi's eyes glinted with displeasure. When others didn't notice her, she cast a venomous glare at Qin Yuru, showing some coldness in her eyes. She also cursed her inwardly. When her position as the Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion was stable, she would also deal with Qin Yuru. Previously, Qin Yuru did dare to treat her brother unfairly, and then she would ruin her reputation.

She was not like her brother, who was always fooled by Qin Yuru's beauty-traps.

"Rongzhi, if you are finished, just come back, and let me introduce you to a few other madams!" The two of them were fighting in a peaceful manner, and then the voice of Madam of Duke Xing came with a happy smile at the right time. The madam seemed unaware of the "surging undercurrents", but the

madams and Misses sitting on the side turned their thoughtful eyes from Qin Yuru to Qi Rongzhi, and then from Qi Rongzhi to Qin Yuru.

Then, they smiled with unclear meanings. There were more stories in it. Several madams who knew one another looked at one another, lowered their heads silently, and curved their lips.

The adopted daughter of Duke Xing's Mansion might not be easy to get on well with. Some of the madams who saw the scene just now could not help giving up their illusion of building ties with Duke Xing's Mansion. Miss Qi could be stupid, but she shouldn't look like the one before them. She had just become the adopted daughter of Madam of Duke Xing, but she had begun provoking her previous sister.

The appearance she showed just now was finally seen by several ladies.

"Yes, foster mother!" When hearing the call of Madam of Duke Xing, Qi Rongzhi hid the fierceness in her eyes, bowed respectfully to Old Madam Qin and Shui Ruolan again, and then turned and went to Madam of Duke Xing.

Madam of Duke Xing took her hand and introduced the distinguished madams around them one by one, and these madams also gave Qi Rongzhi their "meeting gifts". Instantly, the guests and the hosts were happy in harmony!

Suddenly, a servant girl ran in, walked to Madam of Duke Xing, and said, "Madam, Old Madam has sent gifts!"

"Bring them quickly!" Madam of Duke Xing said with a smile.

The madams around here couldn't help murmuring to one another. Old Madam didn't usually care about affairs and even paid little attention to the affairs of Duke Xing's Mansion, but today she had sent a gift to First Miss Qi. It seemed that she was quite satisfied with First Miss Qi.

Many madams' look at Qi Rongzhi became hot again as they thought this way. Being adored by Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion was much more important than being adored by Madam of Duke Xing. Thus, everyone's eyes couldn't help falling on the gift boxes carried by the two servant girls coming in behind Nanny Yu.

They wanted to know how impressive Old Madam's gift would be...

Chapter 324 Expensive Gift and Ordinary Gift

"Madam, this Old Madam's gift to First Miss Qi!" Nanny Yu came over, bowed to Madam of Duke Xing, took out a gift box from a servant girl behind her, opened it, and handed it over.

The nearby ladies watched here and saw a pair of beautiful crystal-clear jade bracelets, and they could find it must be fine work. But such fine work was nothing for the Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion and did not look exceptionally precious.

The crowd couldn't help turning their eyes to the other gift box in another servant girl's hands.

"Thank Old Madam now!" Madam of Duke Xing said with a smile, asking a servant girl to take the gift box and pass it to Chunyi who followed Qi Rongzhi. Chunyi took it gingerly and backed to the side.

"Thank Old Madam for the gift!" Qi Rongzhi bowed gently and said happily, but she didn't expect such good luck. Madam of Duke Xing appreciated her, Old Madam had also sent a gift, and so many guests had seen it. This was a great honor.

"There is another gift. Old Madam means to give it to First Miss of Qin's Mansion and says she has a special predestined relationship with her!" Nanny Yu received the bow for her master and continued to talk to Madam of Duke Xing.

These words were so unexpected. First Miss of Qin's Mansion? Everyone's eyes couldn't help looking at the back of Old Madam Qin. Through the previous farce, everyone had known Qin Yuru and Qin Wanru.

"Old Madam wants to bestow First Miss Qin a gift?" Madam of Duke Xing asked curiously, "When did Old Madam see First Miss Qin?"

"Old Madam met Miss Qin just now. She felt First Miss was kind, asked her to chat for a while, felt she was congenial to her, and then sent me to bring First Miss Qin a gift when I brought a gift to Miss Qi and ask Miss Qin to visit Duke Xing's Mansion often to chat with her!"

Nanny Yu smiled and spoke about the details of this matter. Instantly, many Misses of aristocratic families felt regret silently. How couldn't they have such good luck to come across Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion? If they had come across Old Madam, they would also have made Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion feel they were kind and congenial to her.

Several Misses shot an envious look at Qin Yuru. How could she have such good luck to make Old Madam like her and ask her to visit Duke Xing's Mansion often?

"Since this is Old Madam's idea, send it over. First Miss Qin is just behind Old Madam Qin!" Madam of Duke Xing nodded with a smile and pointed simply.

Nanny Yu turned with a smile and walked to Old Madam Qin with another servant girl. Qi Rongzhi's smile was a little stiff. Today was her auspicious day, but now she had become another person's foil.

Dazed, she saw everyone turn their eyes to Qin Yuru as Nanny Yu went over, and she nearly broke her handkerchief by twisting it. Qin Yuru did envy her becoming the adopted daughter of Madam of Duke Xing, but she never thought Qin Yuru acted so fast and drew the attention of Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion so quickly!

Nanny Yu went over and bowed to Old Madam Qin, who rose hurriedly and turned sideways. Although she was only a servant, how could an ordinary person belittle the confidant of Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion!

"Old Madam Qin, this is our Old Madam's gift to First Miss Qin!" Nanny Yu smiled and opened the gift box in the hands of another servant girl behind her. In the box, there was also a pair of bracelets.

Everyone looked strange as they saw the pair of bracelets. Although the pair that was given to Qi Rongzhi just now was fine work, it was much less valuable and incomparable compared to this pair of blood jade bracelets.

Some people turned their eyes from Qin Yuru to Qi Rongzhi, and a few other quick-minded madams felt that their good sons should build ties with Qin's Mansion, but they didn't know if this First Miss Qin was engaged or not.

Qin Yuru raised the corner of her dress and bowed gracefully, looking extremely dignified and modest. "Thank you, Old Madam!"

"First Miss Qin, you are too courteous. Old Madam asks you to chat with her when you are free and says she especially likes talking with you!" Nanny Yu passed the gift box in her hand to Mei Xue and showed a politer and more intimate attitude.

"OK!" Qin Yuru was more tamed.

After taking a satisfied look at Qin Yuru, Nanny Yu went back to Madam of Duke Xing, spoke a few words to her, and then left with two servant girls.

In the meantime, she didn't look at other people around Qin Yuru.

Qin Wanru helped Madam Dowager sit down again and glanced over the face of the nanny, who was said to be the close nanny of the Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion, but Qin Wanru's look was cold and she never thought it was her. That was surprising!

She was short and had no relation to the matter that happened just now, Old Madam Qin also stood before her, and the nanny only concentrated on Qin Yuru, and so she didn't notice her. Then, her watery eyes fell on Nanny Yu's back that was disappearing into the distance, and her look was thoughtful...

"Second Sister, Second Sister!" Qin Yuru's voice suddenly came to her ear, and she withdrew her look slowly and turned it to Qin Yuru.

"Second Sister, what are you looking at? Are you looking at the nanny of Old Madam?" Qin Yuru said with a proud smile.

"Big Sister, Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion and you are congenial to each other?" Qin Wanru said peacefully.

"Of course, but I've never thought Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion is such a gracious old lady. Just now when I was talking with her, she was very gentle." Qin Yuru showed off.

"Congenial to you indeed!" Qin Wanru said suddenly.

"Second Sister, if you had gone with me just now, you would have also been appreciated by Old Madam," Qin Yuru said with a smile.

A trace of disgust flashed in Qin Wanru's eyes. Truthfully, the two of them hated each other, but Qin Yuru still showed that they were close sisters in public, but in fact, she had a bellyful of ideas to kill Qin Wanru. She was venomous indeed.

"Big Sister, don't say that, and others are staring at us!" Qin Wanru whispered.

These words made Qin Yuru's face turn scarlet suddenly, and she felt quite ashamed and irritated. When she said these words, she didn't think they were unsuitable, but some of the madams' look at her became a little quiet.

Misses of aristocratic families should behave with manners, and the joyful expression even with somewhat proud showing-off was most hated.

Next, the banquet officially began when everyone went to another flower hall.

Today, almost everyone who came here was female, but there were still some males who came with the women of their mansions, and so Duke Xing entertained them outside. Men and women were not the same sex, and so they didn't eat in the same place.

Qin Wanru sat at a table on the edge with Old Madam and Shui Ruolan, and Qin Yuru was asked by Madam of Duke Xing to sit together with Qi Rongzhi at a table in front.

Without Qin Yuru on her side, Old Madam Qin whispered to Qin Wanru, "What was wrong with your Big Sister just now? Why does Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion suddenly feel she and your sister are congenial?"

Madam Dowager was very clear about her eldest granddaughter's personality and didn't think Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion would like her at first glance and even prefer her to Qi Rongzhi.

Today's banquet was mainly held for Qi Rongzhi, but what Old Madam did made Qi Rongzhi become Qin Yuru's foil.

"Grandma, I saw many scars on my Big Sister's hands in the past. It is said they were made by Madam Di, who especially hit my Big Sister, and so there are many scars on my Big Sister. Last night, my Big Sister was also beaten. On her hands, there are not only purple patches but also many scars. They are scaring!"

Qin Wanru whispered.

"This...happened last night?" Old Madam Qin was astonished. Although she heard a few words just now, she didn't hear them clearly. After that, she didn't have the opportunity to ask. Now when she heard the details, she didn't even believe her ears. "Madam Di hit Yuru so hard?"

Madam Di was venomous, but she always agreed with Qin Yuru about everything. When did she begin hitting Qin Yuru, so hard?

"Is that true?" Shui Ruolan also shook her head and didn't think that was possible, either.

"Grandma, others are saying that my Big Sister is not Madam Di's biological daughter and she was picked up from somewhere. If Madam Di is her biological mother, how could she beat her daughter so hard? Besides, after my Big Sister revealed her scars, she didn't give a malicious word against Madam Di. Instead, she has been defending Madam Di, and many people think she has a noble character."

Qin Wanru spoke again, and her quiet watery eyes turned peacefully.

Previously, she could not speak about a few things, but she could at this moment. Now that she had such an opportunity, she needed to get more information.

Her mother might not be clear, but her grandma must know a few things. The matter of Qin Yuru was slowly removing some “old veils”, and so she should permeate gradually...

“Picked up from somewhere? Who said it?” Old Madam Qin went furious as she heard these words.

“Grandma, please lower your voice. Everyone is guessing so, and not just one person is saying that!” Qin Wanru pulled Old Madam Qin’s hand lightly and comforted her.

“Anyone but Yuru can be picked up from somewhere. Madam Di even wishes to use the entire Qin’s Mansion as Yuru’s trousseau. Even if the entire Qin’s Mansion is troubled by an accident, she will not allow Qin Yuru to be hurt!” Old Madam Qin said with a cold snort.

“Grandma, previously, my father said Duke Yong’s Mansion would reduce two years from my Big Sister’s age for the sake of her reputation, but now some people say my Big Sister was picked up from somewhere. Are these things connected to each other?” Qin Wanru knitted her thin and curved eyebrows and said with a confused face.

The two things sounded not connected. If Qin Wanru didn’t put them together, Madam Dowager would never think further even if she knew them, but now she couldn’t help thinking with the idea Qin Wanru offered. After that, she suddenly thought of something. As her expression changed dramatically, she shook and nearly fell.

Qin Wanru supported Madam Dowager with her hands and whispered, “Grandma!”

Instantly, she felt the pulse of Madam Dowager. After she learned that her grandma was only shocked and her heart palpitated, she heaved a sigh of relief. “Grandma, are you well?”

“I’m fine. Let’s eat!” Old Grandma suppressed her shock with great efforts and whispered. No one but Qin Wanru found her hands were slightly trembling...

Chapter 325 Arrogant, the Backer in Her Mind!

Old Madam Qin only ate a little and rose to bid goodbye. No matter how Madam of Duke Xing persuaded her to stay, she only said she was unwell and needed to leave early.

Seeing Old Madam Qin’s unusual pale face, Madam of Duke Xing had no reason to let her stay and asked a servant to see them off.

Since every other people of Qin’s Mansion wanted to leave, Qin Yuru couldn’t stay any longer and had to come out with Old Madam Qin.

The old maid of Duke Xing’s Mansion led the way and went straight to the parking space of Duke Xing’s Mansion. On the road, Qin Yuru kept a straight face and didn’t care about what Old Madam Qin said. At first glance, one could find she was angry with Old Madam Qin, who had something annoying on her mind, knew they were outside their mansion, and had no suitable reasons to argue with her.

They were guests who left first, and no other people left at this time. On the way, they only met several servant girls and old maids and didn’t meet any other person.

When they arrived at the parking area, they had another problem. Since they came out too early and their carriages were parked far inside, they could get on their carriages only after their carriages were

taken out. The old maid leading the way asked the people of Qin's Mansion to wait at the pavilion on the side, and the coachman was working to take out their carriages slowly from the most inside.

A carriage suddenly jostled out of the other carriages, made a circle in front of them, and left hurriedly.

Just now when they came out, they didn't see any woman who left earlier than they did. So, they didn't know who this one was and couldn't help looking at that carriage!

"Mother, it seems to be the carriage of Duke Yong's Mansion!" Shui Ruolan had sharp eyes, saw the mark on the carriage at once, and whispered.

"Impossible, how can my cousin leave at this time?!" Qin Yuru was stunned for a moment and retorted. The carriage was so far away that no one could tell if it really was.

"It is Duke Yong's Mansion's!" Qin Wanru confirmed with a nod and said.

"How can it be? You two must be wrong!" Qin Yuru didn't want to believe it, glared at Qin Wanru, and said.

"Big Sister, did you see Miss Di just now?" Qin Wanru asked calmly.

Qin Yuru could not answer the question at the moment. Just now she only paid attention to the conversation between Madam of Duke Xing and herself and paid no mind to Di Fenglan.

"When I was in the yard a short while ago, I met a servant, who came to see Miss Di, said that the heir of the duke was drunk and he came to take Miss Di, and then left hurriedly with her. If so..., did anything happen to the heir of the duke?" Qin Wanru looked at the direction where the carriage went and guessed.

"How could it be!" Qin Wanru denied it with a pale face, torn the handkerchief in her hands hard, and felt irritable.

She felt more and more uncomfortable with Di Yan. Being a guest was enough, but why did he get drunk before the banquet began and also ask Di Fenglan to serve himself? He must have been so drunk.

"Yuru, did your mother hit you?" Old Madam Qin knitted her eyebrows tightly, looked around, coughed in a low voice, and said. Just now the old maid of Duke Xing's Mansion had been with them, and Madam Dowager felt it was unsuitable to ask.

"I..." Qin Yuru took her hand back a little.

"Let me see it!" Madam Dowager said gently and extended her hand to hold Qin Yuru's hand.

Qin Yuru was panicky and pushed hard, but Madam Dowager didn't take precautions and nearly fell. Fortunately, Qin Wanru saw it and supported her from the side instantly.

"Big Sister, why did you push our grandma?" Qin Wanru kept her Old Grandma steady and asked coldly.

"I, I didn't mean it, either. Grandma, sorry, your words shocked me just now!" Qin Yuru also knew her behavior was unsuitable, gave a few dry smiles, and apologized to Old Madam Qin.

"Yuru, were you beaten so hard by your mother to make others suspect if your mother is your biological mother?" Old Madam Qin looked at Qin Yuru seriously, her face turning cold.

"Grandma, what are you talking about? I don't understand!" Qin Yuru played dumb and said. After saying it, she sat down at a railing far from Madam Dowager, looked at the direction where the carriage of Duke Yong's Mansion disappeared, and frowned as if she was really worried about Di Yan.

"Yuru, tell me the truth. What on earth is this for?" Madam Dowager didn't want to let Qin Yuru off so easily this time, looked at her, and pressed.

"Grandma, I don't know what you are talking about. It is only because I made my mother angry and my mother hit me a few times. It is not something big, but why do you hold on to it, grandma?" Qin Yuru found her Old Grandma did not want to let her off and couldn't help feeling irritable, turned to her, and said unhappily.

"Grandma, didn't you care about my Second Sister most in former days? Why do you care about my affair today? It is not something big, and you don't need to care!"

Qin Yuru looked sideways at Old Madam Qin in a carefree manner, showing insolence. Her Old Grandma was angered and could not talk!

"Yuru, look at your way of talking to your grandma!" Shui Ruolan scolded in a low voice.

"What's wrong with my way of talking? I am telling the truth. It is not a big thing, but you work together to interrogate me. Do I need to satisfy you by admitting my mother hit me very hard?" Qin Yuru retorted.

These words were not only rude, but also had a strong evil intention. Seeing Qin Yuru in this manner, Qin Wanru sneered inwardly. "Qin Yuru thinks she has a strong backer, and so she dares to talk this way."

In her previous life, Qin Yuru also arrogantly bullied her in front of her grandma only because Duke Xing's Mansion was her backer.

Her grandma was angered and passed out a few times!

"Yuru, look, look at your way of talking to Ruolan!" Her Old Grandma was so angry that her voice began trembling.

"Why can't I talk like this? Who is she? She is but a widow who doesn't follow the way of women. Do I need to worship her? With such an identity, she joined our Qin's Mansion without knowing disgrace!"

Qin Yuru sneered. Recently, she restrained herself so hard, and now she felt she had got rid of it.

"You... good... very good. Now I don't talk to you, I will talk to your father, and let him look at the daughter he raises!" Her Old Grandma was so angry that her face turned as pale as snow.

Shui Ruolan was ashamed and guilty and couldn't utter a single word.

Qin Wanru held her Old Grandma's hand with hers, squeezed her wrist twice gently, raised her head to look at Qin Yuru, and said coldly, "Big Sister, you think getting the adoration of Old Madam of Duke

Xing's Mansion means you've become the Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion, don't you? Unfortunately, no matter what you do, you are merely the miss of Qin's Mansion. Or do you want to have new parents?"

"Nonsense!" When Qin Wanru's watery eyes fell on her, Qin Yuru felt she had been seen through, turned her eyes guiltily, and said, but then she turned her hands like showing power. Just now when she came out, she had already put on the pair of bracelets on her wrists. As she turned her hands, the bracelets tinkled.

"Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion likes me because it is my blessing. Second Sister, you envy me? Even if you envy me, you still have no chance!"

As the bracelets tinkled, Qin Yuru thought of her current identity instantly. After she was approved by Duke Xing's Mansion and Rui'an Great Elder Princess' Mansion, she would be able to trample on Qin Wanru easily. How could Qin Wanru compare with her! Thinking of this, she became even more confident.

She raised her eyes slightly, looking sideways at Qin Wanru. The provocative attitude was unbearable indeed.

Qin Wanru only treated the provocation with an indifferent look. "Big Sister, have Madam Di and you built ties with Duke Xing's Mansion? Why does Madam of Duke Xing think highly of you? For one thing, this is not the guess of Madam Di; for another, two years have been taken from your age. Does this mean they are all related to the adoration of Old Madam today?"

When all their plots were exposed mercilessly by Qin Wanru without warning, Qin Yuru was greatly shocked. The pink corners of her mouth turned pale instantly, and her lips even trembled several times. "You, you are talking nonsense. I don't understand!"

All her words and complexion just showed the guilty heart she wanted to cover!

As her eyes fell on Qin Yuru's guilty face, Madam Dowager felt her heart was so heavy that she could not even breathe and her eyes turned slightly red. Some unspeakable anger made her almost want to slap Madam Di. Suddenly, she understood Madam Di's scheme and held Qin Wanru's hand tightly, but her hand was slightly shaking.

She understood and suddenly thought it through...

The pavilion turned eerily quiet, and no one was talking. The quietness continued until the carriages of Qin's Mansion came out of the other carriages. The coachmen came over and asked their masters to get on the carriages.

Old Madam Qin and Shui Ruolan were still on the same carriage, and so were Qin Wanru and Qin Yuru. After everyone got on the carriages, the carriages slowly pulled out from the side door of Duke Xing's Mansion.

Old Madam Qin and Shui Ruolan's carriage was in front. Madam Dowager had been leaning against the wall of the carriage and remained silent since she got on the carriage, and her face was exceptionally pale.

“Mother, are you all right? Don’t mind. Yuru is still a child and only talked a child’s nonsense!” Shui Ruolan suppressed her emotions and comforted Madam Dowager in a low voice.

“Ruolan, do you think if Madam Di wants to take Zhuozhuo’s origin?” Madam Dowager said slowly after remaining silent for a long while.

“Wanru’s origin? Mother, what do you mean?” Shui Ruolan asked with confusion. As for this matter, she had also asked Madam Dowager in private, but Madam Dowager avoided the topic each time and didn’t leak any information. This was the first time Madam Dowager had spoken of Qin Wanru’s origin with Shui Ruolan.

“Right, Zhuozhuo’s origin!” Old Madam Qin sighed. “In fact, I don’t know who Zhuozhuo’s parents are, but I saw them before, but...”

Old Madam stopped as she spoke of this, her eyes turning red. “Zhuozhuo is an unfortunate child, and her father died saving Yong’er. Once I thought Yong’er would bring up the child sincerely and treat her as his daughter...”

Chapter 326 Finally Connecting the Cause and Effect

“What kind of people are Wanru’s parents?” Shui Ruolan said in astonishment. Despite her face turning pale slightly, she still asked based on Madam Dowager’s words.

“That year, the rebel forces rose in revolt, and the war was raging at the frontier. Several cities were even conquered by the rebel forces. There were refugees everywhere as well as some army movements. Zhuozhuo’s father was transferred to our city at that time. Because the war was in an emergency, he temporarily lived in our mansion...”

Old Madam Qin recalled, looking at somewhere in the air, with slight bitterness in her eyes!

At that time, everyone was deterred by the danger. No one knew whether the rebel forces would conquer the city, because several cities had been conquered in the end. The city was full of refugees and the family members of some soldiers who fled there.

Qin Wanru’s father was transferred to Qin Huaiyong’s army at that time. With no place to live, he temporarily lived in the Qin’s Mansion, and Old Madam Qin met the elegant and beautiful lady at that time.

That was Qin Wanru’s mother. She was pregnant at the time, but didn’t look very obvious. She, who was frightened, always held the hand of young Qin Wanru tightly wherever she went. She called Qin Wanru Zhuozhuo at that time. It was said that they hadn’t asked the elders in their family to name the child.

Because they were in the border without contacting their family for a long time, the child hadn’t been named formally. They intended to ask the elders of their family to name the child after returning to the capital.

At that time, Old Madam Qin liked to amuse Qin Wanru and called her Zhuozhuo as the young and elegant lady suggested. Although the lady had not mentioned her family background, Old Madam Qin could tell that she was from an extraordinary family based on her elegant and dignified manners.

After they lived in the Qin's Mansion for a few days, it was said that some people came from the capital to pick them up. Qin Wanru's biological father asked his wife to leave with his daughter and said that he would return to the capital later. They were reluctant to part from each other when his wife left with his daughter. It was obvious that they loved each other deeply.

Unexpectedly, when they went out of town, a group of rebel forces rushed in, and they were separated from each other. Qin Wanru's father went to search them like crazy, only to find Qin Wanru. His elegant and noble wife was missing.

The rebel forces laid siege to the city, making the city tremendously chaotic. No one knew where the weak lady with several maids went. Old Madam Qin comforted Qin Wanru's biological father that his wife would be fine with several maids around and had probably returned to the capital. Her words reassured Qin Wanru's father, but he still did not give up searching his wife.

Shortly afterwards, something terrible happened to Qin Wanru's biological father. A spy opened the east gate, and the rebel forces rushed in. Both Qin Huaiyong and Qin Wanru's biological father rushed out to defend the enemy, and Qin Wanru's biological father entrusted Qin Wanru to Old Madam Qin before that.

For fear that the rebel forces would also occupy this city, Old Madam Qin and Qin Wanru secretly went out of the city with a package on each of them. There was a villa of the Qin's Mansion outside the city. They intended to go there and hide for a period. Qin Wanru went with Old Madam Qin at that time.

Unexpectedly, it was the last time Qin Wanru met her biological father. During the war, there were stray arrows flying into the city. After blocking an arrow for Qin Huaiyong, Qin Wanru's biological father entrusted his daughter to Qin Huaiyong and then died. Qin Huaiyong promised to treat her as his daughter and raise her well.

Afterwards, Qin Huaiyong blocked the rebel forces, expelled them from the city and successfully defended the city. Therefore, the emperor entitled him as Ningyuan Army General and transferred him to Jiangzhou to serve as the highest sergeant chief there. Madam Di, who had escaped with her daughter, also returned to Jiangzhou.

After that, there were two daughters in the Qin's Mansion. Learning that Qin Wanru's father died for saving Qin Huaiyong, she repeatedly promised that she would treat Qin Wanru as her daughter and make sure Qin Wanru could get everything Qin Yuru had and even something Qin Yuru didn't have.

Her sincere words reassured Old Madam. Old Madam thought that Madam Di was a lady from a noble family and only had a daughter, so she would treat Qin Wanru well. Thus, Qin Wanru was recorded as Madam Di's the other daughter.

The Qin's Mansion was not a native family in Jiangzhou. Since the Qin's Mansion claimed that they had two daughters, naturally everyone thought that Madam Di gave birth to two daughters. In fact, Qin Wanru was not the daughter of the Qin's Mansion.

At that time, Qin Wanru had a Fenghua Glazed Cup in her package. Madam Di had seen it and wanted to keep it. However, Madam Dowager kept it for Qin Wanru after consideration and later wanted to secretly find out about Qin Wanru's family background based on this Fenghua Glazed Cup.

Unfortunately, she failed to find out about Qin Wanru's family background after several attempts. Fenghua Glazed Cups were rare, but not extremely rare. There was this kind of Fenghua Glazed Cups in the large aristocratic families in Jiangzhou area. Failing to find out about Qin Wanru's family background in following years, Madam Dowager sent the Fenghua Glazed Cup to Jingxin Monastery and placed it in front of the Buddha. From then on, she had raised Qin Wanru as her biological granddaughter.

After so many years, no one had come to find Qin Wanru, so Madam Dowager thought that she must have no other relatives. Besides, her mother should have died in the war. Given all this, Madam Dowager considered it unnecessary to tell the child about her family background. It was a kind of happiness for the child to live a joyful life without knowing her origin.

Madam Dowager thought so. Because Madam Dowager felt sorry for her parents' death and her biological father who died for protecting Qin Huaiyong, Madam Dowager was extremely kind to Qin Wanru, and even loved her dearly as a pearl in the palm. Unexpectedly, Madam Di was so vicious that she did not treat Qin Wanru as her biological daughter, but viciously dealt with Qin Wanru in private.

Thinking of this, Old Madam Qin became tearful. She wondered if she had done it wrong. Why would it develop into such a situation? She originally intended to make Zhuozhuo live a joyful life.

After hearing Madam Dowager's words, Shui Ruolan felt her heart was heavy as if laden with a lot of pressure. She didn't feel relieved because of Madam Dowager's words, but bit her lip, suppressed the sorrow in her heart and found her voice after a long while. "Mother, do you think Yuru and her mother did that with the intention of stealing Wanru's identity?"

Madam Dowager wiped her tears with a handkerchief and said with a calm face, "Wanru is the only child whose biological father is not Yong'er, and she is younger than Yuru. But now there's the rumor that Yuru isn't Madam Di's biological daughter. I know well about Madam Di's personality and don't believe that she will beat Yuru severely. Besides, Yuru has never allowed herself to suffer any loss. If she was really beaten by Madam Di, she will inevitably cause trouble! "

With the words lingering in her heart for so many years, Madam Dowager felt slightly relieved after saying that, and was more convinced that there must be a plot behind what happened to Qin Yuru today.

"Ruolan, do you think Zhuozhuo's family background is related to Duke Xing's Mansion and Madam Di strove to get Fenghua Glazed Cup from me after knowing that?"

Madam Dowager asked in a low voice.

After connecting the cause and effect, Madam Dowager involuntarily had this thought at the moment even if she had never thought about it before. Madam Di knew about the connections in the capital much better than her. Besides, Qin Wanru's parents looked a lot like nobles who came from an aristocratic family in the capital and went through their life experience. Regarding why they hadn't communicated with their family in the capital for many years and didn't even name their daughter, Old Madam Qin couldn't figure it out.

"Mother, maybe I can ask someone to inquire about Duke Xing's Mansion?" Shui Ruolan thought for a while and said.

"Okay, that's all we can do!" Madam Dowager nodded and then said after thinking, "Do it in private, and don't let anyone know! Don't tell Yong'er about it for now!"

"Yes, mother. I know!" Shui Ruolan said with a forced smile, choked with sobs and slowly lowered her head.

Madam Dowager sighed and patted Shui Ruolan's skinny shoulder. Although Shui Ruolan was pregnant, she didn't seem to get fat, but looked thinner instead.

"Ruolan, just tell me if you need help. Even if I may not be able to help you, at least I can stand by your side and try my best to protect you from being upset by unkindness!"

Hearing her words, with her suppressed tears falling down, Shui Ruolan reached out to hold Madam Dowager. She wanted to say something, but she didn't say a word after choking for a while.

Old Madam Qin sighed, pulled her hand and gently patted her hand to calm her. She then frowned and pondered. Had Madam Di really found Zhuozhuo's relatives? If so, she would never allow Madam Di and her daughter to succeed in plotting.

For many years, Madam Di had never treated Zhuozhuo as her biological daughter, but now wanted to steal Zhuozhuo's closest relatives. Thinking of this, Madam Dowager couldn't hide her anger...

The following carriage was also moving slowly. In the carriage, Qin Yuru complacently rotated the blood jade bracelet in her hand, looked up at Qin Wanru who was staring at her, and sneered. "Are you extremely envious?"

"No!" Qin Wanru said faintly, "Qin Yuru, you stole the limelight from Qi Rongzhi today. Aren't you afraid to be slapped by Qi Rongzhi again?"

Her words reminded Qin Yuru of being humiliated by Qi Rongzhi. With her face instantly darkening, she said, "Qi Rongzhi really thought she's in favor with Madam of Duke Xing? She's adopted casually!"

"What about you? Wouldn't you also think that you are in favor with Old Madam of Duke Xing?" Qin Wanru looked up at her with slight scorn in her eyes, which made Qin Yuru feel despised and involuntarily retorted in anger, "Of course I'm in favor with Old Madam of Duke Xing, and she'll love me dearly. I'll move to Duke Xing's Mansion later..."

"Is there a difference between you and Qi Rongzhi?" Qin Wanru interrupted her, with her long eyelashes fluttering twice, and raised her red lips.

"Of course we are different. Qi Rongzhi is not the real..." Despised by Qin Wanru, Qin Yuru blushed in anger.

"Could it be you are the real daughter of their family?" Qin Wanru impolitely interrupted her again.

"Why am I not the real..." Qin Yuru retorted quickly.

"Stop talking nonsense. Do you think you are the legitimate granddaughter of Duke Xing's Mansion! In your dream!" Qin Wanru interrupted her again, looked out of the window and talked to herself, "You begin to have a dream in the daytime!"

Being interrupted several times, she didn't say what she wanted to say. Qin Wanru ridiculed that she was daydreaming. Qin Yuru flushed in anger, pushed her hands out fiercely, and said with resentment, "Why can't I be the real daughter! Qin Wanru, I'll make you kneel down. I'll trample on your face! You'll beg me for mercy at that time!"

Chapter 327 Quarrel on the Street for the Broken Bracelets?

Yujie reached out to stop Qin Yuru and stared coldly at her, which made her even more annoyed. Even Qin Wanru's maid was so arrogant. She decided to break Yujie's leg after returning home.

There was sharp resentment across Qin Wanru's eyes. She had known clearly about the intention of Qin Yuru and Madam Di. In the last life, they actually did what they wanted and finally pushed her into the blood abyss step by step.

"Qin Yuru, just wait and see!" She closed her eyes and ignored Qin Yuru.

"Hey, Qin Wanru..." Qin Yuru became increasingly annoyed and frustrated. She considered that she returned home in glory now, but ignored by Qin Wanru, which made her feel like punching hard on the cotton.

Qin Wanru leaned to one side, turned her back to her and kept ignoring her.

"Qin Wanru, how dare you ignore me!" Qin Yuru said angrily, and reached out to push Qin Wanru again.

"Stop!" Qin Wanru suddenly turned around and looked coldly at Qin Yuru. Qin Yuru drew back her hand in fear.

"Tell the coachman that I want to get out of this carriage and go to the front carriage to sit with grandma!" Qin Wanru instructed Yujie. Yujie nodded and said to the servants outside. The carriage stopped, and she pushed the door and jumped off the carriage.

"Qin Yuru, don't you think you are the real legitimate daughter of Duke Xing's Mansion. You are Madam Di's biological daughter. Would you like me to ask father to find some witnesses in Jiangzhou to prove that you are Madam Di's biological daughter? Don't think that you are the Miss recognized by Duke Xing's Mansion with a pair of bracelets!"

Even if she was real, Qin Wanru would not be afraid of her, not to mention she was fake!

Qin Wanru relentlessly taunted her and reached out to grab Qin Yuru's wrist. The blood jade bracelet around her wrist was clear, and Qin Wanru could tell that it was good stuff at first glance. Qin Wanru reached out to pull it by force and got it.

"Qin Wanru, how dare you?" Qin Yuru was frightened with her face changing greatly and held Qin Wanru's hand tightly in astonishment in an attempt to take back the jade bracelet from her!

Qin Wanru smiled coldly at her and reached out of the carriage. Yujie hurriedly reached out to hold her hand and then exerted her strength. Yujie had always been strong, so she was incomparable to Qin Yuru in strength. She pulled hard as suggested, and Qin Wanru was immediately pulled out of the carriage. Meanwhile, half of Qin Yuru was also pulled out of the carriage.

“Big Sister, don’t pull me. I just want to go to the front carriage and sit with grandma!” After getting out of the carriage, Qin Wanru instantly said softly with inexplicable grievances. Her voice was not loud, but loud enough to be heard by people passing by.

They were passing by a busy street and happened to stop temporarily in front of a jade shop. There were a lot of people coming and going. Hearing Qin Wanru’s words, they turned around to watch what was going on.

They saw a Miss with delicate features was pulled out of the carriage by a maid and looked rather aggrieved. The Miss was still dragged by someone behind her. Although they didn’t see her face clearly, they could tell that she should be the Miss’s elder sister based on the Miss’s words. No one knew what her elder sister did so that the Miss couldn’t bear to stay in the carriage and had to go to the front carriage.

However, the Miss’s elder sister seemed to be reluctant to let go of the Miss. No one knew what had happened!

The next thing that surprised everyone was that a bracelet fell down from the sisters’ holding hands. The crisp sound of smashing startled everyone. After seeing the blood jade fragments clearly on the ground, those who knew about jade all felt pity. At first glance, they knew that the bracelet was very valuable. It was quite a pity that it smashed into pieces!

The bracelet had smashed into pieces?

The bracelet Old Madam of Duke Xing’s Mansion gave her today had smashed into pieces?

Qin Yuru was dumbfounded, with her face turning green, then turning white and finally turning red. She suddenly firmly grasped Qin Wanru’s hand in an attempt to pull her up.

Unfortunately, Yujie was completely incomparable to her in strength. Qin Wanru had got out of the carriage with Yujie’s help, and she was pulled down as well because she kept grasping Qin Wanru’s hand firmly.

Seeing both of them pulled out of the carriage, Mei Xue instantly jumped off the carriage and helped Qin Yuru up.

“Qin Wanru, how dare you break my bracelet!” Standing firm with Mei Xue’s help, Qin Yuru reached out to slap Qin Wanru fiercely. She was really mad. The bracelet was important not only because of its value, but also because it was a token Old Madam of Duke Xing gave her. Now one of the bracelets had smashed into pieces.

“Big Sister, I just want to go to grandma’s carriage in front. Why did you keep dragging me? Now the bracelet has smashed into pieces. You shouldn’t blame me for that!” Qin Wanru stepped back, happened to avoid being slapped by Qin Yuru and said with a gentle face. Although she was a little flustered, she looked much more decent than Qin Yuru.

Seeing Qin Yuru grasping Qin Wanru’s hand firmly, everyone involuntarily realized something. It was obvious that the elder sister kept grasping the younger sister, so she accidentally broke her bracelet and intended to shift the blame onto the younger sister. No one knew which family this rude and unreasonable Miss came from.

Everyone thought so, with their gaze falling on the sign of Ningyuan Army General's Mansion on the carriage. Some people, who recognized it, had secretly told others that it was the carriage of Ningyuan Army General's Mansion.

There were numerous people spreading the rumor about Ningyuan Army General's Mansion recently. Some people immediately whispered to one another.

"This Second Miss is not the biological daughter of General Qin. So she's an orphan without parents?"

"I heard that this First Miss is a vicious person who has hounded her fiancé's cousin sister to death?"

"At first glance, I know she's a mean and vicious person. Look, she is so sarcastic that her young sister couldn't bear to stay in the carriage. However, she prevented her younger sister from getting out of the carriage by grasping her hand. In the process, she unfortunately broke her bracelet and then blamed her younger sister for that!"

"I heard that this First Miss is Madam Di's biological daughter. Madam Di is even more vicious. She actually intended to kill the Second Miss and asked her servant to do that. Because of this, she was sent to the criminal court. Later, Duke Yong's Mansion probably suppressed it with their power!"

"Really? A woman could be so vicious?"

"Of course it's true. You inquire about it. Although it has been suppressed, many people know it!"

"Like mother, like daughter. I know both of them are vicious at first glance!" ...

There came the words in various voices from the crowd. Some people even deliberately made their words heard by Qin Yuru. Qin Yuru almost went crazy out of anger.

"Qin Wanru, you dare to frame me up!" Qin Yuru shivered all over in anger, gnashed her teeth, glared at Qin Wanru and said.

"Big Sister, it really has nothing to do with me. But if you must blame me for it, I can sell all my jewelry after returning home and then buy another pair of bracelets for you!"

Qin Wanru raised her lively watery eyes full of sincerity and purity, and said in an extremely helpless tone.

She didn't shirk the responsibility. Although everyone saw that the First Miss obviously broke the bracelet by herself, the Second Miss still promised to take the responsibility. Besides, her eyes were so innocent. These made everyone consider the Second Miss Qin was not only dignified and decent, but also considered the overall situation.

"B*tch!" Qin Yuru smiled out of ultimate anger and only felt that all the sanity in her mind was driven off by Qin Wanru's innocent gaze. She reached out to slap Qin Wanru violently. If gaze could tear someone apart, Qin Wanru would have been torn apart by her gaze of hatred.

Yujie took a step forward to stand in front of Qin Yuru, but tilted her head subtly. She seemed to be slapped hard with her head sideways. But she was actually slapped by Qin Yuru in less than one tenth of her strength.

“First Miss!” Yujie reached out to cover her face and looked at Qin Yuru with great grievances, but still stood in front of Qin Yuru without stepping back. “My master has said that she will buy another pair of bracelets for you. Please don’t do that!”

Yujie’s face was so white that it immediately turned red after she was slapped. Her face looked extremely terrifying.

“Step aside!” Qin Yuru reached out to push Yujie to the side. Yujie staggered a few times. Qin Wanru hurriedly reached out to pull her and tried to relax Qin Yuru’s hold. However, as a young and weak girl, she staggered and bumped forward with Yujie.

“First Miss, please let me go!” Yujie struggled to stand firm. But Qin Yuru pulled them with so much strength that they fell forward.

Among the crowd, there were some women who couldn’t bear to see that. No one knew who was the first to stand out and help Qin Wanru, and someone came to stop Qin Yuru. When they were in a mess, there came a crisp sound of breaking. Everyone suddenly stopped and looked at the ground in astonishment, only to find that the other blood jade bracelet had smashed into pieces on the ground.

With her face as pale as snow, Qin Yuru could hardly stand, shaking as if about to fall. The other bracelet was broken. The bracelets, that she managed to get and would help her get a high status, just smashed like that. She couldn’t bear it and raised her bloodshot eyes to look at Qin Wanru.

“Stop quarrelling. Yuru, I’ll give you another pair of bracelets after returning home!” The chaotic situation had alerted Madam Dowager. After the carriage stopped, Madam Dowager hurriedly came back with Shui Ruolan. Seeing a mess in front of her, Madam Dowager instantly said with her face darkening.

“Grandma, this b*tch...” In this moment, Qin Yuru desperately wanted to recklessly pounce on Qin Wanru and slap her fiercely.

“Yuru, watch your language!” Madam Dowager said with an increasingly darkening face and waved to Qin Wanru. “Zhuozhuo, come here!”

“Yes, grandma!” Qin Wanru seemed to be scared. Her face turned slightly pale, so did her lips. Nevertheless, she answered softly and turned to walk towards Madam Dowager.

“Qin Wanru, stop!” Unable to stick it out, Qin Yuru beat Qin Wanru fiercely on her back.

Yujie once again stood in front of Qin Wanru, and was beaten so heavily that she staggered, turned around, covered her back with her hands and cried in pain, “First Miss!”

“Yuru, it’s enough!” Seeing Qin Yuru make trouble recklessly on the street, Madam Dowager was so furious that she rebuked Qin Yuru in a sharp voice.

Nanny Duan hurriedly walked over and lowered her voice to say, “First Miss, if you keep making trouble here, you’ll be laughed at by others. In any case, the bracelets have smashed. We can solve the problem after returning home!”

"Pick up the fragments and go!" Seeing the increasing people, Qin Yuru also knew that she should stop making trouble at this time. She could only gnash her teeth, said to Mei Xue in a sharp voice and pushed her hard. Mei Xue also staggered and fell to the ground.

Qin Wanru's maid knew that she should protect her master, but all of her servants were useless!

Chapter 328 Mediation, Each of Them Paid for a Bracelet

Qin Wanru got on Madam Dowager's carriage, and Qin Yuru got on the rear carriage alone. As the carriages slowly moved forward, everyone relaxed their hold and watched the carriages go away. After that, they started to talk about the two Young Madams of the Qin's Mansion in groups of three and four.

The First Miss was so arrogant, while the Second Miss was so pitiful.

As expected the Second Miss wasn't the biological daughter of the Qin's Mansion, so the people of the Qin's Mansion didn't treat her very well. They could tell that she probably lived a poor life in the Qin's Mansion. But even so, she still maintained her good manners.

Everyone thought that Qin Yuru had only herself to blame for the broken bracelets and it was all her fault. No one felt sorry for her or showed sympathy with her, even she finally left with red eyes.

Upstairs in the jade shop, the window facing the street was open. Someone looked coldly down with his hands clasped behind his back and happened to watch the farce downstairs.

"Master, would you like to take a break? You may feel tired after standing for so long!" A eunuch beside him reminded him in a low voice. He stole a glance at downstairs, but didn't see clearly those who had quarreled among the crowd.

"The Qin's Mansion!" Chu Liuyue slowly left the window and sat down in a chair.

"They are from the Qin's Mansion? Which Qin's Mansion?" The eunuch beside him didn't understand what he meant. There were not a few Qin's Mansions in the capital.

"The two daughters of Ningyuan Army General's Mansion are really different!" Chu Liuyue marvelled and reached out to press his chest. He was really injured, but more seriously injured than he thought. He was the one who had plotted the assassination. However, a real assassin actually blended in and almost killed him.

At the thought of it, he felt a dull pain in his chest with his face turning increasingly gloomy.

"Have you found out who the assassin is?"

"I failed to find it out. The assassin is dead! But he has worked for us!" The eunuch lowered his head and reported.

"He has worked for us... If so, why did he intend to kill me!" Chu Liuyue said with a pale face and coughed, "Second brother, third brother, fourth brother and I, all of us got involved in it. There may be someone who deliberately meddled with the assassination or someone who secretly watched us fight with each other!"

"Master, could it be Prince Zhou?" The eunuch told of his thought. He unconsciously ignored Prince Chen and Prince Xin. Prince Xin still seemed like a child who hadn't grown up. Regarding Prince Chen, who would worry about a man who was seriously ill and at the pit's brink? The reason why his master had tracked it down was that his master was afraid that the late Emperor had left some manpower to Prince Chen. Prince Chen himself was not greatly threatening.

"Not likely!" Chu Liuyue shook his head. He had checked and found out that Chu Liuzhou was the cause of the assassination targeted at Chu Liuchen. If Chu Liuchen really died, Chu Liuzhou wouldn't be able to explain it even if he had a hundred mouths. From this point of view, neither the Empress nor Chu Liuzhou would send someone from Prince Zhou's Mansion to kill Chu Liuchen.

It was no good for Chu Liuzhou to irritate Empress Dowager and his father!

"Except for these princes, who else could it be?" The eunuch was confused with no clue. This time all the princes were injured and sent to the Imperial Institute of Medicine for recovery. Today his master finally got out of the palace because of insisting returning his mansion to get some important things. His master should go back to the palace later.

Of course, the princes stayed in the palace not just for recovery. The emperor must have asked some people to investigate the matter.

Staying in the palace, all the princes could be protected and under surveillance.

As the henchman of Chu Liuyue, the eunuch certainly knew what it meant.

"There is someone else!" Chu Liuyue suddenly said with an extremely cold smile on his face which had always been frosty, "I didn't think of him at the beginning. But now we are all injured, and he's the only one who could benefit from it!"

"Your Highness, you are talking about..." The eunuch gasped with surprise and also thought of someone.

"Anyone else besides him? If all of us are involved or killed in this incident, he will be able to inherit the throne. Good plot. He hasn't been discovered over so many years." Chu Liuyue praised with a sneer.

The eunuch didn't dare to continue talking and lowered his head carefully.

"Have you found out the relationship between Qin Wanru and Chu Liuchen?" After falling silent for a long while, Chu Liuyue suddenly changed the subject.

"Yes. When Prince Chen was in Jiangzhou, he had lived in Ningyuan Army General's Mansion. He should have met the Second Miss Qin at that time." Hearing himself asked, the eunuch raised his head and said.

The initial cause of the assassination, in which several princes got involved, was Qin Wanru.

"Third brother helped an acquaintance so enthusiastically? He has never been so enthusiastic in helping others. Or I can say that he doesn't know what enthusiasm is at all," Chu Liuyue snorted coldly and said casually.

"Your Highness, what do you mean?" The eunuch blinked, not understanding what his master meant.

"Check if Chu Liuchen fancies the Second Miss Qin," Chu Liuyue said slowly with increasingly cold eyes.

"Your Highness, the Second Miss Qin is so young..." the eunuch said in astonishment. As an intimate eunuch of Chu Liuyue, he had seen Qin Wanru in Jiangzhou. She was so young and still looked like a child, right?

"Now she's different. It's been a long time since she moved to the capital, and she should have grown up a lot." Chu Liuyue thought of her innocent and delicate face which he had seen a moment ago. Even in this situation, she remained decent and gentle. She was a rare girl who deserved a man better than his third brother who was an invalid and could die at any time.

"Yes, Your Highness. I'll check it out!" The eunuch nodded and was about to leave, but was stopped by Chu Liuyue. Chu Liuyue said, "Don't check it now. It's not so easy to check the affairs of third brother. If you attract his attention and he reports it to father and grandma, I'll be rebuked again!"

He really didn't dare to inquire about too much news of Chu Liuchen. There were guards at the door, which made it difficult for him to inquire. What was more, these guards were sent by father. Despite one or two guards he deployed among them, he failed to inquire about anything in the end. Unfortunately, he had once exposed a secret to the invalid, and the invalid reported it to father.

Chu Liuyue still remembered the rage of father!

"Go and check Qin Huaiyong. I heard that he has got along well with the aristocratic families in the capital recently!" Chu Liuyue said after thinking. He had another guess that the incident in which Chu Liuchen saved Qin Wanru was not simple. Maybe he could start the investigation from Qin Huaiyong.

If it was inconvenient to check the affairs about Chu Liuchen, he could check in another direction.

"Yes, I'll ask someone to check it!" The eunuch nodded and left, and passed by a guard at the door. Watching the guard hurriedly going upstairs, the eunuch followed him after thinking. His master was alone upstairs now, and he could not rest assured.

"Report to Your Highness, I found something from the dead coachman!" The guard knelt down respectfully towards Chu Liuyue after entering the room, and presented the scroll in his hand.

Chu Liuyue reached out to take it. After glancing over the roll in his hands, he sneered with a cold face a moment later. "It's actually related to Duke Yong's Mansion?"

Knowing that Chu Liuyue wasn't asking him, the guard held his breath without answering.

"Duke Yong's Mansion! Go and check Duke Yong's Mansion! Leave the affairs of the Qin's Mansion aside. It's no big deal!" Chu Liuyue raised his voice to say to the eunuch.

Glancing at his master's face, the eunuch knew that his master was really angry. He nodded and hurriedly left. After assigning the tasks downstairs, he went upstairs again to help his master out of the building and then into a large carriage. The carriage went all the way to the palace...

"Father, Old Madam of Duke Xing gave me this pair of bracelets, but they were broken by second sister. Father, please handle the matter for me!" Qin Yuru, Qin Wanru, Madam Dowager, Shui Ruolan and others were all in Qin Huaiyong's study. Qin Yuru reached out to point at Qin Wanru and said angrily.

With her red eyes, Mei Xue presented the fragments in the handkerchief to Qin Huaiyong.

“Wanru, what happened? Why did you break your elder sister’s bracelets?” Glancing at the bracelets that had been broken into several fragments, Qin Huaiyong said with his face darkening.

“Yong’er, Zhuozhuo shouldn’t be blamed for this. Yuru made trouble out of nothing and messed with Zhuozhuo on the street. She then drove Zhuozhuo off the carriage and dragged her. During the process, she dropped a bracelet and it was broken. After that, she intended to beat Zhuozhuo. Some passersby couldn’t bear it and came over to stop her. During the process, another bracelet was dropped and broken as well!”

Madam Dowager put down the cup in her hands heavily, and was not satisfied with Qin Huaiyong’s attitude.

“Mother, the bracelets are given by Old Madam of Duke Xing’s Mansion!” Qin Huaiyong was distressed and reached out to rub his brows, only feeling exhausted.

“Yuru smashed them and blamed Zhuozhuo for that. A lot of people saw that. If you don’t believe it, you can send someone to ask them!” Madam Dowager said in slight anger.

“Mother, I don’t mean that. I mean the bracelets were given by Old Madam of Duke Xing’s Mansion. What can I do now to compensate for that?” Qin Huaiyong said humbly.

“Since they have been broken, we should tell Duke Xing’s Mansion about that, lest Yuru can’t wear them when she’s asked to do that next time. We should be honest!”

Madam Dowager also frowned.

“No. They are obviously broken by Qin Wanru. Why should I take the blame!” Qin Yuru opposed in a sharp voice, reached out to point at Qin Wanru, who was on the opposite side, and said, seemingly about to rush over.

“Yuru, you know best about the truth. It’s useless for you to keep saying that. There were too many people who have seen the incident. It should have been spread all over the capital,” Madam Dowager said coldly, extremely dissatisfied with Qin Yuru’s unreasonable actions.

“Grandma, you are too partial. I am your biological granddaughter!” Seeing Madam Dowager defending Qin Wanru again, Qin Yuru said loudly in anger.

“As the grandma of both of you, I can’t let you alienate each other. It’s just a pair of bracelets. Even if someone should pay for them, they have their price. Let me make the decision. Each of you pays for a bracelet, and I’ll send someone to buy a pair of similar bracelets.”

Madam Dowager was distressed and said.

Qin Huaiyong fell silent. It was an excellent solution that wouldn’t waste time and could allow Qin Yuru to have a pair of jade bracelets again.

“So be it!” Qin Huaiyong said helplessly.

“I don’t agree!” However, there suddenly came another voice at the same time...

Chapter 329 Qin Yuru’s Reliance

It turned out to be the voice of Shui Ruolan. No one in the room expected that Shui Ruolan would say such tough words.

Shui Ruolan had always left an impression that she was gentle, delicate and weak. No matter after or before marrying into the Qin's Mansion, she did not have a strong sense of existence in the mansion.

She basically had no objection to the decisions made by Madam Dowager and Qin Huaiyong. She rarely lodged an objection openly like this. Even when Qin Huaiyong frowned and looked at her, she still stared at Qin Huaiyong without dodging his eyes. Everyone could see the anger on her face and in her gentle eyes.

Qin Wanru suddenly realized something and approached her calmly. Shui Ruolan was pregnant, so great mood fluctuations would do harm to her!

"Mother, husband, it's not Wanru's fault. So many people saw that the bracelets were broken by Yuru. She drove Wanru off the carriage on the street, and then dragged Wanru. During the process, she accidentally dropped the bracelets. Wanru shouldn't be blamed for this. If our mansion handles the matter in this way, we'll be laughed at by others."

Shui Ruolan said.

"Bullsh*t! It's Qin Wanru who broke my bracelets. She did that intentionally. I didn't drive her out of the carriage. She asked to do that!"

Qin Yuru couldn't hide the hatred in her heart, glared at Shui Ruolan and said loudly.

"Yuru, I know that you have always been favored in the mansion, and your father has always loved you dearly. But so many people on the street have seen it with their own eyes. Even if you insist saying that, others have a fair opinion. Up to now, it's not just a matter of a pair of broken bracelets. Although the bracelets are precious, do you think them more precious than your reputation?"

Shui Ruolan looked towards Qin Yuru and said.

"Bullsh*t. You're speaking for Qin Wanru. You are..." Qin Yuru refused to stop and shouted in a sharp voice. However, Qin Huaiyong interrupted her by fiercely beating the table.

The room fell unusually silent. The tea cup on the table vibrated and fell down with water diffusing.

"Yuru, go back to your yard and reflect on what you did. It's your own business. You shouldn't go out recently!" Qin Huaiyong said coldly.

"Father, why did you treat me like that? Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion has asked me to go to their mansion to accompany her and talk with her often!" Qin Yuru said reluctantly in a loud voice.

In the past, she did not dare to confront Qin Huaiyong. But now it was different, because she was emboldened to do that. Her mother said that with the favor of Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion, even her father would make a concession.

"Yuru, even though Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion likes you, she's not related to us and can't intervene in our domestic affairs!" Shui Ruolan calmly analyzed.

“Shui Ruolan, what do you mean? Are you jealous that I’ve found favor with Old Madam, and then my mother will drive you from the position of Madam with Old Madam’s support? You are just a concubine. My mother is incomparable to you!”

Qin Yuru really went crazy. Things happened one after another, which had irritated her so much that her eyes turned red. She just said something from her usual conversation with Madam Di, and even reached out to point at Shui Ruolan and yelled in a sharp voice without treating Shui Ruolan as an elder at all.

“Slap her!” Madam Dowager was also angry and said sternly.

Nanny Duan, who had stopped Qin Yuru before, raised her hand to slap Qin Yuru and said, “First Miss, please calm down. They are all your elders. You can’t say something like that.”

“You are such an old b*tch! How dare you slap me? You dare to do that with the reliance of Madam Dowager? I’ll beat you to death, old b*tch!” Qin Yuru smiled out of ultimate anger, slapped Nanny Duan ruthlessly and cursed, “I don’t care about Madam Dowager at all! She’s not my father’s biological mother. Does she really think that she’s qualified to discipline me?”

She even cursed Madam Dowager, which annoyed Madam Dowager so much that with her face turning pale, she staggered a little and almost fell.

“Madam Dowager, Madam Dowager!” Slapped by Qin Yuru, Nanny Duan ignored Qin Yuru and hurriedly stepped forward to help Madam Dowager. She patted her back so anxiously that her voice changed.

With the blue veins bulging on his forehead, Qin Huaiyong strode out and fiercely slapped Qin Yuru with his face darkening. Qin Yuru took two steps back and fell to the ground heavily.

“Father, you slapped me?” Qin Yuru looked at Qin Huaiyong in disbelief with her eyes turning red and her tears falling down.

Over so many years, Qin Huaiyong had never beaten her like this. It was unbearable for Qin Yuru, who could always get everything she wanted in the mansion.

She burst into tears.

“Come here and send the First Miss back to her yard. From today, she should stay in the yard to study and cultivate her moral character. Besides, ask the etiquette instructor to instruct the First Miss every day. If the etiquette instructor can’t make a decent lady of her, she’s not allowed to leave the yard!” With the blue veins bulging fiercely on his forehead, Qin Huaiyong said in a sharp voice.

“Yes, general!” Two inferior old maids came over and took Qin Yuru out by holding her arms.

“Father, father, how can you do this to me? I am the future wife of the heir of Duke Yong’s Mansion. Besides, Old Madam of Duke Xing likes me and said that she will ask Madam of Duke Xing to adopt me as her daughter and recommend me to Rui’an Great Elder Princess.”

Qin Yuru came to her senses at this moment. Knowing that she would be taken away, she struggled while screaming, without any decency and dignity of a Miss of an aristocratic family.

With a calm face, Qin Huaiyong waved vigorously. The two old maids did not hesitate anymore and took Qin Yuru away. After hurriedly bowing to Qin Huaiyong, Mei Xue chased after them.

The room became silent.

Qin Wanru stared at the tips of her shoes, motionless, with her long eyelashes fluttering twice and concealing the coldness in her eyes.

What had happened today was a great blow to Qin Yuru, so she said so many improper words out of control. The pair of blood jade bracelets given by Old Madam of Duke Xing seemed to have guided her to a golden avenue. She and her mother had plotted for so many days and were about to get the best result. At this moment, it was the easiest for her to get impetuous.

Qin Yuru had been in such a state of impetuosity and arrogance before, but suddenly the blood jade bracelets were broken and her future suddenly became unknown. Qin Yuru inevitably became flustered and crazy.

What she had said just now was extremely rude. If she was in any other aristocratic families, her future would have been ruined. However, it was different in the Qin's Mansion. She was the only daughter of Qin Huaiyong and the fiancée of the heir of Duke Yong's Mansion. As far as these two points were concerned, Qin Yuru could have other plots.

Qin Yuru finally came to her senses and said something very meaningful. Qin Wanru found that Qin Huaiyong's face didn't change, but he clenched his right fist hard once.

Old Madam of Duke Xing thought highly of Qin Yuru and even said that she would ask Madam of Duke Xing to adopt Qin Yuru as her daughter. This was enough to greatly enhance Qin Yuru's status. Regarding recommending Qin Yuru to Rui'an Great Elder Princess, it certainly meant something more.

Qin Wanru took a deep breath with her long eyelashes fluttering. She understood Qin Yuru's words, because she was now basically sure that she was the daughter of the former heir of Duke Xing's Mansion, but what about her father Qin Huaiyong? He seemed to understand Qin Yuru's words as well. Did it mean that he knew a little bit about it?

She was so sad and felt like her heart was beaten by something heavily. She felt the sharp and sorrow!

No matter in the last life or in this life, Qin Wanru had always regarded Qin Huaiyong as her father. In the last life, she ended up with such a miserable situation that she was even unable to return home. Even then, she believed that her father had his difficulties. The daughter married was like the water splashed out. It was reasonable that he couldn't help her.

She was expelled by Deputy Prime Minister's Chambers with a bad reputation. Madam Di was in charge of the Qin's Mansion, and her father was a man in charge of the outer court. He couldn't help her even if he wanted to.

But in fact, it was not as she thought.

A hand slowly and firmly held Qin Wanru's hand. Despite the thin and cold fingers, it held her firmly, as if to give her strength, even though the owner of the hand was also weak.

She slightly raised her head and looked at the caring face of Shui Ruolan. With a white and slightly fragile face, she was also a fragile woman. Seeing her cover her belly with one hand and hold her with the

other hand with caring eyes, Qin Wanru felt her lips shivered a little, but could do nothing except for holding her hand firmly.

The coldness in her heart seemed to be alleviated slightly. She held Shui Ruolan's hand to warm herself and Shui Ruolan.

"Invite a doctor to give medical advice to Madam Dowager!" Qin Huaiyong went back behind the desk, sat down, stretched out one hand to touch the other hand and said feebly.

"I'm... fine. Huaiyong, I'm going to talk about this... with you!" Madam Dowager had got better at this moment. She picked up the cup on the table with her trembling fingers, took a sip, and felt slightly refreshed.

This pair of blood jade bracelets was given by Old Madam of Duke Xing. They couldn't smash the bracelets for no reason without any explanation.

"Yes, mother!" Qin Huaiyong nodded, looked towards Shui Ruolan whose face was also pale, and said softly, "Ruolan, you are tired too. You and Wanru may leave and take a rest. Mother and I will solve the problem. Don't worry!"

"Okay!" Shui Ruolan nodded. Qin Wanru reached out to help her and then walked out cautiously with her. Shui Ruolan seemed to be in poor condition. With a pale face and drifting eyes, she seemed to be greatly discouraged.

She shouldn't be discouraged by Qin Yuru!

Forcing herself to walk out of the courtyard, Shui Ruolan broke down and leaned to one side. If it weren't for Qin Wanru and Qionghua's constant attention, she would have fallen to the ground.

"Go there for a rest. Qionghua, find a doctor and ask him to come over with some medicine for preventing miscarriage. Yujie, bring my needles!" Qin Wanru said calmly despite her head covered with sweat. With a nervous look, she grasped Shui Ruolan's hand firmly to give her insignificant strength.

She put her hand on Shui Ruolan's veins, and could feel her extremely weak pulse. It was very weak, unprecedentedly weak...

Chapter 330 Intricate and Continual Accidents

Qionghua and Yujie both hurried out. Qin Wanru asked several inferior old maids at the door to move Shui Ruolan to an empty yard beside them.

After being moved to the bed, Shui Ruolan was still awake, grasping Qin Wanru's wrist firmly with a pale face.

"Mother, you have me and the unborn little brother!" Qin Wanru lowered her head, stared firmly at her and whispered in her ear.

"My belly... hurts..." With her pale forehead dripping with sweat, Shui Ruolan laboriously said in a hoarse voice.

“Mother, relax. You’ll be fine. Nothing will happen. I’ve studied medical skills with Mingqiu Nun.” Qin Wanru appeased her softly with a smile, “Close your eyes for a while, and then you’ll be fine. Nothing will happen!”

As she said, she reached out to rub the acupuncture points on Shui Ruolan’s forehead, while asking, “Mother, do you feel better now? Do you feel less pain?”

She said that in a soft voice and a gentle tone, showing no panic and even a light smile, which influenced Shui Ruolan’s emotions. Although she still felt a dull pain in her belly, it seemed to be less painful. She involuntarily felt relieved.

“Mother, do as I ask. Take a deep breath and calm down!” Seeing Shui Ruolan look relaxed, Qin Wanru let out a sigh of relief, reached out to pinch the acupoint on Shui Ruolan’s thumb and said with a smile.

Her slightly cold eyes became completely frosty at an angle where no one noticed. Shui Ruolan was so close to losing her baby, extremely close.

In this life, she had been protecting Shui Ruolan’s unborn baby with concentrated attention. She had thought about almost all the disadvantageous factors, but did not expect this accident.

Shui Ruolan had been in particularly poor condition, but she did not dare to show the slightest emotion on her face for fear of scaring Shui Ruolan. At this moment, Shui Ruolan finally calmed down.

The doctor came quickly, and soon reached the yard. After diagnosing and treating Shui Ruolan, he left the medicine for preventing miscarriage he brought intentionally. Shui Ruolan was in stable condition at this time. Qin Wanru asked Qionghua to bring an empty couch here for taking Shui Ruolan back to her yard later. Regarding the medicine left by the doctor, she asked Qionghua to take it back and boil it.

After Yujie brought the set of needles here, Qin Wanru carefully treated Shui Ruolan again with acupuncture. After she finished the treatment, Shui Ruolan fell asleep peacefully.

Qionghua led some servants to carry Shui Ruolan back, and Qin Wanru followed them all the way to Liufeng Pavilion. After waking up Shui Ruolan, she asked her to drink a bowl of medicine and then have a rest.

After finishing these, Qin Wanru stood at the corridor, only to feel her back was covered with sweat. Shui Ruolan was so close to losing her baby.

She looked towards a certain point in the air with increasing coldness in her watery eyes. Did mother notice anything? Could Qin Yuru arouse her irritability and discourage her so much?

“Second Miss, should I notify Madam Dowager and general?” Qionghua also stepped back, closed the door carefully and asked in a low voice. Up to now her face was still pale. If Qin Wanru wasn’t here, Qionghua would probably be extremely flustered and have no idea how to handle it!

Fortunately, the Second Miss was here!

Qionghua looked at Qin Wanru with more gratitude in her eyes. If something terrible really happened to Shui Ruolan, as an intimate maid, she would definitely be punished!

“Mother has recovered now, so you don’t need to bother father and grandma now!” Qin Wanru still looked towards the study. When Shui Ruolan was sent here, grandma and father were still discussing the matter in the study.

Duke Xing’s Mansion? Rui’an Great Elder Princess’ Mansion?

Madam Di and Qin Yuru had considered these as their background, and even threatened father with these!

“I’ll leave now. Mother is fine at this moment. After waking up, she should take a bowl of medicine and then take a rest every day. She should not worry during these days. If something happens and I am not here, just come to report it to me. I will come to treat mother with acupuncture during these days!” Qin Wanru told her.

“Yes, Second Miss!” Qionghua nodded repeatedly. What had happened before had made her willing to act upon whatever Qin Wanru said.

After arranging everything, Qin Wanru went back with Yujie. Qin Wanru remained silent all the time along the way. The current situation had been broken by her, the pair of blood jade bracelets which was a token had been broken, and Qin Yuru had been temporarily grounded. However, Duke Xing’s Mansion wouldn’t stop.

Madam Di and her daughter would probably continue making trouble.

“Miss, is the First Miss really able to get the support of Duke Xing’s Mansion and Rui’an Great Elder Princess? But Rui’an Great Elder Princess showed her dislike of the First Miss, didn’t she?” Yujie walked behind Qin Wanru in frustration and asked in puzzlement.

“Likely!” Qin Wanru nodded implicitly. If the truth was not revealed, Qin Yuru was very likely to be identified as her. If so, Rui’an Great Elder Princess would definitely think that Qin Yuru was the only daughter of her daughter Infanta Qinghua and naturally stand by Qin Yuru’s side.

With the support of Duke Xing’s Mansion and Rui’an Great Elder Princess, Qin Yuru and Madam Di might be able to have a bright future as they did in the last life.

Nevertheless, there was something that she didn’t understand. In the last life, Rui’an Great Elder Princess seemed to have not acknowledged Qin Yuru’s identity. This was the reason why Qin Yuru finally moved to Duke Xing’s Mansion in the name of being favored by Old Madam of Duke Xing’s Mansion without being “formally” acknowledged as one of their family members. Was there anything else she didn’t know?

Rui’an Great Elder Princess had lost her only daughter. Why would she not acknowledge the identity of her only granddaughter? Unless Rui’an Great Elder Princess disagreed to do that. But what made Rui’an Great Elder Princess disagree? Under the circumstances that Old Madam of Duke Xing’s Mansion had acknowledged Qin Yuru’s identity, why did Rui’an Great Elder Princess disagree to do that?

An idea inexplicably came to her mind. Could it be possible that Rui’an Great Elder Princess had got some news?

“Miss, what should we do?” Yujie said with lingering fear, “If Madame Di and the First Miss are in power, both you and Madam Shui will suffer. Look at the fierce expression of the First Miss today, she probably wants to eat you!”

Qin Yuru really went crazy today so that she acted so abnormally. But it could also be seen that this thought had always been rooted in her mind, and it was implanted by Madame Di in the past.

“Make her grounded for a few more days. Father said that she should learn etiquette well before going out. Nanny Zheng should know what kind of etiquette is the most important!” Qin Wanru suddenly smiled and raised her red lips, looking as gorgeous as peaches and plums.

After thinking for a moment, Yujie clapped her hands with her eyes lighting up. “That’s right. We can ask Nanny Zheng to tell Nanny Huang about it. In fact, Nanny Huang is also responsible for it. As the etiquette instructor of the First Miss, how could she make such a rude lady of the First Miss!”

Qin Wanru smiled, speechless. Today Qin Yuru was considered uneducated with strange behavior and no decency of a Miss from an aristocratic family. So she was asked to learn the rules. In fact, she could make it significant. It didn’t sound like something serious, and Qin Yuru just needed to be instructed. However, if the etiquette instructor considered that she didn’t learn etiquette well, she would be grounded for a period.

Qin Wanru didn’t expect that Qin Yuru would be grounded all the time. She was now Qin Huaiyong’s only daughter and Di Yan’s fiancée, plus what she said before, it was destined that she wouldn’t be grounded under supervision all the time. But at least Qin Wanru could prolong the period to make them think Qin Yuru would be grounded forever, and they would inevitably do something desperate.

Qin Huaiyong did not say how long Qin Yuru would be grounded. Of course the key was not how long she would be grounded, but sometimes it could be comprehended as being grounded forever.

If they didn’t panic, Qin Wanru could fluster them. If she could do something to intensify the chaos, it would be even more chaotic. Her family background should be revealed slowly...

Her fingers unconsciously lingered on a letter in her cuff. The letter Chu Liuchen deliberately asked Xiao Xuanzi to send here must not be a simple letter...

“Mother, what do you think of it?” Seeing others leave, Qin Huaiyong reached out to rub his eyebrows and said, “The bracelets are given by Old Madam of Duke Xing’s Mansion. Now they have been broken. It’s the fault of our mansion anyway. If Duke Xing’s Mansion complains about it, I’m afraid that Yuru will be rebuked and her reputation will be affected!”

Qin Huaiyong was so distressed at the moment that he ignored that Shui Ruolan staggered slightly when walking out.

Madam Dowager picked up the tea cup at her hand and took a sip. She raised her head with gloomy eyes and showed a trace of sullen on her face. “Yong’er, do you insist defending Yuru at this moment?”

“Mother, why do you say that? Yuru has done wrong indeed, and has been misguided by Madame Di indeed. But even if she has done wrong, she’s my only child. What do you... want me to do! Besides, with Duke Yong’s Mansion and even Duke Xing’s Mansion, I can’t lock her up without allowing her to get married all her life, right? ”

Qin Huaiyong sighed helplessly with a frown. He stood up, left the desk, came up to Madam Dowager and bowed to her deeply. "Mother, I apologize to you for what Yuru said. I will never forget how you raised me up and how you took me away after my father died and brought me up!"

He said that in an extremely sad tone. He was such a resolute person, but his eyes involuntarily turned red. In those days they depended on each other for survival. For fear of getting involved in what had happened before, Madam Dowager basically did not go out and only hired a teacher to teach Qin Huaiyong at home. Speaking of this, both of them felt sad.

"Yong'er, you shouldn't be blamed for it!" With her eyes also turning red, Madam Dowager reached out to pat Qin Huaiyong's hand and said with sobs.

"Mother, I know it's all Madam Di's fault. I shouldn't have married her. Nevertheless, Yuru is my daughter anyway, and she's going to marry into Duke Yong's Mansion. I... can't just lock her up forever!" Qin Huaiyong looked at Madam Dowager and said sincerely.

"I see. Just do as you say. Instruct her well. I'll see how to deal with her... after she's instructed well!" Madam Dowager nodded. Although she raised Qin Huaiyong up, at this moment she couldn't make the decision to deal with Qin Yuru.

Seeing Madam Dowager stop talking about it, Qin Huaiyong sat down in the chair next to Madam Dowager, looked at the fragments of the broken jade and said with his face darkening again, "Mother, what should we do about this?"