

Medical Princess 41

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Chapter 41: Qin Wanru, You Are Dead!

The body falling involuntarily to the side, Qin Wanru then closed her eyes and was ready to withstand the pain. It was out of expectation that there was no sharp pain, but just a tremble. She felt something under her body was a bit soft, not like hard ground.

She reached out unbelievably and touched it, and found it to be warm.

“Qin Wanru… you are dead!” The voice came from under Qin Wanru, thus she suddenly opened her eyes, which looked straightly to another ones with rage. She was familiar with them.

Qi Wanru glanced and saw the faint blood on the corner of the thin lips, it was Chu Liuchen, why was he here?

She couldn’t think of too much and got up suddenly after pushed him on his body subconsciously.

“Qin Wanru, do you want to… die!” Chu Liuchen snorted, since he was pressed to the ground again when he was about to get up.

Qin Wanru was scared by his voice which was full of anger, thus she loosened her hand and fell on him again. They looked at each other’s eyes, when Qin Wanru saw his beautiful eyes and every single long and curling eyelash was also clear to be seen.

“Childe!” Someone screamed, which scared Qin Wanru to tremble, and then someone dragging her hand pulled her back. Xiao Xuanzi came up quickly and pulled Qin Wanru away from Chu Liuchen, and carefully helped him to sit up. His face went even paler because of shock than Chu Liuchen.

“Childe, childe, you have to be good, you… have to be good!” Xiao Xuanzi sweated on his forehead because of panic. He was screaming while gently patted on Chu Liuchen’s back.

Qin Wanru didn’t know how he felt by looking at Chu Liuchen’s appearance. He sat on the ground and bowed his head. She couldn’t see his face from her point of view, but Qin Wanru was also panicked when she saw him didn’t move, thus she directly knelt beside him and reached out to help Xiao Xuanzi pat him on the back.

“Ch…childe, are you okay?”

Qin Wanru looked at his hand on his knees and found that he was holding his fist with force. Fearing that he might hurt his hand, Qin Wan suddenly reached out to his fist, which was not very tight, and she actually loosened it. Her hand squeezed in and held his hand tightly.

Although his hand was big, it was cold. She tried to hold his hand by hers and warm his palm.

“Childe, it’s fine, it’s fine, it’s nothing!” Qin Wanru had no idea if she was comforting Chu Liuchen or herself.

She tried so hard to warm Chu Liuchen’s hand, thus she lowered her hand and reached out with the other hand to warm his hand.

Chu Liuchen had already recovered from the sick. Then he slightly lifted his head, with his long eyelashed fanned, looking at Qin Wanru's pale face.

Her face was a bit round, which did not match with her slim body and looked mellower than her body, like a child. Her skin was white and tender like snow, which made her lips redder that looked like blood. Her big eyes were so dark that made people shiver.

Her eyebrows were also exquisite and beautiful.

This view of her looked very beautiful, which also revealed slight charm. Although she looked like a child anyway in his eyes, she was quite lovable when the slight charm was mixed with her childishness, and made her a porcelain doll.

He then looked at her tinny pale hand, which was holding his hand. The slender hand was so fragile that it could almost be broken. The temperature of her hand was actually not high, and it was not warm at all, but she was desperate to warm his hand, in a slight way.

"Okay, I am fine!" Chu Liuchen said impatiently, and pulled his hand out of Qin Wanru's. He got up slowly with the help of Xiao Xuanzi, and deeply coughed.

"Tell me, what will you do here on this secret meeting at this time?" Chu Liuchen looked down at Qin Wanru, who was still sitting on the ground, and said with a cold voice.

"I... I'm not having a secret meeting, I just have something about Qi Rongzhi to talk to Brother Bai Yu!" Qin Wanru reached out to wipe the sweat on her forehead, and got up by holding her waist after he saw that Chu Liuchen was fine. Although he fell under her like a cushion, she still felt that her waist was twisted, and it hurt a little.

"Are you very familiar with him?" Chu Liuchen suddenly smiled, and his voice went lazy and gentle.

"It's fine, Brother Bai Yu is very good, he usually takes care of me most!" Qin Wanru secretly complained, since she did not know how she messed with the Prince Chen.

"He is so good that he has to take care of you at the backyard, Qin Wanru, men and women can't eat together after they turned eight years old, you don't need me to teach you this, right?" Chu Liuchen raised his lips and smiled, which revealed slight coldness and stateliness that couldn't be ignored.

"Brother Bai Yu is not someone else; we knew each other before we were eight years old!" Qin Wan explained while biting her lips.

"So you mean that I'm being nosy?" Chu Liuchen still said it with smile and the corner of his eyes were slightly raised. He then slowly took out a piece of handkerchief from his chest and wiped the dark red on his lips. His smile was so cold that it could even poke into her bones.

Qin Wanru almost knew that if she answered yes, she was afraid that he would not let her go through the door easily. Thus, she hurriedly shook her head after seeing his wiping and said in a very decisive way, "I was lucky enough to be saved by childe, otherwise it would be me to fall to the ground!"

"Do you really think so?" Chu Liuchen asked indifferently with his long eyelashes hung down. He spread out the handkerchief in his hand and looked at the blood on it, then walked slowly in front of Qin Wanru

by pushing Xiao Xuanzi away. He showed the handkerchief to her, and then lifted his head up with a pair of pretty eyes faintly looking at Qin Wanru.

"Yes, I... do think so," Qin Wanru stuttered, but immediately saluted to Chu Liuchen, "thank childe for saving me."

"For saving your life!" Chu Liuchen said with a deep voice.

"Ahh!" Qin Wanru raised her head with shock.

"For saving your life, are you sure that you will not fall to death from such a high place?" Chu Liuchen lifted his chin slightly, indicating her to look up.

Qin Wanru followed his sight and looked at the high wall, and she looked at the two boxes flipped over on the side and pouted. She nodded her head reluctantly. "Yes, thank you for saving my life!"

She knew it was possible for her to hurt her foot or even waist, but speaking of losing her life, Qin Wanru was absolutely not convinced.

However, under such a burning gaze of the childe, Qin Wanru knew clearly that if she did not say something conformed to what he meant, he would certainly find troubles for her, and it was so obvious by looking at the handkerchief spread in front of herself, the blood on which seemed to condemn Qin Wanru.

"You have to remember that I've saved your life, it's not easy to repay the favor of mine!" Chu Liuchen looked at her, and suddenly laughed.

"Whatever you say, I'll definitely do anything for you as long as I can!" Qin Wanru bit her teeth.

"That's good!" Chu Liuchen deeply coughed twice, and was going to turn around and leave by holding Xiao Xuanzi's hand. He then suddenly turned back and pointed with his finger at the high wall. "Qin Wanru, don't do it again."

"Yes, please be assured, I promise I won't do it again!" Qin Wanru immediately assured since the childe was too difficult to deal with. If she did not act as what he meant, he would not let her go easily. However, Qin Wanru was truly afraid that something happened to him by seeing that he was so injured that he even spitted blood.

The childe was much weaker than other people were, and she could not take the responsibility if something really happened to him.

"Come here, take it and wash!" Chu Liuchen reached out with the handkerchief on his palm.

"Yes, I'll wash it right away!" Qin Wanru hurriedly rushed to him and took the handkerchief from his hand as if she was taking the blame.

"What's wrong with you?" Chu Liuchen said while looked at her hand on the waist.

"Twisted... twisted my waist!" Qin Wanru blinked and said pitifully.

"Do you even have waist? Does a child have the waist? Muffin-top?" Chu Liuchen tilted his head to look at her body and smiled in a mean manner, which made him looked like that he was in a good mood.

Qin Wanru pouted and decided to stop mess with him, since he was hurt to spit blood just now, so it was okay for him to feel happy now, though what he said made people feel uncomfortable.

“Remember to wash clean of my handkerchief!” Chu Liuchen smiled and stopped making troubles for her. He then turned around with the help of Xiao Xuanzi, reached out to touch the corner of his mouth, and spitted. He just bit the tip of his tongue, which almost made him cry with tears. Though the young lady looked so thin, she was heavy when she fell off, and his tongue was still in burning pain.

Qing Yue met Qin Wanru halfway, who walked here while holding her waist. Qing Yue rushed to her. “Miss, what happened to you? You were just fine when I left, how do you end up like this after such a short time?”

Qin Wanru asked Qing Yue to stay outside Qin Yuru’s yard.

“I accidentally fell!” Qin Wanru touched her waist and said with a little sad face.

“Where did you fall, how can you be so careless!” Qing Yue asked urgently since she knew that she was injured badly by looking at her. She then saw the handkerchief with blood on Qin Wanru’s hand, and her face changed, “Miss, where… where did you injure, and you are bleeding!”

“I’m fine, the handkerchief is not mine!” Qin Wanru knew that Qing Yue misunderstood the thing when she saw that Qing Yue noticed the handkerchief on her hand, but she felt inexplicably guilty, was Chu Liuchen okay? His body was too weak to suffer it.

“Whose is it? Why is it here on your hand?” Qing Yue asked urgently.

“I’m fine, let’s talk after we get back, how’s it going on my sister?” Qin Wanru shook her head and basically leaned on Qing Yue. Since Qing Yue was two years older than she was and much taller than her, she felt nothing stressful when holding her.

“Miss, I just found out something, but…” Qing Yue hesitated when hearing what Qin Wanru just asked.

“What, tell me!” Qin Wanru said.

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Chapter 42: The Battle Between the Two Families

“Miss, I just saw Madam coming back in a hurry with a few letters and went into Young Lady’s yard. She then called in an old woman who was in charge, who then came out with several letters in her hand. I don’t know if all those letters have anything to do with you!”

Qing Yue said with concern.

The reason why she hesitated was that she didn’t know if it was useful to her.

Qin Wanru thought about it for a moment. “Madam just left Young Lady’s yard in a hurry, then she came back with a few letters and asked the old woman to send the letters?”

Mrs. Qin still left Qin Yuru to write letters after something so serious happened to her, then the letters must be sent to the capital city for the medicine.

It was impossible for doctors of Jiangzhou to cure Qin Yuru's hand since it was burned so badly. Then the letters were most likely to be sent to Duke Yong in the capital city for the medicine.

"You now go to find Nanny Yu, and ask her to find Brother Fengzi to get a letter." There were many letters, it could be useful to get any one of them, whether it was written by Qin Yuru or Mrs. Qin, she might be able to find something useful.

"This... If Madam knew about it..." Qing Yue worried and reminded Qin Wanru. Since they had asked Wang Feng to smash the bridal sedan chair, if Wang Feng stepped in again, Mrs. Qin would never let go of Nanny Yu and Wang Feng.

"Wang Feng doesn't have to face directly to the old woman..." Qin Wanru smiled slightly and said with full confidence. She then whispered something to Qing Yue's ear.

Qing Yue's eyes went brighter after hearing it and kept nodding. Then she left Qin Wanru, who was holding her waist, and rushed back to the yard to find Nanny Yu.

Qin Wanru kept holding her waist, and staggered back to her yard.

When she returned to the gate of the yard, Qing Yue ran out again and tried to hold her hand after she saw her. When she was trying to talk, Qin Wanru looked at her with her watery eyes, Qing Yue then immediately shut her mouth and held Qin Wanru into the yard.

The servants and nannies saluted to Qin Wanru right after they saw her walked into the yard. Then they all looked at her into the room while holding her waist.

"What happened to the Second Miss?"

"Did she hurt her waist somewhere?"

"Did the Second Miss just fight with someone?"

"Yes, Miss Qi is still in the house, did they fight again!"... The servants and nannies in the yard all talked about it in groups. Though the voice was not loud, it still sounded harsh when mixed with laughs.

Qing Yue was going out to reprimand, but was stopped by Qin Wanru.

"Miss, look at these people, they don't really treat you like their master!" Qing Yue said with anger. Her face went pale because of rage when seeing them gossiping and gloating about the master.

"Just let them talk!" Qin Wanru slightly smiled and sat in front of the dressing table.

Qing Yue rushed out and brought back a basin of water, helped her wash her face, and served her to change clothes. "Miss, do you want to see a doctor?"

"No, it's much better now, it's fine!" Qin Wanru shook her head and reached out to touch her waist. It seemed to be really fine and she could barely feel hurt when touching it.

She didn't know if she didn't actually have the waist since she was young, or she just felt hurt because of the hit instead of really twisting it.

"Miss, you still need to go and see the doctor, it... was uneasy!" Qing Yue said with concern.

"I'm fine." Qin Wanru stood up and walked to the window, of which the sheer curtain was hung so it couldn't been seen from outside, but people inside the room could see through. After such a long time, some servants and nannies still huddled together to gossip, laughters coming from somewhere of the yard and there were still many people gossiping together.

Especially a servant in the middle. She was quite excited about talking about it then, and now she still was.

It was a servant looked like at the age of thirteen or fourteen as tall as Qing Yue. But she dressed more colorful than her. She was much easier to be seen than others in the crowd from a distance.

"Miss, Qing Cui just came back. She stopped me and asked where were you when I went to find Nanny Yu just now." Qing Yue suddenly explained when she saw that Qin Wanru was looking at the one who dressed brightly in the crowd.

Qing Cui was one of the leading servants of Qin Wanru. She said that something happened to her mother a few days ago, then she asked for leave and went to take care of her mother. But she was actually afraid that she might go to the Magistrate Qi's family together with Qin Wanru when she married to them.

Qing Cui would not suffer it together since she knew that Qi Tianyu would make troubles on that day, because the only one she wanted to serve was Qin Yuru. But what was out of her expectation was that Qin Wanru was fine. Now everyone outside was talking about how shameless the Young Lady was that she could break up with the son of Magistrate Qi to win better life and got together with some rich man in the capital city.

Some people even indicated that the Young Lady had already cheated on the First Young Master of the Qi Family and got pregnant.

After hearing the information, Qing Cui packed her things and came back, and now was prying into what happened from people in the yard.

She was in the room when Qin Wanru came back and she specially slowed her pace when seeing Qin Wanru walked into the yard. She then came out and talked to other servants and nannies in the yard after Qin Wanru walked into the room.

Qin Wanru looked at her, who was so slim but revealed deep fierceness in her eyes. Qing Cui came back as soon as Qin Wanru was in trouble in last life, but she didn't go to serve Qin Yuru, and stayed around Qin Wanru. From then on she had been setting her up in collusion with Mrs. Qin and beat Qing Yue to death in the wood house with other people.

It was so good to see her in this life.

In fact, Qing Cui had already been with Mrs. Qin and Qin Yuru, otherwise how could she know that her marriage was a disaster.

"Miss, do you want me to call her in to ask her?" Qing Yue said with a low voice after seeing that Qin Wanru had been quiet with a serious face.

"No!" Qin Wanru shook her head with her eyes fell on her gorgeous clothes and her lips slightly hooked, she then slowly turned around, "it's not an urgent matter."

How could she not worry about a servant? Her yard needed to be cleaned, otherwise people would not treat her like a real master. Since Qing Cui had made herself the first one, then just get rid of her like the lead.

The Young Lady of Magistrate Qi was beat by the one of Ningyuan Army General's Mansion!

The news once again put Qin Yuru at the top of Jiangzhou Prefecture. It was said that Miss Qi's face was swollen like a steamed bun and her clothes were not decently dressed when she came back.

The Young Lady of Ningyuan Army General's Mansion was not only nasty, mean, but also arrogant, and didn't committed to what she did, but also beat the sister of her ex-fiance like this. Woman like this could be sank into the pond. Not only that, she could be treated that way already. If she was not the daughter of Ningyuan Army General, being sank into the pond was a lesser punishment.

Another news followed by this was that the Second Miss of Qin's family was not given birth by Mrs. Qin, thus what Mrs. Qin did to Qin Wanru in the past were all disclosed. Because she was not her biological mother, so she blame Qin Wanru for everything, as well as the marriage she was blamed for.

At the time, everyone in the Jiangzhou Prefecture was talking about the bad reputation of Mrs. Qin and Qin Yuru.

But then, another news came out. It was said that the news was coming from the doctor of the Young Lady of Qi's family. He said that Miss Qi was lying, who was also a vicious woman, and poured the hot porridge on the face of the Young Lady of Qi's family. She also was disrespectful to the seniors, and slapped Ningyuan Army General's wife for twice, who couldn't bear to fight with Qi Rongzhi.

When the news came out, the wife of Ningyuan Army General also invited some wives of local officials to come to the house to let them see the injured Qin Yuru. Compared with Qi Rongzhi's face, Qin Yuru's face and hands were seriously injured, especially the red and big blister on her hand, which shocked all the wives on the spot.

So after the rumors of talking about how mean the Young Lady of Qi's family was, people started to talk about how arrogant Miss Qi was.

Although the Ningyuan Army General's Mansion had broken the marriage with Magistrate Qi, but the young lady Qi Rongzhi who did not marry actually came to the door and created troubles. She also wanted to ruin Qin Yuru's face, whose heart was really too vicious. Thus the family that wanted to marry Qi Rongzhi immediately cancelled their plan.

If any family married Qi Rongzhi as the daughter-in-law, the family must be in a chaos, who would dare to marry a vicious woman like this!

As soon as the news came out, everyone knew that Magistrate Qi and Ningyuan Army General could no longer be as harmonious as ever, even if they tried to be nice to each other in front of other people.

Hearing that Qin Yuru made troubles again, Qin Huaiyong hurriedly went to Mrs. Qin's yard, and gave her a harsh slap on her face. He then went to the study room with anger and didn't even give a look at Qin Yuru's place at all.

When hearing this news, Qin Wanru was opening the letter, which was found by Wang Feng.

The old woman in charge took the letter and asked someone to send it to Duke Yong in the capital city. During which, he found the person who delivered the letter.

The man happened to be very familiar with Wang Feng. They also usually worked together. The old woman came to leave the letter and left, and the delivery man went to feed the horse to get on the road. Wang Feng called several people to help him sort out the things on the road, and easily took away one of the letters.

Now this letter was in the hands of Qin Wanru. It was so coincident that the letter was written by Qin Yuru to the son of Duke Yong Di Yan in the capital city.

She not only expressed her thoughts on Di Yan, but also blamed Qin Wanru for everything happened in Jiangzhou. She said that Qin Wanru and Qi Tianyu had a private feeling, and hid away from her, but fortunately, it was found by a servant of Qin Wanru, Qing Yue.

She said that her parents were going to set the arrangement for Qi Tianyu and Qin Wanru, who happened to have secret affairs with the second son of Magistrate Qi. Since Magistrate Qi was very angry about it, so he didn't agree to the marriage.

She also talked about that the sister of Qi Tianyu, Qi Rongzhi, poured a bowl of hot porridge to her face and hand since she didn't know what happened and thought that it was Qin Yuru who was picking up troubles. And now her hand was burned...

Whatever it was, they just talked the white into the black.

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Chapter 43: A letter, The Best Chip

"Miss, the Young Lady is too outrageous. It is obviously her own business, but she just viciously blamed you for everything, and Qing Cui, she is also on her side!" Qing Yue was also angry and said, "Miss, let's go tell the general and the Old Grandma."

"It's useless!" Qin Wanru smirked and smiled softly. She then folded the letter. "This letter was not written by Qin Yuru, since her hand is now hurt."

Qin Yuru couldn't write it at all, because her right hand was injured.

"Not written by her, who would write it?" Qing Cui was stunned and said with surprise.

"It should be Mrs. Qin, who could only tell so many details." Qin Wanru said it calmly since she knew that it letter with so many details could not be written by the injured hand of Qin Yuru.

"How can Madam write such a letter." Qing Yue's face turned red because of shame. If she was not mistaken, the beginning part sounded like it was written by the Young Lady, and it sounded very intimate with the man in the letter. As an elder, how could she write such shameful words?"

"She didn't need to be ashamed since nobody found out, and Qin Yuru would admit that she wrote it," Qin Wanru sneered, and put down the letter, took a sip of the tea at her, then looked quietly on the water. "if you take this letter to my father, nobody can do anything to Qin Yuru as long as she didn't admit it was written by her."

"We can say it was written by the Madam." Qing Yue said hurriedly.

"The font written by the Madam is also slightly different from the previous ones. It was written with the most formal writing method. Even if you say that she wrote it, she can just deny!" Qin Wanru said with a cold voice.

Qin Wanru sat in the window by her slim body with coldness and contempt, "If it is so easy to make Madam confess her guilty, there would not be so many ghosts that died from no reason."

Her words were extremely merciless. It was terrifying for such a weak girl to talk about things happened in the backyard with such a disobedient and cold tone.

"Then... what to do?" Qing Yue stammered and said.

"Send out the rumor that someone had found a letter." Qin Wanru said peacefully with a smile. The oblique sun outside the window came in, which made her face half bright and half dark.

Qin Wanru right now looked surprisingly different to people at her age. Her dark eyes hid under her long eyelashes, which looked innocent and weak, as well as the charm that other girls didn't have. Her current appearance made Qing Yue inexplicably terrified, and she couldn't help swallowed her spit.

The Miss in front of her was still the Miss of her own, but she seemed to have changed a lot, not the face, but the personalities, which made Qing Yue feel safe in danger.

Her own lady had really changed, which made Qing Yue feel at ease. There were too many things happening in these days, each of which was targeted to Miss to make her die. If she was still the one she was, Qing Yue didn't know what could happened to her at a time like this.

It was the law of the jungle. How could she fall behind as a servant since her master was being so strong.

"Yes, Miss, I'll leak it later as if I did it on accident." Qing Yue nodded with confirmation that she would and could protect her own master.

"It's still early. Talk it out at night, and don't let others find out. Come on, let's go to see Aunt Shui right now." Qin Wanru nodded and stood up. She then hid the letter in her sleeve and she had to bring it to Shui Ruolan, since it was a good chip to bargain.

Qing Yue answered and went to the family temple by following Qin Wanru.

Qionghua saw them coming over and hurriedly ushered them in. Shui Ruolan still wore a plain clothes and sat on the futon. She also did not stand up when she saw Qin Wanru coming.

Qin Wanru took a futon on the side and sat down.

"Aunt Shui, did my mother come to you?" Shui Ruolan shook her head, and her eyes went dark. The previous thoughts of Shui Ruolan had already been overthrown since she knew that it was Mrs. Qin who

stained her reputation for the reason to let Qin Huaiyong feel guilty and no longer worry about the thing that Mrs. Qin and Qin Yuru sabotaged Qin Wanru.

Nobody was willing to be stepped into the muddle.

It was also because of Qing Wanru's advice that she didn't make any move.

"My father may come today, you..." Qin Wanru said seriously, "Aunt Shui, I know you don't usually think too much on my father, but now... if there was no one to battle with Mrs. Qin, me and grandma, and you... we would both end terribly."

"Don't worry, Wanru, I know!" Shui Ruolan understood what she said and said it with sadness, while reached out to hug Qin Wanru.

The girl in her arms was truly slim, as if it was a child that didn't grow up, who could only scheme for herself. If she was not pushed so hard, a girl with such a slim body should stay in her mother's arms and be spoiled.

"Wanru don't worry, I know what to do!" She didn't intend to do it before, but now since she knew that she had to, Shui Ruolan still had something in her hand.

Mrs. Qin was so mean that she tried so hard to ruin herself and Wanru, she could not just let herself be fooled by her.

"Aunt Shui, this letter is for you, take a look, when mother comes to you, you can let her give in, but it is not enough to prove that this is written by my big sister!" Qin Wanru leaned in the arms of Shui Ruolan, while taking out the letter from the sleeve and said with some hidden meaning.

"I see!" Shui Ruolan took the letter and simply read it. She then took a deep breath and nodded. She understood while her eyes became dark and looking down.

Qin Wanru stayed in Shui Ruolan's arms for a while, and finally rose up. She slightly smiled and said, "you shall be fine, and grandma shall be fine, everyone shall be fine!"

Shui Ruolan almost cried after hearing this. She nodded hard and squeezed her hand while biting her lips.

Qin Wanru stood up and wiped the tears from her eyes. She turned and left with Qing Yue. She came to send the message her father came, and sent the letter to Shui Ruolan.

It could not be treated as evidence, but could be used as a handle!

Qin Huaiyong went straight to the study and slapped Mrs. Qin for what happened today, so he must be upset and wanted to talk to someone. Qin Wanru knew that she was too young to be that person and grandma was too sick to talk to, and other two wives were both uneducated since they used to be servants.

Thus the only one left was Shui Ruolan, and she had indicated to him that she had feelings for him. So father would must come to Shui Ruolan to talk about it. That was the first reason.

The accident must make Mrs. Qin worried since she had never been slapped before, together with the letter. That was the second reason.

So Mrs. Qin must be alarmed if they worked together. The more panicked she was, the more mistakes she would make. Desperate moment was a time like this.

Qin Huaiyong was too upset to read the files to his hand. Since he had worked so much to fix Qin Yuru's problem. Even though there was some grudge between him and the Magistrate Qi, they were still polite to each other in front of other people. Especially he had been promised to Magistrate Qi that he would make it up to him that if he went to the capital city, he would help Magistrate Qi be transferred there too.

Finally, the matter of Qin Yuru was settled.

He could not thought that after the matter, Mrs. Qin and Qin Yuru had gotten into another fight with Qi Rongzhi and Magistrate Qi's wife Madam Li, which was so serious that everyone in Jiangzhou Prefecture knew about it. Magistrate Qi's eldest daughter went famous together with his own eldest daughter, and Magistrate Qi was really angry about it and sent someone specially to tell him to take good care of his own wife and daughter.

To let know what they should and should not talk about.

They had already failed his son, and they were going to do the same to his daughter, Qin Huaiyong had no idea what Mrs. Qin was thinking about. He was even more angry when thinking about that Qi Rongzhi was invited by Mrs. Qin. What was she planning on inviting her, and if she didn't mean to treat her well, why did she do that. And both sides were humiliated when things turned out to be like this.

Taking a deep breath, Qin Huaiyong stood up. He didn't have the appetite for the dinner so he just walked around the house with his hands folded back. He also felt pressed as if something was on his chest. How could he calm down when such a thing happened at the critical time when he was about to be transferred to the capital city.

The servant didn't dare to say anything and followed behind when he saw that he frowned.

After walked for a while, Qin Huaiyong stopped at the little yard and he had no idea why he was here in the family temple. He didn't know if he should walk in when standing in front of the gate.

Shui Ruolan went to the family temple ever since the accident, he was ashamed to see her. He thought it should be managed by the senior, but the Old Grandma was sick at the moment and he could not mention it to her at the time like this. But it had to be settled and he didn't want to wrong Shui Ruolan.

He didn't know what to do in front of the gate of the family temple. He thought that it was not an appropriate time when smelling the scent of the flowers in the yard of the family temple, and he didn't know what to do.

Qin Huaiyong shook his head after took a sigh and wanted to turn around and leave, since he didn't know what to do

"Cousin!" The sound coming from his back gave him a tremble. He turned around and saw Shui Ruolan standing at the gate with her servants with surprise.

She was only wearing a simple plain-colored clothes, and she was a little excited and a little bit flustered, but even so, she walked out of the temple and stopped Qin Huaiyong.

They both understood what it meant by taking the step out.

“Cousin, you…” Qin Huaiyong had so much to say at the moment but he just couldn’t say a word.

“Cousin, are… are you here to see me?” Shui Ruolan lowered her head and bit her lip and said uncomfortably. She twirled the handkerchief in her hand, which was one of her habits. Qin Huaiyong had been watching her, so he knew about it.

“Yes, I’m here to see you… don’t live here!” Qin Huaiyong’s voice could not help being softened. If it was really Mrs. Qin’s scheme, she was the most innocent one.

“Where should I live if I don’t live here…” Shui Ruolan said with a bit disappointment but with no scold. She slightly lowered her head, which made her slim body more fragile and cold at night.

Qin Huaiyong was both distressed and sad. He subconsciously reached out to help her. “Cousin, you can rest assured, I… I will give you an explanation. You should go back to your yard, it was still too cold out here. Since your body was weak, it’s not good… for your health to live here!”

“Cousin, I believe in you, but can I… stay for two more days?” Shui Ruolan lifted her head a bit and said gently, “I… I don’t know how it turned out to be this…”

Shui Ruolan couldn’t say anything, and lowered her head down hurriedly. The eye marks that flashed in the corner of her eyes were noticed by Qin Huaiyong. He reached out and pulled her hand hard. “Come on, go back with me!”

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Chapter 44: Mother, What To Do Now?

“Cousin, I… I am… wait a minute, I should wait for aunt to recover!” Shui Ruolan tried to break off his hand, while looking gently at Qin Huaiyong’s body.

There were not too many requests, only let him take care of the Old Grandma’s body.

Qin Huaiyong was in a shock. The Old Grandma was ill, and the disease was very serious. She was not sick at this time in the past, but suddenly she was sick.

When he went to visit the Old Grandma, he had asked Nanny Duan that only the youngest daughter had came to visit the Old Grandma recently, Mrs. Qin and Qin Yuru had never been here to see her. Although the Old Grandma was not his biological mother, she had raised him up since childhood. He grew up with his own father died early. From this point of view, the Old Grandma was equivalent to his biological mother.

The relationship between the mother and the child couldn’t be replaced by anyone.

He knew what Shui Ruolan meant by her words and he was moved. Thus he looked deeply at her and loosened his hand, then nodded and said seriously, “Fine, I see, then you come back two days later!”

Since Qin Yuru now hurt her hand, her temper was very bad, and now she was forcing people to make her food in the kitchen because she couldn't fall asleep.

Her servant Mei Yan was not dare to be disobedient, so she went to the kitchen with a lattern and it was the tenth time she did so but she didn't dare to act oppositely, because Mei Xue was just slapped hard on her face for several times since she took too much time to bring the vase.

All the close servants of Qin Yuru knew that she was just pretending to be gentle in front of people outside.

"It was a letter, and it was said that it was the Young Lady wrote to the son of Duke Yong, which was..., the Young Lady would not dare to go out if it was read by other people!" The laughter was light, it people could still hear it from the wall since it was quiet at the time.

Mei Yan was stunned and hid behind the wall.

"You don't tell me, that letter was found by Qionghua. If it was seen by the general, it is not just the Young Lady, and even the Madam will be too shameful to go out!" Another voice came out with laughter and sounded like two servants.

Mei Yan was greatly shocked. She picked up the lantern in her hand and looked at the high wall around her. She then turned to the right, where there was a moon cave door, she needed to find out these two gossip servants.

Since the letter was only knew by several close servants of the Madam and the Young Lady, but the voices just now were clearly from two normal servants.

How could anyone else know about the thing that Madam and the Young Madam wrote the letter and why would Qionghua find it. Mei Yan was so stressful that she could not help shivering when thought of what might happen next.

When she hurriedly went throught the wall, she found that there was no people there already. She stood still and thought about it, and then went back since she had no time to go to the kitchen.

"Mei Yan, how did you get the snacks back so soon?" Mei Yan met Mei Xue from the inside when she arrived at the door of the house, whose face was swollen and it was clear that she was slapped, which made Mei Yan feel sad since they were both the closest servants of Qin Yuru and people were all respectful to them, and no one could laugh at them.

With such a face, Mei Xue was too scard to walk outside, as well as she.

"Is Miss sleeping?" Mei Yan asked with a low voice.

"Not yet!" Mei Xue shook her head with bitterness and her face changed when she saw nothing on her hand, she warned her, "Mei Yan, you are going to get hurt when you walked in like this..."

"I have something urgent!" Mei Yan interrupted Mei Xue and walked in by lifting up the curtain. She entered the inside room by crossing the outside one. Qin Yuru sat under the light and lifted her head with cold look when she heard the noise. She was about to be angry when she saw that there was nothing on Mei Yan's hand, and threw the cup on the table towards her face.

She usually cared about her own reputation, and she would do it subtly even if she did something to hurt her servants because of anger. She especially hid a long needle in the needle thread, which was used to hurt her servants, instead of embroidering.

She had left all the bruises on the hands and arms of the servants that nobody could tell.

Mei Yan avoided the teacup that coming towards her, which did not hurt her face but smashed right to her foot.

“On your knees!” Qin Yuru said with a cold and sullen voice. Her face was covered with ointment, which was green in little spots, which also made her eyebrows green under the light of the lamp. The ointment was soft and greasy, which made her original pretty face look disgusting.

“Miss!” Mei Yan pleaded while looking at the fragments to her foot.

“You don’t like the fragments on the floor? I’ll sell you to the cheap place if you don’t kneel down, and I’ll see if you still don’t like it!” Qin Yuru said with a cold smile.

“Miss, I have something important to tell you!” Mei Yan did not dare to hesitate, since she had seen so many times that her own prestigious lady secretly did something like this. She then knelt down and the ceramic chips stuck into her leg, the pain made her face instantly go pale.

“What?” Seeing the blood at Mei Yan’s foot, Qin Yuru felt a lot more good and said with a cold voice.

“When I was going to the kitchen to get the snacks, I heard two servants across the wall talking about that Qionghua found a letter that you wrote to Duke Yong…” The pain was so harsh that she had to try to focus to tell her the news. She was in so much pain that she sweated a lot on her forehead.

“What, the letter was lost? Tell me everything!” Qin Yuru suddenly stood up with her face changed greatly. She had to ignore punishing Mei Yan and said to Mei Xue who just followed in, “Let her get up!”

Mei Xue answered and hurriedly helped Mei Yan get up.

“Miss, I heard that someone said so, so I walked there to see but found no one. It must be the two servants that passed by, I don’t know if what they were talking was true or not!” Mei Yan got up with the help of others and said after she was a bit sober from the pain.

However, she did not dare to take responsibility. She could only say that she did not know whether it was true or not. In fact, the two servants were very clear. If they did not really see it, how would they know.

Qin Yuru bit her teeth, and her face turned pale. “Go get my mother!”

Mei Xue answered and went out hurriedly. While Mei Yan stayed back carefully by holding the wall since her legs were still bleeding and she did not dare to move a little.

Mrs. Qin came very soon with Nanny Zhou after hearing that Qin Yuru’s letter was in Shui Ruolan’s hand even if she did not want to see anyone.

“What happened?” Mrs. Qin came in with her face being swollen and asked urgently, “what do you want to do now?”

"Mother, the letters were sent by someone you chose, how come it was something I did." Qin Yuru was unhappy and said angrily.

"I let people send it out, and then send people directly to the capital city, how can people let the letter go," Mrs. Qin sat down in a chair upsetly, "tell me what is going on?"

Things happened one after another, which made Mrs. Qin incapable to handle.

"You say!" Qin Yuru said to Mei Yan with a cold voice.

"Madam, I heard it from two servants when I went to the kitchen to help Miss get the snacks, but they left when I walked cross the wall, so I don't know if it was true or not!" Mei Yan murmured while her head was lowered and she suddenly felt like that she was just being nosy.

"What a useless one!" Mrs. Qin said angrily and rubbed her eyebrows. She then took a deep breath to press down the anger in her chest.

"Mother, what should I do now? What if Shui Ruolan gave this letter to my father... I... what should I do?" Qin Yuru panicked.

"Nothing... I will go to Shui Ruolan tomorrow, even if the letter was true, you would not be blamed for it!" Mrs. Qin pinched her hand and stood up again, and said with a cold voice after walking back and forth a few times.

What she said reminded Qin Yuru, who went calm after thought about it. Shen then lifted her injured right hand, and said proudly, "Yes, my hand is hurt, it is impossible to write a letter, if Shui Ruolan said it was written by me, then I can say that it was forged by her!"

The letter was wrote by Mrs. Qin, though she had changed the handwriting, she could not keep Qin Huaiyong away from suspecting. If it happened in the past, Mrs. Qin would not have to worry about it. But she had made up her mind after she felt the pain on her face that she could not let Qin Huaiyong see the letter.

Not even a little suspecting.

"Mother can we blame it on Qin Wanru?" Qin Yuru hated her so much and said while biting her teeth, a cattiness flashed across her eyes, and she believed that everything was related to Qin Wanru.

"There is no way to blame it on her!" Mrs. Qin frowned and said impatiently. It was already hard to deal with it, not to mention to blame it on Qin Wanru.

"Mother, it was all because of Qin Wanru, there won't be so many troubles if she didn't smash the bridal sedan chair and let Qi Tianyu see the letters in my room, the bitch, I have to teach her some lesson." Qin Yuru's beautiful face went blue and said while biting her teeth.

She completely pushed all the responsibilities to Qin Wanru, as if she was innocent!

"Yuru, she is still just a little girl, and the future marriage is still in my hands. Your future is boundless. How can you mess with such a girl? She is just rubble, and you are jewelry, what you need to do is to make friends with her. Things are settled in Jiangzhou, but you can have everything when you are in the capital city!"

Mrs. Qin looked up and looked at Qin Yuru's face coldly and scolded her.

"But, mother, it's all because of her for me to get here, I can't resign!" Qin Yuru said with her face twisted.

"So what, you have plenty of chances in the future to step on her, so just stay in the house and take care of your wound, everything will be fine after your father goes to the capital city!" Mrs. Qin said to Qin Yuru with a terrifying voice, "when he was in the capital city, he could not know about what happened in Jiangzhou, even if someone knew, it would have nothing to do with you after I blamed the letter thing on Qin Wanru."

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Chapter 45: Let's Make A Deal, Shui Ruolan!

It was the next day that Mrs. Qin sent to the family temple to look for Shui Ruolan.

Mrs. Qin and Shui Ruolan had not met each other since that incident. She had initially thought that she did not need to come here, she could well humiliate Shui Ruolan when opportunities arose. However, it seemed that there was no other choice but to pay her a visit this day.

"How have you been these few days, my dear cousin?" said Mrs. Qin with a smile as soon as she entered through the door as she put a handkerchief to her mouth. She had applied ice to her cheek last night and the swell had somewhat subsided. Given that she also applied a layer of blush on her cheek, basically, no one could tell that she had been slapped on her face the day before.

"I'm doing alright!" Shui Ruolan replied, having braced herself for this. She looked at Mrs. Qin calmly with her black eyes.

Mrs. Qin threw a jealous look at Shui Ruolan, who, with a fair complexion and dressed in a white robe, appeared much younger than she really was. Although her eyes were not especially bright, they were exuberating an air of elegance. Mrs. Qin had always disliked Shui Ruolan's quiet charm. She must be such an unfeeling person to be so at peace with being a widow.

Suddenly, the scene of Qin Huaiyong in the study flashed across Mrs. Qin's mind and she could immediately feel her fury rising up in her and eating her up.

Mrs. Qin had been the one behind the setup, however, what turned out eventually gave Shui Ruolan the opportunity to show Mrs. Qin that she was not one bit interested in Qin Huaiyong.

"You have lost quite a lot of weight these few days, dear cousin! What happened the other day was all the general's fault. The general had wanted to give you a status in the house as he wished to be accountable to you," said Mrs. Qin, tightening her fists in secret, then relaxing them and sat down. She dabbed her nose with her handkerchief and pretended to look sincere.

To give her a status in the house would mean for Shui Ruolan to become the general's concubine. Obviously, Mrs. Qin had to force herself to offer this suggestion.

Mrs. Qin was a heinous woman. So what if the general really have a soft spot for her? Being the wife, and the lady of the house, Mrs. Qin would have control over a concubine. What could Old Grandma do given that she was aging? It would be easy for her to get rid of Shui Ruolan by just making a statement.

"Madam, I don't want to be a concubine!" said Shui Ruolan to Mrs. Qin impassively as she raised her eyes to her and put down the joss sticks in her hands.

Not only was Mrs. Qin shocked to hear her reply, but the servants who followed behind Mrs. Qin were also taken aback.

Stunned, Mrs. Qin's face and she said, "Dear cousin, what do you mean by this? Are you saying you want me to give up my place to you?"

"Please give me a chance to explain myself. I had been content staying in my little area in the house when the incident fell upon me. Do you think I designed it?" Shui Ruolan said coldly, lifting her head to meet Mrs. Qin's face as she continued, "I don't think it's an unreasonable request to find out the truth by interrogating all the servants about what happened! We could also engage the help of the wife of Magistrate Qi, so we can prevent unnecessary rumors."

To let Mrs. Lee help in the investigation?

By now, Mrs. Qin was fuming! Little did she expect that this weak-looking Shui Ruolan would be so sharp-witted. She frowned at Mrs. Qin as if she was trying to look into her heart.

"Aren't you scheming, Shui Ruolan!" Mrs. Qin gritted her teeth and continued, "Aren't you afraid that you'll create more trouble?"

"I'm not worried to blow this up. I'm just afraid that someone had set me up! Originally, I've followed my grand aunt here to live a quiet life. I never wanted to be involved in your family matters. However, since now I've been implicated, I've no intention of running away from it!" said Shui Ruolan, glancing at Mrs. Qin as she tried to dust away the dust on her sleeves.

Mrs. Qin gritted her teeth. She had come here to give Shui Ruolan a piece of her mind but little did she expect that Shui Ruolan would be unmoved by her offer. Supporting herself with arms on the table with anticipation, Mrs. Qin did not believe that she was unable to deal with Shui Ruolan, who was a nobody in her household.

As Mrs. Qin swept her eyes past Shui Ruolan's sleeves, she spotted the corner of a letter. Her heart leaped as she found it familiar. It was the letter belonging to Qin Yuru.

It was so familiar to Mrs. Qin because she was the one who put the letter into the envelop.

Mrs. Qin immediately suppressed her anger and put on a smile and said with a calm voice, "You're a widow, Shui Ruolan. Are you going to rise beyond your position as a widow to rule over others?"

"Mrs. Qin, do you then mean that the person who set me up gets to keep her place? If I were to tell the general, my cousin, about this, I believe you can guess what he'll do!" said Shui Ruolan, showing no sign of backing down, as she straightened her sleeves.

So much so she made a sound when the sleeve rubbed against the letter in it.

She used to address Mrs. Qin as "cousin-in-law", but now she called her "Madam"!

"Shui Ruolan, do you think a letter alone would do wonders?" snorted Mrs. Qin and she shot Shui Ruolan a sharp glare, tightening and releasing her fists as she continued, "Shui Ruolan, let's have a deal!"

She did not wish that Qin Huaiyong would see this letter as much as possible.

"I'm not interested to have a deal. I'd rather tell cousin honestly about everything, rather than keeping anything from him!" said Shui Ruolan.

"That's too much, Shui Ruolan!" said Mrs. Qin with a severe tone as she stood up suddenly.

"I'm not the one who's pushing to much. I just wanted to regain what rightfully belonged to me. Since I've been set up and trampled upon, I would use my life to clear my name," said Shui Ruolan coldly. Her usual unassuming manner did not mean she would keep quiet when bullied.

Mrs. Qin was taken aback by Shui Ruolan's sharp tone, but she maintained a severe front and continued on. "Shui Ruolan, I'm not sure if you've been set up. What I'm sure of is that the general had been set up. The General had always treated you with as a relative who had come to seek refuge in his household. He had meant well, but look at the revenge that resulted from this kindness!"

"Let's go discuss this with my cousin," Shui Ruolan responded to Mrs. Qin with composure, as she turned to go to the general.

"Don't force me to a corner, Shui Ruolan!" said Mrs. Qin severely. She waved for her maids to block the door of the family temple.

Shui Ruolan turned her attention to Mrs. Qin's face only to realize that her lips were quivering a little. With a mocking smile on her face, Shui Ruolan said with a calm tone, "Are you using force, Mrs. Qin? Do you really think that I'll be so stupid to hide the letter with me here?"

"You... you mean this letter is fake?" Mrs. Qin almost said these words through her gritted teeth.

"Do you really think that I'm so stupid? That I will be framed a second time?" Shui Ruolan said impassively with a smile.

Mrs. Qin could hardly grasp what was in Shui Ruolan's heart, looking at her completely composed expression. Her gaze moved from Shui Ruolan's face to the opening of her sleeve.

"You can have this letter. I will go look for cousin once you leave. I'd like him to be the judge between us, about how you had come to me, wanting to take the letter from me by force. It only goes to show that you're feeling guilty and hiding something. When he sees the original letter, I'm sure my dear cousin would believe my words!"

Shui Ruolan said casually.

These words of Shui Ruolan almost made Mrs. Qin faint with rage. Was she trying to make her confess?

"You... what are you trying to find out?" Mrs. Qin said through gritted teeth, sounding irritated. Given that so many servants were involved, it would be easy for the general to find out something from them.

"I refuse to a concubine!" Shui Ruolan repeated herself while she glared at Mrs. Qin, then continued, "Please go back, since our conversation is not going anywhere. I'm going to leave the family temple in two day's time to start taking care of Grand Aunt. I guess I shouldn't stay in the family temple all my life!"

"You..." Shui Ruolan's words said calmly provoked Mrs. Qin once again. She twisted the handkerchief in her hand, wishing she could slap that beautiful face of Shui Ruolan. How dare she spoke to her like this? Not only did she make use of Qin Huaiyong to threaten her, but she was also obviously planning to use that old woman to back her up.

Mrs. Qin had been in power of almost everything in the household after marrying Qin Huaiyong. Never had she been wronged or disadvantaged.

"Please go back, Mrs. Qin!" said Shui Ruolan, taking two steps forward, planting the joss sticks in her hand into the alter slowly, waiting for Mrs. Qin to leave.

"Let's go!" Mrs. Qin said in rage, knowing that she could not do anything to Shui Ruolan now, she turned to leave.

"What do we do now, Madam?" asked Nanny Zhou as she followed behind Mrs. Qin.

"I'm definitely not going to agree to this!" said Mrs. Qin through gritted teeth.

"But... but how about that letter..." Nanny Zhou reminded Mrs. Qin. What explanation did they have for that letter in Shui Ruolan's hands, although Mrs. Qi saw that handwriting on the letter did not look like hers. Nanny Zhou continued, "If the general were to become suspicious, the things Madam said in the past would be questioned."

If one thing she said was not true, it could imply that everything she said was a lie. Mrs. Qin had done many things behind Qin Huaiyong's back.

"We must not let the general believe in this letter and believe what Shui Ruolan says," Mrs. Qin said, gritting her teeth.

"Madam, how about we find a scapegoat for this, so that even if someone were to report Elder Miss Qin's trouble to the general, the general would not think that we're involved if there's a scapegoat," suggested Nanny Zhou.

Suddenly, Mrs. Qin's eyes came alive at the idea, as she thought that this was a good idea. "Who can we find to be the scapegoat?"

"Second Miss Qin!" said Nanny Zhou as she pointed towards Qin Wanru's room and continued, "If only we could direct the attention of this matter onto Second Miss Qin, we would be able to completely shirk all the responsibility. We can say that it was Second Miss Qin who framed the Elder Miss Qin, that she purposely wrote such a cheesy letter and dropped it somewhere where people can pick it up."

They had been so used to making Qin Wanru the scapegoat for all past troubles that Nanny Zhou had long conceived the idea of pushing the blame onto Qin Wanru.

"Would... would the general be suspicious?" as was her habit, Mrs. Qin was tempted to do so.

Nanny Zhou, seeing that Mrs. Qin was tempted, added quickly by saying, "Of course the general would believe you, given that your relationship with Second Miss Qin was broken, now that she knows that you're not her birth mother. We would well imply that she hated the fact that this fact was kept from her, therefore she had thought of this plan to frame Elder Miss Qin."

Mrs. Qin had always liked hearing suggestions like this from Nanny Zhou, and Nanny Zhou, being Mrs. Qin's personal maid, knew what Mrs. Qin loved to hear best under such circumstances.

As expected, after listening to Nanny Zhou's words, Mrs. Qin nodded in agreement and instantly, with a sinister look in her eyes, she said, "Alright, however, we should not be the one to divert the attention to Qin Wanru. Someone else needs to do it."

"What do you mean, Madam?" Nanny Zhou waved the other servants and maids away and moved closer to Mrs. Qin asked her in a whisper.

"Write another letter!" said Mrs. Qin with a sinister laugh.

"Miss, miss, I've picked up a letter at the door to our yard. This is strange, who would leave a letter here? Did you lose a letter?" Qing Cui, who went to the kitchen to fetch some snack, came back with a letter in her hands and was making a big deal out of it. This attracted the attention of the maids and servants in the yards and they started to gather around her.

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Chapter 46: The Two Maids Who Came Before And After

"What is it in your hand, Qing Cui?" Qin Wanru inquired, putting down the book in her hands.

Qing Cui, who was taken aback and said in a hurried tone, "Second Miss Qin, it's important to find out whose letter that is, did not take in Qin Wanru! I found this letter on the floor, is it yours? I saw you writing a letter earlier on."

"I did not ask anyone to go to the kitchen to get me snacks, did I?" Qin Wanru said to Qing Yue, ignoring Qing Cui.

"Second Miss Qin usually does not eat any snacks after lunch. This is Second Miss Qin's nap time," Qing Yue lifter her head to look straight at Qing Cui and asked with a severe tone, "Qing Cui, you are the personal maid the Elder Miss Qin, aren't you familiar with your mistress's daily routine? Did you go to the kitchen to fetch a snack or did you make a special trip to get the letter?"

"What do you mean by this, Qing Yue? Are you saying I've made a special trip to the kitchen to get myself some snack?" Qing Cui asked Qing Yue furiously and started blushing.

"I'm not sure if you are eyeing on the snacks, but I'm sure Miss Qin did not ask for snacks!" responded Qing Yue in an unhurried manner.

"I'm just afraid that Miss Qin would be hungry, so I made a special trip to the kitchen. That's when I realized that there were freshly baked cakes, so I specially brought some for Miss Qin. As a personal maid, shouldn't I be concerned about this?" Qin Yue explained, stammering a little as she rolled her eyes.

"Being concerned about what I missed? Does it apply to this letter which you pick up too?" Qin Wanru answered impassively and continued, "Ever since you returned, I've never asked you to enter my room. How did you see me write a letter?"

"Miss Qin, there're no other masters staying around here. Whose letter would this be if it's not yours, Miss Qin?" Qing Cui persisted with gritted teeth, wanting to complete what Mrs. Qin had entrusted her, although she was starting to panic a little.

"No other masters? How can you be so sure I was the one who wrote the letter? If someone were to be found dead now, will you say I am the one who killed him?" Qin Wanru snorted and she cast a cold look at Qing Cui. She continued, "What a cunning maid, are you thinking of making me a scapegoat for anything that goes wrong?"

"Miss Qin, I..." Qing Cui was shocked as she had never met such a sharp Qin Wanru. The hateful look in Qin Wanru's eyes was making Qing Cui very nervous. She tried to avert her gaze as Qin Wanru's look was like a sharp knife, cutting through to what she was thinking. They were not the usual innocent eyes of Second Miss Qin.

"Kneel!" cried Qing Yue as she threw a kick on Qing Cui's leg. Qing Cui took two quick steps forward and fell forward into a kneeling position.

"How dare you kick me, Qing Yue!" cried Qing Cui, who was not fuming. She widened her eyes and reached out to Qing Yue, willing to pull herself up.

Although both Qing Cui and Qing Yue were personal maids of Second Miss Qin, Qing Cui had always been held with higher esteem. When Nanny Fang was the overall in-charge of the maids, Qing Cui had always been the more valued one by Nanny Fang.

"Why shouldn't I kick you? You have anyhow taken a letter and use it to frame Miss Qin!" said Qing Yue as she leaped behind Qing Cui nimbly and gave her a hard kick so much so Qing Cui, who had just managed to pull herself up, was forced to kneel down again.

This time, her knees landed on the floor even harder than the first so much so that there was a loud thud when her knees touched the floor and the pain made Qing Cui cried out in agony.

"Please go fetch my mother here, Nanny Yu!" Qin Wanru said coldly and calmly.

Nanny Yu, who was standing by, had been waiting for instructions. She walked up, waved and indicated to a maid to go to fetch Mrs. Qin. After the maid had left for Mrs. Qin, she called for another maid to hurry to Qin Huaiyong's study to fetch the general.

The two maids left the room one after another, so the first maid was aware that another maid had been sent to the general.

"Qing Cui, do you think you've been wronged?" said Qin Wanru slowly to Qing Cui, who was fuming.

"Miss Qin, what does this lowly Qin Yue think she's doing? I'm going to teach her a lesson!" Qing Cui directed her accusation at Qing Yue, but did not dare to look Qin Wanru in the eye. She gritted her teeth and glared at Qing Yue with a hateful look as she tried to pull herself up once again.

"Kneel!" Qin Wanru commanded with an icy cold tone.

By this time, Qing Cui was so furious that she had totally lost her composure. With fiery eyes, she cried out, "Based on what authority do you make me kneel before you, Second Miss Qin?"

"Based on the fact that I'm your mistress!" Qin Wanru said impassively as her icy glare fell on the letter, which accidentally slipped out of Qing Cui's hand. That particular envelope containing the letter was none other than the one, which contained the letter from the son of Duke Yong.

It appeared to be identical!

The corner of Qin Wanru's lips curled up into a mocking smile as she realized that Mrs. Qin was obviously in panic. She was certain that Mrs. Qin was using exactly the same trick as before to push all the blame to her.

"Miss Qin, while you are my master, you're an unfair master, who showed partiality. Apparently, Qing Yue was the one who kicked me. Why then did you command me to kneel down instead of her?" said Qing Cui with a raised voice and red eyes.

When a number of maids and servants outside Qin Wanru's room heard noises coming from the room, they put down whatever work they were doing and looked into the window of the room quietly. Some even stood in groups of three or fours and started talking quietly with animated gestures. Qin Wanru's yard had turned into a market place where people had gathered to entertain themselves.

"So I'm a master who's showing partiality?" said Qin Wanru, who turned her gaze from the window to look at Qing Cui coldly, then continued saying, "Since she said I'm partial, let it be. Qing Yue, give her what she deserves, so she would learn who exactly the master here is!"

"Yes, Miss!" Qing Yue answered with a loud, clear voice, and then stretched out her arm to rest her hand on Qing Cui's head and pressed it down with force, saying, "Apologize to Miss Qin!"

Qing Cui would never have expected Qing Yue to really lay hands on her. She started to struggle angrily and tried to reach out to catch hold of Qing Yue's arm. Unfortunately, the angle at which Qing Yue was holding on to Qing Cui did not allow her to touch her. By the time, Qing Yue had pushed her head down a few times as a gesture of apology; Qing Cui was feeling dizzy and was seeing stars.

Qing Cui grasped the air instead of Qing Yue's hand. Overcome by rage, she scolded, "How dare you, Qing Yue! You debased girl!"

"Why should I be afraid? There's no need for me to be afraid to deal rightly with the maid who tries to frame my mistress!" said Qin Yue as she let out a cold laugh, standing behind Qing Cui.

"I'm going to tear you to pieces, you debased girl!" Qing Yue's head was being pressed down so hard that she was beginning to see stars. She could vaguely see some a shadow moving in front of her but was unable to see clearly who that was. She could only at the shadow and shout.

In fact, she was actually pointing diagonally at Qin Wanru instead of pointing towards Qing Yue.

"You, as a servant girl, had offended your master. Give her a slap for that!" said Qin Wanru severely, as this was the opportunity Qin Wanru had been waiting for.

Nanny Yu, who was standing by went up to Qing Cui and gave her four tight slaps.

"You..., debased girl!" cried Qing Cui, whose vision was still blurred and could not tell exactly who gave her the slaps, but she could taste blood in her mouth.

The maids and servants outside the room started to talk noisily as they wondered and remarked about why Qing Cui had the audacity to curse her mistress.

"What's happening?" some said with a displeased tone. As the maids and servants turned around and realized that it was Mrs. Qin who had come, they quickly stood back and made clear a path for her. It seemed that Mrs. Qin had managed to come within a short time, and one could see that she was wearing a calm smile.

"Save me, Madam, save me! Second Miss Qin is going to beat me to death! Please save your servant!" screamed a familiar voice, which made Mrs. Qin realize that it was Qing Cui's voice.

"Wanru, why did you beat up a maid?" Mrs. Qin said, casting a glance at Qing Cui, who was looking pathetic, with messy hair and swollen face. Mrs. Qin could almost feel the pain of Qing Cui's bruises on her face.

She must have used a lot of strength on her!

"Madam, Second Miss Qin wanted to beat me to death just because I chanced upon her letter. Please save me, Madam!" Qing Cui's confidence leaped when she heard Mrs. Qin's voice and she started to cry out with her complaints.

"Is there such a thing, Wanru? What letter is that?" said Mrs. Qin as she turned to look at Qin Wanru with a look of shock on her face.

"Mother, this maid cursed me just now. Would Mother believe the words of a maid who offends her master?" Qin Wanru said dispassionately.

"Madam, it is not as what Second Miss Qin said. I'm actually scolding Qing Yue that debased servant girl. I'm not directing those words at Second Miss Qin. Miss Qin was trying to shield Qin Yue by speaking up for her!" Qing Cui cried out.

"How would a maid dare to curse you, Wanru?" Mrs. Qin gave out a laugh and continued with a gentle voice, saying, "Have you been naughty again? You're getting older and you shouldn't be pulling these childish antics. Although this matter concerns the maids and may seem like it's not a big deal, it involves a person's life after all, how can you simply cook up a story? How can we do such evil things within our family?"

Although Mrs. Qin said all these with a smiley face and sounded as if she was giving Qin Wanru some heartfelt advice, this was actually part of her evil plan to push all blame onto Qin Wanru. She was, in fact, accusing Qin Wanru of brutally punishing an innocent maid, while shielding another maid whom she favored.

The servants outside the room could see clearly through the window what was happening. They were all wearing a mocking look at this moment, thinking that Mrs. Qin was rebuking Second Miss Qin again, as usual.

Second Miss Qin was being reprimanded rather frequently and they were wondering why she never learnt her lesson!

If you knock an egg against the stone, would the egg be able to withstand the impact?

“Do you think I’m in the wrong, Mother?” Qin Wanru lifted her gaze to Mrs. Qin after hearing what Mrs. Qin said. She cast an impassive look at Mrs. Qin and raised her eyebrows as if she was questioning Mrs. Qin.

“You have always been such a willful child...” Mrs. Qin chuckled and continued, “Stop pulling tricks, let Mother have a look at the letter you wrote!”

Mrs. Qin’s intention was to turn the situation around so that everyone’s attention would be directed towards the letter.

“What do you mean by this, Mother? Are you saying that you trust the word of a maid more than me?” Qin Wanru snorted and started to speak with a severe tone.

The smile on Mrs. Qin’s face froze and her expression turned to that of rage. While she had no way of dealing with Shui Ruolan at this moment, would she also fail to deal with this little girl? Qin Wanru did not seem to want to back off in front of so many pairs of eyes, and Mrs. Qin was starting to boil inside her.

“Wanru, I’m your mother. Do you think a mother would try to bring harm to her own daughter?” said Mrs. Qin, frowning and sounding displeased but also a little embarrassed.

In the past, Mrs. Qin had always hinged on the fact that she was Qin Wanru’s mother to explain that she would not do anything to bring harm to her. She always used this phrase to cover up her intentions and Qin Wanru had used to give her the benefit of doubt.

However, things had changed. Everyone knew that she was not Qin Wanru’s birth mother.

Under Qin Wanru’s long eyelashes was a pair of eyes filled with many deep thoughts. She had always been fooled by Mrs. Qin’s seemingly sincere claims in her previous life, and this was what eventually led her to her death.

“Of course a birth mother would never do anything to harm her own daughter. Mother, I know for a fact that you would never do anything to harm Elder Sister! However, I’m not so sure about me. Am I really your daughter?” said Qin Wanru, as a sad look flashed across her eyes. The voice she used was not too loud, but she made sure everyone witnessing this scene could hear her words!

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Chapter 47: A Handpicked Maid

Mrs. Qin immediately froze after hearing these words and looked embarrassed. She had forgotten that Qin Wanru had already found out that she was not Qin Wanru’s birth mother earlier on!

“Mother, you have been taken in by the words of this maid the moment you entered the room and thereby pushing all the blame to me. Did you not notice that this maid had attracted the attention of many so that she could shame me in front of them? Don’t you find it strange, Mother, that my place in this house is lower than that of the maid?”

Qin Wanru lifted her gaze to the stunned Mrs. Qin and continued.

"I did not realize that the maids in this house are so lacking in discipline." Mrs. Qin responded, feeling anger arising in her out of shame. She was beginning to get nervous having been questioned.

"Don't you have any idea of what's happening in my yard all along, given that you are in charge of the backyard?" A composed looking Qin Wanru continued pressing Mrs. Qin while keeping her eyes on Mrs. Qin's face.

It sounded as if this was the case all along.

Surprisingly, this little girl standing among the crowd, one head shorter than Mrs. Qin, was able to maintain her composure. The servants standing around started whispering to each other, criticizing Qin Wanru.

Although this was the yard where Second Miss Qin's room was, it looked like a chaotic marketplace at this moment, yet Mrs. Qin had the audacity to say that she was not aware of the situation of the servants in the yard.

Qin Huaiyong, who was watching the entire scene all along, could no longer bear it. He gave a command to his sidekick through a knowing look and the sidekick cried out with a loud voice, saying, "The general is here!"

Upon hearing this, all the surrounding servants and maids by the windows were taken aback and quickly retreated to the sides to make way for the general. There was silence instantly.

First, Qin Huaiyong's eyes scanned the maids who were standing by, then he walked in strides into the room, with his hands at his back.

Mrs. Qin felt something was not right. She did not expect Qin Huaiyong to have come here when she was teaching Qin Wanru a lesson. She turned her eyes to look at Nanny Zhou, who tried to give her a reassuring look.

"General!" Mrs. Qin called out, all smiles, once she calmed her nerves.

However, Qin Huaiyong did not even look into her eyes by averted his gaze to rest his eyes on Qing Cui, who was still kneeling. He had, in fact, been standing outside for quite some time so he had an idea of what went on in the room.

This maid was the source of the commotion. Usually, Qin Huaiyong would not take notice of the maids, but at this moment, as he fixed his eyes on this maid, he realized that she was much more glamorously adorned than all other maids.

Not only was the fabric of the clothes she was wearing much more exquisite than that of other maids, but she also wore dangling earrings which made her look even more prepossessing. Why would the maid to a young mistress be adorned in this manner? What would people think about his daughter if even her maid was dressed in such an unseemly fashion?

"Is she the maid who had been beaten and tried to draw spectators here?" asked Qin Huaiyong coldly.

At this instant, Qin Wanru walked up to Qin Huaiyong to greet him and nodded her head in response to his question. She pointed to the letter which fell on the floor and said with a loud, clear voice, "Father, she was indeed the maid who was stirring up trouble. I have no idea where she found that letter, which she insisted was written by me. She argued her point by saying that there are no other masters living around here apart from me, so she insisted the letter must belong to me!"

"Bring that letter over to me!" Qin Huaiyong commanded while he kept his eyes on Mrs. Qin.

Mrs. Qin lost her nerve, but tried her best to camouflage the panic on her face by pulling a straight face. Although she had meant for this letter to finally end up in Qin Huaiyong's hands, this was not the time.

However, there was no way she dared to prevent what was happening at this moment, she could only try to steady her trembling hands by holding tightly to her handkerchief.

The general's sidekick went over to pick up the letter on the floor and handed it to the Qin Huaiyong. As Qin Huaiyong took the letter, he realized that it was a sealed envelope which was addressed to Master Di. Apart from that, there were no other inscriptions on the envelope.

There was nothing special about the handwritings, except that from the light strokes, it was apparent that these handwritings belonged to that of a girl.

It would seem that Qin Wanru was the only one in the household who would address the son of the Di family in this way because Mrs. Qin did not address him in this manner and it seemed impossible for Qin Yuru to be writing the letter at this time when her mother was sick and lying in bed.

It would seem to be the case from the surface!

"Is this the letter which the maid said was written by Wanru?" asked Qin Huaiyong as he lifted a questioning gaze and rested it on Mrs. Qin.

"General... this, this maid said..." Mrs. Qin stammered as she was no longer sounding so confident as she was accusing Qin Wanru a minute ago.

"Is this maid your daughter? Why are you trying to protect her?" asked Qin Huaiyong as he looked coldly at Mrs. Qin.

"I... how could the general accuse me of this? Am I not trying to solve the problem here? It's just that it's not been solved and Wanru was blaming me. At this moment, everything was still a little unsettled!" said Mrs. Qin, who brought her handkerchief to her face and tried to look as if she had been wronged.

"Who made the arrangement for this maid to serve Wanru?" asked Qin Huaiyong.

Panicked, Mrs. Qin quickly replied by saying, "She... was handpicked by Wanru and this maid had been serving her for more than a year."

"Serving her for more than a year? More like the maid had made herself into the mistress! Look at how she dresses! It would look like she is the mistress if she stands next to Wanru and Wanru would be thought as the maid!" As Qin Huaiyong's eyes came to rest on Qin Wanru, he realized that she was wearing a plain white robe. Although the robe did look beautiful on her, she appeared too modest.

Compared to this maid who was all dolled up, Qin Wanru indeed appeared to be her maid.

"But... but she had been the one to pick this maid for herself," Mrs. Qin tried to shirk the responsibility. She was not going to confess that she was the one who asked Nanny Fang to persuade Qin Wanru to take Qing Cui in as her maid. At that time, Qin Wanru was only nine years old and it was easy to coax her into a decision.

"When was she at that time?" asked Qin Huaiyong, frowning.

Mrs. Qin was immediately struck dumb by this question. She twisted her handkerchief and gnashed her teeth. She knew there was no way the general would have embarrassed her in front of the crowd in this way if he had not witnessed the scene earlier on.

"Do you mean she was able to make a wise choice at such a young age? I remember that old maid who had been beaten to death as a punishment. Wasn't she a maid of yours? The maids who are working for Wanru here all reported to you, and this one kind of lord of Wanru. It seemed that all the servants here don't treat Wanru as their mistress. While they watched the drama going on a moment ago, they were criticizing their mistress. Are you sure Wanru handpicked all of them?"

Qin Huaiyong said sarcastically.

A series of events happened one after another, and it was apparent to him that Mrs. Qin did not treat Qin Wanru as her daughter. In fact, she had no regard for Wanru's interest at all.

Qin Huaiyong could now clearly see that her claim about treating Qin Wanru as her own daughter was nothing but a lie.

He did not have any other descendants apart from his two daughters. Although Qin Wanru was not his own daughter, he had treated her as one. His protective feelings towards her had grown over these years after he took her under his wings. Moreover, he had always felt indebted to his savior whenever he thought about how he had sacrificed his life for the general.

"General, this... I'm not aware of all these things!" Mrs. Qin tried to justify herself as she could see that things were going right for her when she heard Qin Huaiyong's words.

"There's no excuse for you to be unaware of this given that you're in charge of the household matters. Otherwise what else are you responsible for?" Qin Huaiyong said impassively.

"I... I really wasn't aware of these, general! Nanny Fang had told me that everyone treated Wanru with respect here."

Tears started streaming down Mrs. Qin's face as she tried to earn the spectator's sympathy and shirk her responsibility. She could say what she wanted now that Nanny Fang was no longer around anyways.

"In that case, do you know by now, Mother?" Qin Wanru pressed, not giving Mrs. Qin any chance of escape. She continued by saying, "Is it possible for Mother to make time to solve this problem?"

Mrs. Qin's face froze at the words of Qin Wanru. She gave the severe-looking Qin Huaiyong a helpless look said, "Rest assured, Wanru, I will change all the servants who are disobedient to you. This time, you will handpick the ones you are happy with."

"Rest assured, Mother. Now that Nanny Fang is no longer around, I will make sure to choose those who are trustworthy and respectful to me," said Qin Wanru, grinning.

What she meant by this statement was that Nanny Fang had persuaded her to choose servants who did not abide by the rules and Qin Huaiyong knew Nanny Fang used to be Mrs. Qin's sidekick.

Mrs. Qin's face fell at Qin Wanru's words, but she did not dare to show her displeasure. She knew she had fallen into Qin Wanru's snare, given the coincidental development of events. She could only gnash her teeth secretly, while still wearing an amiable look on her face. "That will put my worries to rest since Wanru is so understanding," said Mrs. Qin.

"Mother, please sell this maid away!" Qin Wanru said, ignoring the "loving" look on Mrs. Qin's face. Qin Wanru looked dispassionately at Qing Cui and continued, "I'm afraid to be served by this maid!"

"Save me, Madam, please save me!" Qing Cui pleaded as her eyes met Qin Huaiyong's gaze. She was apparently nervous because she started crying and crawling towards Mrs. Qin as she continued imploring. At this instant, she knew that the matter had turned bad and her livelihood was at stake!

A very smart Nanny Zhou quickly assessed the situation and came to stand between Mrs. Qin and Qing Cui, rebuking her by saying, "You have offended Second Miss Qin so you should be asking Second Miss Qin for forgiveness instead. Madam has always doted on Second Miss Qin, so I'm sure she will respect Second Miss Qin's decision."

Qing Cui immediately understood the intention behind Nanny Zhou's intention. She quickly turned to Qin Wanru and hang on to her leg, begging, "Second Miss, I really just found this letter and thought that you are the only person who would address the Master Di in this way. I didn't do this with an evil intention. Please do not sell me away. I will do anything you say, Second Miss."

By the time Qing Cui finished speaking, her face was covered with tears, looking very sincere. She took a step back and got down to knock her head hard on the floor three times, so much so that her forehead swelled up with a big bruise. "Please do not sell me to that kind of place, Miss. I am still a virgin. I will be doomed if you send me away to that kind of place, Miss!"

Stealing glances at the pathetic-looking and helpless Qing Cui, the maids looking in from outside felt that Qin Wanru was too heartless.

Nanny Zhou was indeed the most trusted and capable servant to Mrs. Qin. By making a statement, she had turned the table and made Qin Wanru look like a cruel person. She was intent on provoking Qin Huaiyong's irritation towards Qin Wanru.

"Are you sure I'm the only one who would address Master Di in this way?" Qin Wanru questioned.

"Yes, but it was my fault, it's all my fault! Please forgive me, Second Miss!" cried Qing Cui. "The first thing that came to my mind when I found the letter was to quickly bring it to you. I really thought the letter was yours. It's all my fault, I am truly clueless!"

While Qing Cui continued wailing, she simultaneously stole a glance at Nanny Zhou and was quickly put at ease when she saw a hint of a smile on Nanny Zhou's face. She was confident that Second Miss Qin would not do her any harm in the presence of the general even if Qin Wanru did not believe her. It would seem to him that she had good intentions after all. However, Qin Wanru's next statement would turn her confidence into great fear.

“Qing Cui, I remember you are illiterate, so how did you know that this letter was addressed to Master Di?”

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Chapter 48: As Much As How Much He Trusted Her In The Past, This Much He Was Suspicious Of Her Now

Many knew that Qing Cui was illiterate. Even if she found the letter, she would not know who wrote the letter. The reason why they were still arguing was that Qin Wanru had tried to skirt the topic so no one had to start discussing who the letter was addressed to.

However, it seemed at the moment that Qing Cui knew.

The only possibility was that Qing Cui had long known the content of the letter, but who would have told her?”

Looking terribly pale, Qing Cui looked helplessly at Mrs. Qin. She was feeling very scared as she stammered and could not come out with an explanation.

“Outrageous! How did you know this letter was written by Second Miss Qin to Master Di? Who told you that?” questioned Nanny Zhou severely, as if she just realized this fact! However, she was really trying to hint at something by what she said.

Qing Cui quickly picked up the hint. Her lips trembled as she opened her mouth to say something to play along with Nanny Zhou, when Qin Wanru interrupted her and in a hostile tone, she said to Nanny Zhou, “Nanny Zhou, Qing Cui is my maid, how is it that you know everything she was about to say? Are you and Qing Cui very close?”

Buy saying that they were close indicated that they had been colluding with each other!

“How could you say that, Wanru? Nanny Zhou was only trying to help you question her!” with an uneasy cough and a forced smile, Mrs. Qin quickly said something to salvage the situation when even Nanny Zhou was made speechless by Qin Wanru’s statement.

Qin Huaiyong’s brows were locked into a deep frown. He was a warrior who was used to being straight forward and decisive but was never observant on matters of the household. He suddenly felt that he had been negligent about these matters especially those concerning Qin Wanru, Shui Ruolan, and the Old Grandma.

Both Mrs. Qin and Nanny Zhou were starting to panic. Qin Wanru’s words implied that they were patching up one part of the wall by taking from another part of the wall, whereby the wall could never be completely patched up.

“Although you’ve not matured, Wanru, you are no longer a kid. You have to stop being so willful. Even if Qing Cui had done something wrong, her act does not warrant death. There is no need for you to convict her sins so quickly, this is not the way a merciful mistress should treat her maid,” Mrs. Qin persuaded.

Mrs. Qin was trying to imply that Qin Wanru refused to let Qing Cui off because Qin Wanru was bad-tempered and willful. By implying that Qin Wanru had a bad temperament, Mrs. Qin hoped to ensnare Qin Huaiyong to believe that Qin Wanru was not a likable child.

Having failed in her plan, she resorted to the alternative plan B, which as to created discord using false accusations.

Qin Wanru fixed her gaze on Mrs. Qin as she called to mind how she had fallen into Mrs. Qin's traps in her previous life because of her ignorance. She smiled coldly as she remembered how Mrs. Qin had destroyed her step by step. However, she was determined to trample Mrs. Qin underfoot in this life.

"Didn't Mother also convict my sins when you first arrived? Are you saying that you are not a merciful mother?" asked Qin Wanru, lifting her gaze to Mrs. Qin, pretending to look confused.

At such a tender age, her mannerism was reflective of that of an innocent little girl.

She was indeed just a kid. Would it not be unreasonable to expect her to understand all the complications of this matter? Therefore her words were supposed to be innocent. In comparison, the words spoken by Mrs. Qin and Nanny Zhou sounded provocative and intentional.

Looking at Qin Wanru's childlike mannerism, Qin Huaiyong welled up with guilt, heartbreak, and sadness. He reached out to touch Qin Wanru's hair and with a tender voice, he said "Wanru is a good girl. Father will stand by you."

Be it what happened in the past or now, it was apparent that Qin Wanru was just an innocent child, a child who was being bullied by even her maid.

When Qin Huaiyong thought about how Qin Wanru was even looked upon as lower than a maid in her own house, he could not contain the fury rising in him. "Take a good rest first, I am going to discuss with your mother about the changing of maids for you. I'll make that all your maids from now on would treat you with respect, as how maids should treat their mistress."

"General..." said Mrs. Qin in panic. She knew this was working out all wrong for her.

Qin Huaiyong gave her a hard stare which put such fear in Mrs. Qin that she stopped halfway in what she was saying.

"Gather all the servants and maids who were watching in the yard just now at one place. They shall not continue to serve here!" commanded Qin Huaiyong, directing his words at his sidekick.

His sidekick nodded in response without any hesitation!

Now Mrs. Qin was nervous and angry at the same time. Qin Huaiyong had always been accommodating towards her, however, his intervention today was like a slap in her face.

"Come with me!" Qin Huaiyong said to Mrs. Qin after instructing his sidekick and strode out of the room without even looking at her.

Knowing things had gone very wrong, Mrs. Qin turned looked at Nanny Zhou nervously, seeking her direction.

Nanny Zhou cocked her head in silence, as in indication for her to just follow Qin Huaiyong. It was not possible to avoid the confrontation at this moment, Mrs. Qin gritted her teeth and followed after Qin Huaiyong, helpless.

At least she had Duke Yong in the capital city as her backing, what could the general do to her?

Nanny Zhou did not try to follow them immediately. She turned her gaze to Qin Wanru. Looking at her suspiciously, she felt that Second Miss Qin was a different person entirely. What had happened?

Sensing Nanny Zhou's glare, Qin Wanru lifted her head and looked straight into Nanny Zhou's eyes. Qin Wanru's beautiful, clear eyes seemed to be able to look into her heart, so much so that Nanny Zhou began to feel uneasy. In her jittery state, she bowed to Qin Wanru in a hurry and left to run after Mrs. Qin.

Qin Wanru was indeed eyeing on Nanny Zhou, who was Mrs. Qin's most trusted maid. Compared to Nanny Fang, Nanny Zhou had a much more intimate relationship with Mrs. Qin. In fact, she was a present from Mrs. Qin's mother to Mrs. Qin to be her confidante. She was indeed Mrs. Qin and Qin Yuru's confidante.

A lot of time, she was the one helping Mrs. Qin handle the matters concerning the household. Qin Wanru thought it would be best to get rid of her. However, she had just gotten rid of Nanny Fang and now was not the best time to get rid of Nanny Zhou. If she remembered correctly, there should be another better opportunity to do so, at which time, it would be detrimental to Mrs. Qin.

Nanny Zhou, who was hurrying away, felt a sudden chill creeping up her back. She could sense something bad was going to happen...

Back in Mrs. Qin's room, all the servants had been asked to leave, even Nanny Zhou was not allowed in the room. The air felt tense as Qin Huaiyong glared coldly at Mrs. Qin, so much so she was feeling the hair on her body standing on ends.

With shaky hands, she lifted the teapot from the table to pour Qin Huaiyong a cup of tea. She was about to say something when Qin Huaiyong smashed the letter hard onto the table and said with a severe voice, "What's this?"

"I... I don't know either," said a nervous Mrs. Qin. She was as panicky as she was proud of the letter earlier on.

"You don't know? But that maid knew. Are you treating me like an idiot?" said Qin Huaiyong. Although he did not raise his voice, the authority and coldness in his voice were had taken all the colors on Mrs. face.

"What a loving mother, Mrs. Qin! Didn't you say you would treat Qin Wanru as your own daughter, and that you would take it as you've given birth to two daughters?" mocked Qin Huaiyong as the fury in him rises with every minute and anyone could tell he was enraged.

He had set his mind to repay the kindness he received but did not expect that the daughter of his savior ended up being treated worse than a maid, and was in fact even bullied by maids. She had become a laughing stalk for all the servants looking on earlier in the garden. There was not one who was nice to her. Qin Huaiyong would be too ashamed to face up to his savior when he died.

“General, I... I truly treated her as my own daughter, but... but she’s not my real daughter. Moreover, Mother is quite protective of her anyways. I don’t want to dote on her too much so as to spoil her. I just thought it would be good for her to handle her own matters. Look at how it turned out for her, She wasn’t even able to handle a maid and look at how outrageous that maid was!”

Mrs. Qin sounded as if she had been wronged and started to dab her eyes with the handkerchief as she weeped pitifully. She was trying to imply that Qin Wanru was not helping herself even though she was given all the resources she needed!

“Are you still insisting that you’re helping her in this way?” said Qin Huaiyong, fuming.

Qin Huaiyong had always complied to Mrs. Qin’s words and suggestions. Mrs. Qin was the daughter of Duke Yong in the capital city. Strictly speaking, Mrs. Qin had married someone of a lower standing than her family. Mrs. Qin did not have to marry him if not for the family’s commitments. For this reason, Qin Huaiyong had been very grateful to her.

Also, he never gave her pressure with regards bearing him an heir, even though she only gave him a daughter.

Whether she was able to produce an heir for him depended entirely on fate, it was really not up to her. Qin Huaiyong was happy to have these two daughters. While he had never blame Mrs. Qin for this matter, he could not stand how Mrs. Qin was still talking in this way.

“How about Yuru? Do you also leave everything to Yuru and not care? Or did you choose her maids to help her manage her room?” Qin Huaiyong blurted out angrily, question after question. He was trying so hard to hold back his anger in Qin Wanru’s yard where there was so many people, because he did not want the people to see how he would confront his wife.

As much as he trusted her in the past, this much he was suspicious of her at this moment.

“General, I...” Mrs. Qin exclaimed as she tried to explain further.

“Don’t tell me that this letter was written was Wanru? This is Jiangzhou. A person would need someone to personally deliver or post the letter to the capital city. Wanru is only a child, do you think she knows how to consider all these complications, and be able to arrange for someone to sent the letter? Moreover, how come I’m not aware that Di Yan and Wanru write letters to each other.”

“Di Yan is your nephew, and you are set for him to be your brother-in-law. You used to only allow Yuru to write letters to him. I recall when Di Yan visited two years ago, Wanru almost lost her life! Do you remember what you said to me at that time? You said he was just a kid who wanted to play with Wanru, and that little boys are usually careless. Are you saying that Di Yan had been eyeing on Wanru ever since? That Wanru was grateful to him for sparing her life so they kept in contact by writting letters to each other?”

Qin Huayong said with a sarcastic tone as he called to mind the various incidents in the past.

Qin Huaiyong could not stop blaming himself in his heart. How did he not see that Mrs. had never treated Wanru as her own? Why did he not realize this fact earlier and still put her in charge of Wanru’s life?

"You can't even tolerate an orphaned child, can you still call yourself a parent?" said Qin Huaiyong, whose hands began trembling from the strong emotion of disappointment. He regretted making that initial decision. This child was now ruined in his hands. Looking at Mrs. Qin, he decided to bite the bullet.

The issue which had been troubling him was finally resolved at the same time.

"Get rid of all the servants in Wanru's courtyard in a while, then have Old Maid Ya bring some servants in for Wanru to choose. Don't try to give her your idea because my cousin will help Wanru make the choices," said Qin Huaiyong decisively.

"What... what has this to do with your cousin? Didn't she like to live quietly by herself, which was why she had been staying in the family temple?" asked Mrs. Qin as her face drained of its colors. She could sense something was very wrong, and it had nothing to do with Qin Wanru, but everything to do with Shui Ruolan. At this moment, she was most wary of Shui Ruolan!

Qin Huaiyong's gaze fell on Mrs. Qin and the awfulness of his gaze made Mrs. Qin avert her eyes and her heart started pounding hard, and she had twisted the handkerchief in her hands into a ball.

"My cousin will not remain in the family temple forever. Prepare yourself, because I'm going to take her as my concubine!"

Medical Princess

Chapter 49: One Wave After Another

Qin Huaiyong basically left Mrs. Qin with that last statement.

Mrs. Qin was frozen in place, wearing a stunned expression on her color-drained face, as Qin Huaiyong left, Mrs. Qin just looked on while unable to say a word.

When Nanny Zhou finally entered Mrs. Qin's room, she could see Mrs. Qin in a daze, with her face drained of its colors. She approached her in two quick steps and called out softly, "Madam!"

Mrs. Qin woke up from her trance, reached for Nanny Zhou's hand and started wailing, saying, "How could he do this to me? He said he wanted to take that slut as a concubine. She's not worthy, she's just a widow! How could she become the general's concubine? No way am I going to agree to this, no way!"

She cursed and swear as she wailed, her face filled with hatred and malice and a vein bulging on her neck. She dug her manicured nails into Nanny Zhou so much so that Nanny Zhou's face turned pale with pain. She quickly pushed Mrs. Qin's hand away and cried out, "Madam, wake up, Madam, wake up!"

"What am I going to do? What should I do? I'll now allow that slut to marry my husband! I'm going to kill her!" wailed Mrs. Qin, unable to restrain her emotions. She never imagined that Qin Huaiyong would ever say such words to her, to abruptly reject her suggestions and to marry Shui Ruolan against her will.

How dare he? She was the daughter of Duke Yong. She had lowered her status by marrying him.

"Madam, Madam, don't panic. Things are still not certain. There has to be a solution to it, do not freak out!" said Nanny Zhou put her hand on her shoulder and shook it gently.

Nanny Zhou's words brought Mrs. Qin back to reality as her eyes lit up. She reached out to hold on to Nanny Zhou's hand, back to herself, she said, "What can we do, Nanny Zhou? I don't want to let that slut

marry into the Qin family as the general's wife, she's not even fit to be his concubine! She's not worth it! She was lucky enough not to be drowned given that she did not guard her chastity!"

Mrs. Qin could not help but gnashed her teeth. She did not respond to Qin Huaiyong a minute ago because she was simply too shocked.

"Is the general going take Ms. Shui as wife?" inquired Nanny Zhou, who did not dare to eavesdrop when she was waiting outside the room.

"Yes, that's what he said. How could Qin Huaiyong even say that? I'm the daughter of Duke Yong and me marrying him was a blessing from heaven. How could he treat me like this? Is he giving up the chance to go to the capital city?" said Mrs. Qin, gnashing her teeth when she mentioned this matter. She could no longer contain the hatred in her as it manifested in her eyes.

"Madam, is it because the general thinks that no one was helping Second Miss Qin manage the matters in her courtyard?" Nanny Zhou suggested after pondering for a while. She knew it was no use for Mrs. Qin to just sit there worrying.

"I'm quite sure it's not that simple. I am certain he had been having the thought all this while! He wanted to settle this matter together with Qin Wanru's problem once and for all. I really regretted leading a drunk Qin Huaiyong into Shui Ruolan's room, now she had taken advantage of that opportunity," said Mrs. Qin, who wished she could tear Shui Ruolan to pieces at this moment.

"Madam, what is done cannot be undone, we have to move on and think about what we can do to salvage the situation!" said Nanny Zhou, sounding a little guilty because Nanny Zhou was agreeable to the plan regarding what happened that day when the drunk Qin Huaiyong was led to Shui Ruolan's room. They did not expect that Qin Huaiyong would end up wanting to take Shui Ruolan as his wife, and seemingly Shui Ruolan had agreed to this!

They had half expected Shui Ruolan to become a nun out of shame, which she eventually did not. Even so, Qin Huaiyong would feel so guilty towards Mrs. Qin, that even if he wanted to keep Shui Ruolan in the family, he would make her a concubine.

"What then should we do next?" asked Mrs. Qin, who was clueless.

"Rest assured, Madam. I'm sure the general would not spring into action straight away," said Nanny Zhou who tried to comfort Mrs. Qin, as her eyes twinkled as if she suddenly thought of a good idea.

"Why?" asked Mrs. Qin.

"Madam, so many things happened in our manor lately and our reputation is at rock bottom now. How would people look at the general if he were to take in another wife, who was a widow, at this moment? Would people not say that he was a lustful man? How could he still think about taking another wife when his daughter had just got into big trouble. His prospects would be greatly affected if news of him taking another wife in at this time."

Nanny Zhou had accompanied Mrs. Qin and was originally a maid from Duke Yong's house, so she more or less knew something about politics.

Those officials usually were very concerned about their good reputation. It was really not a wise thing to do to take in a new wife while so much chaos had happened in the General's Mansion.

"But... after a while, he would still harden his heart, and go ahead with the marriage arrangements," said Mrs. Qin, frowning and looking upset.

Before she married Qin Huaiyong, she did not think much of him. However, after she married him, she had concentrated her attention to making sure everything worked well in Qin Mansion. While she scrambled for power, she could not take it that Qin Huaiyong was going to take another wife. She was the daughter of a high ranking official from the capital city, who was this Shui Ruolan who wanted to be equal with her.

"At least during this period of time, we can make some plans. Don't try to argue with the general at this moment, Madam. This is no reason to rush. At the very least, we've to wait until the matter concerning Elder Miss Qin to calm down first. Given we have so much time on our hands, it wouldn't be difficult to deal with Miss Shui.

Nanny said with a menacing tone.

Nanny Zhou's words indeed calmed down Mrs. Qin, who nodded and said, "Alright, we will let that slut enjoy for a few more days."

"Way to go, Madam, this is how you should tell yourself, that it does not do any good to argue with the general after so many things had happened!" Nanny Zhou said purposefully.

Mrs. Qin had left a foothold for Qin Huaiyong with regards to both Shui Ruolan and Qin Wanru. Although there was no solid evidence yet, however, all that had happened pointed to Mrs. Qin, so it was not the right time to argue with Qin Huaiyong.

"So what if I try to contradict him? Would he divorce me?" questioned Mrs. Qin, gritting her teeth, as she continued, "I am the precious daughter of Duke Yong. If not for... sigh, why did I marry such a useless person?"

"Madam, although I don't expect the general to be upset over these matters in the past, he was really upset this time. If he were to tell this to the people outside the family, you would definitely be deemed as the party who had done wrong," Nanny Zhou tried to remind her with a hint. Then she continued with her warning, saying, "Madam, don't ever mention the things of the past which we've done. Those had to be kept the secret with you!"

"I won't tell," replied Mrs. Qin, nodding. She then went back to her chair, drank a few big gulps and putting down the water, she said, "Nanny Zhou, I supposed you can help settle Wanru's maid and servants. Take away whoever she claimed to be unsuitable, lest she uses this to provoke the general to the anger."

Although Mrs. Qin was beyond angry for what Qin Huaiyong had done, she knew that at this time, she had to back off.

One one hand, there was Shui Ruolan, while on the other, there was Qin Wanru. In comparison, dealing with Shui Ruolan was more pressing for her, since Qin Wanru was just a kid. She thought it would not be too difficult to deal with Qin Wanru once Shui Ruolan, who was stirring up trouble, was gone.

“Yes, Madam, I understand what you mean. I will instruct the Old Maid Ya to bring in the candidates for Second Miss Qin to choose her maids from. Madam, you have to treat Second Miss Qin nicer during this period time, so that the general’s anger can be abated,” reminded Nanny Zhou, who finally breathed a sigh of relief when she saw Mrs. Qin had finally regained her composure and did not lose her mind.

“I will!” said Mrs. Qin, gritting her teeth and twisting her handkerchief into a ball, as she continued, “I will show that I’m concerned about Qin Wanru’s matters as much as I show concern for Yuru. However, I will not let the matter concerning that slut rest.”

“Madam, you mean...” asked Nanny Zhou cautiously.

“So I heard that Old Grandma’s health is deteriorating. In the past, she would go to Jingxin Monastery to look for the reverend there to help her with recuperating her health. I reckon she would be visiting the monastery again these few days?” said Mrs. Qin with a sinister expression on her face as she contemplated to attack Shui Ruolan at Jingxin Monastery.

“Are you thinking of attacking the general’s cousin at that time?” asked Nanny Zhou, pointing towards Jingxin Monastery. Nanny Zhou immediately understood Mrs. Qin’s intention. In the past, Old Grandma would visit the monastery whenever there was a relapse of her old illness. She guessed as much that Old Grandma would do the same this time.

“While I can’t touch her in the mansion, who could fault me for things that happen outside the mansion? Who could Shui Ruolan when she was the one who caused all the chaos?” said Mrs. Qin coldly, as an evil smile spread across her face

“So you’re not going to send someone to Second Miss Qin’s?” asked Nanny Zhou after she paused and pondered for a moment.

“Of course I’ll send someone for sure! While I’m not going to be targetting the little girl at this moment, that doesn’t mean I would not do something to her later on! I will just let her choose her maids to her heart’s content,” said Mrs. Qin as she raised her eyebrows in a malicious look and continued to say, “Let Yuru choose some maids for herself tomorrow too.”

Coincidentally, at this moment, she had someone in mind whom she could send over to Qin Wanru as a maid. She would arrange for Qin Yuru to stir up some mess to help kick off her plan!

“Yes, Madam. I shall proceed with the arrangement!”

All the servants and maids working in Qin Wanru’s courtyard had been dismissed, amongst whom Qin Wanru’s personal maid, Qing Cui, had been transferred out of the general’s mansion. For a disloyal maid, she would never again be a trusted personal maid even if she were to be sold to another family who wanted her. She could only continue working in households as a lowly servant.

After all, Jiangzhou was not a big place. In a while, what Qing Cui did would be spread all over the place, so one could imagine the state she would end up!

By the time Old Maid Ya brought the servant candidates for Qin Wanru, Shui Ruolan had already left the family temple and gone straight to visit Old Grandma. Thereafter, she went to Qin Wanru's courtyard to help choose the maids.

When Old Maid Ya heard that Second Miss Qin's courtyard needed a number of servants and maids, she brought a big group of potential servants and instantly, Qin Wanru's courtyard looked to be filled with people.

Qin Wanru and Shui Ruolan were sitting on a bench along the corridor with Qing Yue and Nanny Yu standing by and standing behind Shui Ruolan was Qionghua.

"Look, Second Miss, the maids here are clever and witty. Do you want to pick a few more? Madam had given instructions for Second Miss to pick to your heart's content!" said Old Maid Ya, who knew when to say the right things. She kept sing praises in front of Qin Wanru, knowing that she was the one who was picking the maids today.

She then nudged maids towards Qin Wanru and said, "Look, Second Miss, this young maid is 13 years old, but she is a good caretaker. She has a few younger brothers and sisters at home, whom she takes care of on a daily basis. Her family would not have given her to be a maid if not because there are too many mouths to feed at home!"

This young maid was slightly-built and her eyes looked likely. Her features were pleasant, though not especially outstanding. In total contrast to Qing Cui, she gave a rather likable impression.

Although she was still tender in age, she appeared to be mature and stable. Even though she jolted when Old Maid Ya suddenly nudged her, she remained calm and bowed respectfully at Qin Wanru before she went back to standing quietly with head bowed.

She appeared to have a steady and mature character, yet she was quick to respond. She was an ideal candidate to be the maid to a young mistress like Qin Wanru. Maids with her qualities would like be chosen to be personal maids who could take care of their mistresses, and at the same time, keep an eye on the young mistresses' conduct.

"Please come over here for a while!" said Shui Ruolan with a gentle voice. She set her eyes on this maid as she rather fancied her.

[Medical Princess](#)

Chapter 50: Snatch This Familiar Looking Maid

The maid approached Shui Ruolan to pay her her respect and thereafter stood quietly with her head still bowed. The people around started nodding their heads in approval as they could see her good manners and was suitable to be a maid taking a leading role.

"What's your name?" asked Shui Ruolan gently after sizing her up.

"I'm Liu Xue."

"How old are you?"

"Thirteen!"

“Do you miss home?”

“Yes!” she answered with ease, although from her voice, one could sense the grievance of a little girl being sold by her own family. Which little child would not feel grieved being sold by her own family?

Qin Wanru looked down to see that Liu Xue was trying to cover her arms with her sleeves. The clothes she was wearing was distributed by Old Maid Ya to all the maids working in the courtyard, so they were all the same. However, the dress looked a little too short for Liu Xue, so much so that when she was moving her arms, a part of them were exposed and Qin Wanru could see some scars and well as fresh wounds on them.

However her arms were quickly covered up by her sleeves as she moved, so one would not be able to notice those wounds if he did not look carefully.

“Then...” Shui Ruolan really liked Liu Xue, thinking that she would make a good personal maid for Qin Wanru. When she was about to confirm her choice, suddenly there was a voice that came from outside. As she lifted her gaze, she saw Qin Yuru approaching with a few maids and old servants. Shui Ruolan’s face fell at the sight of them.

Qin Yuru’s face was covered with a piece of veil to hide her bruises to keep out the dust from contaminating the wounds, leaving only her eyes visible. She was also holding her right arm with her left arm.

Once Qin Yuru entered, she paid her respects to Shui Ruolan by bowing slightly to her and said, “Aunt Shui, I’m not feeling very well, so I can’t bow to you completely, please do forgive me.”

“Don’t worry about it, Yuru. How is your injury... is it getting better?” asked Shui Ruolan gently and she rested her eyes on the wounds of Qin Yuru’s right arm.

“It’s getting better,” said Qin Yuru bitterly, as she looked down.

“It’s alright, get the servants to help you take care of the wounds to make sure they don’t leave any scars,” said Shui Ruolan in an attempt to comfort her.

“Thank you, Aunt Shui,” responded Qin Yuru politely, who then turned to Qin Wanru and said, “Younger sister Wanru, can I also choose a few maids for myself? I didn’t use to feel that it was shorthanded at my courtyard in the past, but now that I’ve injured my arm and realized that we need more people in my courtyard.”

“Please take your pick, Big Sister!” replied Qin Wanru with a smile.

Surprisingly Qin Yuru was acting exceptionally polite towards Qin Wanru today as if all the awkwardness between them was gone. After the many unhappy events which happened between them, they could not turn back their relationship. For this reason, Qin Wanru could not help but suspected that Qin Yuru must have something up her sleeve, although she had no idea what it was.

“Have you taken your pick, little sister?” asked Qin Yuru with a smile and flitting eyes.

“Not really, but you can pick first, elder sister!” replied Wanru, shaking her head.

“How about this one?” Qin Yuru asked, as she turned to look at Liu Xue with interest.

A frown appeared on Shui Ruolan's face as she was irritated by the way Qin Yuru conducted herself in an overbearing way, but she was in no position to criticize her.

"I've not really picked her yet, do you fancy her?" Qin Wanru stole a glance at Liu Xue and turned to look at Qin Yuru with her big round eyes, saying, "If you fancy this maid, we can negotiate about it."

"Didn't you just say you've not picked your maid, little sister? Why is there a need to negotiate?" said Qin Yuru, displeased. In the past, Qin Yuru would be the one to pick her maid first. Qin Wanru could only pick from the leftovers. This had become the custom in the general's mansion, and Old Maid Ya was aware of this fact.

Hearing what Qin Yuru said, Old Maid Ya quickly replied her, saying, "If Elder Miss Qin fancies any of these maids, certainly you can take them. Anyways Second Miss Qin had not taken her pick!"

After all, Mrs. Qin was the person in charge of all matters in the household. By now, everyone knew that Elder Miss Qin was Mrs. Qin's real daughter, so Old Maid Ya would try to please her as much as possible to please her.

"I do have the maid I liked, but I've not made a choice yet. If you like her, Big Sister, you can still take her away. Is that what you're thinking?" Qin Wanru directed the question at Old Maid Ya, smiling.

Old Maid Ya was suddenly taken aback by Qin Wanru's question. She immediately called to mind the events that happened in Jiangzhou recently. Waving her hand, she said, "This was not what I meant. I meant that since Second Miss Qin had not taken your pick, Elder Miss Qin can make a choice since she always fancied one of them."

Recently the Elder Miss Qin's reputation had been adversely affected by the events that happened. Old Maid Ya had heard the rumor that Elder Miss Qin had not stepped out of the mansion since. On the other hand, Second Miss Qin had a good reputation and the general doted on her even more now. She would get into trouble if she offended Second Miss Qin.

"What do you think, Elder Sister?" asked Qin Wanru.

"My thinking is to suit your thinking, little sister. Since you already fancied one of the maids, I would pick two maids from the remaining candidates then. Are you alright with that?" said Qin Yuru amicably, who actually gave up on fighting for Liu Xue, but turned her eyes to search among the other candidates.

Shui Ruolan's face brightened at the turn of events. She looked at Qin Yuru suspiciously and wondered if Qin Yuru really was not that bad, even though Mrs. Qin was such a malicious person. She was young after all, for all she knew, Qin Yuru might still be teachable before she got adversely influenced by her mother.

"You're too polite, Big Sister. Please pick the maid whom you fancied!" Qin Wanru said magnanimously.

A look of elation flashed across Qin Yuru's eyes. She walked into the crowd and in a while, she managed to pick four maids from among them.

All four maids looked to be intelligent. They were among the smartest of all the candidates brought here by Old Maid Ya. They were, in fact, the ones who were standing at the forefront a moment ago, and

were certainly the most good-looking and smart-looking ones. On top of that, they appeared quick-witted and matured.

After these four had been taken, the remaining ones paled in comparison in their appearances.

“Little sister, can I pick these?” said Qin Yuru, who tried to sound as if she was giving Qin Wanru the final decision, as if she would give up on these maids if Qin Wanru was not agreeable.

“Of course, if you really like these ones!” Qin Wanru responded with ease, then turned to Nanny Yu and said, “Please pick a few maids for me, Nanny Yu.”

Nanny Yu nodded in response and walked into the crowd as she was determined to pick the right maids for Qin Wanru this time. It had always been Mrs. Qin who was behind the choice of maids for Qin Wanru in the past, even though Nanny Fang was the person picking. She would not allow the chosen maids to be traitors, like the ones in the past.

Nanny Yu had chosen all the ones who looked prim and proper. These may not look as intelligent as those picked by Qin Yuru, but at least they looked respectful towards their mistress. Nanny Yu managed to pick ten maids, thinking that there was no harm picking more so that they would not be shorthanded when in need.

“Little sister, can you give me this maid. I like her,” said Qin Yuru suddenly, as she pointed towards one of those chosen by Nanny Yu. “I can swap her with this maid I’ve chosen. Is that alright?”

Qin Yuru pointed at one of the four maids she had chosen a moment ago, who had the most outstanding look among them, and was standing quietly by Qin Yuru’s side, being totally unaware that she was going to swap masters.

“Yuru!” cried out Shui Ruolan, who could not take it anymore. Today was supposed to be the day Qin Wanru pick her maids. Not only did Qin Yuru interrupted them and jumped the queue by picking the more favorable ones first, she even wanted to swap a maid whom Qin Wanru just chose. It was really too much.

“Yes, Aunt Shui, my bad!” said Qin Yuru, hanging her head, as if she had been woken up from her stupor. With an apologetic look on her face, Qin Yuru said, “Sorry, little sister, it’s all my fault. I just thought that this maid bears some resemblance to someone. Please forgive me!”

Immediately, Qin Wanru followed Qin Yuru’s line of vision to rest on the maid, who looked to be an ordinary thirteen to fourteen-year-old girl. She was standing next to Nanny Yu, looking submissive and humble, with head slightly bowed. Looking at her facial features, she did resemble someone.

Something flashed across Qin Wanru’s mind as she held on tight to the bench. Qin Wanru almost leaped up if she did not try to suppress the surge of emotion in her. She indeed knew this maid.

In the previous life, she was Qin Yuru’s maid and she was one of the few of Qin Yuru’s maid who treated Qin Wanru kindly.

She used to pass secret messages to Qin Wanru, thereby saving her from the troubles Qin Yuru causing upon Qin Wanru.

She was a nice maid who used to serve Qin Yuru and it was a good thing now Qin Wanru got to pick her.

With a cold, determined look, Qin Wanru decided to take her in!

“Have you call to mind who she resembled?” asked Qin Wanru with a smile, and letting go her grip on the bench, she looked the maid up and down to size her up.

“She’s an old acquaintance whom little sister may not know,” replied Qin Yuru, smiling, although there were some dark shadows in her eyes. The purpose of her coming here today was to stir trouble, not to pick maids. However, this maid did indeed look familiar to her and Qin Yuru’s heart started to pound harder.

However, she was unable to put a finger to it. The face of this particular maid was making her nervous somehow, which was why Qin Yuru wanted to keep her. Saying that she resembled some old acquaintance was just an excuse, and definitely a lie!

“Since big sister had chosen, please go back and rest!” said Qin Wanru, forcing a smile, as she tried to imply that Qin Yuru should leave soon.

Although Qin Wanru’s words sounded polite, she really did not mean it to be kind to Qin Yuru. However, Qin Yuru had been the rude one to have interrupted Qin Wanru in choosing her maids, in fact, she had jumped the queue and chose for herself some maids. She knew better that she was the unreasonable one and she had done enough for now.

Anyways it did not matter whether she remembered who this maid resembled, she would go to her mother to discuss other things, after all, her purpose of coming was not to choose this maid after all!

“Aunt Shui, I’ll get going then. Come for a chat when you’re free,” Qin Yuru said, trying to sound casual.

Shui Ruolan nodded in response.

Qin Yuru smiled at Qin Wanru, then took the four maids she had newly picked and turned to leave. She went forward a few steps before she suddenly turned to look at Liu Xue and mumbled, “This girl looks like she would be a good maid!”

Qin Yuru was apparently liked Liu Xue quite a bit, however, there was no way she could take her by force from Qin Wanru, now that Qin Wanru had chosen her, so she went her way.

Turning to leave, a smug looked spread across Qin Yuru’s face.

Her mother had instructed her to send give this maid to Qin Wanru, then Qin Yuru was supposed to pick all the other better maids and pretend to like Liu Xue. However, since Qin Wanru had already expressed her preference for Liu Xue, Qin Yuru did not think it was a good idea to snatch her away from Qin Wanru.

With these preconditions, Qin Wanru would inevitably keep this maid in her courtyard!

Qin Wanru could read Qin Yuru’s mind from her plain words...