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Chapter 51: Having The Same Name As In Her Previous Life

“Wanru, have you confirmed your choices?” said Shui Ruolan, sounding concerned, as she shifted her vision from Qin Yuru’s back to Qin Wanru.

“Aunt Shui, I will settle these few maids. I trust Nanny Yu’s choices!” said Qin Wanru, nodding.

“Come in a minute!” said Shui Ruolan to Qin Wanru, getting on her feet and entering the room. She wanted to have few words with Qin Wanru in private, so she instructed Qin Wanru to follow her into the room. She did not want the others to hear what she was going to say.

“Wanru, did you find your big sister behaving strangely today?” said Shui Ruolan after she hesitated for a while after Qin Wanru followed her into the room with a frown. She had meant to warn Qin Wanru about Qin Yuru.

“Rest assured, Aunt Shui. I will be on my toes around her!” Qin Wanru said with a smile. She had guessed as much since earlier on.

“Do you... do you want to let all these maids go, and have Old Maid Ya to bring in another batch for you to choose from tomorrow?” said Shui Ruolan with her eyes flashing with a new idea. She was still worried although she knew Wanru was now starting to be wary of Mrs. Qin and Qin Yuru.

Shui Ruolan tried to warn and remind her again by saying, “It’s so coincidental for Yuru to drop by today. It seemed to me that she was up to something else.”

Although Qin Wanru was an intelligent child, to Shui Ruolan, who had watched her grow up from a baby, she was still a child. She was no match for the evil and cunning Mrs. Qin.

“I will be careful, Aunt Shui. Moreover, I have you rooting for me, I’m not scared!” said Qin Wanru purposefully, as she looked at Shui Ruolan with her dark shining eyes which were filled with trust and reliance.

Qin Wanru knew Shui Ruolan too well, that sometimes she was too indecisive. Qin Wanru wanted to get rid of all of Shui Ruolan’s unnecessary considerations and worries through this incident involving Qin Yuru.

Shui Ruolan’s hand jerked as she seemed to have remembered something all of a sudden. Looking a little lost, she looked down and said, “Wanru, actually I... haven’t...”

“Aunt Shui, Grandma’s age is catching with her, and I’m still too young,” Qin Wanru said with bright, curious eyes as she continued, “Did you happen to hear any rumors?”

Indeed Shui Ruolan was hesitating, but Qin Wanru did not want her to be hesitant. They had already come this far the issue now was not about whether Shui Ruolan should reconsider. If they were to take a step back, Mrs. Qin would take advantage of the situation and continued to push her limits. Eventually, Qin Wanru would sink into deeper danger.

In the previous life, Shui Ruolan had eventually lost the child in her womb precisely for this reason.

"But, your father and me... there's really nothing going on between us!" Shui Ruolan's was a bit down at this moment.

"So what? Who would believe you?" questioned Qin Wanru with a firm tone. Immediately, Shui Ruolan was struck dumb and looked helplessly at Qin Wanru for a long time.

"Miss, I agree with Second Miss Qin. Now you've become Mrs. Qin's rival, like it or not. If you were to retreat now, Mrs. Qin will not let you off. Moreover, you would be rejecting the general's support and help," Qionghua whispered, nudging Shui Ruolan.

"But..." said Shui Ruolan, still hesitating.

"Aunt Shui, please go back and reconsider. This doesn't just concern you, both Grandma and I need you," said Qin Wanru, with a hint of sadness on her face, although she tried hard not to betray her emotions, but she still ended up sounding grieved.

"Wanru!" Shui Ruolan cried out as the hesitation in her heart vanished the moment she saw the look on Qin Wanru's face, and she assured her saying, "Rest assured, I know what to do now!"

What had this little kid gone through? She wondered why Qin Wanru's mentality was that of someone who had been through a lot of ups and downs, so much so that she was even making plans for Shui Ruolan.

She was merely a little girl who just turned eleven. She was so skinny as her body had not started developing into that of a young lady yet. In fact, she still had some baby fats on her face. Not only was she skinny, but she was also so scrawny that she was more petite than other girls her age.

Shui Ruolan had a pained look on her face. She closed her eyes for a moment, then opened them again. By then, she had recovered and there was a faint smile on her face. She braced herself and said, "Rest assured, Wanru, I will take charge of the matters concerning Grandma and you. I would not hesitate again if it meant that I am able to manage these matters rightfully.

She was still undecided a moment ago, but at this moment when she saw the sad Qin Wanru, who wanted to rely on her, Shui Ruolan bit the bullet and got rid of hesitation.

"Finally, Miss, you've figured out!" Qionghua said in elation.

Shui Ruolan nodded and continued to give Qin Wanru some detailed instructions before she got up to leave with Qionghua. She turned to take a last look at the maids whom the nanny had chosen for Qin Wanru as she thought in her heart about how she would protect Qin Wanru against Mrs. Qin's evil plots. They would have to go past Shui Ruolan before they could lay their hands on Qin Wanru. A little child may be careless sometimes and it was good that she could watch out for her.

Shui Ruolan would not allow Mrs. Qin to do as she pleased in the General's Mansion, as if she were the head of the household. She would not allow Mrs. Qin and Qin Yuru to continue bullying Qin Wanru while she looked on.

A smile as beautiful as a flower broke out on Qin Wanru's lips...

"You shall be called Qing Xue from now on!" said Qin Wanru, looking at Liu Xue, whom she managed to keep for herself through her wit.

A maid who was given to her.

"Yes, Second Miss Qin!" Qing Xue answered softly and respectfully with composure. It appeared that she was totally unaffected by Qin Yuru, who came to stir up trouble a moment ago.

Following that, Qin Wanru gave the other maids new names, until she went one round and came back to the first maid, whom Qin Wanru named Qu Le. Qu Le had the same name given to her in the previous life.

The only difference was that she was Qin Yuru's maid in the previous life, while she was now Qin Wanru's maid.

"Have you been sold by your family as well?" asked Qin Wanru casually, as she lifted the teacup to her lips to take a sip of tea.

"Yes, Miss," Qu Le answered with her head lowered.

"Tell me about your family!" said Qin Wanru impassively.

"I have two other older sisters and two younger sisters at home," Qu Le answered carefully. She was the middle child in her family given that her mother had given birth to five daughters. Her father was extremely upset with having all daughters, whom he thought would only eat from his savings which was why he had always treated them badly. Her two older sisters had been sold and it was said that her father was planning on selling her two younger sisters.

"Do you wish to go home to see them?" asked Qin Wanru thoughtfully.

"I do not wish to go home because my parents disliked me. Anyways my two older sisters had been sold and had not gone home to visit ever since, and my two younger sisters may also be sold soon. My parents wanted a son badly!" said Qu Le, gritting her teeth in dissatisfaction.

They were hated by their parents just because they were girls, so much so that their parents sent them away.

"Since that's the case, you may stay here in the General's Mansion. You have to be faithful to our Second Miss Qin no matter what," said Qing Yue severely, as her eyes followed Qin Wanru's line of vision to rest on Qu Le. Qing Yue had been careful to observe how Qin Yuru conducted herself just now and she was worried that Qu Le and Qing Xue would do something against Qin Wanru.

"Yes, we promise to be faithful and loyal to Second Miss Qin!" Qu Le said, nodding her head and look respectfully at Qin Wanru.

"If any of you were to be disloyal to Second Miss Qin, the punishment would not be as light as just beatings. Earlier on, Nanny Fang, who was in stewardess in this courtyard, who was also serving Mrs. Qin, was sent here to serve Second Miss Qin. Little did everyone expect that she would be unfaithful to her mistress and was finally punished by being beaten to death."

Qin Yue said with a cold tone and a straight face.

Qin Wanru's lips curled upwards as she leaned back on the bench, feeling satisfied. She could see that Qing Yue was beginning to carry herself like the leader of the maids and was able to speak with an appropriate amount of authority.

All the maids were immediately shaken up. When they first came into the house, Old Maid Ya had time and again reminded them that the rules in a big household like this would be very strict. Although they heard stories about the punishments in this household, they did not expect that the incident regarding Nanny Fang had just happened a few days back.

What was more shocking to them was that the said incident had involved their current mistress.

Second Miss Qin who was before their eyes may seem like an adorable little girl, but after hearing Qing Yue's words, they dared not despise this young mistress of theirs.

Even Qing Xue, who appeared to possess a steady and calm character, stole a glance at Qin Wanru and turned slightly pale at the thought.

"Since we have come to this, let me make it very clear. If you're unable to tell who is your master, I can't guarantee you will have a good end. Alright, you may go for now. Nanny Yu will allocate you your work and accommodation," said Qing Yue with a loud voice.

"Yes!" the maid responded and bowed to Qin Wanru respectfully, then turned to leave.

"Miss, you..." Qing Yue began when all the other maid had left the room. A moment ago, she had braced herself to speak with confidence as if she was in total control. However, she was really just a 13-year-old girl and she could not stop worrying over the situation, so she said, "Did your eldest sister really come just to pick a few maids?"

"Of course not!" said Qin Wanru impassively.

"Then... then what should we do?" asked Qing Yue, her expression changed. They had just sent away Qing Cui, what if another maid like Qing Cui came? She would be trouble.

"There's nothing we can do. Let's just wait and see. Although Qin Xue holds the position of the leadership, never let her serve in the room alone," instructed Qin Wanru.

She had in her mind to observe Qing Xue first.

"Yes, I get it!" said Qing Yue in a serious tone.

"Get Nanny Yu to investigate Qing Xue and Qu Le's background," Qin Wanru instructed after pausing for a while. She thought these two maids were rather suspicious given what happened earlier. She wanted to find out more, starting from them. "Look for Old Maid Ya and find out more from her!"

Qin Wanru had asked Old Maid Ya to come over to the general's mansion the day after. Nanny Yu could take the opportunity to get some information out of her. If need be, she could even send Wang Feng out to gather further information. These two maids sounded like they were from Jiangzhou Prefecture since they spoke with an accent of the people living around Jiangzhou.

"I get it, Miss. Now I know why you did not settle the payment for the maids with Old Maid Ya!" Qing Yue said with a hint of admiration.

While Qin Wanru and Qing Yue were still having the conversation, Nanny Yu had finished making the work arrangements for the new maids and came into the room, lifting the door curtains.

"Nanny Yu, Second Miss wanted you to go to Old Maid Ya tomorrow to settle the payment for the maids. Where you are there, please find out more about Qing Xue and Qu Le's family background from her. It would be even better if you bring along Brother Fengzi to verify her information!"

Qing Yue passed the message to Nanny Yu as soon as she entered.

"Rest assured Miss, I will make sure to find out the information tomorrow!" Nanny Yu replied, nodding her head.

"There is no need to hurry to look for Old Maid Ya early in the morning, Nanny Yu. Wait a bit before you go," suddenly Qin Wanru added, after some careful consideration.

Could Mrs. Qin be curious about how she had chosen her maids, or who she had chosen? If Mrs. Qin and Qin Yuru were plotting something behind her back, they would be curious to find out more from Old Maid Ya tomorrow. Qin Wanru wanted to give some time to see if Mrs. Qin would send someone to Old Maid Ya to pry about this matter. If she did, it would show that they were into something fishy.

Qin Wanru was not in a hurry, she would wait for Mrs. Qin to expose herself...

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Chapter 52: Would There Be Trouble Letting Them Live Together?

Old Maid Ya came to the General's Mansion the following day. The General's family was one of her most important clients.

However, she seemed to have come much earlier than necessary. Old Maid Ya waited at the accounts room for a long time before she got the payment and thereafter, with her face all smiles, she got up to leave.

Although she supposedly waited for a long time, all the while, she was chatting with the people outside the accounts room and so it did not feel like it was a long time.

There was no lack of people gossiping outside the accounts room, in fact, the gossipers came in waves.

Old Maid Ya was not dim-witted, she knew what to say and what not to. She was careful to make a distinction between them. After she took the silver, she was not planning on offending anyone lest it affected her business. She would keep all business relationship cordial, although once in a while she did show some biases, she was careful not to make any of her clients unhappy.

For this reason, she kept her mouth shut on certain things.

Those unfortunate that happened in the Qin's Mansion had nothing to do with her and she did not want to be implicated.

Early in the morning, Qin Wanru already made her way to Old Grandma's room and by the time she arrived, Shui Ruolan was already there too. The two of them helped served Old Grandma some porridge first, then they helped her to her bed, where she sat up, leaning to the side, to rest.

Because of her cough, Old Grandma did not have a good night's sleep. However, the porridge had calmed her coughs and as she sat on the bed, leaning to the side, she closed her tired eyes and seemed to have fallen asleep.

Shui Ruolan signaled for Qin Wanru to follow her out of the room at that moment.

By the time the two got out of Old Grandma's room and sat down, the maids had prepared some tea for them. Shui Ruolan brought her hand to her forehead and touched it lightly, looking fatigued.

"Did you spend your night here with Old Grandma?" Qin Wanru asked.

"My aunt hasn't slept well at night. At this time every year, she was usually well and would not start coughing until later. I wonder why she fell ill this early this time," said Shui Ruolan, nodding her head as a frown appeared between her brows.

"In fact, Grandma does fall ill at this time of the year, but basically she would not be coughing so badly all of a sudden. Moreover, she usually didn't start coughing right after waking up in the mornings," said Qin Wanru and bit her lips.

She clearly remembered what happened the other day when Qi Rongzhi fell into the pond. Grandma started coughing badly after she returned to her room. It did not seem like she had caught a cold the night before and fell sick the following morning.

Qin Wanru's comments gave Shui Ruolan an idea. She locked her brows and asked after a short pause, saying, "Could she have gone through some stimulation, like she was allergic to something?"

Although Old Grandma did have the old problem of coughing once the weather turned cold every year, Shui Ruolan was aware that there was a possibility that an allergen could have triggered Old Grandma's cough.

Looking at Shui Ruolan's expression, Qin Wanru realized that she was also beginning to suspect that something was amiss. Initially, Qin Wanru thought she was the only one being suspicious. Unfortunately, the fact that she was too young and helpless, there was no way she could investigate and find out more. Shui Ruolan, however, was different.

"That is possible. That day, after grandma interacted with Mother, my elder sister, and Miss Qi and me, she returned to started to cough non-stop."

Qin Wanru said carefully, not leaving out any details she remembered.

"Let go to Jingxin Monastery and ask the reverend there to have a look at Old Grandma," Shui Ruolan said decidedly as she could not come to any conclusion.

She had slept in Old Grandma's room last night and heard her coughing badly. She was worried that Old Grandma would be drained of energy during day time since she did not sleep well. This bout of coughing had come suddenly and fiercely, and by now, Old Grandma's voice was hoarse from so much coughing.

So much so that she could only speak softly and with much effort.

"Let's tell Father about this first then!" said Qin Wanru, nodding, since it was the only way to go about it.

In the past, Old Grandma would always go to Jingxin Monastery and stay there for a period of time when she started coughing. She would go through the conditioning and treatment from the reverend at Jingxin Monastery and reap effective results.

After Shui Ruolan and Qin Wanru discussed the details of their plan, Qin Wanru went back to her courtyard, leaving a worried-looking Shui Ruolan sitting outside in the courtyard.

She was beginning to find it strange too.

Old Grandma's cough had come too suddenly.

At this moment, Nanny Duan came out from and said, "Miss Shui, Old Grandma wants you to go in."

"Is my aunt awake?" asked Shui Ruolan, as her frown eased and she stood up to follow Nanny Duan into Old Grandma's room.

"She was feeling more energetic now, so please come with me," said Nanny Duan, nodding, as the both of them entered the room. Old Grandma, who was sitting on the bed opened her eyes and looked at Shui Ruolan with tenderness.

Shui Ruolan knew that loving look in Old Grandma's eyes and suddenly she was overwhelmed with emotions and almost began to tear up. However, once she thought about Old Grandma's deteriorating health, she had to suppress her grief and force a smile.

Old Grandma waved her over and pointed to a small stool by the bed.

Shui Ruolan hurried over to take her hand and led her to sit down firmly on the stool. Nanny Duan, who was aware that Old Grandma had some private things to discuss with Shui Ruolan, excused herself quietly.

"It's been hard on you, Ruolan!" said Old Grandma with a hoarse, low voice which was almost inaudible.

Shui Ruolan pricked up her ears and strained to listen, while shaking her head and saying, "It's not hard, Aunt. I had always wanted to take care of you until your old age. You're the one who raised me. It is not hard to remain by your side!"

She knew that Old Grandma was referring to her marrying the general. Not wanting Old Grandma to worry over additional matters on top of her poor health, Shui Ruolan told her that she was agreeable to her marriage arrangement.

"Since your cousin had promised to protect you even though this was going to affect Mrs. Qin, you should just get married into the General's household formally. In a few days time, you may leave the Mansion and live outside for a few days. When the wedding preparation is done, we will bring you back to the house as the bride!" said Old Grandma in one breath, and started coughing as she tried to catch her breath.

Shui Ruolan's eyes welled up in tears as she patted Old Grandma gently on her back and said, "Please don't be too anxious, Aunt. It is more important for you to recover from your sickness. Let me accompany you to stay in Jingxin Monastery until you are better, then we can come home!"

If a formal wedding was to take place, they would have to carry eight sedans into the General's Mansion and Shui Ruolan would have to stay put in the General's Mansion, which was not exactly appropriate for now.

"Alright!" said Old Grandma as she stopped coughing for a while. She reached out to pat Shui Ruolan on her hand and said, "Until you enter the household, I will let you raise Zhuozhuo. She is just a child, and I'm already old and sickly. I'm afraid I might not be able to protect her forever. By that time, I would have to trouble you to take care of all matters concerning Zhuozhuo."

Her little granddaughter's marriage was almost ruined because Old Grandma's age was catching up with her and she was seeing and hearing things clearly, which was why Qin Wanru was almost wasted. Every time this matter came to her mind, she felt heartbroken. She used to think it was just because Mrs. Qin was showing favoritism, but now she realized that not only was she showing favoritism, she had an extremely malicious heart.

"Rest assured, Aunt. Just pass the responsibility of taking care of Wanru onto me. I will protect her and not allow her to suffer anymore," promised Shui Ruolan. After all, she doted on Qin Wanru as much.

Back when she was still staying in the family temple, she had never really inquired about the matters concerning Qin Wanru and Qin Yuru's through Qionghua. However, when she found out about all that was happening after she left the family temple, she was determined to take care of Qin Wanru.

"I will let you take charge of the matters concerning Zhuozhuo, while I will help you deal with your marriage to the General. The General's family owes you your rightful place in this household," said Old Grandma as she looked at Shui Ruolan with tender loving kindness.

Shui Ruolan looked down, not from being shy, but rather to cover the cold look in her eyes. She was not afraid of what Mrs. Qin could do to her, given that letter which was in her hand.

This letter, which had not been shown to anyone else, could be used against Mrs. Qin. Earlier, Qin Wanru had secretly revealed to her that Mrs. Qin had written this letter to frame Qin Wanru, thereby staging the earlier commotion about the letter.

Although the chaos had died down, this letter could still be used against her. Although it was really a piece of evidence, this letter can be a critical item for Qin Huaiyong to give up his trust on Mrs. Qin since she had almost lost all credibility.

She was sure Mrs. Qin did not dare to use this letter to do any more harm to Qin Wanru.

By the time Qin Wanru returned to her courtyard, Nanny Yu was already waiting for her, and she quickly followed Qin Wanru into her room to report to her all that she observed.

After listening to Nanny Yu's report, Qin Wanru rephrased what she heard to reconfirm the facts by saying, "So Qing Xue was sent to Old Maid Ya only the night before, so she had not gone through any training. However, she appeared to be prim and proper despite not having gone through any training, so they just brought her to us. Is that right?"

"Yes, this was what they said, Miss..." asked Nanny Yu, nodding.

"It's okay, leave her be for now!" said Qin Wanru as she snorted. Without any doubt, Qing Xue had to be someone arranged by Mrs. Qin for Qin Yuru to use reverse psychology to trick Qin Wanru into picking her. Of all the maids chosen by Qin Wanru, Qing Xue was the most outstanding of them all, while the other outstanding maids were picked by Qin Yuru. Apparently, Qin Yuru had left Qing Xue behind for Qin Wanru.

Qin Yuru even endured the pain in her injured arm to put up an act. That was not easy.

"However, Qu Le had been with Old Maid Ya for a long time, so she had undergone a period of training. Today it was her first time being sent out for selection," Nanny Yu continued.

"Let the two of them live together!" said Qin Wanru after contemplating the information provided by Nanny Yu.

"Miss, do you think there'll be trouble if the two of them live together?" asked Nanny Yu, feeling uneasy about the decision. "Qing Xue is definitely not a simple character," she continued.

"It's alright, it's good for the two to live together. I can see that Qu Le is a very smart girl. We just have to tell her to keep an eye on Qing Xue and get close to her. Tell her that once she feels anything is amiss, she should report it to you!" said Qin Wanru as her lips curled into a cold smile.

There were bruises on Qing Xue's arm, but no one knew where those bruises came from. Did it have something to do with her coming to the General's Mansion? Qu Le would be the best candidate to find out the truth.

"Yes, I will make the necessary rearrangements," said Nanny Yu once she understood Qin Wanru's intention.

"Nanny Yu, would you also pack some clothes for Old Grandma in a while? She is unwell and she may want to go to Jingxin Monastery to recuperate and I want to accompany her there," instructed Qin Wanru.

"Rest assured, Miss, I know what to do. Who else are you going to bring along to Jingxin Monastery this time?" inquired Nanny Yu and she stopped in her tracks.

Tapping her fingers on the table, Qin Wanru pondered for a moment and answered, saying, "I will bring Qing Yue along, while Nanny Yu, you stay here in the mansion to keep an eye on everything that happens in the courtyard, especially Qing Xue and Qu Le. Perhaps something interesting will happen when they live together, especially in my absence!"

While nobody knew what was on Qing Xue's mind, and Qu Le was not as easy as she appeared to be, Qin Wanru was looking forward to what would happen.

Qin Wanru's words had a deeper meaning to it, but Nanny Yu did not understand the hidden meaning. However, when she saw how confident Qin Wanru sounded, she received the instruction without further questions and went ahead with the arrangements...

However, it was not long after she stepped out of the room that Nanny Yu lifted the door curtain and entered the room again. Looking pale on her face, she said, "Oh dear, Miss, something bad happened, Qu Le had been beaten up!"

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Chapter 53: This Time She Would Not Give In

“What happened?” asked Qin Wanru without even looking up.

“They said Qu Le bumped into Elder Miss Qin’s maid when she was out running errands. Her maid gave Qu Le two tight slaps and Qu Le could not swallow it and fought back, that’s when they started fighting. For this reason, Mrs. Qin had taken both of them away!” said Nanny Yu, looking displeased, not so much because the maids got into a fight, but rather, that somehow Mrs. Qin was involved in this matter.

Qin Yuru’s maid? Qin Wanru had observed Qin Yuru’s interest in Qu Le yesterday. She did not expect Qin Yuru to have thought of a plan to lay hold of Qu Le so quickly.

It would appear that Qin Yuru and Mrs. Qin was really quite interested in Qu Le.

She was merely a common maid and Qin Wanru did not think she was especially important if not for her memory of her previous life. Given that Mrs. Qin was trying to intervene, it looked like this was no ordinary maid and she had to be someone more important than what she imagined.

“Miss, Madam had asked for you. She wants to speak to you about the two maids who got into the fight,” said Qin Yue, who just entered and looking worried. The mood of all the people in Qin Wanru’s courtyard was weighed down when they had to deal with people from Mrs. Qin.

Her obedience was expected as a show of her filial piety.

“Tell her I’ve fallen ill and cannot make the trip at this moment!” Qin Wanru said softly and quietly as she took a sip of her tea.

“Will... will that do?” asked Qin Yue anxiously.

“No worries. She won’t say anything at this time!” What can Mrs. Qin do even if she became suspicious of her excuse? She would not dare to touch Qin Wanru given that she had caused so much trouble for herself.

After hearing the reassuring words of Qin Wanru, Qing Yue felt more relieved and went out to pass Qin Wanru’s message to the maid sent by Mrs. Qin.

When Qing Yue returned to the room, Qin Wanru led her into the inner chamber where Qin Wanru took off her outer layer of clothing and let down her hair. She brought a mirror to her face as she observed herself in it. She observed that her brilliantly colored lips were really too bright, and she definitely looked healthy.

An eleven-year-old little girl with transparent complexion, and such bright-red lips, together with her delicate features. No way did she look like she was ill.

“Bring me some powder.”

Qing Yue went over to the dressing table to fetch a some a box of powder and carefully applied some on Qin Wanru’s face, which made her look pale but gaunt at the same time. As for her lips, Qin Wanru did not deliberately try to hide it’s brilliance since she had always had a brighter lip color than the others.

Just when she was about done with making up, Nanny Yu entered to inform her, saying, "Second Miss, Madam is here to see you!"

She was fast!

Qin Wanru laughed in her heart. She leaned back onto a cushion Qing Yue put at her back, pretending to look frail and drained of energy.

This was what Mrs. Qin saw when she entered Qin Wanru's room, a frail-looking little girl leaning back for support, with bright-red lips but a face drained of a healthy glow. In fact, her complexion seemed a little jaundiced. Had she really fallen ill?

"Weren't you still okay when you were at Old Grandma's, Wanru? How did you become so ill so suddenly? It must be because the maids did not take care of you well."

Mrs. Qin entered the room, wearing a worried expression on her face. She was trying to sound concerned but was actually harboring something malicious.

Earlier, she was perfectly fine when they were at the Old Grandma's. However, when she heard about the maid trouble and Mrs. Qin called for her, Qin Wanru indicated that she had fallen ill. How could a child pretend to be ill and let the mother make a trip to visit her? This would be seen as unfilial to the people who hear about it.

Forcing open her eyes, Qin Wanru managed to keep her body erect just for a moment before she leaned back again and with a weak voice, she said, "Mother, there's a pain in my arm because I bumped it when I was carrying something for Grandma just now. It is so painful, that it's giving me a headache now!"

It was unlikely that anyone would suddenly fall ill. However, the wound of Qin Wanru's arm had not fully recovered. If she bumped it against something, it would take even longer to get well.

Mrs. Qin was dazed for a moment. She did not expect Qin Wanru to be so quick to respond by making a statement which made her seem like a filial daughter.

"I see, so it was because your arm had collided into something. I will get a physician to have a look at it," Mrs. Qin said with a smile while she sat down firmly on the stool next to the bed.

Qin Wanru was quietly laughing in her heart, thinking that Mrs. Qin had even gotten a physician ready to expose her pretending to be sick.

Too bad Qin Wanru was the one who was injured, who was the physician to say that she was not in pain?

Moreover, her wound was on her arm, and the physician would not dare, as a man, to look at her arm. Qin Wanru was not afraid of Mrs. Qin getting a physician for her.

"Did the wound tear open? Ask Nanny Zhou to have a look at it and apply some ointment," Mrs. Qin said with concern, while in her heart, she was cursing at Qin Wanru being so cunning. She had said that she was ill, which was why she sent for a doctor to prove that Qin Wanru was faking sick. Little did she expect Qin Wanru to be referring to the problem with her wound.

The physician was a man.

"Mother, I've asked Nanny Yu to change the dressing for the wound," said Qin Wanru, shaking her head as an indication that she did not need a change of dressing.

"I have some ointment which was sent over by Duke Yong, which would be more effective," said Mrs. Qin, who was about to ask Nanny Zhou to come over to get the ointment. She was persistent about taking a look at Qin Wanru's wound today.

Mrs. Qin would not so easily believe that Qin Wanru had hurt herself again.

"Where is this special ointment you are talking about, Mother?" Qin Wanru said after being slightly taken aback. She lifted her innocent eyes to look at Mrs. Qin.

The innocent, questioning look from Qin Wanru's bright eyes made Mrs. Qin nervous for a second, then she quickly nodded and said, "I'm sending someone to get in right now."

"Why did you not bring it out for me to use earlier on when I was hurt, Mother, since it is such an effective ointment?" asked Qin Wanru coyly, eyes tearing up.

"I... I am left with only a little, so I thought it would not be enough for you at the time you got injured, which was why I didn't bring it to you!" Mrs. Qin secretly chided herself for slipping her tongue and tried to explain. She could almost feel sweat running down her back as she thought that this little girl was becoming increasingly sly. She was so fixated on seeing Qin Wanru's wound that she had been negligent on the ointment she was offering.

"Then why did you not bring it to me until now?" asked Qin Wanru, sniffing.

"At that time, I thought the ointment you are using was not too bad... since you didn't complain about it, I didn't bother to ask you," stammered Mrs. Qin, looking tense.

"Thank you, Mother. In that case, I will just make do with the one I have, otherwise, it will hurt if you keep changing the dressing!" said Qin Wanru squeamishly as she gently stroked her wound with her other hand.

"Then... just leave it be!" said Mrs. Qin through gritted teeth.

The physician arrived when they were still talking, so Mrs. Qin moved to the side to allow him to feel Qin Wanru's pulse. She had lost quite a bit of blood when she was injured and her body was indeed weaker as a result. Having heard that she merely bumped her wound, the physician was not expecting to hear anything unusual in her pulse. He merely prescribed some new ointment and instructed her to take care of herself and to eat things which would help replenish her loss of blood. Thereafter, the physician gave her the prescription on a piece of paper and left.

The physician was also wise enough not to insist that there was nothing wrong with Second Miss Qin.

It was after the physician left that Mrs. Qin moved closer to Qin Wanru and with a smiley face and said, "Wanru, I've asked for you because your maid and your elder sister's maid got into a fight."

Seeing that there was no way to accuse Qin Wanru of pretending to be sick, Mrs. Qin was not going to let the matter rest. She went straight to the point instead of beating around the bush.

"Second Miss Qin, I heard this maid was the one you just picked. How dare she got into a fight with Elder Miss Qin's maid, being ignorant of the rules. I don't think you should keep this maid. How about you send her away and ask Madam for a replacement?"

Nanny Zhou said, smiling.

To have one undesirable maid replaced by a new one sounded like a bargain for Qin Wanru. Moreover, this maid in question had just entered the household and Qin Wanru had not really built up a relationship with her.

"What does Mother think?" asked Qin Wanru calmly.

A tender and kindly look spread across Mrs. Qin's face as she openly said, "I think so too. Since this maid was ignorant of the rules and created a stir not long after she enters the household, let's just fire her and choose better ones. I heard that Yuru had also picked a few the other day while you did not pick many. Let's send for Old Maid Ya to bring more maids in for you to pick again!"

"Does it mean that each time any of my maids fights with Elder Sister's maid, she will be sent away and I get to choose new ones?" asked Qin Wanru with a surprised voice as she bit her lips.

Mrs. Qin's face fell in that instant.

"Mother, although you are not my birth mother, which I always thought you were and had also treated you as my own mother, however, am I that insignificant compared to Elder Sister? Why is it that my maid has to be thrown out in a when our maids got into a fight?"

Qin Wanru looked hurt and tears began welling up at the corner of her eyes.

This latter part of her statement was what she had wanted to voice out in her last life. As she spoke it now, she was indeed moved with emotion.

In her previous life, she truly thought that Mrs. Qin was her birth mother, who would never wish harm upon her. Even if she was not perfect, Qin Wanru thought she still meant good for her, which was why she had always been obedient to her wishes. Never would she expect that the ones who eventually forced her into the abyss step by step were Mrs. Qin and Qin Yuru.

Everything that happened in her past life was part of their plan, and Qin Wanru eventually sacrificed her life. All that talk about a loving mother and close sister was not true after all.

The scheming Mrs. Qin was never sincere in all that she did to Qin Wanru, even though Qin Wanru had been totally blinded by this so-called kinship.

"Why would I think that, Wanru? It was really because that maid of yours had just joined us..." explained Mrs. Qin, whose face became tense as she let out a nervous laugh.

"Let's stop here, Mother, I'm not giving way!" said Qin Wanru, wiping her tears away.

"You... why are you so disobedient? Hasn't the maid just came a day ago? Why are you putting your relationship with your sister at stake because of her..." Mrs. Qin panicked. She did not expect Qin Wanru to be so stubborn with her mouth. It seemed to Mrs. Qin that Qin Wanru was too willful and was not able to take any rebuke.

"A maid who had been with us for a long time would know the rules. Elder Sister's maid had even trained other maids who came in after her. How did she end up fighting with a new maid? Mother, who do you think should be sent away and be replaced?" said Qin Wanru with a straight face, even though waves of hatred was raging in her heart.

In her previous life, she would have submitted to Mrs. Qin's suggestion. For the sake of her relationship with her loving mother and sister, she would give in to them...

Medical Princess

Chapter 54: Backhanded, Mrs. Qin Was Forced To Yield

Qin Wanru's statement was so harsh that Mrs. Qin was struck dumb. She was at a loss of words.

Nanny Zhou put a smile as she tried to save the situation by saying "Not just Second Miss Qin's maid, Elder Miss Qin's maid would be dismissed too."

"Yes... yes, both of them would be dismissed. We don't need these here to create trouble!" Mrs. Qin said, nodding profusely. She could not be bothered about Qin Yuru's maid at this moment anymore.

"To sent both of them away?" asked Qin Wanru, cocking her head.

"Yes, we have to send both away. They have sowed discord among you sisters so we don't want them both!" said Mrs. Qin righteously.

"In that case... alright, but Mother, will you please send the maid back? I've some questions for her," Qin Wanru said after she paused to think for a moment.

"I don't think it's a good idea to see her again. She does not know how to behave herself. If you question her, she may annoy you!" advised Mrs. Qin.

"Mother, if you're not going to let me see her and get to the bottom of this, I won't agree to let her go. Otherwise, if similar things happen again next time, and both Elder Sister's maid and my maid get dismissed each time, I'm disadvantaged! After all, I don't have as many maids as Elder Sister," said Qin Wanru, looking displeased.

The number of maids in Qin Yuru's courtyard was double of that in Qin Wanru's.

Mrs. Qin was about to disagree when Nanny Zhou pulled on the corner of her dress, indicating that she should go along with Qin Wanru.

"Alright, I will let that maid of yours come to see you!" replied Mrs. Qin. Helpless, she sent for someone to bring the maid here.

"Mother, will you also send for Elder Sister's maid in question. I want to question them myself to find out what exactly happened!" added Qin Wanru.

Looking even more displeased, however, Mrs. Qin instructed for both maids to be brought here.

The old maid sent to fetch the two maids went quickly and came back quickly too, bringing with her Qu Le and the other maid. Qin Wanru realized that she knew her to be Xi Huan, the second-grade maid who followed Qin Yuru around quite a lot.

“Second Miss Qin, please help do me justice. Qu Le, the maid serving you collided into me and started scolding me, which was why we got into a fight,”

In comparison, Qu Le was very much more subdued. Although Qin Wanru, her mistress was standing right before her, she had just joined the household and did not know what to expect. In fact, by this time, her face was drained of its colors from the being very scared. She stammered, “Miss..., I didn’t ... bump into her!”

“What do you mean you didn’t collide into me? You did, and you did it on purpose! In fact, there were quite a few people who saw it. How dare you be unreasonable and malign me in front of Second Miss Qin and Madam.”

Xi Huan almost lost it when Qu Le tried to argue and reached out to give Qu Le a slap across her face.

Xi Huan had been serving Qin Yuru all these while and she had always despised Qin Wanru. Although she was merely a second-grade maid, she did not care much about Qin Wanru and would act according to her whims and fancies.

However, Nanny Yu caught her hand in time, and before Xi Huan could say anything, Qin Wanru commanded, “Slap her mouth, Nanny Yu!”

Immediately, Nanny Yu released Xi Huan’s hand and before she could lift up her head, Nanny Yu gave her two tight slaps. She did it so quickly that even Mrs. Qin had no time to react.

“Why did you have to hit me, Second Miss Qin? Your maid was the one who collided into me on purpose, how can you hit me?” Xi Huan exclaimed, feeling unjustified. She was obviously not afraid of Second Miss Qin, because Elder Miss Qin had assured her that she would back her up if anything happened. Moreover, Mrs. Qin was also present so she assumed Second Miss Qin could do nothing to her.

Thinking that she had support from Elder Miss Qin and Mrs. Qin, she spoke even louder.

“Again, Nanny Yu!” said Qin Wanru, smiling coldly.

No one had expected Qin Wanru to give this instruction again, and Xi Huan was given another two tight slaps.

“Second Miss Qin, you... why did you hit me again? Base on what reason do you hit me? Are you looking down on Elder Miss Qin’s servants so much so you have to torment me?”

Xi Huan had lost it as she felt great pain on her cheeks and her ears were buzzing. Staring angrily at Qin Wanru, she wished she could scratch Qin Wanru’s face.

“Mother, is this so-called the maid who knows and adheres to the rules of this house, a maid who had been through training and had been serving in this household for a long time?”

Qin Wanru said coldly, directing her words at Mrs. Qin.

Mrs. Qin’s face fell when she did not react fast enough to stop Qin Wanru. She was about to chide her when she heard Qin Wanru’s words and quickly restrained herself. This resulted in her feeling breathless as if there was air trapped in her chest.

What a difficult girl to deal with.

“Madam, will you judge fairly for me? Second Miss Qin should not ask Nanny Zhou to hit me. Base on what reason did she have the right to? I am Elder Miss Qin’s maid. Elder Miss Qin should be the one to discipline me if necessary. How could Second Miss Qin discipline me in front of Madam?” said Qi Huan furiously.

Initially, Xi Huan thought this was going to be an easy matter for her to settle, at the same time, gain the favor of Madam and Elder Miss Qin. She did not expect that not only was she not able to settle the matter, but she was also even punished by Second Miss Qin. She could not swallow the humiliation.

“Mother, from the way the maid addressed herself as ‘me’, it is clear that she doesn’t treat me as one of the mistresses in this household,” said Qin Wanru in a calm manner, as she pointed out Xi Huan’s rude use of words.

Qin Wanru had long been aware that Qin Yuru’s maids looked down on her and had never behaved respectfully towards her. With a little bit of provocation, they would show their true colors towards her.

With this statement made by Qin Wanru, there was no way Mrs. Qin could help Xi Huan even if she wanted to. In that instant, Mrs. Qin’s face looked ashen.

Nanny Zhou, who knew Mrs. Qin’s heart best instructed an old maid nearby, saying, “Get someone to bring her away and send her to Old Maid Ya.”

Xi Huan was stunned for a moment when she heard Nanny Zhou’s words and was unable to react. When Elder Miss Qin instructed her to bump into Qin Wanru’s maid, she did not mention that this would happen.

Was this just an act, or was it real?

“Since this maid was the one who didn’t know the protocol, we have to send her away, while I’m going to keep my maid!” said Qin Wanru.

Qin Wanru’s words made something snap in Xi Huan’s mind. As she struggled to break free, she turned to Mrs. Qin and said, “Madam, Elder Miss Qin had instructed me to collide with Second Miss Qin’s maid. Elder Miss Qin promised that I won’t get into any trouble...”

She was about to continue when the quick-witted old maid stuffed a handkerchief into her mouth and dragged her away.

“Mother, what do you think of my suggestion?” Qin Wanru asked, training her eyes on Qu Le, who was kneeling in front of her and shaking like a leaf.

“Both the maids stirred up trouble, so we should punish them in the same way!” Mrs. Qin said through gritted teeth as she was about to blow her top.

“Then I think Mother should send both maids to Father, who is in his study. They would speak the truth in front of Father. I would like to know if Elder Sister really instructed her maid to collide with my maid on purpose,” Qin Wanru said, raising her eyebrows. She was happy to blow up the entire matter.

All the while, Qin Wanru was wearing an indifferent expression on her face.

Shock was written all over Mrs. Qin's face now.

Nanny Zhou tugged at Mrs. Qin's sleeve and interrupted saying, "Please don't get mad, Second Miss Qin. This is a matter concerning the maid, so it's not a big deal. If Second Miss Qin wishes to keep your maid, I'm sure Madam will let you. However, just a word of caution, Second Miss Qin, this lass may seem to be timid, but she is in fact very daring. While you keep her by your side, please take care that she doesn't create trouble."

Since the situation had come to this, Mrs. Qin had to back off, lest this matter is brought before Qin Huaiyong.

Mrs. Qin was afraid that would happen, so she gritted her teeth as she weighed the situation and said, "You may keep this maid for now."

"Thank you, Mother!" said Qin Wanru with a smile as she turned slightly while sitting on the bed.

Qu Le bowed respectfully towards Mrs. Qin immediately and said, "Thank you, Madam, thank you, Madam!"

Mrs. Qin had no mood to continue staying on since the turn of events against her plan, so she stood up, forced a smile and said, "Since this matter had been settled, rest well, Wanru. I'm going to leave as I have something else to attend to!"

"Please forgive me for not being able to see you off!" said Qin Wanru politely as she sat up straight.

Mrs. Qin shook her head and rushed off in a rage, bringing with her all the maids who came along with her. She was not sure if she could refrain from the urge of giving Qin Wanru a few tight slaps if she stayed on any longer.

How was such a young girl so cunning? Looked like she had to be more wary of her in the future.

"Madam, what shall we do with that maid who refused to leave?" Nanny Zhou said with a low voice when she caught up with Mrs. Qin. She was Mrs. Qin confidante and she knew exactly why Mrs. Qin needed to send her away.

"Even if we don't manage to chase her out, we can't let her blabber nonsense," said Mrs. Qin decisively through gritted teeth.

"However, her mouth grows on her body. Moreover, Second Miss Qin will inquire about her in the future. If Second Miss Qin finds out that we didn't get rid of her, we'll be in trouble!" said Nanny Zhou as a gentle reminder to Mrs. Qin.

"Get someone to spread rumors about this maid, be them true or not, and let's see what she would do. Anyways that incident which happened long ago had nothing to do with her. The only fear is that the secret about Liu Xue would be leaked out," said Mrs. Qin as she steadied her footsteps, trying to catch her breath, and gritted her teeth.

She almost fainted from being provoked by Qin Wanru just now, but now she had finally calmed her nerves.

“Madam, I bet Second Miss Qin couldn’t tell the truth from lies!” said Nanny Zhou as a light flash across her eyes. “You are so smart, Madam, what could Second Miss Qin use against you?” Nanny Zhou flattered.

“Are you from Jiangzhou?” Qin Wanru asked while she leaned back at the cushion and trained her eyes on Qu Le, whose face was drained of color, and gradually sized her up.

If a maid was not enough reason for Mrs. Qin to personally come all the way here, what was the real reason of her visit?

“Yes, I was born in Jiangzhou,” Qu Le said, relieved to see that Mrs. Qin had left. She sat crippled on the floor and her eyes had lost their sparks.

What happened a moment ago almost scared her to death. Fortunately, Second Miss Qin came to her rescue and at this thought, she looked at Qin Wanru with gratitude in her eyes.

“So you were born in Jiangzhou, but where exactly was your father’s hometown?” pressed Qin Wanru with a frown on her forehead, as she read deeper into Qu Le’s answer.

Although she was born in Jiangzhou, she was not a native to Jiangzhou in question.

Medical Princess

Chapter 55: Resolve

“My parents were from the capital city, but I was born in Jiangzhou, so I suppose I’m from Jiangzhou!” said Qu Le hesitantly.

“Why did your parents relocate to Jiangzhou then?” asked Qin Wanru, with a flash of light across her eyes.

“I think they moved here... following their master. My parents were supposed children born to servants in an influential family in the capital city. Later on, they were separated from their master somehow and so ended up in Jiangzhou. They didn’t dare to return to the capital city they lost their master.”

Qu Le blurted out everything she knew even though her father had given her instructions not to reveal certain things. She was not planning to return home because she knew she would be sold as a slave anyways. It seemed to her that her mistress right in front of her was a kind girl, who was able to protect her even in a precarious circumstance a moment ago.

What a strange thing to have happened! However, this had nothing to do with her.

“Do you know my elder sister?” said Qin Wanru, who tried to change the topic as she remembered Qin Yuru’s reflection yesterday.

“No, I don’t know her,” replied Qu Le, shaking her head as she continued, “Yesterday was the first time I met Elder Miss Qin.”

“Then why did she target you?” asked Qin Wanru, looking intently at Qu Le.

“I... I don’t know too,” Qu Le was so fearful that she started weeping and continued, “I’ve never met Elder Miss Qin, but I’ve met Qing Xue. I heard that she was working in the General’s Mansion.

"Qing Xue?" asked Qin Wanru, batting her lashes.

"Yes, it's Qing Xue. Qing Xue's family and I lived in the same village. Qing Yue and I used to play together when we were younger, but later on, we heard that Qing Xue was sold to the General's Mansion. However, I saw her again yesterday and heard that she was just sold to the General's Mansion, but wasn't she already working for the General's Mansion?"

Qu Le said while wiping away her tears. She had recognized Qing Xue the day before but did not dare to say it. Now that Qin Wanru asked about it so she answered honestly to her question.

She was aware that the Madam, as well as Eldest Miss Qin in this house, were not pleased with her. If she were to offend the Second Miss Qin, She would definitely end up being sold again.

Qin Wanru turned to look at Nanny Yu, who shook her head after a moment of pondering and with certainty, she said, "Miss, I've not seen Qing Xue before."

Qing Xue was quite an outstanding maid. It was unlikely that Nanny Yu did not notice her if she had been working in the General's Mansion. She truly could not recall seeing her as a maid in the mansion.

"Do you want to ask her?" suggested Nanny Yu.

Qin Wanru shook her head and turned her eyes back to Qu Le, saying, "Qu Le, since I'm the who saved you, I can also sell you away. If you remain loyal to me from henceforth, you can be assured that nothing will happen to you. However, if I find out that you are double-minded, you know what the consequence will be!"

"Yes, I know. Rest assured, Miss, I will remain faithful to you will never betray you!" said a clever Qu Le, wiping her tears as she pledged her loyalty. "I will find out about Qing Xue and report to you, Miss," continued Qing Yue.

She overheard the conversation between Nanny Yu and Qin Wanru earlier on and was aware that Second Miss Qin was interested in the things concerning Qing Xue, so she raised this issue to Qin Wanru straight away.

Nodding, Qin Wanru said, "Go and wash up. Try not to go out of this courtyard in the coming few days."

"Yes, I will," replied Qu Le. She had been so scared, so when Qin Wanru told her to excuse herself, she breathed a sigh of relief, sit up in her kneeling position and gave Qin Wanru and bow, before she left the room in a respectful manner.

When she reached the corridor, she wiped away her tears and headed to the room where Nanny Yu prepared all the new clothes for the maids, to get changed.

Coincidentally, Qing Yue was also in that changing room. When she spotted Qu Le, she gave her a cold glance and turned to leave.

"Wait a minute, Qing Xue!" Qu Le called out to her.

"What is it?" said Qing Xue coldly.

"You... don't you recognize me? I'm..." Qu Le said with caution as she observed Qing Xue's expression closely.

"You must have gotten the wrong person, I don't know you!" said Qing Xue, who looked at her with indifference and turned to leave.

Staring at Qing Xue's back, Qu Le frowned. Although they haven't met each other for a few years she could still recognize that Qing Xue was her playmate when they were young. Why did Qing Yue pretend not to recognize her?

This... had to be intentional!

The fight between the two maids was blown out of proportion, then it was said that the new maid did not know the protocol of General's Mansion, that she was a liar who deceived Second Miss Qin into believing that she was innocent, and Xi Huan, who was Elder Miss Qin's maid was sent away as a result.

It was also said Madam was a kind woman who could not bear to see Second Miss Qin being upset and therefore let Qu Le off.

Some even said that Qu Le had bad conduct since young, that she had even been a thief. The rumors going around in the village were even more rampant and outrageous...

From the mouth of Nanny Yu, Qin Wanru gathered countless rumors, saying that Qu Le was no good at all, that she was full of lies and was not trustworthy. As for why such an ill-behaved maid was kept in the General's Mansion was mainly because Mrs. Qin doted on her youngest daughter and did according to what she willed.

It was also rumored that Mrs. Qin had sent for an experienced maid to warn and advise Qin Wanru not to trust in Qu Le and her words too much.

The main thing was to spread the rumor that Qu Le was very cunning.

"All the many rumors boiled down to the accusation that she has been lying!" said Qin Wanru, as she walked to her dressing table and sat down.

"I suppose this was what all of them meant!" said Nanny Yu, nodding. "I am still clueless as to what Madam wants to achieve."

"She doesn't want us to believe whatever Qu Le says," Qin Wanru said coolly with a smile.

"If it were just concerning the words spoken by a maid, why would Madam make so much effort?" said Nanny Yu, puzzled. She truly could not see the purpose behind all these.

First of all, Elder Miss Qin had asked for her, then she framed her and wanted to chase her out of the house. It seemed that a lot of troubles were related to her.

"Don't be too bothered about her. Let's just watch patiently!" said Qin Wanru. There was definitely something fishy about Qing Xue as well as Qu Le. She would put the two of them together and see who was the greater problem. Suddenly, Qin Wanru said, "Is everything ready for us to go to Jingxin Monastery?"

"Everything has been prepared, but..." Nanny Yu hesitated for a moment then said, "I heard that Elder Miss Qin is also going long."

"Does big sister still want to go to Jingxin Monastery in her current state?" asked Qin Wanru as she looked into the mirror and gritted her teeth.

"She said she wants to tag along so she can ask the reverend to have a look at her burn," replied Nanny Yu.

The statement sounded logical and Qin Wanru pondered over it for a while and said, "Did Aunt give any instructions on what time to get up?"

"Miss Shui had not sent men over to tell us yet, but I think it wouldn't be too early. Old Grandma's still not well and I don't think she can get up that early," said Nanny Yu as she analyzed the situation.

Nanny Yu was right. Qin Wanru nodded and she pulled out a book on medicine from a shelf in the dressing table and opened it up on the dresser top.

"Are you reading on medicine again, Miss?" asked Nanny Yu as she looked over her shoulder. Recently, Miss Qin seemed to have lost interest in reading the other books but concentrated on books on medicine and this made Nanny wonder.

Qin Yuru used to enjoy comic books, so much so she would visit the book stores whenever they go out of the mansion. She would secret buy some comic books and hide them under her bed. In fact, they were still there, under her bed at this moment.

"I want to study medicine," replied Qin Wanru, flipping through the pages and nodding as she read. At this time in her previous life, she was clueless about the subject of medicine. Since the day Mingqui Nun took notice of her and gave her a book on medicine, she had chucked it aside and never read it.

Subsequently, she did pick up some medical skill from taking care of the person with a long-term illness, so much so he became better. Although this person was highly competent in his medical skills, he could not save himself.

When Qin Wanru came to think of this, she felt a pinch of pain in her nose and tears welled up in her eyes. If she ever got a second chance, she wanted to save that man who taught her the medical skill. In fact, the delay of medical treatment had been the main reason he did not recover eventually.

Qin Wanru wanted to take this opportunity when she visited Jingxin Monastery to tell Mingqiu Nun that she wanted to study medicine.

"Are you thinking of studying medicine under Mingqiu Nun, Miss?" asked Nanny Yu, almost reading Qin Wanru's mind. However, Nanny Yu was still surprised and she said, "It would be hard-going and Old Grandma would not agree to it."

Old Grandma doted on Second Miss Qin and would not allow her to be overtired.

"Grandma will agree. Age is catching up with her. If I can master medical skills, I would be able to take care of her something befalls her!" Qin Wanru said, sighing softly. She was equipped with some medical skills, however, she was not supposed to have any medical knowledge at this time in her previous life, so she did not dare to show it.

However, once she understudied with Mingqiu Nun, she could openly show that she knew medical skills.

Studying medicine was not just to save herself, but to save others. All the more, she was going to save the life of the man she so wanted to save in her previous life.

In her previous life, he was the person she was grateful to in her limited lifetime.

In the morning the next day, Qin Wanru first went over to Old Grandma's to make sure that the preparation was complete. Once Old Grandma woke up, she returned to her room to eat her breakfast. By the time she was done with breakfast, Shui Ruolan had sent men to fetch her.

The horse carriages were parked at the main gates, waiting for them to embark. There were altogether four horse-carriages. The first one was the largest of them all, which was for Old Grandma and Shui Ruolan. The second carriage was for Qin Yuru and the third for Qin Wanru, while their belongings and other servants took the last carriage.

By the time Qin Wanru came to the gates, Qin Yuru had been waiting there for some time. When she spotted Qin Wanru, she smiled warmly and said, "Second Little Sister, do you want to come in my carriage? We can keep each other company while chatting."

She pretended to be warm and welcoming, as if nothing had happened between them.

"Elder Sister, both of us have been injured, which means at some point during the journey, we may need to lie down to rest. I'm afraid there wouldn't be enough space for both of us to lie down," replied Qin Wanru, shaking her head.

If the two of them were to share the same carriage, it would appear that they had a good relationship. However, Qin Wanru was not willing to put up that false front for their relationship.

Not expecting Qin Wanru to outrightly reject her offer, Qin Yuru's expression turned cold as she said, "Since you're not willing, forget it then."

After speaking, Qin Yuru did not want to wait for Qin Wanru any longer. She boarded the second carriage, holding on to Mei Xue's hand. On the other hand, Qin Wanru continued waiting outside, and soon Shui Ruolan, helping Old Grandma by holding on to her, arrived. Qin Huaiyong and his wife were accompanying her as the group of people walked through the gates of the General's Mansion.

Qin Wanru took out a small stool from within the horse carriages for Old Grandma to step on as she supported her grandmother's weight. A few other servants who had hopped on to the carriage together helped pull Old Grandma up the horse carriage.

After everyone had settled in their respective carriages, the entire group procession embarked on its journey.

[Medical Princess](#)

Chapter 56: This Was The Duty Of The King's Subject

"I've imposed on you for many days, General," said the young man who was so handsome that he looked as if he was a character in a painting. He tapped his fingers lightly on the armrest of the chair as he smiled a gracious and warm smile. He looked to be totally innocent, especially because he was also

frail-looking from his sickness. Everyone who saw him for the first time would think he was such a beautiful young man.

"Don't mention, it is in my duty as a subject to the king!" said Qin Huaiyong respectfully as he bowed his head.

Chu Liuchen cocked his head and coughed lightly, turned around and with a gentle voice, he said, "It must have been hard for the general to help me keep this secret. I heard that there is a great physician who is very skillful in medicine in Jingxin Monastery. Do you think it is possible for me to go there and stay for a few days?"

"Erm..." Qin Huaiyong hesitated.

"Why? Is there a problem, Ningyuan Army General?" asked Chu Liuchen, smiling and cocking his head again. His lips were so pale that they looked to be drained of their colors. For this reason, he looked even more frail and sickly, yet he looked exceptionally attractive as if all the light was shining on his face.

Handsome and innocent-looking !

This was the first impression Chu Liuchen left on Qin Huaiyong. To him, this sickly looking man could not be counted as a valiant man!

"Jingxin Monastery would not permit an overnight stay for any males," said Qin Huaiyong, who paused for a moment and decided to be upfront with him. He continued, "It is because it is only occupied by nuns, so they would not allow any male to stay there overnight. All the guestrooms in Jingxin Monastery are for females."

"Were there not a single male who went to Jingxin Monastery to seek medical help?" asked Chu Liuchen politely as his lips curled up into a smile. This made Qin Huaiyong believe that Prince Chen was a gentlemanly young man, who was unfortunately sickly.

"There is actually one place where you may sleep, but it's quite cramped and I'm afraid Prince Chen may not feel comfortable staying there," said Qin Huaiyong after pondering for a while, and he continued, "It's nearby Jingxin Monastery. There used to be some other man seeking medical treatment from Jingxin Monastery who stayed with the nearby households."

"Tell me about it!" asked Chu Liuchen as he pinched his chin.

"I have a small courtyard with a room near Jingxin Monastery which I acquired from a farmer. I had someone built an extension to that building, but it is still quite a small place. If Prince Chen doesn't mind, you can stay there. It's not far from Jingxin Monastery and it'll be convenient to invite the reverend from Jingxin Monastery to go over there to treat you."

Qin Huaiyong replied.

Qin Huaiyong had stayed in that house whenever he visited Old Grandma in Jingxin Monastery. Old Grandma had always stayed in Jingxin Monastery for a period of time whenever she was not feeling well and Qin Huaiyong would spend his nights at this place whenever he visited her.

"Alright, I will stay there. Since my uncle, the king had given me permission to go around, so that if I were to bump into any skillful physician, I should get treated by him. I was inflicted with this illness from

my mother's womb, so I'm not hopeful towards a full recovery. All I'm asking is to have my agony reduced," Chu Liuchen said impassively as if he was not talking about his own health.

Thereafter, he turned his face away and coughed a little.

Qin Huaiyong looked down as he suddenly felt a wave of grief in his heart. He used to go to war with the late emperor, and he had a much deeper feeling for him than the current emperor, who was Prince Chen's uncle, not his father. The supposed crown prince was now merely a prince and a sickly one.

"Your majesty, as your subject, I will escort you over and request for the reverend of Jingxin Monastery to treat you," said Qin Huaiyong.

"Looks like I have to trouble the General!" said Chu Liuchen softly, as he stopped to cough again.

"Let me go ahead of Your Majesty to make the necessary arrangements!" said Qin Huaiyong, as he excused himself to arrange horse carriages for Chu Liuchen. When Chu Liuchen first arrived at Jiangzhou Prefecture, he simply had a few carriages with him, having instructed Qin Huaiyong not to make his arrival known, so much so that he did not even inform his wife and daughters.

"Are you going to Jingxin Monastery, Master?" asked Xiao Xuanzi, one of the prince's eunuchs, perplexed because Jingxin Monastery was not on their itinerary.

"So I heard that the reverend of Jingxin Monastery was a highly skilled physician. There's no harm paying her a visit," said Chu Liuchen, as he sat up and then leaned back. Although this handsome young man was acting laid back, he did not look obtrusive.

"How medically skillful can the reverend of a monastery be? I supposed she treats people anyhow and coincidentally they were healed," said Xiao Xuanzi doubtfully. If she was really this good, she would have gone to the capital city to answer to the emperor's soliciting for physicians to treat you!"

"Those who went to the capital city may not necessarily be great physicians, and those outside the capital may be great physicians! The reverend of Jingxin Monastery is a lady," said Chu Liuchen with a smile as he patted his fingers on the armrest of the chair.

"Master, are you saying that you've found the person whom Physician Qi was talking about?" a clever Xiao Xuanzi responded as hope and excitement flashed across his eyes.

Qin Yu, the great physician had given permission for Chu Liuchen to go around precisely to look for his junior female fellow disciple...

Qin Wanru was not aware that after she left the General's Mansion, the general had prepared another procession of horse carriages for Chu Liuchen to go to Jingxin Monastery.

By then, Qin Wanru had arrived at Jingxin Monastery. She alighted from her carriage and went over to help Old Grandma alight from hers. The reverend of Jingxin Monastery had been informed of their coming and she was welcoming them at the gates of the monastery.

"This time...cough, cough... I will trouble ... cough... you, the reverend, yet again!" said Old Grandma with a hoarse voice interrupted by coughs. Because of persistent coughing over the last couple days, Old Grandma had lost so much weight, and the veins on her forehead were showing, so much so she looked very frail.

"Let's come in first before we continue with our conversation, Old Madam!" said the reverend of Jingxin Monastery, as she took over from Qin Wanru to hold on to Old Grandma's hand and helped her into the house carefully.

Without feeling Old Grandma's pulse, the reverend was already able to tell that Old Grandma's condition was deteriorating, compared to the last time she saw her.

Although the walk into the building of Jingxin Mansion was not exactly very long, it was tedious enough for Old Grandma. She started panting even after she took a few steps. Shui Ruolan, who was walking by Old Grandma's side kept wiping the perspiration on her face gently, as her eyebrows locked into a frown.

When they finally entered the guestroom, the reverend of Jingxin Monastery helped Old Grandma onto the bed to lie down. Compared to other physicians, the reverend of the monastery was very much more familiar with Old Grandma's health conditions.

As the reverend of Jingxin Monastery felt for Old Grandma's pulse, both Shui Ruolan and Qin Wanru fixed their gazes on her anxiously.

After a long while, she finally released her grip on Old Grandma's wrist and stood up.

Shui Ruolan was about to inquire about Old Grandma's condition when the reverend stopped her with a wave of her hand.

"Reverend, how... is my illness?" asked Old Grandma, opening her eyes.

"Just like before, you have to get plenty of rest. I will prescribe you some medicine as usual so Old Grandma have to take it consistently and you'll be alright. However, age is catching up with Old Grandma so you have to be take extra care!" the reverend assured Old Grandma.

The words of the reverend put Old Grandma slightly at ease. She nodded her head weakly and with a feeble voice, she said, "I shall trouble you to do that for me!"

"Don't say that, Old Grandma!" the reverend said with smile, then continued, "I shall not impose on you and leave you to take a rest now, Old Grandma. You must be tired from the trip."

Old Grandma was indeed exhausted from the journey so she nodded and said, "Alright!"

She closed her eyes afterwards.

By the time everyone left the room, the reverend of Jingxin Monastery rested her eyes on Qin Yuru, who was still wearing a veil over her face.

"Elder Miss Qin, is your face alright?"

"Please have a look at my face, reverend," said Qin Yuru as she removed the veil from her face.

The reverend had a look and saw that her wound was not serious. It was almost fully healed after application of some ointment, the only thing that was visible was some small spots.

"There's nothing to worry about, Elder Miss Qin. It is almost healed. Just continue to be careful and remember not to ingest anything too flavorful," the reverend said with a smile.

"How about my hand?" Qin Yuru stretched out her bandaged arm as Mei Xue rushed over to undress the wound. When the reverend took a look at the extensive burnt skin, she started to frown.

"I'm afraid... this would leave some scar," the burnt wound covered quite a large area on her skin, which was basically her entire palm, it looked like the ointment was not doing its job.

"Are there no other solutions?" Qin Yuru said, giving Qin Wanru a cold stare, while she gritted her teeth!

"If we use a better ointment, perhaps it'll work better," said the reverend, trying to give a conclusive answer. She quietly frowned as she caught Qin Yuru's glancing at Qin Wanru with an evil look, although it was just a passed quickly.

"Since Elder Miss Qin is injured, you should take a rest," said the reverend politely.

Qin Yuru was about to do exactly what the reverend said. She stood up, smiled and said, "We will be troubling you these few days!"

"Don't mention it, Elder Miss Qin!" said the reverend as she called a nun over to lead Qin Yuru to her room to rest.

After Qin Yuru left the room, Qin Wanru inquired anxiously, "Reverend, how is my grandmother's condition?"

The reverend had said that Old Grandma's condition was the same as past years, but Qin Wanru could tell from the frown on the reverend's face that her grandmother's illness had turned for the worst all of a sudden. It was nothing like in the past years when the cough came on slowly.

"Was Old Grandma provoked recently? Like the kind that happened suddenly," asked the reverend, frowning, when she saw the earnestness in Qin Wanru and Shui Ruolan's eyes as they looked at her with anticipation. She knew they were genuinely concerned about Old Grandma's health and decided not to hold back any information.

"Erm... I don't think so..." Shui Ruolan replied. When Old Grandma's coughing started, she was already staying at the family temple and she was not aware of the details. Turning to Qin Wanru, she said, "Wanru, will you tell us when what was different about Grandma's illness this time when it started."

"Something happened in the mansion the other when Miss Qi came over and stirred up a great commotion. After Grandma went to have a look, she started coughing even before she returned to her own room," Qin Wanru said after pondering for a while. She supposed that the reverend of Jingxin Monastery already knew about the Qin Rongzhi episode. Together with what happened to Qin Yuru, these two incidents were the greatest scandal of Jiangzhou for now.

There were many visitors to Jingxin Monastery and she supposed such news would have reached the reverend's ears.

"Grandma suddenly started to cough badly when Miss Qin fell into the water? Were Mrs. Qin and Elder Miss Qin there when it happened?" asked the reverend, frowning.

"Both Mother and Elder Sister went," affirmed Qin Wanru.

"Your grandmother's illness must have been triggered by something which happened abruptly... it's much more serious than in the past." The reverend spoke up again after a pause. She did not wish to keep Old Grandma's condition a secret. She looked intently at Shui Ruolan, then Qin Wanru's tense little face and reiterated with conviction, saying, "This time it is truly very serious!"

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Chapter 57: Who Was The Late Husband Of The Reverend Of Jingxin Monastery?

"Do you mean..." said Shui Ruolan with a trembling voice.

"What triggered it? Was it the same in the previous years?" asked Qin Wanru, as she caught the implication, and tried to hold back the despair in her heart.

"In the past, the illness was also triggered by unforeseen circumstances, when the weather turned cold in autumn and winter. On one hand, it was because your grandmother's body was unable to withstand the cold because age is catching up with her. On the other hand, it could be because of the hayfever which was caused by the pollen of flowers that blooms during autumn. This could be one of the most important triggers to your grandmother's illness."

The reverend of Jingxin Monastery explained. She did not want to mention these two factors because she thought that Shui Ruolan was after all Old Grandma's niece who did not really have control over anything, and Qin Wanru was still a young girl. She thought it was not appropriate for her to explain to them Old Grandma's conditions.

However, she finally told them the truth when she saw how sincerely concerned they were about Old Madam Qin.

"What flower was it that produce the pollen?" asked Shui Ruolan earnestly, as she suppressed the sadness in her heart.

"It was a plant called Qingqu Grass. It only blooms during autumn time. I had mentioned this General Qin and his misses and even made a sketch of the flower. Later on, Mrs. Qin said that there wasn't any Qingqu Grass in the mansion, so I concluded that coughing was the result of her growing old. However, looking at Old Grandma's condition, I'm certain that her cough was triggered by the pollen from Qingqu Grass. In addition, she must have been exposed to a considerable amount of the pollen. Otherwise, the cough wouldn't come so aggressively and seriously.

The reverend of Jingxin Monastery revealed the entire truth about Old Grandma's condition and moaned.

"Which is to say that someone must have been carrying something made of the Qingqu Grass?" Shui Ruolan contemplated as the expression on her face changed drastically.

"I suppose so," said the reverend, nodding. "In the previous years when Old Grandma's cough came on, it was not so sudden and aggressive. Since the two of you had accompanied the Old Madam here, we have to take even more care when conditioning her illness. While there isn't any Qingqu Grass in Jingxin Monastery, we can't be sure if there's anyone who would bring it in."

"Does Qingqu Grass produce any smell?" asked Qin Wanru as something flashed across her mind.

“To the insensitive nose, it would seem that Qingqu Grass is odorless. However to patients like your grandmother, her body would instinctively detect the smell quickly trigger her illness would be triggered, although she herself would not know it in her conscious mind. The Qingqu Grass tastes a little bitter though,” said the reverend of Jingxin Monastery.

Qin Wanru’s hand trembled as if something came to her mind abruptly. It was the fragrant sachet which she saw every year. She did not take special notice because it was something so familiar to her and it did not really smell of anything. She knew that Mrs. Qin was never stingy about this.

She was the daughter of Duke Yong, so she took great care in what she wore and ate. Even in Jiangzhou, where it was far from the capital city, she made sure whatever she used was high class. She never wore anything old and worn and she would replace all accessories with custom-made, fashionable ones. This was to upkeep her status as the daughter of a respected, wealthy family.

Whatever she possessed was unique in Jiangzhou.

Would she be carrying an old fragrant sachet with all the time? In retrospect, she realized that Mrs. Qin would be carrying this same fragrant sachet around autumn time every year.

“What would happen to Old Grandma’s body if she were to smell this Qingqu Grass now?” asked Qin Wanru as she felt she was going crazy with worry.

“If this grass were to be brought before Old Grandma again, I’m afraid her body wouldn’t be able to take it...” said the reverend with a fallen face.

Qin Wanru’s hand jerked as she suddenly called to mind another incident. In her previous life, Mrs. Qin was carrying the fragrant sachet on her waist when Grandmother passed away. Not only did she carry it with her in Jiangzhou but also in the capital city, which was really not her usual practice. This indicated that something was amiss.

A chill went up her spine and spread to her limbs. Qin Wanru felt as if she was being submerged in icy water.

Now she realized that Grandma did not die just because of her but also because Mrs. Qin had a hand in it. She had missed such an important piece of information in her previous life! Her hands which were inside her sleeves were trembling so hard that she had to hold them together tightly to stop the shaking. Mrs. Qin was absolutely evil.

She would definitely not let her off in this life!

“Would the smell go onto clothes or accessories?” said Qin Wanru after she finally found her voice. She batted her lashes as she tried hard to keep the grief in her eyes from showing.

In her previous life, Grandma had left her since she was young, and this was all part of Mrs. Qin’s evil plan. At that time, Father had led the army to the border where there were some conflicts between. When Grandma passed away, as the army general, he could not come home for her funeral lest he lost his office. For this reason, Grandma’s death and the funeral were kept low-keyed and Mrs. Qin was the sole overseer of all the funeral arrangement.

Things happened in this way all because of that evil Mrs. Qin.

She had deceived everyone to believe that she was a virtuous, gentle, prim and proper wife.

With her sensitivity, Qin Wanru managed to figure out an important point. Mrs. Qin's evil plan which out of the blue was the reason why Grandma had tried to protect her.

However, because of all the rush to carry out her plan, the flaws in Mrs. Qin's plan was picked up by Qin Wanru. If Mrs. Qin had just gone with the flow as in the previous years and allow Grandma's illness to set in gradually, no one would trace the source of trigger all the way to her.

"The smell is easily diffused into the wind. If one was wearing clothes or accessories which had been smoked, basically the smell of Qingqu Grass would have no effect and would not trigger the onset of coughing. The smell had to be highly concentrated to be effective. However, it could still affect those patients who have low immunity by nature. In such cases, the patients won't be able to withstand it even if there is just a little effect."

Therefore the fragrant sachet must be the culprit! This was the critical moment to be watchful, she was not going to let Mrs. Qin cause further harm to Grandma.

"What shall we do now, reverend?" Qin Wanru asked after she calmed herself down.

"We could only try to condition her illness. She must not be exposed to the smell of Qingqu Grass ever. At least we do not have Qingqu Grass within the grounds of Jingxin Monastery, but..." the reverend stopped mid-sentence. It was obvious that she was trying to tell them that she had a close relationship with Old Grandma, so they should feel comfortable letting her know some of the more private family matters.

"Rest assured, reverend. I will watch over my aunt and carefully check through all the things she uses to make sure that she would not smell the Qingqu Grass anywhere close to her," said Shui Ruolan in a serious tone. She seemed to have calmed down a little after the shock.

"Not only the things that Old Grandma uses or ingests, but also that of those people around her," the reverend reminded Shui Ruolan with a look.

"I know, thank you, reverend," said Shui Ruolan, as she bowed respectfully to the reverend. When she looked up again, she looked heavy-hearted.

Although she did not know the entire situation, through the conversation between the reverend and Qin Wanru, she managed to gather some necessary information. She took in a deep breath and made a resolution in her heart.

There was no way she was going to stay in the family temple for the rest of her life. She still had her aging aunt and the young Wanru to protect from danger. To her, Mrs. Qin owes her a standing in the household. She was going to ask for her rightful place in the household even if Mrs. Qin was unwilling now.

The ladies from the General's Mansion finally settled down in Jingxin Monastery for now.

Old Grandma's condition required her to be conditioned in a quiet place, so she was given the quietest guestroom which was further away from the Qin Sisters' rooms. It was also Old Grandma's wish for the

two sisters to nurse their wounds in quiet. However, Shui Ruolan would be sharing Old Grandma's room with her, together with Nanny Duan and Qu Xiang, who served Old Grandma.

Everyone who had a chance to come close to Old Grandma would have to go through Shui Ruolan first.

Every time Qin Yuru came over, she stayed outside the door and conversed with Old Grandma through the gap of the door because Old Grandma would not let her into her room. She only allowed Qin Wanru to enter and they usually had a good chat after that. They had only been to Jingxin Monastery for a few days and already Old Grandma was looking much better than when she was back in the General's Mansion.

When Old Grandma felt that she had recovered a great deal, she did not wish that Qin Wanru and Shui Ruolan be tied down by her, so she had the reverend prepare Shui Ruolan another guestroom close to Qin Wanru's room so that she did not need to watch over her every night. She could go around Jingxin Monastery during the day.

Old Grandma was nursed back to health, so Shui Ruolan and Qin Wanru felt much more assured and they took turns to keep Old Grandma company in the morning and afternoon respectively.

This day, Qin Wanru had just returned to her room from Old Grandma's room when she was invited to go to the reverend's room.

"Second Miss Qin, how is going for that matter which I asked you to find out for me?" asked the reverend.

"Did you mean that medicine?" asked Qin Wanru as she lifted her injured arm. A period of time had passed and the wound on her arm had more or less fully recovered and lifting it did not cause her any more pain.

"Alright," said the reverend, whose eyes looked to be staring at something afar.

"My grandmother was not the one who applied the ointment on me, it's..." hesitated Qin Wanru as she knew she was not supposed to reveal anything about Chu Liuchen to anyone.

"It was actually another person who had applied the ointment on me, but he didn't anyone to know about him," Qin Wanru gave a vague answer after pausing to ponder about it.

On one hand, she could not reveal the details, yet she did not want to lie to the reverend of Jingxin Monastery.

"He... he's still like that," said the reverend under her breath, and chuckled.

"Reverend, do you know him?" asked Qin Wanru, stunned, as a surprised look flashed across her eyes. Never would she expect the reverend of Jingxin Monastery to know Chu Liuchen.

"So what if I know him?" the reverend sounded bitter, then continued, "It's been so many years! I don't know how he is now. I suppose this ointment he applied on your wound had worked well! I'm surprised he would ever lift a finger to help others!"

All of a sudden Qin Wanru thought that the reverend must have misunderstood.

So many years? It did not sound like she was referring to Chu Liuchen, who was only around fourteen to fifteen years old this year.

“Who is this the reverend is talking about?” asked Qin Wanru blinking her eyes in puzzlement.

“Forget it, let’s not talk about him. It doesn’t really matter if we talk about him or not!” sighed the reverend. She lifted her face to reveal a calmly smile, an indication that she was no longer troubled over this matter.

“Is the person you talking about a young man in his teens, reverend?” asked Qin Wanru, unable to suppress her curiosity which had been aroused.

“How could he be a young man in his teens?!” cried the reverend in surprise.

“But this person whom I met is just a young man in his teens!” said Qin Wanru, who immediately knew they were not talking about the same person.

“Could the young man be his disciple?” asked the reverend, who broke into a surprise smile and she continued, “Can you ask him to come and see me?”

“This... this would be difficult!” said Qin Wanru, looking to be in a dilemma. She did not dare to make a decision with regards to Chu Liuchen. She was also not sure if the Prince had left her house, but she supposed he could not just keep on staying in her house.

“Then... forget it!” sighed the reverend as she continued, “Let fate decide if we meet!”

Qin Wanru could see that the reverend did not want to continue talking about this, she changed the topic of conversation and said, “Reverend, where had Mingqiu Nun gone? I haven’t seen her?”

Qin Wanru had been looking for Mingqiu Nun for the past few days but without any luck.

“She had gone on a tour and had not returned. I have no idea where she went!” said the reverend helplessly, rubbing the place between her eyes. This junior sister apprentice was only staying in Jingxin Monastery by name. In reality, she did not spend much time in there.

“Do you know when she will be back?” asked Qin Wanru.

“I can’t say when. It could be today, or tomorrow, or even next spring!” replied the reverend.

“Is there a way to ask her to come back earlier?” asked Qin Wanru earnestly.

“Why are you looking for my junior sister apprentice, Second Miss Qin?” asked the reverend curiously.

“I want to study medicine from Mingqiu Nun!” said Qin Wanru truthfully. Her let the opportunity slip in her previous life, and she was not going to miss this chance again in this life.

She wanted to study medicine with Mingqiu Nun...

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Chapter 58: Does Elder Sister Want To Ruin Aunt Shui's Reputation?

“This...” the reverend of Jingxin Monastery looked to torn between choices.

"Is this impossible?" asked Qin Wanru with wide-opened eyes.

"I can't say it's impossible, but it was you who rejected her offer when she picked you. You were not interested to study. Your grandmother had also told my junior sister apprentice that you would never want to pick up medical knowledge. After a few attempts, she finally gave up on asking you. She actually told me she doesn't want to make any disciples anymore!" said the reverend politely.

What she was trying to say was that Mingqiu Nun was too upset over Qin Wanru's rejection, so much so she did not ever want to make any other disciples. The thought of it made Qin Wanru feel guilty, all because she did not know how to appreciate the preciousness of such an offer and she made Mingqiu Nun sad.

"Reverend, when Mingqiu Nun returns, I will surely ask her for her forgiveness," said Qin Wanru determinedly with sincerity in her eyes. Although she was just a child, there was something about her that made people want to believe what she said, that she was not just a kid making empty promises.

The reverend could not help but smiled and said, "Junior sister apprentice had been through so much suffering and loneliness her entire life. She had never grown close to anyone, but only you caught her eyes. It must be fate that made your relationship special."

Qin Wanru could read into the deeper meaning of the reverend's words, although she used euphemism and she bowed her head in shame.

The special relationship between people was predestined, just like when Mingqiu Nun who wanted to take Qin Wanru as her disciple the moment she first set her eyes on her. However, if she did not treasure this fate, a good opportunity would be missed.

"Second Miss, Second Miss, Elder Miss is looking for you!" Qin Wanru was stopped by Mei Xue when she was on her way from the reverend's room back to her room.

"What's the matter?" asked Qin Wanru as she stopped in her tracks.

"Second Miss, you will find out when you get there. Please follow me!" said Mei Xue. She pointed towards her right and said, "Elder Miss is waiting for you at the pavilion right in front!"

Therefore it seemed that Qin Yuru had been waiting for her since much earlier on.

A light flashed across Qin Wanru's eyes and she curled up at the corners of her lips. She did not think there was anything to talk about between Qin Yuru and her. Their relationship had been broken and they only tried to put on an amicable front in the presence of outsiders. Qin Yuru's friendly invitation was something new, which had never happened even before their relationship turned so awkward.

"Let's go!" said Qin Wanru, not refusing the invitation. She turned and walked in the direction Mei Xue pointed towards. She wanted to see what Qin Yuru was up to after a few days of resting quietly.

Qin Yuru was sitting in the pavilion all alone. The pavilion was located right next to a medium size rockery and it was quite secluded.

However, this was not the General's Mansion after all and they were visible to guests visiting Jingxin Monastery passing by the pavilion from time to time. Most of the visitors were female although rarely,

there would be some male visitors. However, male visitors were strictly not allowed to stay overnight in Jingxin Monastery, although they were allowed there during day time.

The wound on Qin Yuru's face had healed and the gauze covering it had been removed. It had healed well and the little patches around it had faded to be almost invisible. Thankfully, she looked as beautiful and gentle as before.

A smile broke out in her face when she saw Qin Wanru approached. She stood up and said, "Second Sister, over here!"

When Qin Wanru spotted Qin Yuru, she batted her eyelids and strode towards her, fixing her dark, shiny eyes on Qin Yuru.

"Please take a seat, Second Sister, I've been waiting for you for a while!" said Qin Yuru politely. When Qin Wanru reached the pavilion, Qin Yuru personally poured her some tea.

The teapot was sitting on the stone table and from how boiling hot the water in the pot was, Qin Wanru could tell that the tea was freshly made. The subtle fragrance of the tea diffused into the air and Qin Wanru could make out that it was chrysanthemum tea, her favorite.

"Please have some tea, Second Sister!" said Qin Yuru with a smile, as she lifted her head and pointed towards the teacup as she also took a sip from her teacup.

Qin Wanru looked from the teacup to Qin Yuru's face and smiled slightly, saying, "Why are you in such a hurry to see me, Elder Sister?"

"Actually I wasn't in a hurry. I just wanted to discuss something with you," said Qin Yuru, maintaining a smile on her face as she put down her teacup.

"What is it?" asked Qin Wanru, with a flash of light in her eyes.

"Nothing serious really. Old Grandma is left with the two of us who are the closest to her by her side now. I have something to discuss with you even if you are still so young," said Qin Yuru with a sigh, as if there was a lot she wanted to say. She waved to Mei Xue, indicating for her to leave the pavilion, and turned her eyes back to Qing Yue, who had followed Qin Wanru here, meaning that she should excuse herself, so Qin Wanru and Qin Yuru could have a private conversation.

Qin Wanru gave Qing Yue a look indicating that she should leave the pavilion, which she did, and stood at some distance away.

"Please say what you want to say, Qing Yue would not tell anyone about it, she is my trusted maid!" said Qin Wanru flatly.

"It's best not to let others know about this... this matter," said Qin Yuru anxiously, gritting her teeth.

"Since you don't want others to know about this, just keep it to yourself. I'm still a kid, so you don't have to tell me. What if it slips off my tongue? That'll create much trouble!" said Qin Wanru with an indifferent look on her face while a sharp look flashed across her eyes, and her lips curled up at their corners.

Qin Wanru seemed uninterested in what Qin Yuru wanted to tell her!

What a stubborn mule, thought Qin Yuru. She made a promise to herself that she would deal with her once she got rid of Shui Ruolan. To settle them separately would be more effective than dealing with the both of them together. Weighing the matter, Qin Yuru forced a smile on her face.

“Don’t say that, little sister. Actually, I can’t really find anyone else to discuss this matter with. Although you’re still a child, you’re a very smart one. I’m sure we can get to a decision if we have a discussion,” said Qin Yuru, forcing a smile and suppressing the rage in her.

The servants sent by Mrs. Qin had time and again reminded Qin Yuru never to fall out with Qin Wanru at this juncture.

“Alright, tell me about it, Elder Sister!” said Qin Wanru, smiling and looking to be an obedient child. Although she was still a child, she had a pair of crystal clear eyes, which attracted people’s attention. Even the many visitors to the quiet Jingxin Monastery had taken notice of her.

Among them were those who recognized that they were the two daughters of the army general.

Moreover, the Eldest Miss Qin was the subject of many rumors recently, so the visitors who recognized her were especially curious about what the two sisters were discussing.

Did the rumor not say that the Elder Miss Qin set the Second Miss Qin up, so she could marry into a powerful and wealthy family in the capital city? Why did it appear that their relationship had been salvaged? Unless something else happened?

As Qin Wanru glanced at the passers-by, she could more or less guess what was on their mind. A smile formed on her lips as she waited patiently for Qin Yuru to continue her story.

It could be said that Qin Yuru’s reputation in Jiangzhou was ruined. It was not going to help any even if she tried to explain herself. It was pointless to put on a show to pretend that she had a good relationship with her younger sister because no one would believe, so it was not going to help her situation.

What did Qin Yuru want to do exactly? She looked around and rested her eyes on the rockery facing her!

“Little sister, do you know about the matter regarding Aunt Shui and Father?” asked Qin Yuru. Qin Wanru hesitated for a second, then moved closer to Qin Yuru and began whispering to Qin Yuru.

“Wasn’t it Mother who set up the incident involving Aunt Shui and Father?” Qin Wanru lifted eyes to look at Qin Yuru innocently, then continued, “I overheard this Grandma and Father talking about it and this was how I found out. Elder Sister, why did Mother do this? Does she not like Aunt Shui?”

Qin Yuru’s face turned pale as she looked at Qin Wanru’s innocent face. She did not see this coming. How could Qin Wanru pass judgment on Mother straight away?

“How could you say that of Mother, little sister?” said Qin Wanru as her face fell and she started to boil inside. She had tried to be ambiguous with her opening words, hoping to continue with some gossip regarding Shui Ruolan.

“But... these were the exact words of Father!” said Qin Wanru, pretending to look puzzled. She could clearly see Qin Yuru’s rage on her face.

Qin Yuru almost could not remain sitting there calmly. She glared at Qin Wanru as she thought that Qin Wanru to be a dim wit. She could not wait to deal with her after she settled Shui Ruolan.

"Father was... was afraid to make Grandma upset because she liked Aunt Shui all along. If Grandma found out that Aunt Shui was behind this, she would very sad, what's more, Grandma is getting old and is here to recuperate," said Qin Yuru, sighing, as she took up the teacup and took a sip, looking down.

She was looking down deliberately to hide her rage look of disdain in her eyes from Qin Wanru.

To Qin Yuru, Qin Wanru did not really belong in the General's Mansion, but adopted. She did not understand why she should win the favor of both Father and Grandma. If not for Mother, she would be begging in the streets. What right did Qin Wanru have to fight with her?

"But what happened that day... was indeed Mother's plan! She distracted Aunt Shui's maid and led Father into Aunt Shui's room, thereby ruining Aunt Shui's reputation! Unless Mother is planning to frame Aunt Shui again?" Qin Wanru said with righteous anger. Her face tensed as she tried to sound like she was fighting for justice for Shui Ruolan.

"You... you are talking nonsense!" cried Qin Yuru as the smile on her face disappeared. She put the teacup down on the table with force and made a loud thud.

"I'm not talking nonsense... Father did a thorough investigation. If you don't believe me, you can send men to clarify with Father," said Qin Wanru with a tinge of mockery flashing across her eyes, while she kept a straight face.

By now, Qin Wanru was fully aware of Qin Yuru's intention!

"You... why couldn't you get me? That incident had nothing to do with Mother. It wasn't Mother who set it up. Just think about who was going to benefit from this!" bellowed Qin Yuru in rage.

"Is wasn't Mother? But I heard Mother was going to let Father take Aunt Shui as a concubine. Why should Aunt Shui, such a wonderful person want to become a concubine to someone?" asked Qin Wanru innocently. She was a child after all, so it was alright for her to say somethings which Qin Yuru could not. Sounding adamant, Qin Wanru continued, "Don't you believe me, Elder Sister? Then let us send someone to ask Father!"

Qin Wanru would fight for Shui Ruolan to be rightfully married to her Father since Mrs. Qin tried to play tricks again.

"You... Wanru, you've changed, you've been brainwashed by Aunt Shui to say such things about Father and Mother," Qin Yuru suppressed her anger immediately and tried to wear a sad look on her face. She stood up and pretended to hold on to Qin Wanru and started to speak to her softly.

Qin Yuru's pretentious sweet-temperateness disgusted Qin Wanru. She was even able to suppress her anger and put on a front. This was what she loved to do in front of Qi Tianyu.

Behind the sweet and gentle facade was an evil, malicious person like a venomous snake, just as Mrs. Qin was like a poisonous scorpion.

"Looks like Elder Sister is unwilling to confront Father, yet you are trying to speak ambiguously. Was it because Mother had given you instructions to destroy Aunt Shui's reputation while we are here in

Jingxin Monastery?" questioned Qin Wanru, as she stood up suddenly, tearing away the veil between the two sisters.

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Chapter 59: The So-called "Kind-hearted" Eldest Miss Qin

"You..." stammered Qin Yuru, tightening her grip on her teacup.

"If there's nothing, Elder Sister, I'll make a move first. It's Aunt Shui's turn to rest. Grandma's health is deteriorating. If I'm not by her side, Aunt Shui would have to keep an eye on her. Aunt Shui had lost so much weight in the past few days, taking care of Grandma!" said Qin Wanru, shaking the dust of her sleeves and she got up to leave.

Qin Yuru's face turned ashen. Fortunately, she was hanging on to the last thread of rationality in her, otherwise, she would have hurled the teacup at Qin Wanru's face.

How dare this debased lass tried to imply that Qin Yuru had not been taking care of the sickly grandmother, claiming that only Qin Wanru herself and Shui Ruolan were the only the ones doing it.

"Elder Sister, I don't time to be idle, please excuse me!" Qin Wanru said, turning to leave before Qin Wanru could explain herself and Qing Yue quickly followed her.

Although chrysanthemum was a common flower, only the chrysanthemum tea given by Qi Tianyu was able to give off such a subtle fragrance. Moreover, this chrysanthemum was fresh. Qin Yuru had not even added these new flowers a few days ago when she was drinking tea.

Coupled with Qin Yuru's pretentious way of acting, Qin Wanru could tell that there was someone behind the rockery, and this person had to be Qi Tianyu!

By the time Qin Yuru grasped the situation, it was even too late for her to call out to Qin Wanru to stop her. She could only stare at Qin Wanru's back with eyes filled with hatred.

She hesitated for a while and leaned on the rockery. From the surface, it looked like she was just holding to her tea, thinking some deep thoughts.

In fact, she was blocking her mouth with the teacup in her hand, whispering to someone.

"Elder Brother Tianyu, see, I told you Qin Wanru was siding with Aunt Shui. Anytime Aunt Shui has Qin Wanru behind her back. Qin Wanru seemed had totally forgotten that it was Mother who raised her."

"Has sister Wanru turned out to be this kind of person?" said Qi Tianyu from behind the rockery, sounding a little doubtful and heartbroken. "What has become of her!"

"I don't know either. Perhaps Aunt Shui had said something to her. She is still a child after all, and wouldn't know how to judge for herself!" said Qin Yuru, her face looking as if she was saddened. She had to pretend to look like a good sister!

Qi Tianyu who was behind the rockery became quiet.

“Do you not believe what I say, Brother Tianyu?” asked Qin Yuru with tears in her eyes. She turned around slowly and look towards the rockery. She could vaguely see Qi Tianyu, clothed in a white coat, from this angle and was sure that he could see her too.

Qin Yuru had initially thought that by saying some specious words to Qin Wanru would make Qi Tianyu believe her story about Shui Ruolan, regardless of whether Qin Wanru understood her message. She would not imagine that Qin Wanru was so upfront with her comments and this had totally messed up her plan.

Fortunately, given her influence on Qi Tianyu, she was confident that the situation could be salvaged.

A light flashed across the eyes of Qi Tianyu, who was behind the rockery. He seemed to be hesitant. He had clearly heard the content of the conversation between the two sisters.

“Brother Tianyu, my younger sister was spouting nonsense, will you doubt my words just because of that? I... I was still hoping we could be together... I’ve convinced Mother about it, but even Mother was in a sticky situation herself! If Aunt Shui really marries Father, I... I don’t know what would happen!”

Qin Yuru took out a handkerchief with one hand and started to dab away her tears in a demure manner.

Although she was not wailing, her sniffing and choking on her quiet tears was definitely winning some sympathy.

Qi Tianyu sighed and tried to comfort her, saying, “Alright, stop crying. I believe what you say and I’ll help you however you want me to.”

Such words of comfort turned Qin Yuru’s crying face into a smiley one. She wiped away her tears and with a smile, she said, “Brother Qi, can you help me get a few ruffians to scare Aunt Shui, to shake her up a bit and say something to tint her reputation. That will do.”

Although she tried to make her plan sound mild and harmless, as if it was just to shake Shui Ruolan up a little, Qin Yuru knew it was rather difficult to control the extent of the damage, which was why she was not entirely satisfied with the plan.

“I can help you get the ruffians, but...” Qi Tianyu hesitated. He had met Shui Ruolan personally and had thought that she was a gentle, quiet lady. Was she really as malicious as Yuru described her to be?

Had Qin Wanru really been deceived by her?

If that were the case, this lady had to be sinister!

“Yuru, do you want to warn sister Wanru to be careful of Shui Ruolan?”

“Why do you mean, Brother Tianyu? Don’t you believe my words? Or are you concerned about Qin Wanru? If not for her, did we have to be separated? If not for her, why would my reputation be ruined? We would have been married by now!”

Drops of tear started rolling down Qin Yuru’s cheeks again. She tried raising her teacup to block Qi Tianyu’s view, so he would not see her cry, but to no avail.

"Alright, alright, I'll go look for some ruffians for you straight away," said Qi Tianyu, who could not bear to see Qin Yuru crumble with tears, and decided to give in to her.

"Please inform me once you manage to find the people. I will send someone over to have a look, lest they really hurt Aunt Shui. She was sincerely concerned about Grandma after all, and it looked like she truly wanted to take care of Grandma!" said Qin Yuru in an attempt to sound "kindhearted".

"You're too kind, Yuru! Shui Ruolan is obviously trying to impress your grandmother. Do be wary of her," said Qi Tianyu as his doubts were greatly reduced. Although both Mother and younger sister had said bad things about Qin Yuru, Qin Yuru did not say anything bad about them. She even confessed that the incident the other day was a result of Mrs. Qin's anger.

She even added that if not for the fear of offending Mother and Qin Wanru, she would have secretly come to see Qin Wanru long ago.

To Qi Tianyu, Yuru remained the gentle and kindhearted girl in his impression. He could not bear to see her getting all upset.

On the other hand, Qin Yuru could see that Qi Tianyu had been taken in by her words. She was secretly feeling the satisfaction in her heart, having achieved her objective. However, she continued to look docile and kind when she said, "Brother Tianyu, Aunt Shui is after all Father's cousin even if she was devious. All we should do was to shake her up a little. We should not hurt her in any way!" Qin Yuru acted to be considerate towards Shui Ruolan.

"Alright, be careful then. I'll go look for the people you need and come to inform you once it's settled!" said Qi Tianyu, nodding.

"Be careful, Brother Tianyu!" said Qin Yuru coyly.

Qi Tianyu nodded and walked away from the rockery which was right before a wall. He exited from a gateway which the closest, while checking left and right to make sure that no one saw him.

He had come up the hills in response to Qin Yuru's invitation. Qin Yuru had told him that she was going to show him Shui Ruolan's true colors and that this could determine if Father had been set up by Shui Ruolan. With his curiosity aroused, Qi Tianyu came to her immediately.

From the words of Qin Wanru, it did not seem that she had anything bad to say about Shui Ruolan. She must have been deceived by Shui Ruolan. It was not difficult to make an eleven-year-old girl believe her after all.

While Qi Tianyu hurried away to carry out what he promised Qin Yuru, he failed to notice a petite figure behind a tree, who had been watching from her vantage point behind the tree. This clever petite figure was none other than Qing Yue, who had been popping her head in and out of her hiding place.

"Miss, I indeed saw First Young Master of the Qi Family! He had emerged from the rockery. No wonder Elder Miss Qin kept trying to say vicious words about Miss Shui. Apparently, she wanted First Young Master of the Qi Family to hear her," reported Qing Yue to Qin Wanru.

At this moment, Qin Wanru was kneeling in the Buddha Hall piously with her hands clasped together.

In fact, she did not use to believe in fate. It was only after she was reborn that she started believing in destiny.

"Did you hear what they were saying?" Qin Wanru asked, not surprised by Qi Tianyu's abrupt appearance.

Male patrons did not visit Jingxin Monastery alone, Qi Tianyu was no doubt accompanied by Qi Rongzhi on this trip!

"I didn't manage to hear clearly since I was quite far away," said Qing Yue, shaking her head. Qin Wanru had left Qing Yue behind when she left the pavilion.

"Have Aunt Shui take care of Grandma for a while, and say that I'm ill." Qin Wanru said after pondering for a moment. She already had the answer. She thought it was very possible that they were targeting Shui Ruolan because the malicious words used to describe Shui Ruolan were meant for Qi Tianyu.

"Given Aunt Shui's character, she will definitely come to see me if she knows I'm unwell. Since Qin Yuru intends to harm Aunt Shui, let's make the first move, lest things go out of control for us!" said Qin Wanru, opening her eyes and curling her lips at the corners as she sat cross-legged on the futon.

The Buddha hall was relatively small and there were no other visitors since Qin Wanru came to kneel down here.

"Are you thinking to make Miss Shui come to you now, so if Elder Miss Qin was plotting something against her, this would become a good opportunity?" said Qing Yue as she realized Qin Wanru's intention.

"Not only that!" cried Qin Wanru, shaking her head. Since Qin Yuru had set it in her heart to harm Shui Ruolan, there was no way she would let her off easily.

Instead of stopping this from happening, Qin Wanru was going to provide Qin Yuru the chance to work her plan.

"Watch Qin Yuru carefully. Apart from Mei Xue, she had also brought along another old maid. Just watch that old maid closely to see who she was meeting up with," said Qin Wanru, batting her eye lashes.

When they first arrived at Jingxin Monastery, Old Grandma had the most maids accompanying her. The rest, including Qin Wanru each, brought along their personal maid and another older maid who handled all the miscellaneous matters for their respective mistresses.

Since these maids are personal maids, they would be following their mistresses closely. If anything happened to them, their respective mistresses would be implicated. The old maids, however, were regular servants, unlike the nannies at home. If anything happened to them, the mistresses whom they serve would not be responsible. Moreover, these old maids were much older, more experienced and tactful. The younger personal maids were no match to them.

In light of this, it would be less complicated to make the old maids do the work rather than using the personal maids.

"Yes, I get it!" said Qing Yue who immediately understood Qin Wanru's intentions.

When Shui Ruolan learned that Qin Wanru had fallen ill, she made time especially to pay her a visit. When she saw that Qin Wanru was merely looking a little frail, she felt less worried.

"Aunt Shui, please take care of Grandmother these few days on my behalf. When I've recovered, I will make it up to you," said Qin Wanru coyly and she held on to Shui Ruolan's hand.

"You're only a child, so you don't really need to be responsible. Rest assured, Wanru, Aunt Shui will take good care of your grandmother," said Shui Ruolan with a smile as she gently patted Qin Wanru on her head.

"You're the greatest, Aunt Shui!" cried Qin Wanru coyly. It was only when she was with Aunt Shui that she felt like a child being pampered.

"Oh my child!" cried Shui Ruolan as she embraced Qin Wanru and patted her head. She had this tender feeling towards this child and she thought Qin Wanru was an obedient, sensible, as well as a filial child.

"Did you meet anyone on your way here just now, Aunt Shui?" asked Qin Wanru when she spotted a fragrant sachet hanging at Shui Ruolan's waist. It was the only accessory Shui Ruolan was wearing and it was a really beautiful sachet she sewed for herself. Shui Ruolan was very skillful in needlework. She did sewing regularly whenever she had some quiet time to herself.

She would also give Qin Wanru some of her sewings as gifts.

"I didn't bump into anyone. Why?" said Shui Ruolan with a smile.

"I'm just worried you're hurt by someone bumping into you!" replied Qin Wanru as she remained in Shui Ruolan's arms and reached out to her sachet and quietly undo it from her waist. Qin Wanru made sure she was very gentle and careful so that Shui Ruolan was not aware that her sachet had been taken away.

This move may not be of any use after all, but the sachet was an easy thing for people to make use of to bring harm. Qin Wanru was just being careful.

Medical Princess

Chapter 60: Listening While Hiding Behind the Tree, Someone Was Even More Smart

Qin Rongzhi had accompanied Qi Tianyu to Jingxin Monastery.

Initially, she was unwilling to come along but was eventually persuaded by Qi Tianyu's sweet talking, who promised her a good time in Jingxin Monastery.

She had totally embarrassed herself in the matter concerning Qin Yuru and her. Unpleasant rumors about her were spreading like wildfire and her mother had grounded her so much so that she was not supposed to leave her house, not to mention going to the General's Mansion.

After hearing Qi Tianyu's words, promising her that he was able to put a good word for her Mother, Qi Rongzhi finally agreed to accompany Qi Tianyu to Jingxin Monastery.

Qi Rongzhi had totally no interest in matters concerning Buddha worship. Although she was at this moment in a Buddhist Hall, she was merely wondering around. She had no idea where Qi Tianyu had gone. They were separated the moment they arrived at Jingxin Monastery and by this time, Qi Rongzhi was overcome by boredom.

She went around the Buddha Hall and finally came out of it. She did not want to enter it ever again, so she went round to the back hills of Jingxin Monastery.

The back hills in Jingxin Monastery was a scenic place. Almost everyone who visited Jingxin Monastery would go there to enjoy its scenery. Qi Rongzhi was not worried about her elder brother because this was not the first time they visited Jingxin Monastery. One thing she was sure was that he would not leave without her. He probably met someone and started talking. She supposed he would come to look for her later on.

The back hills of Jingxin Monastery extended into some woods and although the area beyond the woods belonged to Jingxin Monastery, it was beyond its boundary.

The pilgrims usually did not go beyond the forest where there were a few private properties. The lady pilgrims who stayed at Jingxin Monastery did not go beyond the woods to the private houses, lest they bump into outsiders.

The trees in the woods were rather dense, but a small cobbled path ran through it. Along the path were a few octagonal pavilions. There were also chrysanthemum flowers blooming at the moment, which added to the color and relaxed feel to the woods.

"Where's Elder Miss Qin? Funny, didn't Elder Miss Qin said she was going to look for Miss Shui? We don't see her anywhere!" a voice broke the silence in the woods, but Qi Rongzhi could not be bothered but continued to walk on. However, she lifted her foot and stopped in her tracks immediately.

"I have no idea where Elder Miss Qin had gone, and I thought I saw First Young Master of the Qi Family. Could Elder Miss Qin have gone to meet him?" another maid said.

"Did you see wrongly?" said the first maid, sounding astonished.

Qi Rongzhi had stopped in her tracks. She looked towards the trees ahead of her where she spotted a bush and some trees. She could vaguely make out that there were two maids dressed in the same clothes as the maids in the General's Mansion standing there.

It was no wonder that Elder Brother was so keen to bring her here for some quiet time. It was really because Qin Yuru was here. Qi Rongzhi raised her eyebrows as she tried hard to suppress the rising fury in her.

"I couldn't have seen wrongly. Even if I did, there had to be someone. The young master of the Qis was hiding behind the rockery and Elder Miss Qin was standing right beside the rockery. From where I was standing at that time, I could see that Young Master Qin was wearing a beautiful long robe, which looked like the once Elder Miss Qin made for him. It must be him!"

The other maid whispered.

However, no matter how soft the whisper was, it sounded loud and clear to Qi Rongzhi because of the echos through the hollows between the trees in the woods. This made Qi Rongzhi so furious that her face drained of its colors. She was just suspecting something, but when the maids accurately described how Qi Tianyu was dressed in a white robe, she was certain they were talking about her brother.

Earlier on, after Qin Yuru and Qi Tianyu were engaged, Qin Yuru indeed made Qi Tianyu a set of clothes. This set of clothes were even delivered through Qi Rongzhi's hands to Qi Tianyu. It was no wonder her brother was wearing these clothes today. They looked so familiar because they were made and given by Qin Yuru.

After pondering about the cause and effect, Qi Rongzhi now understood everything. Her elder brother wanted to meet Qin Yuru and had made use of her as an escort. Thinking about her animosity with Qin Yuru, Qi Rongzhi began gnashing her teeth. She was not going to let Qin Yuru off this time.

Not only did Qin Yuru ruin her reputation and as a result, her marriage arrangement was canceled, but the entire Jiangzhou was also spreading unpleasant rumors about her. Qin Yuru was the culprit who caused all these troubles for her.

Suddenly, she could hear that the two maids were walking towards her. She quickly left the path with her maid to hide behind a big tree. She wanted to gather more news about Qin Yuru by continuing to eavesdrop.

"I know Elder Miss Qin went to meet the First Young Master of the Qi Family, but why did she ask Miss Shui to come out to meet her?"

"Who knows? She must be plotting something against her. This is a quiet and secluded place. If anything happened, Elder Miss Qin could conveniently push the blame to other people. Moreover, she would have evidence to show that she wasn't present at that time. As long as she could free herself from blame, she doesn't care what happens to others!"

"Elder Miss Qin is such a... scheming character!"

"That's so true! How, look at how that intelligent Miss Qi, who eventually also fell into Elder Miss Qin's snares. Although Elder Miss Qin's reputation was destroyed, so did Miss Qi's. Nowadays, Elder Miss Qin and Miss Qi's names are so notorious in Jiangzhou Prefecture."

Hearing those words, Qi Rongzhi's face turned green. She twisted her handkerchief and hand and balled it up. To her, things were blown out of proportion because of Qin Yuru and now her reputation was totally ruined.

She was certain that Qin Yuru was behind all these, what a debased girl!

Without turning away from the tree, her head was literally in contact with the tree bark. Not caring about her image, she made sure she clearly heard Qin Yuru's plot. How dare Qin Yuru use her brother as her witness. Would she then become a suspect if she hindered him from being a witness?

She was going crazy with rage.

However, while Qi Rongzhi continued to listen on, the two maids had made a turn before they reached the tree where she was hiding and they walked further away while they continued to whisper.

"Let's go. It's so quiet here that it's making me nervous."

"Alright, let's go!" ...

The two maids continued gossiping as they walked further away.

After the maids left, Qi Rongzhi came out from behind the tree, pulling a long face and staring coldly at the backs of those two maids.

“Miss... let’s go back!” said Chun Xi, her maid, as she tugged Qi Rongzhi’s sleeve gently and looked around nervously.

Having overheard the conversation of the two maids from Ningyuan Army General’s Mansion, she was beginning to be afraid.

“Let’s go!” said Qi Rongzhi coldly as she turned to leave. “In a while, go and follow closely behind Big Brother’s sidekick, and ask him what are the plans for today. Find out from him if Big Brother had asked him to do anything. Threaten to beat him to death if he refuses to tell the truth. If Big Brother tries to side him and protect him, you can threaten to tell on Big Brother regarding him secretly meeting up with Qin Yuru. Let’s see who is able to protect who by then?”

Qi Rongzhi was certain that Qin Yuru was up to something no good, but she would not allow that to happen! On one hand, she was not letting go of her engagement to the son from the powerful family in the capital city, on the other, she was also hanging on to her Big Brother. How could Elder Brother still believe her words? The more Qi Rongzhi thought about it, the more furious she was.

Qin Yuru, you just watch!

Frightened by the malice in Qi Rongzhi’s voice, Chunxi quickly replied to her saying, “Yes, Miss, I’ll go in a while.”

Shui Ruolan did not go straight to Old Madam Qin’s room after coming out from Qin Wanru’s room. Before she let, Old Madam Qin had repeated instructed her to go to worship the Buddha, so she did not need to rush back to her. Compared to the others who came to Jingxin Monastery, Shui Ruolan was about the most pious in worshipping the Buddha.

Qin Wanru and also repeated asked Shui Ruolan to pray to Buddha, believing that Buddha would listen and answer the prayer of the most pious Shui Ruolan. Perhaps Grandma had been recuperating so well because Buddha had been gracious to her.

After listening to what Qin Wanru said, Shui Ruolan pondered for a while and decided that she did not need to rush back to Old Grandma. She headed towards the closest Buddha hall, bringing Qionghua with her.

She had made a vow earlier on, and she wanted to go and fulfill the vow, given that Old Grandma was indeed getting much better.

Shui Ruolan was a very devout Buddhist, so she had been to almost all the Buddha Halls there were in Jingxin Monastery, unlike most pilgrims who would pray and tour the place at the same time. In fact, for many of them, they were more interested in touring Jingxin Monastery than the worship of Buddha itself.

“Aiya!” Shui Ruolan had just stood up from her worship in the Buddha hall and was about to leave when someone hurrying out of the hall bumped into Shui Ruolan. He glared at her for a moment and hurried out. Qionghua wanted to say something to that person because he did not seem to realize that he had bumped into someone.

“Gosh! Why didn’t you apologize when you bumped into someone!” cried Qionghua, pointing towards the person.

Shui Ruolan held on to Qionghua as she steadied herself. She turned to look at the person who bumped into her. She wondered whose sidekick that was, who did not know how to behave.

“Forget it, Qionghua!” said Shui Ruolan, holding on to Qionghua’s hand. Because of the commotion, people started to turn to look in their direction. At this moment, they were at the main hall in Jingxin Monastery, which was also the largest hall of all, so there were many pilgrims there. It was really not a big deal to bump into someone since it was so crowded.

“Miss, it looked like this man had collided into you on purpose!” said Qionghua with her head bowed, and with a mad tone.

“It’s alright, there’s no need to get angry over this kind of people!” said Shui Ruolan shaking her head and smiling. She looked around to see which direction she ought to go, and headed towards another Buddha Hall with Qionghua.

Although Qionghua was still a little frustrated, there were just too many people and it was difficult to find the person who collided into Shui Ruolan. Moreover, she did not even manage to see the person’s face. She could only follow Shui Ruolan and left quietly.

After they left the place, Qi Tianyu’s sidekick appeared on the path leading out of the main Buddha hall. He was fiddling with the fragrant sachet which he pick-pocketed from Miss Shui in his hands. Stealing the fragrant sachet was much easier than stealing earrings or necklaces a person was wearing. After all, earrings and necklaces were in direct contact with a person’s skin.

The First Young Master Qi was unable to let go of his feeling for Elder Miss Qin. His sidekick had the mindset that if he did a favor for Elder Miss Qin, it was as good as doing his young master a favor. He was very happy with himself for being able to run errands for Elder Miss Qin, since his young master was especially concerned about Elder Miss Qin’s feelings. At the same time, his master was a generous man and would surely reward him richly.

The sidekick was so satisfied with himself that he let out a chuckle.

However, in the next moment, the smile of his face froze. The path ahead of him was blocked by his young mistress. Qi Rongzhi was glaring fiercely at him while she stood in the middle of the path and panic filled his heart. He quickly hid the fragrance sachet behind him. Stealing the fragrant sachet had been a task Qi Yuru asked him to do and even Qi Tianyu was not aware of it.

“How dare you not come over to greet your mistress!” said Chunxi, stepping forward from behind Qi Rongzhi.