

Medical Princess 401

Chapter 401 Was It Broken? Compensate!

Seeing that everyone was looking at him, Chu Liuchen smiled slightly and said, "Uncle, do you have a jade like this? This was what Imperial Grandmother awarded to Uncle just now. I forgot to give it to you! If Imperial Grandmother knows that I have done this wrong, she will probably punish me!"

Prince Cheng pouted slightly with a frozen smile. "So is this jade supposed to be mine? It is my jade that has fallen down. No wonder he looks so carefree."

No one would believe the so-called punishment!

Everyone knew how much Empress Dowager valued him. She would not punish him just because of a small jade.

"Third brother, Imperial Grandmother has also given Uncle another jade before, but where does this one come from?" Prince Zhou sourly said on the side.

He had known nothing about this jade. He only saw Chu Liuchen playing with it in his hand all the way and thought that he might have found it somewhere else and might just play with it casually.

He did not expect that it was given by Imperial Grandmother, which made him not balanced in his heart.

Actually, he was the most distinguished grandson of Imperial Grandmother. Why would such a sick boy be treated highly? He felt aggrieved in his heart but did not show this on his face. He glanced at Prince Cheng, who seemed to be even more depressed than he was, so he immediately became delighted.

Compared with Prince Cheng who had seen his jade broken, his experiences were much better.

"Imperial Grandmother says that this jade will be given to the girl that Uncle chooses, but now..." Chu Liuchen shook his hand innocently and looked at Prince Cheng sincerely. "Uncle, if there is a jade similar to this, you can use that piece first. After I get home, I will send a few pieces of jade to Uncle as compensation!"

"Compensation? Is the jade that Empress Dowager awards compensable?"

Prince Cheng's hands trembled. Even though he had believed in Buddhism and cultivated self-control for many years, the blue veins could not help but stand out on his temples. He finally managed to suppress his anger and asked someone to clean up the broken pieces. "Two nephews, are you going to accompany me to meet and choose some girls?"

Prince Cheng was also annoyed. He might as well not bring up this matter so as not to make himself angry when thinking about it.

"I dare not say that I will accompany you to choose. However, since I have nothing to do now, I can help Uncle to meet and choose beautiful girls!" Prince Zhou said with a smile. He also saw that Prince Cheng was so angry that he stopped talking about the jade. Wherever this patient went, he would give offense to someone. Even Uncle, who lived a quiet life of inaction, was been irritated to such a degree.

In the past, only his brothers had been irritated, but now it was found that even Prince Cheng, who belonged to the elder generation, was speechless with anger. Thinking of this, Prince Zhou figured it out and was in a good mood.

Before he came, his mother asked him to keep an eye on Prince Cheng and see the Misses of which families he would choose.

It was difficult for Prince Cheng to reject Prince Zhou's idea. Then he looked at Chu Liuchen and wanted to ask for his opinion!

"Uncle, do you have a place to rest? After resting for a while, I will go to see how Uncle chooses beauties!" Chu Liuchen stretched out his hand and clenched it into a fist at the corner of his mouth to cough quietly and then said slowly.

Did he mean that he would come back after taking a break at half time?

Prince Cheng was really speechless, but he also knew that one of them was sent by Empress Dowager, and the other was by Empress. So they would not leave easily.

He immediately asked someone to take Chu Liuchen to rest.

After being interrupted by them, Prince Cheng was not in the mood to further talk about the previous topic, and his eyes fell on the names on the paper that Empress Dowager had given him.

Since it was inevitable for him to choose one wife from these girls, he would naturally choose one whom he was more satisfied with.

"Uncle, which one do you prefer?" Prince Zhou also became interested and leaned over. He shouldered the responsibility of asking for some information, so he certainly wanted to hear Prince Cheng's opinion.

Prince Cheng was speechless for a moment and he slowly slid his fingers across these names. It was obvious that he could not make up his mind now.

"Uncle, look, I've heard that this Miss is very beautiful. How about choosing her?" Prince Zhou enthusiastically pointed out the name of a Miss. This Miss had a good relationship with Empress' family. "If Prince Cheng can marry this Miss, he will have a closer relationship with me..." thought Prince Zhou.

The place where Chu Liuchen rested was also a pavilion in the garden, which was not far from the one where Prince Cheng was. This pavilion was not as high as the previous one, but when he sat in front of the window, he could still see most of the scenery in the garden. From time to time, several young Misses passed by under the pavilion with laughter.

"Your Highness, what do you think of this place?" Xiqi asked respectfully.

Xiao Xuanzi loosened the back of the wheelchair, stood up, and turned around with picky eyes. Looking around, he reluctantly nodded and said, "Just rest here!"

After that, he waved his hand and said, "Report back to your Prince that he does not need to arrange people for our Prince, lest there be some misunderstandings and inconveniences for you!"

Chu Liuchen had brought a few guards with him. After so many assassinations had happened, no matter which prince went out, he would bring a few accompanying guards with him.

“Yes, yes, I will report to our Prince right now!” Xiqi nodded repeatedly and secretly breathed a sigh of relief. He was afraid that Xiao Xuanzi would ask for some guards from him. If Prince Chen had an accident under the protection of the guards of Prince Cheng’s Mansion, then his master Prince Cheng would definitely be blamed.

Different from other princes, Prince Chen was likely to have an accident, which could easily be known from his weak condition. No one knew whether he would suddenly crash.

At that time, both Emperor and Empress Dowager would have vented their anger on his master Prince Cheng.

At present, it was the best to not use the guards of Prince Cheng’s Mansion. Xiqi even felt that the guards in their mansion should stay away from Prince Chen. Even if something happened to Prince Chen later, it would be his own guards’ business, and have nothing to do with Prince Cheng’s Mansion.

After bowing to Chu Liuchen again, Xiqi retreated downstairs, and he nodded and waved to a dark corner. Immediately, a guard came out from a dark place on the roadside and Xiqi said, “Do not keep an eye on here. Prince Chen is now resting inside and his guards are here. It may cause inconvenience if we offend them!”

Xiqi pointed at several guards who were standing downstairs and said. He did not want Prince Chen to mistakenly think that he was under Prince Cheng’s surveillance.

A few guards heard the noise and they all turned their eyes here. Those cold eyes fell on Xiqi, which made him unconsciously tremble with fear. He gave a command to the guards of their own mansion and left in a hurry.

His master also wanted to keep a distance from this unlucky Prince Chen.

In terms of this matter, it could be said that it was Prince Chen who caused such a big commotion. If it had not been for Prince Chen’s disturbance and that he had passed out, his master Prince Cheng would not have appeared in public and been caught in others’ sight, and he would not have been forced to marry an unsuitable wife.

Every time he thought of this, he would beat his chest and stamp his feet for his master.

It had happened suddenly at that time. In order not to attract others’ attention, his master had deliberately led people to Prince Chen’s side. Unexpectedly, Prince Chen had not acted as a shield, but had let his master expose himself in front of everyone.

After living in seclusion for so many years, he had gradually faded out of everyone’s sight. However, because of a sudden assassination, his master was targeted by someone, and even Emperor and Empress Dowager paid attention to him.

It could be said that this was all because of this unlucky Prince Chen. If any other prince had been present at that time, it would not be possible to end up like this.

Of course, there was still a questionable point in this matter. This Prince Chen looked so ill, but at that time he had been holding a girl in his arms, right? Who was she? When had Prince Chen had a girl he liked?

As for this point, neither Prince Cheng nor Xiqi could figure it out. Moreover, under that circumstance, Prince Cheng had not dared to keep many watches on Chu Liuchen, so he had only seen that person leave and disappear in the end.

Was that a real person or a fake one? A man or a woman? Young or old? Everything was confusing.

Xiqi dared not to say that the one at that time must be a young Miss from an aristocratic family. Perhaps a prostitute in a brothel? If she was a prostitute in a brothel, then she was most likely to be a young girl that made a living only as a performer.

Of course, these were all his master Prince Cheng's guess. Xiqi thought that such a sick Prince still thought of beauties, so there was no need to worry about him, even if he might be healthy now. Maybe it was because he indulged in womanizing that he became sick and weak.

It was said that Prince Chen stayed away from womanizing. He had thrown out all the sex-educating maids from the palace and even killed them. Perhaps this rumor had been exaggerated.

His master looked down on Prince Chen even more. He was just a sick and weak playboy who took advantage of Empress Dowager's power.

It would be better to stay away from him than to deal with him!

So as to avoid his bad luck spreading to his master.

Chu Liuchen sat in the wheelchair and he slowly patted his armrest after he saw Xiqi leaving.

"Master!" Xiao Xuanzi rushed over.

"Bring that girl here!" Chu Liuchen said calmly, with his eyes slightly closed and his head leaning back.

"This is Prince Cheng's Mansion. Master, aren't you afraid that Prince Cheng will know this?" Xiao Xuanzi asked worriedly. Although he had seen that Xiqi had asked guards to leave, it was not sure whether there was someone else here. After all, this was Prince Cheng's Mansion, and they were not as familiar with the terrain here as those of Prince Cheng's Mansion.

Chu Liuchen closed his eyes slightly and snorted. "How dare she come here at such time! Since she has already come here, why should she care about where she goes?"

"Master, I am afraid that Second Miss must come here! The invitation cards have been sent from Prince Cheng's Mansion and I have also heard that they cannot simply refuse to come this time. The two Misses of Qin's Mansion all meet the requirement, so they have to come here!"

Xiao Xuanzi explained for Qin Wanru with a smile.

"Meet the requirement? She is really suitable. Prince Cheng wants to choose some young girls now, so she is a suitable one!" Chu Liuchen opened his eyes slightly, which shone brightly.

Xiao Xuanzi knew that his master was in a bad mood now, so he said with a smile.

“Go to inform Rui’an Great Elder Princess that Prince Cheng may choose some young Misses. Even if he does not get married now, he can still keep them as a backup. Let Great Elder Princess pay attention to this!”

Chu Liuchen snorted and did not want to say any more about this.

“Yes, I will go to inform Rui’an Great Elder Princess in a while. What about Second Miss Qin?” Xiao Xuanzi nodded and bowed.

“Ask her to be more cautious, lest she should happen to be chosen by Prince Cheng. This Uncle finally agrees to get married, so Imperial Grandmother and Emperor Uncle are tolerant of his choices. Whoever carelessly comes into sight at this time may be chosen by Prince Cheng.” Chu Liuchen said slowly.

Chapter 402 Qin Yuru Disappeared!

“Master, rest assured. I am going to notify her now!” Xiao Xuanzi nodded again and again, and smiled. He knew that his master treated Second Miss Qin differently. When Prince Cheng Your Highness was about to say which Miss he liked just now, the jade in his master’s hands was broken.

That jade had been held in the hands of his master before. How could it break so easily!

It was just the right time to break!

Xiao Xuanzi first went to find Rui’an Great Elder Princess and it was easy to find her. She was in the middle flower hall. Rui’an Great Elder Princess was the host to treat these Misses from aristocratic family today.

All the Misses who came here were not led by their Madams. All of them looked very shy. Although there were Misses who had infinite thoughts about Prince Cheng, there were also some who felt that they had nothing to do with the concubine selection. But because these Misses were still young, they dared not to be reckless in front of Rui’an Great Elder Princess.

Xiao Xuanzi looked at an old maid beside Rui’an Great Elder Princess and beckoned her. The old maid came here in a hurry. Xiao Xuanzi found that he knew the old maid, so things would be easier.

He told her Chu Liuchen’s words in a low voice, and watched the old maid squeezing into the crowd and saying something to Rui’an Great Elder Princess. Rui’an Great Elder Princess glanced over to see Xiao Xuanzi, nodding emotionlessly.

Since the words for Rui’an Great Elder Princess had already been delivered, Xiao Xuanzi glanced around and did not find Qin Wanru in the flower hall. So he went out of the flower hall.

He went along the main road that followed the flower hall.

When he walked to the halfway, he saw the two Misses of Qin’s Mansion walking one after the other, going here separately.

The one in the front was the First Miss of Qin’s Mansion. She didn’t look very good with her servant girls. Second Miss was behind. She looked very peaceful, and her eyes were very gentle and natural.

He flashed over to a path by the side of the road, squeezing his eyebrows to Yujie who was coming here.

Yujie had seen Xiao Xuanzi early. After being surprised for a moment, she stretched out the sleeves of Qin Wanru. Qin Wanru looked sideways, and she also saw Xiao Xuanzi.

Seeing that Qin Yuru was getting faster and faster, Qin Wanru stopped and stepped aside. Qin Yuru was still walking in front, and she did not notice that Qin Wanru had been far away.

Seeing that nobody noticed her, Qin Wanru entered the path. Xiao Xuanzi hid behind a big tree first, and waited for Qin Wanru to enter the path, then he flashed out behind the tree. He saluted respectfully to Qin Wanru and said with a smile, "Second Miss, our master asks me to come here and have something to tell you!"

"What's the matter?" Qin Wanru felt a little surprised. Today Prince Cheng was going to select concubine. What did Chu Liuchen do here? But since this person was always coming and going like a shadow, she just stumbled a little, and then returned to peace.

"Our master said that Prince Cheng may choose a few young Misses as backups. So he reminds Second Miss of being careful. If you are liked by Prince Cheng, Empress Dowager and emperor might agree given that Prince Cheng has not selected any concubine for so many years!"

Xiao Xuanzi said with a smile.

"Prince Cheng will choose a young concubine? How can they get married?" Qin Wanru asked in shock. This thing was beyond her expectation. Since Prince Cheng was not young, it was reasonable for him to select a wife with right age and get married right away.

"The wife of the prince must be of right age, but it's okay for Prince Cheng Your Highness to select a few young Misses. It is hard to let Prince Cheng agree to get married afterall," Xiao Xuanzi said implicitly.

This meant that Prince Cheng not only chose wife this time. The candidate for his wife should be almost decided. But he could choose some young Misses to be concubines from other Misses.

Qin Wanru, who was quite surprised at the behavior of Prince Cheng's concubine selection, suddenly felt that she knew the whole thing clearly.

This was a gamble between the emperor and Prince Cheng. Although Prince Cheng lost the first move, it did not mean that he would follow the direction decided by the emperor.

After the wife of prince was selected, he could also choose some concubines who were suitable for him. And these people must be useful to him.

Since the emperor had taken the lead, he would give him the appropriate benefits. Or at this time the emperor had not really determined whether Prince Cheng had any thoughts, but the necessary wife of him should be sent by them. Since Prince Cheng agreed grievously, it was reasonable for him to pick a few to fight against the wife of him.

Originally, she didn't think it would have anything to do with her. Given the age of Prince Cheng, how could it be possible to connect with her? But now she suddenly felt that she was careless. Compared with other people, she was still very possible to be chosen.

The official position of her father Qin Huaiyong was not high or low, and he was a person with true power. If he was drawn over, it would be very beneficial for the prince. In addition, Qin Huaiyong's

current military power was not large, even if he was pulled over by Prince Cheng, the emperor would not feel anything bad. If Qin Huaiyong went further in the future, he would be a greater help.

“Is it possible that Prince Cheng will choose me?” Qin Wanru said directly.

Xiao Xuanzi smiled and said, “Our master thinks it is possible. Second Miss, you need to be careful. I have reported to Rui’an Great Elder Princess. With the protection of Great Elder Princess, Second Miss will be much safer. Remember not to walk around. Not only is our master in the mansion, Prince Zhou Your Highness is still here!”

This meant that Qin Wanru should be careful about not only Prince Cheng, but also Prince Zhou. This one was not a good guy. Since he was the son of the Empress, he had been much nobler than the other Princes.

“Prince Cheng doesn’t worry about that I’m not my father’s biological daughter?” Qin Wanru could understand the meaning of him but she only didn’t understand why Prince Cheng did not exclude her.

Of course, Qin Huaiyong was suitable in all aspects, but if she was not the biological daughter of Qin Huaiyong, then this so-called appropriateness would not play any role at all. It might waste a position of concubine.

Even if he was the Prince, he did not have many concubines on the royal certificate.

One wife, two concubines and other two side concubines. A Prince could only put these people on the royal certificate. So there were only a few places, adding up to five people.

“Second Miss, the royal family has never been afraid of adding a few extra concubines. Even if it isn’t for this reason, it could be that reason to enter the mansion. It’s just adding one more person to raise in the mansion!”

Xiao Xuanzi hinted at her.

Qin Wanru was frightened and terrified, and a little flash of surprise flashed in the corner of her eyes. She was really careless, and took it for granted!

She put her own ideas on what Prince Cheng thought!

If the words of Xiao Xuanzi were true, it was really possible and it would be very dangerous. Prince Cheng could bring a girl he liked to his mansion without wasting a concubine position.

If a girl lost her reputation because of Prince Cheng, it was enough for him to take the responsibility. Since the girl lost her reputation, she dared not to ask for a position.

“Show my gratitude to your master!” Qin Wanru thanked.

“Second Miss, you’re welcome!” Xiao Xuanzi smiled and saluted to Qin Wanru, and then left from the side road. He had visited Prince Cheng’s mansion for many times, so he was familiar with the way of Prince Cheng’s mansion. Returning from that way, he could not be obvious and he did not need to pass the rockery near Prince Cheng and Prince Zhou.

Qin Wanru didn't leave right away. She walked slightly behind before turning slowly from the previous road, as if she had only taken a few more steps because of her love for the scenery.

Then she followed the Misses to go into the flower hall again.

But when she arrived at the largest flower hall, she didn't see Qin Yuru. She could not help but slightly frown. If Qin Yuru also walked along this road, this time she would definitely appear here.

After seeing Qin Wanru, Nanny Gao, who had been there for a while, was immediately overjoyed, and hurried over to salute and say to her with a smile, "Second Miss Qin, you have finally been here. Our princess is waiting for you."

"Waiting for me?" Qin Wanru was surprised and said. Before the truth was revealed, they had said to keep the distance between her grandmother and her.

"Yes, our princess is waiting for Second Miss. Upon hearing that Second Miss has come here, our princess keeps waiting for Second Miss to come over, for our princess has been very grateful for the things about Master Hao!"

Nanny Gao smiled. Her voice was not high or low, but it was enough to be heard by the people around her, which answered the questions of people around her.

It was because the fact that Qin Wanru had rescued Shao Yuanhao. In fact, it wasn't Qin Wanru that rescued him. They had not thought that Great Elder Princess would remember the kindness of others. When she met Qin Wanru, she would ask her to come to her place.

Several Misses were secretly jealous. At that time, they were also in the mansion of Rui'an Great Elder Princess. Why didn't they find the Master Hao who was in trouble? Otherwise, it was they who were given a higher look by Rui'an Great Elder Princess rather than Qin Wanru who just came from a small place in the countryside.

But now things had passed. Being jealous would not change anything. Everyone could only look at it helplessly, giving way, watching Qin Wanru, who was led by Nanny Gao with a smile, walking to the direction of Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess was sitting in the high seat, and she had seen Qin Wanru. She smiled like a flower and she was in a good mood. She regained her granddaughter and was in a good relationship with her, which made her feel very happy. When she saw Qin Wanru was coming over to salute, she immediately stood up and took her hands, and let her sit down on the chair aside.

"Wanru, stay with me today. Don't go around. The view of Prince Cheng's mansion is similar to that of our Princess Mansion, and there's nothing beautiful!"

Rui'an Great Elder Princess said with a smile.

When she heard that Prince Cheng meant to accept several young Misses as his concubine, Rui'an Great Elder Princess firstly thought of Qin Wanru. She was afraid that Qin Wanru was young and didn't know much, so she asked Nanny Gao to wait at the door. If she saw Qin Wanru coming in, she should immediately let Qin Wanru follow her without letting her go around.

Listening to Rui'an Great Elder Princess's comment on the view of Prince Cheng's mansion, Qin Wanru could not help but show a smile on her face. Of course she understood that this was because Rui'an Great Elder Princess worried about her. She felt warm and nodded immediately. But her eyes turned around, and she hesitantly asked, "Great Elder Princess, did you see my Big Sister?"

Chapter 403 Let's Have a Look at the Garden

"First Miss of Qin's Mansion?" Rui'an Great Elder Princess frowned mildly and stared around.

"She was walking ahead of me! I walked slowly as I was attracted by the view of Prince Cheng's Mansion. Anyway, she should have been here as she had left first, but where is she now?" asked Qin Wanru in surprise.

The consort selection was held today while everyone had no idea about it. All people got off their carriages first and then walked into the mansion. If there had been any problems or plans, they should have asked after coming in and they could not go directly to appreciate the garden impolitely.

Moreover, those who came here mostly were ladies from aristocratic families and they were clear that their purpose was Prince Cheng's consort selection. Thus, they would not act obtrusively because it would be hard to know what to do if they offended Prince Cheng!

"Servants! Find First Miss Qin!" Rui'an Great Elder Princess gave an order indifferently, from which they could tell that she was unpleasant.

The instant she ordered, two old maids answered and left.

The scenario made other ladies there lower their heads while some smart ladies regarded it as a farce.

It was a farce directed by Duke Xing's Mansion and Rui'an Great Elder Princess. As for Qin's Mansion? It just happened to get involved in it!

Those old-line aristocratic families in the capital city had always known Rui'an Great Elder Princess was on bad terms with Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion. However, they didn't expect that Qin sisters also got involved.

When Rui'an Great Elder Princess had expressed her appreciation towards Second Miss Qin and thought highly of her, then it was immediately said that Duke Xing's Mansion preferred First Miss Qin. Despite Qin Yuru's ceaseless scandals and awful reputation, Old Madam of Duke Xing, who had not been interested in this stuff before, was particularly in favor of her.

The reward to Qin Yuru at the acceptance banquet for Madam of Duke Xing's nominal daughter that day had seemed to say it all.

Everyone thought Madam Dowager of Duke Xing's Mansion would accept Qin Yuru as her nominal granddaughter soon since she had stated very clearly at the banquet. This restless First Miss Qin, however, had another scandal that maltreating her sister on the street and smashing the blood jade bracelet given by Madam Dowager of Duke Xing's Mansion.

What a hilarious drama!

Now these people wondered why Madam Dowager of Duke Xing's Mansion would have such a poor taste! How could she just pick the scandal-ridden Qin Yuru to compete against Rui'an Great Elder Princess!

Just looked at it! How shameless Qin Yuru was today! She even dared to attend this selection and just left here untamedly! Did she attempt to win the position of Prince Cheng's consort? It was said that Qin Yuru was engaged to the heir of Duke Yong's Mansion, a crossed-cousin marriage. Another saying was that she had even broken the engagement with another man in Jiangzhou just in order to marry the heir of Duke Yong's Mansion in the capital city.

Everyone there involuntarily had a malicious inference to First Miss Qin because of those rumors, plus the latest news that she now disappeared without reason.

Did she attempt to take the initiative?

This thought agitated those who liked Prince Cheng. They twisted a bit and peeped at Rui'an Great Elder Princess who was sitting on top. As they found her face was livid, they then decided not to do anything which might burn themselves.

"Yujie, you go and find big sister, too. I will be with Great Elder Princess and at least I don't need your service now." Thinking for a while, Qin Wanru lowered her voice and ordered Yujie.

Glancing at Rui'an Great Elder Princess hesitantly, Yujie seemed to be worried.

"Those old maids who are looking for big sister don't know what she looks like, so it will be convenient for you to look for her. Just remember. Don't cause any trouble and bring big sister here!"

Realizing Yujie was unwilling to do this, Qin Wanru persuaded her softly in a low voice. Although she didn't say it loudly, those who heard her words immediately thought highly of Second Miss Qin.

Compared to First Miss Qin who seemed to have wicked intentions, Second Miss Qin was much more decent.

Although it was said that they didn't get on well with each other, the event that Qin Yuru scolded Qin Wanru in public must have a bad influence on them. Moreover, since Second Miss Qin was still young, she might not know how to hide her feelings.

Even so, Second Miss Qin was able to focus on the overall situation by sending people to look for First Miss Qin. In case those old maids could not find her, she even sent her only servant girl here to help, from which it was obvious that she was a sensible lady.

As everyone was thinking like this, their thoughts that Qin Yuru must have done something furtive got stronger? At that moment, everyone could do nothing but just sit there and take a wild guess before Great Elder Princess spoke.

When hearing her lady's words, Yujie bowed sideways and hurried to leave unwillingly.

Realizing there was nobody else serving Qin Wanru, Rui'an Great Elder Princess then sent one of her servant girls to minister to Qin Wanru's needs.

"Great Elder Princess, what a lively day!" Qin Wanru's eyes rested on those agitated ladies beside after expressing her thanks to Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

These ladies kept looking out secretly. Especially when Qin Wanru mentioned Qin Yuru, they looked much more upset.

"Yes, it is quite busy here today for many aristocratic families also received the invitation cards." Rui'an Great Elder Princess nodded as she answered. Seeing Qin Wanru's good behaviors and manners, she now felt better. As for why she was willing to take charge of this reception and help Prince Cheng greet these young ladies in the inner courtyard, it was mostly because she didn't want Qin Wanru to be at a disadvantage situation.

"Can the hall hold all people here?" looking around the flower hall, Qin Wanru goggled and asked.

Her question reminded Rui'an Great Elder Princess that the reasons why she came here were not only to greet these ladies but also to tell her dear biological granddaughter something. Realizing that she could not spend more time on them, she just waved her hand and said, "It is still early for the selection. What about looking around in the garden for the view here is pretty good!"

Nanny Gao chuckled behind her princess. Not long ago, Great Elder Princess just complained to Second Miss Qin that the view of Prince Cheng's Mansion was average and it was like that of their own mansion. Then she now intended to send away these ladies with her lie.

Since Rui'an Great Elder Princess had said so, ladies there then quickly stood up.

Most of them left directly after taking leave of Rui'an Great Elder Princess while some only considered the whole thing as a hilarious drama when noticing Rui'an Great Elder Princess was holding Qin Wanru's hand tightly.

Some ladies had been confused about the reason why notorious First Miss Qin would be favored by Madam Dowager of Duke Xing's Mansion. Now, everything was clear. Madam Dowager of Duke Xing's Mansion just attempted to challenge Rui'an Great Elder Princess with opposing views.

They now both were somebody's grandmas! How could they not feel tired of it these years?

By the way, Qin sisters now could take advantage of this confrontation. However, it would not be a good thing anyway because Madam Dowager of Duke Xing's Mansion would definitely hate what Rui'an Great Elder Princess liked and Rui'an Great Elder Princess would hate what Madam Dowager of Duke Xing's Mansion liked.

It seemed that Qin Yuru was not superior to Qin Wanru and nobody could know what would become of her in the future. As regards Second Miss Qin, she now was too young to get involved! She was still a kid!

Now the silent observation was the best way in that they would be affected once screwing over Duke Xing's Mansion!

Rui'an Great Elder Princess didn't intend to let Qin Wanru walk around. She had been a bit worried before but her worries grew stronger when hearing the rumors about Chu Liuchen. After she asked

every servant to leave except Nanny Gao, she now hurried to warn Qin Wanru, “Zhuzhuo, don’t wander around! If Prince Cheng liked you, it would turn into a big trouble!”

“Grandma, don’t worry! I promise!” Qin Wanru smiled, reaching out and shaking Rui’an Great Elder Princess’ hands lightly, and answered with her sweet voice.

Her lovely look reddened Rui’an Great Elder Princess’ eyes for Qin Wanru reminded her of her own daughter who also looked lovely and sweet in her childhood.

However, every time she thought of her dear daughter, who was ruined by the cruel old woman, she could barely breathe and was overwhelmed by the repressed sadness.

“Zhuzhuo, when will you reveal your identity and let me announce righteously that you are my biological granddaughter?” Rui’an Great Elder Princess asked with her red-rimmed eyes.

“Don’t worry, grandma. Very soon!” Qin Wanru comforted her softly. It seemed that Rui’an Great Elder Princess was the one who did care about her sincerely and was willing to listen to her. Even if she might think what Qin Wanru did was out of mischief, Rui’an Great Elder Princess still enabled Qin Wanru to accomplish her plan.

Qin Wanru was moved by her.

“You’d better hurry. You know, I have, I have been waiting for this too long!” Rui’an Great Elder Princess wiped her tears with her handkerchief and answered sadly.

“Great Elder Princess, look, it is a good thing! Why do you cry again? It won’t take long for Second Miss to come back to you! You don’t have to cry!” Nanny Gao smiled and tried to comfort her princess.

Her words pleased Rui’an Great Elder Princess. She nodded and thought she might think too much as her granddaughter was smarter and Qin Wanru would not go down her daughter’s road again.

However, the moment she thought of Qin Yuru, her face turned livid. “Why is your big sister here today? Not to mention her mysterious disappearance, does she really attempt to lure Prince Cheng?”

Prince Cheng was her nephew so she didn’t want a notorious woman to appear in her nephew’s mansion.

“Grandma, let’s have a look at the garden and we might meet her there!” Qin Wanru smirked and proposed smoothly; she had ordered Yujie went to the garden given that Qin Yuru might be there!

“Does she really want to look for Prince Cheng?” Rui’an Great Elder Princess frowned and asked, feeling disgruntled at Qin Yuru, “Or has she forgotten her engagement with Duke Yong’s Mansion?”

“You will see!” Qin Wanru answered with a bright smile, trying to make Rui’an Great Elder Princess stand up.

Being resigned to Qin Wanru’s movement, Rui’an Great Elder Princess had to stand up and kept warning her, “Don’t go too far! Stay close to me, got it?”

“Yes! I will always listen to you! Grandma!” Qin Wanru answered happily. With her long eyelashes fluttering, a trace of indifference appeared in her beautiful eyes. “Grandma, a good show now may be waiting for us there!”

Prince Cheng could not be calculated easily by Qin Yuru like Qi Tianyu!

It seemed that Qin Yuru was going to have a great fall! Just in time! She couldn’t wait to see what Duke Xing’s Mansion would do next...

Chapter 404 A Message from Shao Jie’er

Qin Yuru did have a dirty little secret on the way to Prince Cheng’s Mansion so she then left on her own in a hurry.

By the way, since she now came to dislike Di Yan strongly, why not try her best to marry up if possible?

She had thought about it carefully; if she impressed Prince Cheng positively, it was still possible for her to be his vice consort or just a concubine with her background and the support from Duke Xing’s Mansion, even if she could not win the position of Princess Consort. Thus, for Qin Yuru, it would not matter too much even though she had an engagement with others because she had no desire to the title of Prince Cheng’s Consort.

It seemed that her current idea and Ning Caixian’s had at least one thing in common.

It would not affect her too much even if her reputation was ruined. Anyway, she didn’t want the position of Princess Consort. Was she able to marry Prince Cheng and give birth to a boy, it would be possible for her to force the present Princess Consort to abdicate and then win the title!

However, the most indispensable premise was that she had to leave a deep impression on Prince Cheng. About this, Qin Yuru never considered it as a difficulty for she had always known that she was very pretty and her appearance was superior to other ladies of aristocratic families in the capital city.

Nanny Huang once told her that it was of great importance for a woman to be soft and gentle. When she had been in Jiangzhou, she did make it. However, when she had arrived in the capital city, she became more irascible because of Di Yan.

Thus, it would not be difficult for her to redisplay her once gentlewomanly behaviors.

If Qin Yuru were selected by Prince Cheng, as regards her engagement with Di Yan, she would not think it a great matter. Once her status went up, Di Yan would not be out of her league. Moreover, she was favored by her grandmother, which meant that her dear grandma would not force her to marry the useless guy and would even help her cancel the engagement privately by telling the public that they had never engaged to each other and it was just a rumor.

Qin Yuru took it for granted that everything would turn out the way she wanted it to. Thus, she slipped away with her intention and turned in another direction when Qin Wanru was not with her. After walking along a path, she stopped a servant girl of Prince Cheng’s Mansion and inquired about Prince Cheng’s location. Then, she went towards the central garden with Mei Xue directly because she was told that Prince Cheng now was in the garden.

Since a consort selection was held today while it was not appropriate for Prince Cheng, a male, to appear in front of others, it was certain that he would watch them privately somewhere overhead.

Simply put, she only needed to find a higher place.

As Qin Yuru came towards the garden with this plan, she quickly found the pavilion where Prince Cheng was. Although the pavilion was a bit hidden, located on another side of an artificial hill, Qin Yuru still found it with her sharp eyes and felt that someone was there.

Surprised, she quickly checked her dress and was ready to rush there. However, her sleeve was grabbed by someone. She immediately turned around and found it was Shao Jie'er.

"First Miss Qin, where are you going?"

Even though she knew Shao Jie'er was kind to her, Qin Yuru still felt it was improper to tell her the truth. Then she put on a poker face and answered with a smile, "I had a bit chest tightness, so I am walking around to relieve it!"

"Here is the Prince Cheng's Mansion! Don't ramble around!" Shao Jie'er warned her. Since she had been to the Flower Hall and greeted Rui'an Great Elder Princess, she then went to look for Qin Yuru and intended to tell her Madam of Duke Xing's words.

"It is too crowded here and it makes me sick." Qin Yuru pretended to feel uncomfortable in her chest.

"Come with me!" Shao Jie'er trusted her lie and said with her shining eyes when pointing at a porch at the corner, which was not only remotely located but also quite far away from the pavilion on that hill. Qin Yuru was extremely reluctant to follow her.

However, Shao Jie'er was so passionate that Qin Yuru was pulled by her resignedly.

"First Miss Qin, my mother intends to know what happened to your mansion on earth? How come? What is your mother's purpose by causing this trouble?" As soon as Qin Yuru took her seat, Shao Jie'er quickly looked serious and retold Madam of Duke Xing's words verbatim.

Had Madam Di not ceaselessly caused troubles, Qin Yuru would have been in Duke Xing's Mansion now.

Her words displeased Qin Yuru. However spiteful Madam Di was, she was her biological mother. Thinking of her current situation, Qin Yuru could not help feeling guilty.

Shao Jie'er was only a daughter of a concubine! How could she look down upon her mother! Even though she was here to retell Madam of Duke Xing's words, she went too far this time!

"I have told everything to the First Miss of your mansion. Why ask again?" Qin Yuru's face turned dark and replied with a bad attitude.

Qin Yuru's words displeased Shao Jie'er in turn. "Qin Yuru is just a lady of a normal family. How can she really treat herself as the daughter of Madam of Duke Xing even if grandma likes her!"

"Big sister is very busy and she has no time to care about you," said Shao Jie'er with a gloomy look.

"She doesn't tell Madam of Duke Xing these even though she asked me about it?" astounded, Qin Yuru asked astonishedly with her wide-open eyes.

When she was lost in the crowd on New Year's Eve and unable to find others, she encountered First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion. The moment she met this lady, she was deeply impressed by her beauty. It was also the first time that Qin Yuru had admitted that her appearance was not comparable to that of First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion.

First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion was famous for her talent and beauty. However, Qin Yuru had thought that she didn't deserve this before because Qin Yuru had believed that it just depended on a good rumor, for she had also been known by others for her talents and beauty when in Jiangzhou in this way. But when she met First Miss Shao finally, Qin Yuru had to acknowledge that she was inferior to this lady.

Her manner, her appearance and her mild and benevolent countenance, which seemed that she would never get angry, were incomparable among all ladies Qin Yuru had ever seen before. She seemed to get the power of easing one's mind and making others express their true feelings willingly.

After introducing herself, Qin Yuru immediately said yes to Shao Yanru's invitation and hoped to have a heart-to-heart talk with her. Thus, when Shao Yanru asked about this matter, she told Shao Yanru everything and she even disclosed some details of the event which happened in Jiangzhou.

First Miss Shao also said that since her grandma preferred Qin Yuru, she would also favor her and was willing to treat Qin Yuru as her sister.

Shao Yanru even brought her to the way to Qin's Mansion for fear that Qin Yuru would be doubted by others. She didn't let Qin Yuru leave on her own until Qin Wanru and the other people came.

It could say that First Miss Shao was perfect in Qin Yuru's mind!

Qin Yuru had never been impressed so deeply by others, including those ladies of aristocratic families and those of common families in the capital city.

She had considered Shao Yanru as the best lady of the aristocratic family in the capital city.

Even so, Qin Yuru now had to doubt her. First Miss Shao had promised her that she would tell Madam of Duke Xing about what happened in Qin's Mansion and had asked her not to get worried for she would figure out the best way to help Qin Yuru with her mother and grandma. However, according to Shao Jie'er's words, it was obvious that Shao Yanru didn't tell Madam of Duke Xing!

"Big Sister did come once but she didn't go home, so it is impossible for her to let mother know!" curling her lip, Shao Jie'er suddenly felt Qin Yuru was an idiot.

"Big sister enjoys a high status here and she will never particularly return to Duke Xing's Mansion and just play a role as a messenger! Well, Qin Yuru must think too highly of herself and must believe that she is the one whom grandma likes most. How stupid!"

"The only granddaughter whom grandma likes most has always been my big sister! There is no exception!"

"First Miss didn't return to the mansion?" Qin Yuru asked uncertainly, "It was very late then..."

"That night her return was contrived secretly, so it was inappropriate for her to show up! Anyway, there is no need for you to care about my big sister. Madam and Madam Dowager know what to do. Now, the only thing you need to do is tell me everything about the accident in your mansion!" said Shao Jie'er

crossly. As she had no way to gather information about Shao Yanru, Qin Yuru's intense inquiries about her big sister quite annoyed her.

Even if she was a daughter of a concubine, she thought highly of herself because her father was Duke Xing. Had Madam of Duke Xing not ordered her, she would not have expressed her sincerity to Qin Yuru forwardly.

When Qin Yuru had arrived at Duke Xing's Mansion that day, she only had a very short talk with her out of courtesy. However, Shao Jie'er had always disdained Qin Yuru in her mind for she would never forget the very first time Qin Yuru came to Duke Xing's Mansion, she was found fainted at the entrance of backyard because she was shocked by her scandal.

"Nothing. My mother is ill, seriously ill!" Qin Yuru slurred.

"Well, your mother has a good sense of timing! Well done! How can your mother just get sick right around this time! Eh? Doesn't she know she will screw everything up?" Shao Jie'er twitched her mouth and gave Qin Yuru a reply with a sneer.

She sneered at not only Madam Di but also Qin Yuru.

Qin Yuru noticed Shao Jie'er's disdain for her mother and herself from her words but Qin Yuru didn't dare to snap at her in that she knew it was no good for her if she messed with Shao Jie'er.

Calming down, Qin Yuru said, "I wonder what Madam of Duke Xing wants me to do."

"Madam, eh, mother intends to know whether you have a plan. The matter that you fought with your sister in public has a very negative influence. Besides, your mother now is ill and you are unable to leave as you want, which means you can't meet grandma. So she wants to know if you have any idea. Do you?" Shao Jie'er threw the question back.

Shao Jie'er was just a daughter of a concubine and her status was not very high. Usually, she called Madam of Duke Xing "madam". However, this time she pretended to be favored by Madam of Duke Xing by calling her "mother", which did astonish Qin Yuru.

Although Qin Yuru was able to attend this banquet today, it was inappropriate for Madam Dowager of Duke Xing's Mansion to show up since no senior accompanied these ladies of aristocratic families today.

"Well..." Qin Yuru was hesitant and quickly glanced at Shao Jie'er.

"Just say it. I am here for you today. My aim is to see whether you have plans and to help you as much as possible!" said Shao Jie'er.

Qin Yuru answered, "Well, I, I do have one but I am not sure whether it is available..."

Nanny Huang had figured out one for her and she wanted Qin Yuru to let Madam of Duke Xing know at the right time. As for why she looked hesitant, it was because Nanny Huang told her to do so.

"Fine, just say it. If your sister comes here, it will be inconvenient for us to discuss!" Shao Jie'er replied impatiently.

Then Qin Yuru leaned over Shao Jie'er and began to whisper to her. Shao Jie'er who had looked disdainful just now kept nodding in agreement and her countenance now looked eased.

Chapter 405 The Gaffes

When Qin Yuru stopped, Shao Jie'er quickly said, "Fine, it is a good idea. I will tell my, eh, mother. As for the other things, my mother will deal with them!"

"I sure appreciate, Second Miss Shao!" Qin Yuru was overjoyed because she just completed a major task that was to get in touch with people of Duke Xing's Mansion when she finally was able to walk out of Qin's Mansion. Even though the one was not Madam of Duke Xing whom she wanted to contact, it could also be regarded as a good omen!

"My pleasure. You know, if you are accepted by Duke Xing's Mansion, we will be good sisters!" Shao Jie'er smiled and said as she stood up, "I have to leave now for my third sister must be looking for me!"

"Great. I think it is better for us not to leave here together, so I will wait for another moment here and then leave!" Qin Yuru answered with a smile and also stood up. Since she had finished the task Nanny Huang gave her, she now was able to do her own things!

"Fine!" When Shao Jie'er was ready to leave, she suddenly stopped and quickly turned back to face Qin Yuru. Pointing in the direction of the garden, Shao Jie'er warned, "Don't go there. You now have engaged to someone. Thus, it will be ominous for you if being selected by Prince Cheng."

"I know that! Just go!" Qin Yuru pretended to be obedient to Shao Jie'er's warning and kept nodding, but she just twitched her mouth privately.

Shao Jie'er then left and headed towards the inner courtyard!

Seeing Shao Jie'er leaving, Qin Yuru immediately put on a mocking smile. "Let me not go there? She must fear that I will be chosen by Prince Cheng! She must have the same idea!"

However, even if Shao Jie'er had the idea, she could not win Qin Yuru for she was only a daughter of a concubine! No matter how she wanted to be selected by Prince Cheng, she had nothing to do with the glory, wealth and rank!

Qin Yuru didn't leave until Shao Jie'er's figure disappeared in her sight. Then she started to walk in that direction again. Now most people must be in the Flower Hall and it was said that Rui'an Great Elder Princess was in charge of the reception. Given Rui'an Great Elder Princess' influence, everything must run according to her mind. Even if those ladies had the chance to visit the garden, they would do it together!

If Qin Yuru went with that group of ladies, Prince Cheng would not notice her. Thus, she had to seize the opportunity! Since there was nobody in the garden right at this time, it would be good for her to come here first to attract Prince Cheng's attention and to impress him!

That was Qin Yuru's plan! Thus, when she moved towards the rockery, she quickly assumed a graceful and delicate look by appreciating plum blossoms affectionately from time to time or standing by a lake fairly. Qin Yuru was trying her best to make her look charming and enchanting, hoping she could make Prince Cheng have a crush on her.

In order to draw Prince Cheng's attention, Qin Yuru particularly kept walking back and forth. She went to almost every corner of the rockery.

To show her beautiful bodyshape, she stood uprightly and decently. In case Prince Cheng who was in the pavilion found out she did it on purpose, Qin Yuru didn't dare to look up. Thus, it would be reasonable for her to claim that she didn't know Prince Cheng was there.

However, Qin Yuru's coquettish manner had already been noticed by Prince Cheng, and Prince Zhou, who were sitting in the pavilion on the rockery.

Seeing Qin Yuru now standing under another plum tree and gracefully reaching out to pick a plum blossom carefully, Prince Zhou could not help laughing. He glanced at Prince Cheng and smirked. He said, "Uncle, the lady is quite pretty and she is trying her best to draw your attention wholeheartedly. For her sake, just take her!"

In the imperial palace, there were endless palace maids who wanted to throw themselves at those princes while outside the palace, there were also ladies of aristocratic families who postured to impress them. These princes had seen many ladies who pretended to run into them accidentally or to fall in front of them deliberately. Thus, they immediately understood what Qin Yuru was thinking from her coquettish performance.

She must have known the Prince Cheng's location and tried to show herself here on purpose.

Prince Cheng's thoughtful gaze fell on Qin Yuru.

From his view, he could only see her side look which, however, made him feel familiar. Prince Cheng then began to recall when he had met this lady before.

Her side look was enchanting from his view. The harmonious scene that Qin Yuru sniffed plum blossoms delicately made everyone think Qin Yuru a fairylike lady.

Not hearing Prince Cheng's answer, Prince Zhou was stunned and he also took another glance at Qin Yuru. When he found she was pretty, he praised, "Uncle, she is really pretty! Why not ask about her background and just take her! Although her behavior is improper, she might really admire you and come here in particular!"

After all, these princes would never care about the number of their concubines!

For Prince Zhou, the lady was really beautiful but her manner was terrible, which meant that she didn't come from a well-known aristocratic family. Thus, it would be the best for her to be granted a position of concubine and there was no need to waste the precious titles of consorts.

His mother kept warning him to be friendly with Prince Cheng so it might be a good idea to send a beauty to him as a gift here.

"Her mansion?" Prince Cheng finally spoke.

Xiqi who was standing behind him hurried to answer, "I have no idea, Your Highness. Should I go to ask her while you wait here for a moment?"

"No." Prince Cheng shook his head. He just felt familiar with her appearance and he didn't really want to know her background.

He had turned his mind wholeheartedly towards Buddhism. Even though he was to deceive the public by this to some extent, he was deeply affected by Buddha. Thus, he didn't like her when noticing her coquettish manner.

"Uncle, let Xiqi ask her! Once we know her background, you can choose her as your concubine! Besides, beauties like her are rare in the capital city!" Prince Zhou smiled. He believed Prince Cheng was attracted by her while he must feel shy to ask about her background in front of him. Thus, Prince Zhou directly waved his hand and called his little eunuch.

"Go and ask which mansion she comes from!"

His eunuch answered and left hurriedly. Prince Cheng tried to stop him but it was too late. Then he smiled bitterly and shook his head, allowing Prince Zhou's trick.

Qin Yuru now also got anxious and was a bit dispirited when finding there was no response. How could he not notice her when she had been walking here for a long time? Why didn't he take any action?

Did Prince Cheng not like her or was he not there coincidentally? She had a strong desire to look up and check but she knew she could not do this, so she had to curb her impulse!

Since she had been circling the rockery for several times, so now she had no other place where she could go or other view which she could appreciate. Qin Yuru was unwilling to give up easily but she knew her plan would be exposed if she kept walking around the rockery. Thus, she now stood in front of a plum tree and hurried to think about what she should do next by pretending to appreciate the blossoms.

If Prince Cheng noticed her and liked her, he would send somebody to ask her!

Why was there nobody coming to ask her!

When she felt upset, she suddenly heard a slight cough behind her! Extremely excited, she still pretended to be half-hearted and turn around. When she found the person was a little eunuch, she nearly failed to maintain her poker face.

Trying hard to suppress her excitement, Qin Yuru asked mildly, "Hi, what's the matter?"

"May I know which mansion you come from?" the little eunuch smiled and asked. He served Prince Zhou so he knew his master intended to make a match between Prince Cheng and this lady. Thus, he was very kind to her.

"There he is!"

Restraining impulses, Qin Yuru pretended to be serious and asked, "What do you mean and why?"

"My master sends me to ask if you dropped your handkerchief on which there are some characters. So he wants to know where you come from!"

The little eunuch took out a piece of handkerchief to show that he was here only to see whether Qin Yuru lost her handkerchief and there was no other meaning. His action also told Qin Yuru that he would not let her violate the doctrine of women.

“My master is from Ningyuan Army General’s Mansion.” Mei Xue stepped forward and answered loudly.

“A lady from Ningyuan Army General’s Mansion? Would you mind telling me your identity exactly?” the little eunuch asked with a bright smile.

“My master is First Miss of Qin’s Mansion,” Mei Xue answered.

“Well, it seems that the handkerchief doesn’t belong to this lady!” putting the handkerchief away, the little eunuch claimed and turned around smilingly. Since he had known her background, the handkerchief which was used to support the excuse now was useless.

“May I have a look at the handkerchief because I lost mine just now!” Qin Yuru asked sweetly.

“You lost your handkerchief?” Stunned, the little eunuch turned to look at them immediately. Even though the handkerchief didn’t belong to him, it didn’t belong to this lady in front of him! How could she really claim she lost her handkerchief?

“Yes, so may I?” looking kind of shy, Qin Yuru asked again softly.

Finding she was kind and nice, the little eunuch didn’t turn her down and just gave her the handkerchief.

The design of this handkerchief was simple in that there was no embroidery on it. Given the stitchwork and the material, it was obvious that this handkerchief possessed a fine quality and was much better than that of Qin Yuru! A little eunuch definitely could not afford one but it was possible for his master to have it!

The handkerchief was larger than those which ladies used and Qin Yuru’s own handkerchief was only half the size of this one!

Checking over, Qin Yuru looked disappointed. She folded it carefully and then gave it to the little eunuch. Shaking her head, she said, “Thank you very much! Unfortunately, it is not mine!”

The little eunuch glanced at Qin Yuru thoughtfully, smiled and then left.

When the eunuch left, Qin Yuru was finally relieved for she got her plan off her chest! Although the handkerchief was not real, the following things about the earrings would be real!

This time she didn’t linger but decided to leave. However, since she didn’t want her action to be too obvious, she then turned around and kept pretending to appreciate the view in the garden while walking away.

In the pavilion on that rockery, when Prince Cheng knew the lady was First Miss of Ningyuan Army General’s Mansion from Prince Zhou’s little eunuch, a thought just occurred to him! He finally realized when and where he had seen this lady!

A smile touched his lips. He stared at Qin Yuru’s figure and was surprised. “It is her!”

No wonder he felt familiar when seeing her face. They did meet before!

"Uncle, how do you feel? She is a beauty!" seeing Prince Cheng just smiling, Prince Zhou then walked to him and asked with a smirk.

"She is!" Prince Cheng gave him a meaningful answer.

"Great! Then it is her! Uncle, you have to know that it is I who make a match between the beauty and you! I suppose you should thank me sincerely!" Prince Zhou laughed.

Chapter 406 Run into a Brilliant Drama

Although Prince Cheng didn't deny Prince Zhou's words, and picked up his cup and sipped the tea naturally, a trace of indifference and indignation flashed upon his eyes. "How dare this woman show up here? She must be the one who set off a storm of rumors and gossip in the capital city!"

"What does the Emperor want by allowing this woman to attend my banquet? Does he attempt to test me? Or does he try to force me to submit? If it is the former, then all the woman behaves might be under the Emperor's instructions. Does the Emperor now begin to suspect of the matter of Duke Xing's Mansion?"

"Uncle, Uncle!" said Prince Zhou's voice in his ear, waking him from his contemplation. He quickly took several sips of tea to dissimulate his emotion and then put the cup down. When he tried to speak, he suddenly found a group of people at the entrance of the garden with Rui'an Great Elder Princess leading the way.

Checking his clothes, he stood up and said, "Great Elder Princess is here! Let's go!"

"Fine!" Prince Zhou had to agree right now even though he was trying to get some news out of Prince Cheng.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess was a senior so they could not ignore her. Besides, it was an important part for the consort selection. No matter how wide the sight was when they sat in the pavilion on the rockery, they still had to get close to those ladies to see clearly. With the opportunity to greet Great Elder Princess and to have a talk with her, they could watch those ladies of aristocratic families carefully.

When Rui'an Great Elder Princess walked in the garden with ladies of aristocratic families, she let them act as they wished. Thus, some ladies just left while the others were still with Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

Qin Wanru was also there but she didn't follow Great Elder Princess too tightly. She just walked a bit far away from Great Elder Princess according to the latter's instruction because if Qin Wanru was next to her, she might be noticed by Prince Cheng who would salute later, which was the last thing Rui'an Great Elder Princess wanted.

Although their positions in the family hierarchy was different, she would not be allowed to marry into Prince Cheng's Mansion if Qin Wanru's real identity was uncovered. However, now nobody knew that.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess and Qin Wanru both thought that it was better for her not to be so outstanding and that was why Qin Wanru dressed like this today, which seemed that she was to accentuate Qin Yuru's beauty.

When they walked in the garden, Qin Wanru's gaze fell upon Qin Yuru who was coming towards them. Qin Wanru scoffed as she surmised correctly that Qin Yuru did come to the garden in advance.

Qin Yuru didn't expect that she would encounter the group of ladies here. When she found these people staring at her, her happy look immediately turned into a ghastly pale countenance and she looked panic in her eyes.

"Well, she is the First Miss of Qin's Mansion, isn't she?"

"Yes, but why does she come here so early?"

"She has engaged to someone else, hasn't she? Or does she have an inordinate ambition towards Prince Cheng?"

These ladies who saw Qin Yuru began to whisper together. Their voice was not loud but it was enough for people around to hear it. In a moment, Qin Yuru came under the spotlight, being examined by people there.

Since everyone was in the Flower Hall with Rui'an Great Elder Princess, it was quite suspicious that she had come to the garden in advance. Obviously, she had an evil intention.

Qin Yuru didn't know the old lady who now was surrounded by others was Rui'an Great Elder Princess. However, when noticing most people were young ladies of aristocratic families, Qin Yuru who was tactful, immediately realized that the senior who looked decent should be the one who took charge of the reception of the inner courtyard today.

Qin Yuru quickly came and bowed to Rui'an Great Elder Princess reverently.

Someone had told Rui'an Great Elder Princess who Qin Yuru was before.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess looked Qin Yuru up and down and then asked flatly, "You are First Miss of Ningyuan Army General's Mansion?"

"Yes, I am," Qin Yuru answered softly.

"Why did you not come to the Flower Hall but go directly to the garden?" Rui'an Great Elder Princess asked indifferently.

"I got lost so I can't find the way to the hall!" Qin Yuru replied politely. She lowered her head and rubbed her handkerchief tightly with her hands. These people came here so early that she now just figured out a farfetched reason.

Had she left the garden, she would have been bold and assured to answer the question. Had nobody seen her coming out of the garden, they would not have guessed Qin Yuru had gone to the garden and shown up in front of Prince Cheng secretly.

"Lost? First Miss Qin, the road to the Flower Hall is not that one to the garden. Moreover, there are many people there so you can easily get there by following them. I am very curious about where you got lost. Can you tell us?" a lady said sarcastically.

Many ladies had the same idea as Qin Yuru. Even though Prince Cheng didn't have the real power, given his outstanding appearance and impressive bearing, the one who married him could still enjoy the wealth and honor. Some even thought it would be much better than marrying Prince Yue, Prince Zhou or Prince Xin because even when a new emperor ascended the throne, he, as the new emperor's uncle with a disengaged mind, he would still be treated well and reverently.

Thus, even though he would not rise to power, he could still possess wealth and live a tranquil life.

These ladies had a strong desire towards him but they didn't dare to take action. Thus, when realizing Qin Yuru had done what they wanted, they just felt jealous.

Some ladies could not bear it even when Rui'an Great Elder Princess was there.

"Well, I didn't notice that. I was thinking while walking and suddenly it just turned out that I got lost!" explained Qin Yuru.

"Thinking deeply while walking? So that is your excuse that you just deviated from the major road? However, why didn't your servant girl mention you when you were lost in your thoughts? Or were you thinking together? Here is the Prince Cheng's Mansion. If things go a little bit wrong, you might lose your life! Thus, are First Miss Qin you unafraid or does your servant girl fear nothing?"

Another lady asked scornfully.

Her words made everyone laugh.

Hearing the sarcasm, Qin Yuru flushed. Even though she gnashed her teeth hatefully in her heart, she had to pretend to be wronged and sad. She said with her red rimmed eyes, "I did get lost! If you don't believe me, then I have nothing to say!"

"Get lost?" there came a mellow voice. Some ladies had seen Prince Cheng and Prince Zhou so they hid their acrimonious countenance and bowed sideways to them reverently with a decent and gentle appearance. Everyone seemed to have a ladylike and cultivated air.

Had Prince Cheng not witnessed the scene that they stopped Qin Yuru and interrogated her aggressively, he would have believed that they really were gentle and educated.

Prince Cheng clutched his forehead and felt his eyebrows were throbbing. Where did the Emperor find these women? None of them was gentle and elegant!

After he saluted Rui'an Great Elder Princess, Great Elder Princess smiled and said, "Don't bother!"

Qin Yuru's heart beat quickly and she looked at Rui'an Great Elder Princess nervously. She was glad that she didn't act rashly for she didn't expect that it would be Rui'an Great Elder Princess who took charge of this reception for Prince Cheng today.

"Why is Prince Zhou also here?" looking at Prince Zhou, Great Elder Princess smiled and asked.

"Not only me, third brother is also here. We are here for uncle! Since I am free today, I then came here with third brother!" Prince Zhou answered smilingly. His answer was ambiguous, but everyone quickly understood.

Ladies there blushed and stole a glance at them for Prince Cheng and Prince Zhou looked really handsome.

Some young ladies who had no desire towards Prince Cheng now had feelings for Prince Zhou and looked at him tenderly.

“Well, what happened to this lady? Why does her eyes look red? Does she get wronged?” Prince Zhou stared at Qin Yuru and asked in surprise. It seemed that he attempted to see the fun without any intention of calming the event down!

A hint of sarcasm flickered in Qin Wanru’s eyes. Qin Yuru now lost the best chance to keep a low profile. Prince Cheng would not talk about it because of his age but it was hard to predict Prince Zhou’s action!

“An honor to meet you, Prince Cheng and Prince Zhou!” Qin Yuru quickly lowered her head to bow reverently to them. Hearing Prince Zhou’s question, Qin Yuru whose eyes looked slightly red, now felt she did get wronged and almost cried.

Her tears even fell to the ground!

Nobody noticed this except Prince Zhou. Since he got close, he could see her appearance clearly. He had to admit that she was quite beautiful and even seemed to have feelings for her.

“Uncle, see? You sadden her. Come and comfort her!” Prince Zhou turned to see Prince Cheng and laughed for he still thought he had understood Prince Cheng’s meaning. Thus, since Prince Cheng liked her, he should announce his decision in front of Rui’an Great Elder Princess. Just a woman!

There was no consort or concubine in Prince Zhou’s Mansion. Thus, he didn’t pay attention to those boring rumors spreading in the capital city and didn’t know Qin Yuru had an engagement with the heir of Duke Yong!

Qin Yuru had accomplished her plan? So fast! Stunned, Qin Wanru looked at Qin Yuru. How fast she acted! However, was Prince Cheng a man who was easy to be captured by Qin Yuru?

Prince Cheng didn’t look like a simple-minded man! Besides, the one who had something to do with Qin Yuru would get involved in ceaseless troubles. Prince Cheng was a man who liked tranquility. Was he trying to change his lifestyle?

Thinking this, she watched Prince Cheng’s expressionless face and then glanced at Qin Yuru. When she looked her up and down for a moment, her eyes suddenly widened in shock. She just stared at Qin Yuru’s face with astonishment.

Sensing Qin Wanru’s astonishment, Yujie whispered, “Lady...”

Qin Wanru shook her head to show she was fine. She rolled her eyes and suddenly a trace of coldness appeared in her eyes. She smirked. “She acts so fast!”

However, she didn’t believe that Qin Yuru would capture Prince Cheng so fast!

“Liuzhou, nonsense. First Miss Qin has a fiance from Duke Yong’s Mansion. She has nothing to do with me!” Prince Cheng scolded Prince Zhou softly. It seemed that he was blaming Chu Liuzhou but for Qin

Yuru, his words were thunderous. She stepped backwards in shock and looked at Prince Cheng with tears in her eyes. Her lips were trembling and she almost fell down.

Then she looked at the little eunuch who stood beside Prince Cheng and opened her mouth...

Chapter 407 The Earring Which Was Missent

The little eunuch was the one who served Prince Cheng!

"Prince Cheng!" Qin Yuru raised her head and stared at Prince Chen piteously. She answered as her face looked slightly red, "Duke Yong's Mansion is merely my maternal family!"

Although she answered vaguely, the true meaning hid in her words was very clear. Everyone there immediately understood what she meant!

Staring at Qin Yuru, Qin Wanru smiled as brightly and elegantly as a blooming ice flower among the crowd. It was obvious that Qin Yuru was dissatisfied with Di Yan so she intended to marry up!

How dare she say these words? Her answer indicated that Prince Cheng misunderstood her! According to her words, even though she had something to do with Duke Yong's Mansion, it was because the latter was her maternal family and she didn't engage to the heir of Duke Yong's Mansion just as the rumor said.

Prince Cheng frowned tightly and his gaze fell on Qin Yuru. He knew what Qin Yuru meant. However, had Qin Yuru not been so notorious, he could have agreed to let her be one of his concubines not only because it would not matter too much to accept one more woman in his inner courtyard when he had to choose his consort, but also because she had Qin Huaiyong support her.

However, how could this woman be so notorious!

Besides, she sometimes did act in a rakish manner.

Prince Zhou also got the point and burst into laughter. He said, "Uncle, why not accept her since First Miss Qin is so..."

Deliberately, he stopped and didn't finish his words. He even blinked at Prince Cheng amusedly, leaving everyone there thinking boundlessly.

Many ladies there glared at Qin Yuru out of envy, inwardly cursing Qin Yuru for her rascal behaviors. Although they didn't know what Qin Yuru had done, it seemed obvious that there was something between them.

"Qin Yuru doesn't engage to anybody? It is known that she has engaged to the heir of Duke Yong, isn't it?" A lady pretended to whisper to people next to her because she could not bear it anymore.

"I suppose she does engage to someone. When Ning Caixian's event occurred, it is said that she has engagement with others!"

"It seems that Duke Yong's Mansion has even sent presents to them!" Some ladies who were angry began to discuss and completely ignored Qin Yuru whose face turned scarlet and then white.

Qin Yuru thought in her heart hatefully that how they could come here so fast which made her unable to deal with this situation now! However, even so, she knew she had to stop their discussion. Thus, she raised her head and looked over the crowd. Suddenly, her eyes twinkled. She raised her voice and said to Qin Wanru who now stood behind the crowd, "Second sister."

Rui'an Great Elder Princess immediately looked dark.

Qin Wanru had tried to avoid being involved in this drama, but since now Qin Yuru attempted to take her down with her, Qin Wanru then decided not to hide.

Qin Wanru stepped forward from the crowd and answered generously, "Big sister!"

Qin Wanru answered in a manner that she was not intimate with Qin Yuru but she also was not cold with her. Even though she was young, she acted at leisure.

Prince Cheng noticed her. Watching her slender figure, he frowned. The reason why he would pay attention to her was that the injunction master once told him that Second Miss Qin was a good choice for him to select her as his concubine. However, the girl who stood in front of him was too young. Even though she did look pretty, he had no feelings for her.

Moreover, he had never taken time to deliberate these stuff.

"Where have you been? Why did you disappear halfway suddenly? I even got lost when trying to look for you! I just don't know why I would be here and even offended Prince Cheng," said Qin Yuru softly. The moment she saw Qin Wanru she knew she had a perfect excuse now.

"I was walking behind and following you. Then when I found you not here, I just thought you would be in the Flower Hall. Thus I went there with other ladies, but it turned out that you were not there!" answered Qin Wanru simply. In her eyes half-covered by her long eyelashes, there was a trace of indifference.

It seemed that they didn't get on well with each other!

Qin sisters should arrive at Prince Cheng's Mansion together. However, the elder one rushed forward so hurriedly that she got rid of the younger one who was following her. Later, the younger one went to the Flower Hall by following other ladies while the elder one disappeared mysteriously. Now the elder one began to claim that she was to look for her young sister!

There were many ladies heading for the Flower Hall. If she did turn back to find her sister, she should be on that road and it would be impossible for her to wander here.

"Since Second Miss Qin who should have been walking behind you disappeared, you should have looked for her on the same way but not on another way beside, right?" Rui'an Great Elder Princess asked, smiling slightly.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess understood that Qin Yuru was trying to take Qin Wanru down with her. Given that Qin Yuru dared to do this even in front of her, it seemed that she had done the same thing to Qin Wanru in Qin's Mansion for many times. When Rui'an Great Elder Princess thought her granddaughter who had no parent had always been treated unfairly in this way, a hint of hatred flashed upon her eyes.

"I, I did get lost!" If it were Qin Wanru who argued, Qin Yuru would know how to answer her. However, since it was Great Elder Princess who asked, in a straightforward way, Qin Yuru suddenly was afraid to answer. She looked up and stared at Prince Cheng who stood beside, asking him for help with her watery eyes.

"Big Sister? Why is there only one earring? Do you drop it somewhere?" before Prince Cheng spoke, Qin Wanru asked when she fixed her eyes on Qin Yuru's earlobe on which there should have been an earring hanging.

"I, I might lose it somewhere!" explained Qin Yuru nervously, since she didn't expect Qin Wanru would notice the detail.

"Then let me look for it with you!" Qin Wanru looked back at her and suggested.

It was known that earring was the personal item of a lady of aristocratic family, so this type of thing should be kept carefully. If a man had it, then the lady's reputation and her moral integrity would be ruined completely!

Qin Wanru answered in a very decent way. Even though she didn't show her affection for Qin Yuru, she seemed to pay attention to this matter. Some sober and mature ladies kept nodding in agreement.

In this case, the very first thing they should do was find the earring. Otherwise, things could really go wrong!

Confusedly, Prince Zhou looked at Qin Yuru and then looked back at the little eunuch who he sent to contact Qin Yuru. His eunuch should be the only one who was in touch with her.

The little eunuch blinked at him and took out the handkerchief on which there was a slightly bulged part. Even though it was not conspicuous, Prince Zhou noticed the detail.

The handkerchief was the spare one he asked the eunuch to keep.

Reaching out, he took the folded handkerchief and felt something was inside. It should be a round and long stuff. Then when he watched Qin Yuru's another earring, his look changed slightly.

"First Miss Qin audaciously wrapped her earring with the handkerchief herself at that time and tried to give me? No, no. She must have thought my eunuch is the one who serves Prince Cheng and that is why she tried to send her personal item to him as a token privately!"

Realizing this point, Prince Zhou calmed down. There were many pretty ladies and he didn't want this one in front of him at all. If he were haunted by her, it would be a total disaster.

"Uncle, have a look!" Prince Zhou walked to Prince Cheng with a bright smile and gave the handkerchief in which there was the earring to him.

Prince Cheng took the handkerchief involuntarily. When he realized what the thing was, his face changed. He quickly realized how it all happened. There was nothing but only deep disgust in his eyes.

"How dare she slip her earring to Chu Liuzhou's eunuch! She must think that he is my eunuch and must attempt to socialize with me in privacy!"

He wanted nothing to do with this notorious First Miss Qin!

“Servants! Help First Miss Qin find her earring!” Prince Cheng passed this handkerchief to Xiqi who stood behind him impassively.

When Xiqi took it, he looked stunned when lightly pinching the handkerchief.

He immediately understood what it was, but he didn’t know his master’s meaning.

Prince Cheng took a sideways glance at Qin Yuru and shook his head. Xiqi quickly understood and then asked some little eunuch to find the earring on the way she came.

“Big Sister, where have you been? Let’s go there and have a look!” Qin Wanru had noticed what happened between the two princes, but she just pretended to see nothing and said to Qin Yuru.

“Ah, yeah, good. That way!” when realizing she had to lead the way, Qin Yuru was flustered and casually pointed in a direction.

She wanted to use the earring as an excuse for her to meet Prince Cheng privately or a proper reason for her to see Prince Cheng. She believed that Prince Cheng would fall in love with her if they had a nice conversation. However, she never expected things would become like this!

Qin Yuru had tried to use Qin Wanru, the mean girl to divert others’ attention but everything just went out of control. Gnashing her teeth secretly, she then pointed in a direction reluctantly.

Everyone felt suspicious as Qin Yuru was pointing in the direction where the two princes came. Obviously, she did intend to seduce Prince Cheng.

“Ask more people to find the earring!” Rui’an Great Elder Princess ordered the old maid beside. Then this old maid quickly left with several old maids and servant girls.

“Big Sister, let’s find it on our own!” seeing Qin Yuru didn’t move, Qin Wanru said and smiled.

“Okay, let’s do this!” Qin Yuru could do nothing but answer her now.

“I find it! I find it!” Someone shouted! Qin Yuru felt her heart throbbing quickly and looked at Prince Cheng involuntarily. When she found him standing there impassively and looked at the eunuch who was running towards them, she was flustered and felt something was wrong.

The eunuch who held the earring stopped in front of them and panted heavily. He said to Prince Cheng, “Your Highness, I find the earring! It is under the tree!”

The little eunuch pointed at a tree at random.

Qin Yuru’s countenance looked rigid. She bit her lips lightly and almost fell down. She had tried her best to send her earring to Prince Cheng! Or did Prince Cheng not want her earring and that was why he intended to return her the earring in this way? Then why did he let the little eunuch show that he had paid attention to her before?

Raising her head, she looked at Prince Cheng with tears in her eyes. She was so sad that she looked almost fainted.

Nobody would not doubt the truth behind the earring, the truth related to Prince Cheng and Qin Yuru. The noisy crowd suddenly became silent because of Qin Yuru's reaction. Their gaze which was on Qin Yuru's face quickly shifted to Prince Cheng.

They were waiting for Prince Cheng's explanation!

Nobody would believe nothing had happened between them given this situation...

Chapter 408 The Rescue Escalated the Matter!

Prince Cheng turned around and looked at Qin Yuru at leisure. Pretending to be confused by her, who looked close to tears, he stepped backwards and said to Prince Zhou, "Prince Zhou, it is you who asked the little eunuch to inquire about the lady's background. Is it possible that she lost her earring there?"

Prince Cheng didn't intend to get Prince Zhou involved. However, when Prince Zhou gave him the handkerchief, he took it, which meant he had decided to deal with this matter.

Given the current situation, he had to disclose the truth.

Since he had kept a low profile for these years, he would not allow Qin Yuru, the bad apple, to interfere with his plan when he had to get married.

"I have no idea! She was wandering around to attract your attention, wasn't she? You are her target! Besides, I just sent someone to ask about her and I don't know where she dropped her earring!" Stunned by Prince Cheng's words, Prince Zhou answered immediately and looked unhappy.

Prince Zhou would not accept this situation when realizing Prince Cheng attempted to shift the blame onto him.

Since Prince Zhou was not married, he would be tarnished by Qin Yuru if he was stuck with her. Thus, he replied to Prince Cheng in an impatient way.

Their conversation completely exposed what Qin Yuru had done to the crowd. Seeing these two princes reacted in a way that they were reluctant to be stuck with Qin Yuru, those ladies who had been jealous of her now were gloating and scoffed at her in an undertone with their handkerchiefs covering their faces.

The color went from Qin Yuru's face. She now only felt ashamed and resentful as she didn't expect that it was Prince Cheng who told the truth.

Tears rolled down Qin Yuru's face. She covered her face with her hands and ran out, crying bitterly.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess gave a sign to an old maid beside. Then the old maid nodded and left to chase after Qin Yuru. After all, since she now was in charge of the reception, she had to prevent Qin Yuru from any accident.

"Mei Xue, take the earring and see how Big Sister is!" Qin Wanru soberly ordered Mei Xue who now froze there.

Things were changing too fast, making Mei Xue unable to respond. Hearing Qin Wanru's words, she quickly grabbed the earring from the eunuch's hand and went after Qin Yuru when crying "Lady! Lady!".

“Great Elder Princess, I have to see how Big Sister is doing!” Qin Wanru said to Rui’an Great Elder Princess reverently.

In fact, Great Elder Princess didn’t want Qin Wanru to leave because she finally was able to see her granddaughter. However, as regards the current situation, she was clear that Qin Wanru had to do this. Even though they didn’t get on well with each other, she had to comfort Qin Yuru at this time.

“Off you go, Second Miss Qin. We have prepared rooms for ladies to have a rest in the mansion. Thus, you can take First Miss Qin there!” answered Rui’an Great Elder Princess.

“I sure appreciate, Great Elder Princess!” Qin Wanru bowed sideways to her and then headed in the direction that Qin Yuru left with Yujie hastily.

It was not good for her to stay here. Since there was a chance for Qin Wanru to get away from the ill-disposed Prince Cheng, it was better to leave as soon as possible.

She didn’t want to get involved in this farce of Prince Cheng’s Mansion!

Qin Yuru had thought she had won Prince Cheng’s heart and had attracted his attention, but she didn’t know that accidentally, her behavior made Prince Cheng and Prince Zhou shift blame onto each other and even disclose what she had done.

Qin Wanru clearly witnessed the whole process that Prince Zhou gave the handkerchief to Prince Cheng and the latter then passed this to the eunuch behind him.

Qin Yuru had believed that she had seduced Prince Cheng but she didn’t know that Prince Cheng was not a man who had compassion for womanhood and she didn’t anticipate that he would really unmask her.

As regards Prince Zhou who just wanted to see the fun, he had no feeling for Qin Yuru so he directly debunked her!

When Qin Wanru found Qin Yuru, the latter was sitting in a corridor, crying bitterly. Mei Xue was trying her best to comfort her lady.

Walking unhurriedly towards her, Qin Wanru also took a seat in the corridor. However, she didn’t comfort Qin Yuru but just sat there, half leaned against the railing and began to appreciate the view outside.

Even though there was no good view for her to appreciate because leaves withered and fell, she could have a look at the corridor and the eave at least.

“Qin Wanru, are you satisfied now? You have embarrassed me in front of everyone! How, how vicious you are!” Wiping tears, Qin Yuru yelled at Qin Wanru venomously.

“I don’t understand,” answered Qin Wanru softly. She looked back at Qin Yuru and smiled slightly.

“YOU DON’T UNDERSTAND? How dare you say that? Had you not said my earring was lost, Prince Cheng and Prince Zhou would not have humiliated me!” Qin Yuru was totally irritated. She almost wanted to stand up and slap Qin Wanru in the face.

Mei Xue saw things went wrong. She quickly grabbed her sleeve and beckoned her not to be impulsive.

"Your earring is lost. Don't you think you have to find it? Or do you think it is okay to leave it in Prince Cheng's Mansion?" Qin Wanru asked indifferently.

Qin Yuru was so angry that her intense hatred arose in her heart. She glared at Qin Wanru in a malicious way and shouted, "Qin Wanru, YOU DID IT ON PURPOSE!"

"Your thought, actually is right!" Qin Wanru smiled and lifted her eyebrows. The next moment, she said coldly, "Or do you want me to get blamed for it?"

Qin Yuru didn't expect that Qin Wanru would say these and would be unafraid of her. She was shamed into anger and just wanted to tear Qin Wanru apart.

Qin Wanru stood up and said with a cold stare, "Let's return home."

"What do you mean, Qin Wanru?"

"Nothing. Do you still think it is proper for you to stay here? I suppose you'd better figure out how to explain to Duke Yong's Mansion, right?" Qin Wanru's answer was undeniable.

There were many ladies in Prince Cheng's Mansion and now Qin Yuru's plan was uncovered. Given the fact that Qin Yuru who had engaged to someone tried to seduce Prince Cheng and was rejected by him at last, it would not be just a little thing if Di Yan knew this.

Qin Yuru had only thought about what she should do when she succeeded. Now since she failed, she finally realized that she didn't know how to explain to Di Yan. She got flustered.

She didn't dare to seduce Prince Cheng anymore and she also couldn't give up Di Yan now.

She now was unable to focus on the quarrel with Qin Wanru. She quickly stood up and hurried outside.

After Qin Wanru told something to the old maid who was ordered by Rui'an Great Elder Princess to go after Qin Yuru, she then left with Qin Yuru.

When they got on the carriage, Qin Yuru suddenly said, "Go to Duke Yong's Mansion!"

She tried to fix it.

"No, Ningyuan Army General's Mansion first and then take Big Sister to Duke Yong's Mansion!" Qin Wanru refused impassively because she didn't want to act with Qin Yuru in Duke Yong's Mansion.

Finding Qin Wanru disobeyed her, Qin Yuru glared at Qin Wanru. Qin Wanru leaned against the carriage at leisure and said calmly.

"Big Sister, I won't go to Duke Yong's Mansion with you. You can say what you want to say and you can do what you want to do. Just don't take me down with you. I don't want to retell the scene."

If they were in Duke Yong's Mansion, people there would definitely ask Qin Wanru about the event. Since Qin Yuru now didn't figure out how to lie, she didn't want Qin Wanru to screw up her plan.

"General's Mansion first!" Qin Yuru said and glared at Qin Wanru viciously.

Then the carriage moved. When they arrived at Ningyuan Army General's Mansion, Qin Wanru got off. Qin Yuru immediately asked the coachman to turn around and ran towards Duke Yong's Mansion. She was so flustered that she was not in the mood to have a quarrel with Qin Wanru. She must explain the whole thing before the matter came out from Prince Cheng's Mansion.

Qin Wanru stood at the main gate and watched Qin Yuru's carriage leaving. Her eyes looked deep. This time, Qin Yuru was really scared!

Good, very good. The more scared she was, the more things she wanted to do!

Nominal daughter? Nominal granddaughter? So what? Frankly, she was not the biological one!

It seemed that the title of nominal daughter or granddaughter was not Qin Yuru really wanted!

Fine, she didn't like it either.

What Duke Xing's Mansion owed her was not only the title of the so-called nominal daughter or granddaughter...

When Qin Wanru walked into the mansion, she first went to greet Madam Dowager. Not expecting Qin Wanru would come back at this time, Madam Dowager was stunned and then quickly asked Qin Wanru to come in her room.

When getting into the room, Qin Wanru was surprised to see Qin Huaiyong was here. Then she hurried to bow to Madam Dowager and Qin Huaiyong.

"You should be in Prince Cheng's Mansion with your sister, right?" asked Madam Dowager in surprise.

"Something just went wrong so Big Sister now is going to Duke Yong's Mansion!" answered Qin Wanru vaguely.

"What?" astounded, Madam Dowager worried about Qin Yuru for there were too many bad things that happened to her.

This time Qin Wanru didn't hide the truth and retold them what had happened in Prince Cheng's Mansion. As soon as she finished, Qin Huaiyong was extremely angry. He banged the table heavily and strode angrily towards the door.

"Grandma, father, he, what?" Qin Wanru was scared by Qin Huaiyong's reaction. She murmured and watched in the direction Qin Huaiyong left.

"How evil! How evil!" Madam Dowager looked pale. Her intense anger almost made her unable to breathe! She had never heard about this kind of thing in her life! She had never expected that Qin Yuru would do this thing! She picked Di Yan from countless choices after comparison! However, Qin Yuru now took a fancy to another man! She even fancied Prince Cheng!

It was reasonable for Duke Yong's Mansion to cancel the engagement with them since what Qin Yuru had done was disclosed in public!

"What should we do now, Grandma?" Qin Wanru came to her, patted on Madam Dowager's back slightly to help her breathe smoothly and said.

"It depends on Duke Yong's Mansion. If they insist on canceling the engagement, then just let them do it." Madam Dowager sighed deeply and said helplessly.

"Will Duke Yong's Mansion really cancel the engagement? It is Madam Di's maternal family!"

"Even if Duke Yong's Mansion is able to tolerate this kind of thing, Childe Di cannot do that! Your father now must be on the way to Duke Yong's Mansion. Let's wait for the result."

Madam Dowager answered helplessly. She had never known a person could be so unashamed and could do this kind of thing in her life. However, now Qin Yuru made it. What could she say? Besides, Qin Yuru was a family member of Qin's Mansion!

Now they had to wait here but Duke Yong's Mansion now was totally in a mess!

Chapter 409 Deceived! How Unashamed!

Hearing Qin Yuru's words, Old Madam of Duke Yong looked livid and felt suffocated. "What? I can't believe such a thing just happened! That's going too far!" after she tried her best to say the words, she almost fell down.

When seeing things going wrong, those servant girls and old maids who stood aside hurried to support her and cried, "Old Madam! Old Madam!"

"What is going on?" Countess Yong came in and frowned tightly.

"Madam! Madam! It is not good here! Old Madam almost faints!" an old maid turned around and answered anxiously.

Hearing that Old Madam was not well, Countess Yong hurried to help them and awoke Old Madam who was almost unconscious because of the intense anger.

When she got sober again, she felt weak. Her lips trembled and she seemed to say something. However, she found that she could say nothing even though the words were on her lips.

"Mother, don't get anxious. Let me ask her!" Countess Yong knew Old Madam's situation was not good according to her look, so Countess Yong quickly comforted her.

Old Madam now only felt her heart was burning but she could say nothing. Thus, she nodded heavily. Since the matter had become so serious, Countess Yong would know it.

"AUNT! AUNT! PLEASE HELP ME! PLEASE!" Qin Yuru burst into tears and rushed to Countess Yong. There was a thud as she knelt down in front of her. Qin Yuru put her hands on Countess Yong's knees and her tears poured.

"Yuru, what is going on?" Countess Yong's instincts told her something was wrong and she now looked a bit pale.

"Aunt, Prince Cheng's Mansion sent invitation cards to our mansion, so I went there with my sister. However, I was immersed in the view so I went to the garden subconsciously. I suppose I lost one of my earrings there as I noticed that it was gone when I walked out of the garden. Then I ran into Prince

Cheng and Prince Zhou who were greeting Rui'an Great Elder Princess. When they knew my earring was lost, they helped me find it out. But, but..."

Qin Yuru could not say anything more. Her words were choked by sobbing as tears rolled down her face.

"What?" Countess Yong snapped.

"Those ladies said that it was I who tried to seduce Prince Cheng and Prince Zhou. As Prince Cheng and Prince Zhou were also in the garden at that time, they then claimed that I deliberately... Aunt! I have been engaged to my cousin and how can I do this unashamed thing! But, but everyone just kept saying like that... Aunt, I don't know how I can live now!"

The more Qin Yuru said, the more grieved she looked. She crawled on her knees to Countess Yong and stayed close to her.

"You mean they all misunderstood you?" Countess Yong asked severely.

"Aunt, what should I do? What should I do? I am not familiar with Prince Cheng's Mansion! I just wandered around, but I have never expected that this would lead to such a trouble! Had I known this would happen, I would have refused the invitation!"

Qin Yuru cried bitterly. Actually she did want to shift the blame onto Qin Wanru but almost everyone knew she didn't get on well with Qin Wanru. Thus, she could not say that the reason why she would be in the garden was that she was to look for Qin Wanru or it was Qin Wanru who brought her to the garden.

It was quite easy to check Qin Wanru's route. She had been with those ladies and went to the Flower Hall by following the crowd. There were many people who could testify for her. Therefore, she could not put the blame on her.

She could not take Qin Wanru down with her. Thus, the only way Qin Yuru could do was to show that she was innocent and to convince Duke Yong's Mansion of her innocence before the rumor spread.

"You have to figure out a way to defend Yuru's honor." Old Madam of Duke Yong now finally began to recover. She said angrily, "They just want to bully her because Yuru just arrived in the capital city and she has no famous background. How can they distort the fact like this! Yuru has an engagement with our mansion and how can she think about another man! How dare they say that! These ladies must intend to cut a dash in front of Prince Cheng! They even don't know the female virtues, and how dare they intend to be the Prince Cheng's Consort!"

Duke Yong's Mansion didn't receive the invitation card but they didn't care since not every aristocratic family would be invited. Not receiving the invitation only meant that the mansion wasn't included in the choices of Prince Cheng's Consort and it didn't depend on the mansion's official status. Who should be invited and who should not be invited were all arranged by the imperial palace.

Those who were invited might not be happy since some people who attempted to seize power were unwilling to accept the invitation. In addition to Prince Cheng, many other princes were also going to hold their consort selection. Compared with Prince Cheng, they were much stronger than him and their future seemed to be much brighter than his as Prince Cheng seemed to lead a tranquil life and keep himself away from the power.

Duke Yong's Mansion also thought of it like this. Thus, they were satisfied that they weren't invited.

However, Old Madam was extremely regretful that they didn't receive the invitation. Otherwise, she was sure that her granddaughter would not have been bullied by others with Duke Yong's Mansion supporting her.

"They all thought in the same way? Did Rui'an Great Elder Princess think of it like that?" after a pause, Countess Young asked, but she didn't respond to Old Madam's words. She wasn't like Old Madam and she didn't intend to spoil Qin Yuru. Moreover, she had not considered Qin Yuru as her future daughter-in-law before.

However, she had to do that because of Qin Huaiyong's induction!

"Aunt, I don't know. I have no idea about that! They were laughing at me so I ran away with tears! I don't know whether Rui'an Great Elder Princess believes in their words!"

Qin Yuru answered, wiping her tears. She was clear that to convince Countess Yong was much harder than to convince Old Madam. She was on pins and needles as she secretly observed Countess Yong's look when crying.

She didn't claim that Rui'an Great Elder Princess also thought in that way. Otherwise, she would be caught in a lie! But she didn't say that Rui'an Great Elder Princess was opposed to this saying. If the rumor was spread, people would know that Rui'an Great Elder Princess agreed with the saying even if she said nothing about it.

Fortunately, Countess Yong could not ask Rui'an Great Elder Princess who was in a high status about the truth directly. Thus, it was fine to say that she didn't know Rui'an Great Elder Princess' attitude.

"Yuru, do you know that the banquet is the consort selection?" Countess Yong was a hard person to fool.

"I don't know. Why would I know? I have always been in the mansion... Given my mother's situation, I have been taking care of her. I, I would have no evil thought when I have to see my mother's painful look which seems that she now is living in a hell every day. Besides, I don't know any informed person in the mansion now so I know nothing about the selection. I just received the invitation and went there with my second sister to attend the banquet!"

As Qin Yuru answered, she still cried bitterly. Her red and swollen eyes on her white and tear-stained face made her look quite piteous.

"Why would Yuru know Prince Cheng is going to choose her consort? Given her situation in her mansion, how can she know the matter happening outside! Only aristocratic families like us know Prince Cheng is going to choose his consort! She is just a little girl and there is no senior to inform her! Why would she know! Yuru, my poor dear!"

Seeing Qin Yuru's pitiful look, Old Madam almost cried. Thinking of her daughter who now was still lying on the bed and her granddaughter who was bullied by others and cried bitterly, Old Madam was overwhelmed with extreme sorrow.

Countess Yong frowned. Something told her that it was not true. However, since she couldn't figure out which part was weird, she just corrugated her brows tightly and stared right at Qin Yuru, which made Qin Yuru flustered and nervous. Since Qin Yuru couldn't conduct any suspicious behavior now, she then covered her face with her handkerchief and kept crying loudly.

"Yuru, you really didn't know the banquet is Prince Cheng's Consort selection before, did you?" asked Countess Yong again.

"No, I didn't know it before!" Qin Yuru didn't dare to completely deny.

"When did you know then?" Countess Yong kept asking.

"When I found the earring, I guessed that according to those ladies' words." Qin Yuru cried more bitterly. She now looked more pitiful and said, "Aunt, I really didn't know that before! Since I have arrived in the capital city, I just have attended banquets for several times. You know that! I have never expected that things behind the seemingly simple banquet would be so complex! Had I known this, I would not have attended it!"

Seeing her crying so ruefully and sincerely, Countess Yong thought that Qin Yuru had just started her life in the capital city. Besides, Qin Yuru seldom walked out when she lived in their mansion. Moreover, her sister and she didn't attend many banquets even when Qin's Mansion had moved to the capital city. It was reasonable that they might not be familiar with many events in the capital city.

It was reasonable to think in this way.

Countess Yong looked bad. This situation was very complicated because if Qin Yuru had a bad reputation, the fame of Duke Yong's Mansion would also be influenced negatively. Di Yan was going to inherit the position of Duke Yong so Qin Yuru would be Countess Yong in the future. However, before she married into their family, such a thing just happened! And it was even related to Prince Cheng!

Countess Yong was very regretful now! Had she decided Di Yan's engagement with another mansion earlier, they would have nothing to do with Qin Yuru! No matter how Qin Yuru conducted any behavior which would damage her reputation, their mansion would not be affected by her!

"Figure it out! Stop their nonsense!" Old Madam of Duke Yong scolded.

"Old Madam, what, what can I do? We weren't there!" Countess Yong threw up her hand resignedly and answered.

"I can't let Yuru get wronged like this! She is so piteous! Her father doesn't care about her while her mother now has been like this. If we don't help her, then how can she still live on!" Old Madam of Duke Yong shouted with her red-rimmed eyes. She turned to stare at Qin Yuru with a pathetic look.

She felt deep sorry for her dear granddaughter.

"Poor? She deserves this!" someone roared at the entrance. The door curtain was torn off rudely. Round pearls from the broken string fell and rolled on the ground. Di Yan whose face was dark rushed in the room madly. He strode towards Qin Yuru and tried to drag her out of the room as he shouted angrily.

"Qin Yuru! You are the most unashamed woman in the world! You've been engaged to a man before but then you denied it! Now you're engaged to me but then you intend to get rid of me! You want to marry

up? The imperial palace? Fine, get out of my mansion and go to Prince Cheng's Mansion! Let's see if he wants you!"

Chapter 410 Qin Huaiyong Took the Field

Qin Yuru didn't expect that Di Yan would break in and even try to drag her out of the room in front of everyone! When she reacted, she found she was dragged to the door by Di Yan. She quickly grabbed the door frame and cried, "COUSIN, I GOT WRONGED! They thought I attempted to attract Prince Cheng's attention but I have been engaged to you! How can, how can I..."

When she finished, she burst into tears. She looked so pitiful that her words seemed to be true!

"NO, NO! BRING HER BACK!" Old Madam was scared by Di Yan's sudden rudeness. When she realized what happened, she immediately shouted and banged the table heavily.

At the next moment, several servant girls and old maids hurried to grasp Qin Yuru while others tried to pry his hand.

Countess Yong stood up angrily and scolded, "Yan'er! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?"

Di Yan's hands were pried by an old maid. He stunnedly stared at Qin Yuru who now crumbled down on the ground with tears and then his eyes also got red. He walked into the room and said to Countess Yong, "Mother, I don't want to marry this mean woman."

"BANG!" The heavy slap in Di Yan's face shocked everyone in the room.

Di Yan looked incredulously at Old Madam who had always loved him the most and tears nearly rolled down his face. Trying hard to suppress the sorrow, Di Yan asked very slowly, "Grandma, are aunt and this mean woman your only families? Are my parents and I not your families?"

"What, what are you talking about? Your cousin is a victim!" Old Madam was also stunned. She stared at her hands as her body was trembling. She had always favored Di Yan. He was the heir of Duke Yong's Mansion and would inherit the title in the future. Thus, other grandsons and granddaughters were no match for him. However, even so, she just slapped her favorite grandson in the face heavily!

"Grandma, why do I have to marry this mean woman? How can you not take Duke Yong's Mansion's centurial fine reputation into account? She has always been evil and vicious and she always attempts to take others down with her! She used to do this and now she still does! I am afraid that people in the capital city will say that she violates the woman's virtue because she still tried to seduce Prince Cheng when she has been engaged to me! Grandma, just tell me how can I face people!"

Di Yan said madly.

He knew this matter by accident. A lady who went to Prince Cheng's Mansion fell down so she had to leave in advance. It was coincidental that her brother went to pick her up. On their way home, she then told her brother this farce happening in the mansion today.

After he sent his sister home, he quickly informed Di Yan of this matter as he was one of Di Yan's friends. The instant he was told the story, he could not bear it anymore. He hurried to find his mother out of rage. However, he was told that his mother had gone to Old Madam's room.

When he got here, he found Qin Yuru was with them and even was pretending how innocent she was! In a fury, he broke in and grabbed Qin Yuru out of the room.

"Yan'er, it, it is not true!" Old Madam tried her best to calm down.

"What? It is real! It is the truth! Grandma, I just leave my words here. CANCEL THE ENGAGEMENT! I will never marry this woman! If you continue to force me to marry her, I will leave and will never go back!"

Di Yan yelled in a fury with his stiff neck. When he finished, he turned around and was ready to leave.

"Servant! Catch this unfilial son!" seeing things going wrong, Countess Yong shouted hurriedly.

Several old maids at the entrance immediately stood in front of Di Yan and tried to keep him in the room.

However, this time Di Yan was determined to leave. He pushed away these old maids heavily while they still grabbed him and didn't let him leave. The scuffle at the entrance caused more pearls to fall down. Di Yan stepped in one of those pearls and almost fell over.

This made him much more fierce. He jerked away an old maid's hand and kicked another old maid heavily and was going to rush out of the door.

However, the next moment, he suddenly stopped because he saw Qin Huaiyong outside the room. When seeing Qin Huaiyong's angry face, Di Yan immediately became resigned. When he was in Qin's Mansion, he had been assigned drills by Qin Huaiyong. Thus, as he saw Qin Huaiyong, his legs were weak and his anger seemed to fade.

Qin Huaiyong saw him and directly grabbed his collar without any words. He was dragged into the room and was pushed fiercely forward.

Di Yan stumbled backwards at once and then he bumped heavily on the desk behind. The great pain made him bend down. Countess Yong hurried to support him and glared at Qin Huaiyong hatefully. If she didn't care about her title of a madam of aristocratic family, she would swear at him!

Qin Huaiyong strode into the room. He first bowed to Old Madam who was sitting in the first seat and then to Countess Yong as he looked livid. Then he raised his head and said, "Old Madam and Madam please ask your servants to leave."

It seemed that he intended to discuss something with them.

Old Madam didn't know what to do before so she actually relaxed a bit when seeing Qin Huaiyong. She quickly waved her hands and, the next moment, her servant girls and old maids all left.

Countess Yong didn't want to agree but seeing her mother-in-law let her servants leave, she also gestured her servants to leave after thinking for a while.

"You two stay outside the room!" Qin Huaiyong snarled at Qin Yuru and Di Yan with a fierce look.

They didn't dare to say anything. Wiping tears, Qin Yuru stood up and retreated to the door. Glancing at Di Yan who moved back with her, she called timidly with tears, "Cousin!"

She called him as softly as she treated him carefully when she had been to Duke Yong's Mansion for the first time. However, this method was useless! Since Di Yan had known what she had done in Prince Cheng's Mansion, he now gnashed his teeth with hatred towards her and didn't want to respond to her who tried to be nice. He snorted, turned around and walked to the yard next to a corridor. It seemed that he now treated her like trash!

Seeing Di Yan who was leaving her, Qin Yuru became more and more flustered and anxious. Why did Qin Huaiyong come? Did Qin Wanru tell him?

"Everything will be fine, right? I am his only daughter!"

"But that is not enough! I have to do more! Yes, Duke Xing's Mansion! Once Duke Xing's Mansion supports me, I will not be discarded by Duke Yong's Mansion even if I do something wrong!"

Shao Jie'er's words occurred to her. Gnashing her teeth, she nodded and whispered to Mei Xue secretly. Then, Mei Xue hurried to leave when hearing her order.

When she was in Duke Yong's Mansion, she had given benefits to one or two servant girls. It was much easier to let them send messages for her here than in Qin's Mansion!

Moreover, she had to go back later.

She could not wait anymore. She had not determined the date with Shao Jie'er but just told her she would inform her of the date when she could go out of Qin's Mansion next time! However, she wasn't sure when she would be allowed to leave the mansion again. Thus, she couldn't wait anymore. Without Duke Xing's Mansion, the situation would definitely get worse!

Besides, when she accomplished this, it could rehabilitate her reputation!

Qin Yuru was immersed in her thought. Different ideas kept appearing in her mind. She looked angry, then complacent, and even vicious. Di Yan who witnessed the process felt more hateful towards Qin Yuru. He was extremely regretful for his decision that he not only agreed with his grandma to be engaged to Qin Yuru but also persuaded his mother to accept this decision without thinking clearly!

Di Yan now hoped Qin Yuru to die! At least, his reputation would not be affected by her! Leaning his hand against his forehead, he felt his little veins were nearly popping out of his head! No, he couldn't compromise today! He didn't want to marry such an evil woman!

They were thinking respectively, and stood away from each other. They should have been a couple and should have been intimate with each other. However, now, they treated each other as their most hateful person. When they had eye contact, the antipathy towards Qin Yuru in Di Yan's eyes was very clear!

Qin Yuru at first looked at him timidly and then her eyes turned to be sharp. She even raised her head and stared at Di Yan proudly. If she became the nominal granddaughter of Duke Xing's Mansion, Di Yan could not be her only choice! However, in consideration of the current situation, she needed him. No matter whether he agreed or disagreed, she had to let him accept this engagement with her.

The engagement could not be canceled for the time being!

Finally there came a sound from the room! Qin Huaiyong strode outside and his indifferent gaze fell on Qin Yuru, which made Qin Yuru tremble. He snorted at Qin Yuru and then he turned to Di Yan and said coldly, "Take me to meet your father!"

"Yes, uncle." Di Yan now calmed down after tidying up his mood. Taking a deep breath, he left with Qin Huaiyong.

Countess Yong also walked to the door and stared at Qin Yuru outside through the broken pearl curtain. She looked at Qin Yuru with disgust and hatred. However, she tried her best to suppress her anger, lifted up the curtain and gestured peacefully to Qin Yuru who now was standing in the corridor. "Yuru, come here. Your grandma has something to tell you!"

Countess Yong's reaction delighted Qin Yuru! She immediately stopped thinking and walked to her obediently. Then she walked in the main room when following Countess Yong.

In the room, Old Madam was still sitting in the first seat. When seeing Qin Yuru there, she quickly waved to her. Qin Yuru came to her hurriedly. She wanted to kneel down when holding Old Madam's hands but Old Madam pulled her heavily.

"Yuru, don't cry. It is only a rumor. Your aunt and uncle will not believe it. Now you just need to stay in your mansion and don't walk outside. Take good care of your mother. People have a sense of justice naturally. Those sayings that you violate the woman's virtues are not true!"

"Grandma..." Qin Yuru cried again. Wiping tears, she turned to Countess Yong gratefully and said, "Aunt!"

"It is fine! Don't worry. Everything will be fine as long as members of our family don't believe it! You need to take care of yourself and don't leave your mansion!" Countess Yong forced a smile on her face and said.

Qin Yuru kept nodding gratefully. She was choked by sobbing again, which made Old Madam's eyes red. Reaching out and patting on her head, Old Madam said, "Fine, don't cry. Since you now are in my mansion, you can leave after the lunch."

"I promise, grandma! I will always listen to you!" Qin Yuru nodded heavily with her tears rolling down, which made her look more pitiful. Old Madam suddenly hugged her and also burst into tears, crying, "My poor kid! Everything will be okay! We can get through this!"