

Medical Princess 591

Chapter 591 Each Has Her/His Own Plan

"First Miss..." Qiu Yu coughed again in a low voice, fixed his eyes on Shao Yanru with deep affection, and said, "You are both talented and beautiful, kind and gentle. I'm wondering if... I could..."

"Your Excellency, since I've told you everything I know, I'll leave with Shuqi now!" Shao Yanru interrupted Qiu Yu, suddenly took Shuqi's hand, turned around, and was about to leave.

"First Miss, please wait for a moment!" Qiu Yu said. How could he let go of such a good opportunity? He took two steps in a hurry and stopped in front of Shao Yanru. For fear that he couldn't finish his words, he said immediately without hesitation, "First Miss, if I go to your mansion to ask to marry you..."

"Your Excellency, please mind your words!" Shao Yanru interrupted him, "As a child from an aristocratic family, you should know what you should and shouldn't say. If you say something you shouldn't say, you may even tarnish a Miss's reputation!"

"First Miss, please forgive me. I have to say it. I'm going back in a few days. If I don't figure out how you feel for me, how dare I go to your mansion to ask to marry you? First Miss, please tell me clearly. If you like Commandery Prince Qing, I have nothing to say and will no longer disturb you. No one else will know what you tell me today!"

Qiu Yu said anxiously. Despite his red face, he blurted it out.

He finished his words at once, Shao Yanru couldn't interrupt him even if she wanted to.

"Your Excellency, I feel nothing for both Commandery Prince Qing and you. Please behave yourself!" Shao Yanru took a step back, lowered her head, and said with dignity.

Since Qiu Yu had said that, she had no choice but to answer. At this moment, she couldn't leave without giving a definite answer.

She obviously refused him by saying that. Although Qiu Yu had thought about being refused before, when hearing her words actually, he was heart-broken, took a step back, staggered, stared at Shao Yanru with bitterness, and said, "I know I can't compare with Commandery Prince Qing. I'm not a member of the royal family, and even not the legitimate eldest son of my father, which makes it impossible for me to inherit the title of nobility. But I will strive for a brighter future. If you... I will definitely give you the best life I can offer!"

These words had been buried deep in his heart, and he had to speak them out at the moment, otherwise, he would feel uncomfortable!

"Your Excellency..." Shao Yanru blushed and said angrily.

"First Miss, I don't blame you for choosing Commandery Prince Qing. After all, he is a descendant of the late emperor as well as a member of the royal family. He's so lucky to have you. When we were in the maple forest, I could see the affection between you two. If I hadn't appeared at that time, you two would have been able to have a walk together. My... showing up there was just an accident!"

Qiu Yu lowered his head and said in a low voice without looking at Shao Yanru.

At this moment, he was completely immersed in the pain of being rejected by Shao Yanru, so some trivial things, that were not enough to show anything, were magnified infinitely. He felt that he was so stupid at that time. He could clearly tell the affection between them, but he joined them in the visit to enjoy the scenery. Moreover, thinking of Shao Yanru's reluctance when she met him, he understood everything at the moment.

He turned around and walked out of the room slowly with unsteady steps. It turned out to be an illusion!

"Your Excellency!" There came Shao Yanru's angry voice from behind, but he turned a deaf ear and continued walking forward. He only felt frustrated. The First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion, the first beauty in the capital city, was indeed a dream out of his reach.

"Your Excellency, I feel nothing for Commandery Prince Qing!" Shao Yanru followed Qiu Yu a few steps and said to him angrily.

Qiu Yu stopped and slowly turned around. With the sad look on his face replaced by a surprised look, he turned around suddenly, grabbed Shao Yanru's hand, and said excitedly, "First Miss, you say that you don't like Commandery Prince Qing. So you like..."

He couldn't even finish his words at the moment because of excitement.

Seeing that things didn't go well, Shuqi hurried over and pulled Shao Yanru out, while saying angrily, "Your Excellency, if you are a decent child, don't say anything like that. My master can't decide her fate. You will ruin her reputation if you meet her in private again. Do you really want to force her to commit suicide?"

As Shuqi said, she had taken Shao Yanru out of the hall.

Qiu Yu followed them and intended to chase after them, but he finally stopped when hearing Shuqi's words, stretched out his hand, and then put it down.

Shao Yanru and Shuqi walked to the door and then disappeared. He could tell that they had left based on their footsteps.

Qiu Yu stood there quietly and then breathed a sigh of relief. Anyway, First Miss Shao did not say that she liked Chu Qing and blamed him because of his improper words. Could it be that the First Miss Shao had feelings for him but couldn't say it under the stress of ethics? In this case, he still had a chance.

Since Shao Yanru's maid asked him for a favor, he would naturally release the two old maids. Besides, the Ministry of Justice was still investigating the case of the Baiyun Taoist Temple. Although he was not assigned to investigate the case, he could volunteer to help, and Wen Xichi would definitely agree. Joining the investigation into such a case related to Duke Xing's Mansion, he still had the chance to meet the First Miss Shao.

Perhaps she would fall in love with him after meeting him a few more times.

Thinking of this, Qiu Yu felt relieved as if the stone in his heart had fallen. He, who looked much better, turned around, walked to the altar, blew out the lamp, and then turned around and strode away.

Hearing him go away, Shao Wanru and Yujie, who had hidden at the corner for a long time, respectively let out a sigh of relief.

"Miss, does the First Miss like him or not?" Yujie said in a low voice, but her words could still be heard clearly in the dark main hall.

"I don't know either. I can't tell!" Shao Wanru said hesitantly.

"I think the First Miss likes both of them!" Yujie said in an unrestrained voice, which made her sound like a mannerless maid while reaching out to help Shao Wanru get up.

"Don't talk nonsense!" Shao Wanru scolded her.

"I'm not talking nonsense. It's true. When we were in the maple forest, the First Miss went to enjoy the scenery with Commandery Prince Qing and Lord Qiu cheerfully and left you in the pavilion alone for a rest. Doesn't she like both of them?"

Yujie said, unconvinced.

"Even so, you can't say that. How can a girl like two men at the same time!" Shao Wanru said, reaching out to pat Yujie's hand, "If you talk nonsense again, I will send you back to the mansion!"

"Okay, okay, Miss, I don't dare to say it again. I just made a guess! First Miss is so beautiful and has exceeded the age of getting engaged. Naturally, she has a lot of admirers. But why hasn't she got engaged? Could it be that she hasn't picked a perfect match during all this time?" Yujie had helped Shao Wanru walk to the door, but she kept guessing wildly while begging for forgiveness. It could be seen that she was a favored little maid.

Shao Wanru and Yujie also slowly disappeared behind the door of the hall.

The first man in black moved flashed out of the main hall and chased after them.

After he left, the second man in black also flashed away, but headed towards another direction and went straight to the outside of the Yuhui Nunnery instead of following the first man in black. His task was to protect the Fifth Miss Shao in the hall. Since nothing had happened in the hall, he had accomplished his task!

After returning to her courtyard, Shao Wanru saw Shao Yanru and Shuqi in the corridor.

"Where did you go, Fifth Sister?" Shao Yanru and Shuqi acted as if they had been standing in the corridor and chatting. Seeing Shao Wanru enter the courtyard, Shao Yanru walked up to Shao Wanru and asked with a smile when she got close.

As she asked, she looked at Shao Wanru's injured foot. Even with most of her body leaning against Yujie, Shao Wanru still walked with difficulty.

"I just went out for a walk after dinner!" Shao Wanru said with a faint smile while intending to get in with Yujie's help. She seemed to be unwilling to talk to Shao Yanru.

"Fifth Sister, since you've sprained your ankle, how can you walk around? I instructed Shuqi to ask an imperial physician to come here when she went down the mountain. He should be able to come up the

mountain tomorrow and have a look at your foot. If you really get hurt, it will be terrible!" Shao Yanru said with a smile, looking concerned and thoughtful.

"Big Sister, I don't need it!" Shao Wanru said with a cold face, "I've almost recovered!"

"How can you almost recover in just a day? Sister, you can go to sleep now. It's not easy to ask an imperial physician to come here. Since today Shuqi went to ask him to come, he will probably come tomorrow with a female physician. It will be more convenient for him to treat your injury!" Shao Yanru looked at Shao Wanru's injured foot and said with an increasingly amiable smile.

She looked as if she really cared about Shao Wanru.

After that, she turned around and returned to her main room with Shuqi, leaving Shao Wanru standing at the door of the silence room with an unhappy look.

"Miss, let's go inside and go to sleep!" Yujie supported Shao Wanru and said.

Shao Wanru nodded, took a deep breath in anger, and then walked into the silence room with Yujie's help.

In the yard, Qing'er looked out at the door and said to herself, "It has been so late now. Where did the two Misses go? They have probably gone to sleep now. I'm so sleepy!"

After that, she yawned, closed the door, put down the broom on one side, and turned into a wing room in the corner.

The lights in the courtyard went out one by one. It seemed that all of them had gone to sleep.

Seeing the dark courtyard, the man in black hiding outside knew that he could get no other information, so he disappeared from the roof in a flash. He should leave the Yuhui Nunnery and go down the mountain to report what he saw tonight to his master.

He didn't consider these serious. Nevertheless, his master had always analyzed a lot of things. If he did not report in detail and something went wrong later, he would get into trouble. Besides, wasn't it said that the Fifth Miss would have a private meeting with a man today? Why did the First Miss seem to be the one having a private meeting?

But if it was the First Miss who met a man in private? The secret guard was horrified and felt that he should stop thinking about it. He should not think about this kind of thing as a secret guard.

He came out of the Yuhui Nunnery, found the horse tied in the dark, climbed on the horse, and then went down the mountain in a hurry to another yard of his master's. His master was not in the capital city today. His master could not return to the capital at this time, because the city gate was closed now.

In Chu Liuyue's courtyard, after hearing the secret guard's detailed narration, Chu Liuyue became sullen with coldness in his eyes!

Could it be possible that Shao Yanru really had other thoughts?

Chapter 592 The Imperial Physician Comes...

The imperial physician arrived at about noon the next day, followed by Nanny Sheng, the old maid serving Madam of Duke Xing, as well as a female physician brought by the imperial physician.

Knowing that he was going to treat Rui'an Great Elder Princess's granddaughter, Imperial Physician Qu specially brought a female physician from the imperial palace.

In fact, female physicians were sent to the Imperial Institute of Medicine to learn medical skills from imperial physicians and serve imperial physicians when they were very young.

Not many female physicians could learn medical skills well, but their existence made the diagnosis and treatment much more convenient. In the imperial palace, almost all the patients of the Imperial Institute of Medicine were imperial concubines. Some diseases couldn't be diagnosed without a look at the patient, and that was the reason for female physicians' existence.

Nanny Sheng went to meet Shao Yanru first and then went to Shao Wanru's silence room accompanied by Shao Yanru. But when they walked to the door, they were stopped by Yujie and Qu Le.

"First Miss, my master is still copying the Buddhist scriptures and can't be disturbed at the moment!" After stepping forward to bow to Shao Yanru, Yujie said.

Shao Yanru frowned and said with a hint of displeasure despite her soft voice, "Didn't I tell your master yesterday that I've asked an imperial physician to have a look at her foot today? Why is she copying the Buddhist scriptures now?"

"My master has begun since the morning and told us not to disturb her. First Miss, please wait a moment!" Qu Le also stepped forward to bow to Shao Yanru and then said with embarrassment.

Shao Wanru had such a habit of not allowing anyone to disturb her when she was reciting or copying the Buddhist scriptures. The two maids as well as Shao Yanru knew it.

Was Shao Wanru worried that the imperial physician would find out that she actually didn't sprain her ankle?

Shao Yanru sneered in her heart, but didn't show any anger and said to Imperial Physician Qu behind her, "Imperial Physician Qu, please go to my place for a rest. I happen to have a few questions about medical skills to ask you!"

Imperial Physician Qu looked at the closed door of the silence room and then looked at Shao Yanru, who was so polite and tactful that she mentioned the problems about medical skills in order to avoid embarrassment, thinking that the two Misses from Duke Xing's Mansion were so different.

One of them was so arrogant that she even refused to meet the imperial physician from the imperial palace, while the other one was kind and decent enough to preserve everyone's dignity. As expected, the First Miss Shao deserved her reputation in the capital city.

A group of people sat in Shao Yanru's main room and waited.

Although they came for Shao Wanru, Shao Yanru was very polite. She asked Nanny Sheng to send her greetings to the elders in Duke Xing's Mansion and then asked about her siblings and cousins. Hearing that everyone was doing well, she showed an increasingly gentle smile.

After that, she said to Imperial Physician Qu with a smile, "My Fifth Sister sprained her ankle yesterday. I don't know how her injury is, and I'm really worried, so I have to trouble you to come here. If you can cure her injury, I'll present a grand reward!"

"How did the Fifth Miss sprain her ankle?" Imperial Physician Qu asked with a smile.

"She said that she accidentally sprained her ankle, but I didn't see how it happened. Two old maids, who quarreled and fought with each other yesterday, accidentally hurt my Fifth Sister. At that time, my Fifth Sister was very angry, and the officials of the Ministry of Justice happened to be there, so she specially asked them to take the two old maids back for interrogation." Shao Yanru told him what had happened yesterday with a smile.

Of course, she didn't mention anything about Qiu Yu and Chu Qing!

Imperial Physician Qu frowned and had a worse impression of the Fifth Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion. He could see her character from her sending two passers-by to the Ministry of Justice for a minor injury.

"First Miss, you didn't see the Fifth Miss's foot? She has been injured for a day. I'm worried that her injury will be worse." Nanny Sheng said with concern.

"Don't worry, Nanny. It's nothing serious. The Fifth Miss could have a walk and enjoy the scenery soon after spraining her ankle. Moreover, she went out for another walk last night and even came back later than my master!" Shuqi spoke her mind.

"Stop talking nonsense. My Fifth Sister just went out for a walk after dinner because she was bored!" Shao Yanru scolded her in a low voice.

"Yes, First Miss. I'm wrong!" Shuqi lowered her head and said in an aggrieved tone.

Hearing their conversation, Imperial Physician Qu had a worse impression of the Fifth Miss, who was even more arrogant and wayward than the favored imperial concubines in the imperial palace.

She could have a walk around more than once after spraining her ankle. It seemed that she wasn't seriously injured or she was not injured at all. Imperial Physician Qu suddenly felt that he came here in vain because the Fifth Miss Shao just feigned her injury.

This kind of thing had happened a lot in the imperial palace!

The ladies in the imperial palace did this to strive for the emperor's favor, but he didn't know why the Fifth Miss Shao did this. Could she do this in order to punish the two innocent old maids? If that would be the case, she was way too narrow-minded! He even considered her a little vicious!

"Imperial Physician Qu, just ignore my maid's nonsense. My Fifth Sister refused to show me her injury, probably because she's not close to me. My Fifth Sister has stayed in the Yuhui Nunnery these years, so she's not very close to other members of our mansion. The reason why I specially come up the mountain to accompany her is that I'm afraid that she will remain aloof from other members of our mansion after returning to our mansion later!"

Shao Yanru explained with a smile and looked sincere. Hearing her words, Imperial Physician Qu nodded repeatedly and thought the First Miss Shao deserved the reputation as a Miss endowed with both beauty and talent. She was so kind and considerate.

Seeing Imperial Physician Qu nod repeatedly, Shao Yanru felt complacent and picked up the teacup to cover the sneer on her face.

No matter how ravishing Shao Wanru was, it was useless! The royal family wouldn't think highly of a vicious Miss, who had always acted in an affected way and stirred up trouble.

As an imperial physician highly valued by the Emperor, Imperial Physician Qu was able to say something in front of the Emperor. She just needed to make what Shao Wanru had done known to the royal family rather than to make it known to many people.

In this case, it would be impossible for Shao Wanru to marry Prince Yue or Prince Zhou! Or even if Shao Wanru intended to marry into the royal family, she could only marry Commandery Prince Qing, who was not favored and isolated.

In fact, she expected to make Shao Wanru marry Commandery Prince Qing as a humble concubine. This was an important reason why she wanted to make Shao Wanru and Chu Qing fall in love with each other.

As a Miss, who had always stayed in the boudoir and seldom met a man, although Shao Wanru had some tactics, she would be deceived easily by a handsome man, who had an affection for her. As long as Shao Wanru fell in love with Chu Qing, she could make a lot of follow-up plans.

Thinking of this, she wondered if Shao Wanru had done as she expected yesterday. She waited in the corridor yesterday with the intention of hearing the news that Shao Wanru was caught meeting Chu Qing in secret. However, she got no news after returning. Could it be that although Shao Wanru went out, she didn't meet Chu Qing and only instructed her maid to deliver a note to him?

If that were the case, it was good as well. Since Chu Qing happened to have some feelings for her, she would definitely persuade Chu Qing to seduce Shao Wanru. People didn't think highly of Chu Qing's title of nobility. If Shao Wanru married him as a concubine, she could even persuade Chu Qing to send Shao Wanru away.

A concubine was supposed to be a plaything, and Chu Qing seemed to be after something. If she promised him great benefits, it would be a piece of cake to persuade him to give away a concubine to someone else!

She would never let Shao Wanru live well!

At the first sight of Shao Wanru, she knew that Shao Wanru was her opponent. Shao Wanru's gorgeous look was destined to bring disaster to others. She decided to make Shao Wanru lose the advantage to compete with her before Shao Wanru went down the mountain and end all these as soon as possible!

She didn't care about making it significant but was just afraid that it was not significant enough...

She put down the teacup in her hand, wiped the corners of her mouth gently, and smiled slightly. When she was about to speak, she saw someone coming from the door.

"First Miss, my master has finished her work. Please come over!" Yujie suddenly appeared at the door, bowed deeply to Shao Yanru, and said.

"Okay, Imperial Physician Qu, please follow me!" Shao Yanru said with a gentle look. She stood up first without getting angry at Shao Wanru for making her wait a little longer.

She led a group of people to the door of the silence room, where Qu Le had been waiting. Seeing them come over, she made way for them after bowing.

Shao Yanru got in the room with Imperial Physician Qu. The huge screen was unfolded and divided the silence room into two parts.

"Big Sister, forgive me for being unable to get up because of my injury!" There came a girl's gentle and pleasant voice, which was like a stream of flowing water across everyone's mind, from behind the screen.

Imperial Physician Qu looked towards the screen in astonishment. Although he didn't see the Fifth Miss Shao, he could tell from her voice that she should be a rare beauty. What was more, she didn't sound like that kind of girl, who acted arrogantly on purpose.

"Fifth Sister, never mind. Imperial Physician Qu is the best at treating external injuries in the Imperial Institute of Medicine. I sent someone down the mountain yesterday to tell my father to ask him to come here. I'm wondering if it's convenient to show your wound to the female physician brought by Imperial Physician Qu?" Shao Yanru got in the area behind the screen and said softly to Shao Wanru, who was lying on the couch, with a magnanimous smile.

She said in an extremely polite tone and preserved everyone's dignity. No one could find fault with her.

Shao Wanru showed a slight smile on her face but remained indifferent in her heart. The First Miss Shao, who always behaved perfectly whenever she was in front of others, indeed deserved the reputation as a Miss endowed with both beauty and talent.

"Big Sister, I'm not seriously injured. Just leave it at that!" Shao Wanru shook her head, retracted her foot, and refused euphemistically after touching it.

"Oh, how can you refuse to show your injury to the physician since you are injured? It has been a day since you sprained your ankle yesterday. I didn't sleep well last night, because I kept thinking about your injury. Since the imperial physician has taken the trouble to come here, you can't let him come in vain." Shao Yanru said, "Fifth Sister, you can't hide your sickness for fear of treatment!"

"But I've had it examined by Huiding Nun yesterday, so I don't need to have it examined again today!" Shao Wanru said in a weak voice.

"Huiding Nun just knew a little about medical skills. How could she make a proper diagnosis?" Shao Yanru said in disapproval. When she was on the mountain, Huiding Nun was already in the Yuhui Nunnery. At that time, Huiding Nun was not Mingqiu Nun's disciple and could only treat the nuns in the Yuhui Nunnery for some minor diseases such as a headache and a fever.

"But..."

"Stop it, Fifth Sister. Stop resisting. Imperial Physician Qu, can you ask the female physician to come in and take a look at my Fifth Sister's injury?" Shao Yanru made the decision for Shao Wanru this time, and the latter sentence was said to Imperial Physician Qu, who was outside the screen.

Imperial Physician Qu nodded and motioned for the female physician to get in.

The female physician carried the small medicine chest for dressing wounds and got in the area within the screen...

Chapter 593 The Secret behind the Two Bottles of Ointment Was Exposed

Seeing the female physician come in, Shao Yanru stepped away from the bed. The female physician stepped forward, put down the small medicine chest in her hand, and said, "Fifth Miss, I'm sorry to disturb you!"

"Never mind!" Shao Wanru said lightly.

Looking up at Shao Wanru, the female physician froze for a while and then hurriedly lowered her head to hide the amazement in her eyes. She, who had assisted the imperial physicians in the imperial palace, had seen all kinds of beauties. Nevertheless, she was amazed at the first sight of the Fifth Miss. Even in the imperial palace, no one could compare with such beauty.

Yujie lifted Shao Wanru's foot carefully and rolled up one of her trousers to show her bound up ankle. With the complacency on her face fading away, Shao Yanru involuntarily frowned. Looking at Shao Wanru's bound up ankle, she suddenly had a terrible intuition, involuntarily clenched the handkerchief in her hand and compressed her lips!

The female physician collected herself, loosened the tight knot by pulling it, and untied the bound up white bandage.

Shao Wanru's ankle as swollen as a steamed bun was showed in front of them. It was so scary that Shao Yanru's face changed.

"Miss, why does it get worse instead of getting better after the ointment was applied to it?" Yujie cried out in a low voice.

The female physician frowned, reached out to rub Shao Wanru's red and swollen ankle, and then put her hand to her nose to sniff the ointment on her finger.

"Is the Fifth Miss injured? How is her injury?" Hearing the voice from inside, Imperial Physician Qu asked slowly.

"She's seriously injured!" The female physician reached out to press Shao Wanru's ankle, while answering, "She has probably sprained her ankle and had it set, but she's seriously injured and should have a good rest. But the ointment..." The female physician paused when speaking of this.

"What's wrong with the ointment? It is given by the First Miss and said to be the best ointment from the imperial palace. Doesn't it work?" Yujie whimpered, reaching out to fetch a bottle containing the ointment on the table beside her and hand it to the female physician.

Shao Yanru's face changed dramatically. When she was about to reach out, she immediately stopped, suppressed her panic, and said, "How can it not work? I used it before!"

The female physician took the ointment and sniffed it, and then sniffed the ointment on her finger. After that, she said to Yujie, "Give it to Imperial Physician Qu for an examination!"

She was just an ordinary female physician. There was something that she didn't dare to say and had to make Imperial Physician Qu speak for her!

Yujie hurriedly got out of the area behind the screen and handed the ointment in her hand to Imperial Physician Qu. Imperial Physician Qu took it, touched it with his finger, and put his finger in front of his nose to sniff it. After that, he said with his face changing dramatically, "Is this the ointment applied to the Fifth Miss's ankle?"

"Yes, this is the ointment applied to the Fifth Miss's ankle... Her ankle is terribly swollen. If she keeps using this kind of ointment, her injury will not only get better but also... suppurate and even rot!" The female physician said, looking at Shao Wanru's wound, which was blue and purple and rather scary.

She took out a strip of white cotton cloth from her medicine chest and carefully removed the ointment on Shao Wanru's ankle, while telling Qu Le, whose face also changed dramatically, "Go get some water and wash off all the ointment on your master's ankle. Don't leave any behind!"

"Big Sister, why?" Shao Wanru looked up at Shao Yanru in front of her bed and asked.

"First Miss, you brought this ointment and gave it to my master. Why does it make her injury even worse? First Miss... you... you said that this ointment is very effective. Why... will it make her injury suppurate and even rot?" Yujie was so anxious that she finished Shao Wanru's sentence in a choked voice.

With her face darkening, Nanny Sheng, who was standing outside the screen, wanted to interrupt, but she didn't know what to say. She rubbed her hands anxiously with sweat on her forehead. Didn't the First Miss say that she could definitely tear the mask off Shao Wanru's face this time? Why did she get into this situation?

"How... how could it be possible? This is the ointment granted by the imperial palace and brought from our mansion. Shuqi, fetch the ointment I used to show it to Imperial Physician Qu!" Shao Yanru said in a panic.

"Yes, I'll fetch it right away!" Shuqi ran out in a hurry and soon came back with a bottle of ointment. She handed it to Imperial Physician Qu and said, "Imperial Physician, please examine it and see if it's the same as the Fifth Miss's ointment."

Imperial Physician Qu reached out to take it, put it in front of his nose to smell it, and applied some ointment on his hand. After a careful examination, he said, "This bottle of ointment is effective. The Fifth Miss's ointment was originally effective, but someone added something else into it so that it made the Fifth Miss's injury get worse instead of getting better. First Miss, are both of the two bottles of ointment yours?"

"They are both mines. I instructed Shuqi to go to our mansion to fetch them. At that time, both my Fifth Sister and I were injured, but... but..." Shao Yanru seemed to be stunned and began to stammer.

"Imperial Physician Qu, who intends to hurt my master? Who can't tolerate my master? My master has come to the Yuhui Nunnery to live in seclusion. What else can she do?" Yujie looked at Imperial Physician Qu and said angrily with red eyes.

“Uh... I really have no idea!” Imperial Physician Qu said helplessly. He was an imperial physician who could treat patients, but it didn’t mean that he could solve a case.

Two bottles of the same ointment were given by the imperial palace. However, one was effective, while the other one was harmful. The bottle of harmful ointment was given by the First Miss Shao. Although Imperial Physician Qu thought that the First Miss Shao was unlikely to do this, the evidence was in front of him.

“First Miss, I remember that the two bottles of ointment were brought here by you, right? They seemed to be stored in Madam Dowager’s private storeroom at that time. Could it be that someone intends to hurt Madam Dowager?” Nanny Sheng rolled her eyes and said loudly in a hurry.

“Look into it. We must find out who intends to hurt my Fifth Sister and me!” Shao Yanru said anxiously while looking at Shao Wanru with red eyes, “Fifth Sister, we will find out the truth. You and I are on the mountain. I’m wondering who could set up us in this way. Very few people can enter grandma’s private storeroom. It’s impossible that we can’t find out the person!”

Shao Wanru sneered. It meant that they were determined to protect Shao Yanru even at the cost of pushing Madam Dowager forward to take the blame. Since Madam Dowager was an elder, even if she got involved in the plot, Shao Wanru could do nothing to her. No wonder Shao Yanru could live well even in the imperial palace. Ordinary people couldn’t compare with her in talking black into white.

She shifted all the blame onto others and maintained her image as the innocent and flawless First Miss Shao.

However, one always walking around the river would inevitably get his shoes wet. Shao Wanru intended to slowly ruin the good reputation she had accumulated little by little...

“Big Sister, you gave the ointment to me and said that it was effective and suggested me to use it when I got injured. Now you said that something else has been added into the ointment in the mansion. So you mean that you have nothing to do with it!” Shao Wanru said with a cold face, stared quietly at Shao Yanru, who was beside her bed, with deep coldness in her bright eyes, and then smiled gently, “Big Sister, whatever you say is true. Anyway someone in the mansion will take the blame, just like what happened in the Baiyun Taoist Temple!”

She said in a gentle tone, but her blunt words embarrassed Shao Yanru. She didn’t expect that Shao Wanru would tear off the hypocritical close relationship between them in front of imperial physician Qu and the female physician. She was really flustered at the moment.

“Fifth Sister, we will find out the truth and won’t let you suffer for nothing! You have to believe me and believe that our mansion will definitely...” Shao Yanru promised.

“Big Sister, stop it. I’m going to have a rest. I will ask my maternal grandma to investigate into it!” Shao Wanru closed her eyes slightly and said wearily.

“Fifth Miss, this is the business of our Duke Xing’s Mansion and should be handled by our mansion. How can you ask Great Elder Princess to intervene in it?” Nanny Sheng said disapprovingly outside.

Shao Wanru remained silent as if she didn’t hear what she said. She closed her eyes with a pale face and just ignored Nanny Sheng.

The female physician applied a new ointment to Shao Wanru's ankle. Looking at the ravishing and pale face of the Fifth Miss Shao, she couldn't help feeling pity for her. The Fifth Miss Shao in front of her was indeed an unfavored Miss as people said. She didn't know the thought of Duke Xing's Mansion, which neglected the noble Fifth Miss and allowed her to be hurt.

It was obvious that someone intended to hurt her with the ointment!

The case of the Baiyun Taoist Temple was discussed animatedly out of and in the imperial palace. The evil Xiushui Taoist Priest had done that for a long time. Plenty of imperial concubines had been to the Baiyun Taoist Temple before marrying into the imperial palace. Therefore, numerous people were concerned about this case, for fear that they would get involved in it.

As more people paid attention to the case, they knew that it was Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion who intended to make the Fifth Miss Shao shave her head and become a nun. It was said that Old Madam forced her to shave her head and asked the evil Xiushui Taoist Priest to take her to the Baiyun Taoist Temple. If it weren't for the fact that the evil Xiushui Taoist Priest was found out to be a man, the Fifth Miss Shao's life would have been ruined.

It required high intelligence to live well in the imperial palace. Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion might not know well about the secrets and plots behind the case, it was certain that Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion was not kind to the Fifth Miss Shao. Regarding the Miss Qi and the wife of the heir of Duke Yong pushed forward to take the blame later, few people believed it.

They were just scapegoats!

Now the answer coming into the female physician's mind was that the First Miss of Duke Xing was looking for a scapegoat. This time, she didn't know which one in Duke Xing's Mansion would be the unfortunate one.

Stealing a glance at the beauty well-known in the capital, the female physician suddenly thought that she was a vicious beauty!

"Nanny Sheng, go down the mountain now and ask grandma to investigate into the matter. We must find out the one with evil intent towards my Fifth Sister and me!"

Shao Yanru said loudly.

"Yes, I will go down the mountain right away!" Nanny Sheng understood and hurried out.

"Miss, let me report it to Rui'an Great Elder Princess and ask her to uphold justice for you!" Qu Le looked at Nanny Sheng, who had run to the door, and said angrily.

"Go ahead!" Shao Wanru waved her hand and said indifferently.

Qu Le turned around, rushed out of the area behind the screen, ran up to Imperial Physician Qu, reached out to grab the two ointment bottles, and then chased after Nanny Sheng in a hurry.

"Fifth Sister..." Shao Yanru hurriedly said, trying to stop that.

"Big Sister, I'm tired and very uncomfortable. Can you please stop talking?" Shao Wanru said softly, but the meaning in her words made Shao Yanru blush. Shao Yanru gnashed her teeth hard, suppressed the

grievance in her heart, forced a gentle smile, and said, "I've been inconsiderate. Fifth Sister, you can take a rest now, and I'll accompany the imperial physician!"

Chapter 594 Have to Go Down the Mountain

Shao Yanru knew that at this moment, she could neither panic nor get angry. She should maintain her image as a good elder sister who was on Shao Wanru's side.

Seeing that the female physician finished binding up Shao Wanru's ankle, Shao Ruru got out of the area behind the screen with the female physician.

Outside the screen, Imperial Physician Qu glanced at Shao Yanru with doubts. It was obvious that he was also suspicious of Shao Yanru. However, he, who had worked in the imperial palace for a long time, was rather shrewd, so he turned his head away after a glance.

"Imperial Physician Qu, what should we do now? Where... where is the ointment?" Shao Yanru looked at Imperial Physician Qu's empty hands and asked with her face changing dramatically.

"They've been taken away by a maid just now!" Imperial Physician Qu said indifferently. It had little influence on him that the two bottles of ointment were taken away. It seemed to be strange, so he did not want to get involved in it. "Since the female physician has applied the ointment to the Fifth Miss's ankle, I'll leave the ointment behind. Apply it to her ankle every day and recuperate for a few months, and she'll recover!"

Shao Yanru bit her lip and glared at Shuqi with cold eyes as if wanting to eat her. Shuqi was so scared that she lowered her head immediately with her face turning pale.

Just now, Qu Le rushed out too swiftly and Yujie was in front of her. When she saw it, Qu Le had taken the ointment and rushed to the door. She couldn't catch up with her even if she wanted to!

"Fifth Miss, just have a good rest. We are leaving now!" Sensing the cold atmosphere, Imperial Physician Qu said to the female physician, who had packed up.

"Thank you, Imperial Physician Qu. Yujie, send Imperial Physician Qu off on behalf of me!" Shao Wanru's soft voice came from behind the screen.

"Fifth Miss, it's very kind of you to say so!" Imperial Physician Qu said, "You don't need to do that. You should have a good rest and take care of your injury. Although your bones have been set, you're still injured. So you will get hurt again easily. If it's not necessary, you'd better not walk around at will!"

After that, he glanced at Shao Yanru, who was standing aside. The First Miss Shao had said that after spraining her ankle, the Fifth Miss not only walked a long way to enjoy the scenery but also went out again at night. He had been convinced of these words before, but now he suddenly realized that her words seemed to be too intentional as if she intended to suggest that the Fifth Miss Shao feigned her injury.

In any case, the First Miss Shao didn't seem to be innocent!

Nevertheless, it had nothing to do with him. He was just an imperial physician invited to come up the mountain and had better tell the truth.

Two maids went down the mountain a moment ago. One of them turned to Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion, while the other turned to Rui'an Great Elder Princess. It was obvious that they wouldn't let it go easily. Imperial Physician Qu felt so regretful at the moment. If he had known that there were secrets and plots behind it, he would not have promised Duke Xing to pay this visit.

"Thank you, Imperial Physician Qu!" Shao Wanru said.

Imperial Physician Qu left with the female physician. Yujie sent them to the corridor. Looking at the room with a worried look, she bowed deeply to Imperial Physician Qu and said, "Imperial Physician Qu, I'm supposed to send you to the door of the courtyard, but now there is no other maid around my master. I'm afraid... something will happen to her, I'll ask Qing'er to send you off!"

After that, she nodded and called Qing'er, who was in the yard. Qing'er replied and came over.

Imperial Physician Qu and the female physician remembered that the First Miss Shao and her maid were still in the room, while the Fifth Miss Shao was alone. After exchanging glances, they nodded at Yujie as a hint for her to go back!

After Qing'er sent Imperial Physician Qu and the female physician off, Yujie returned to the room.

Shao Yanru had turned back to the area behind the screen, stood in front of the bed, and said with a quite ashamed look, "Fifth Sister, it... it seems that I put you in danger. Rest assured. I will definitely find out the one intending to hurt us. I brought two bottles of ointment for us, but I didn't expect that someone has added something else into the ointment!"

Shao Wanru showed a sarcastic smile. Now Shao Yanru still insisted that it had nothing to do with her and both of them were supposed to be victims. Shao Yanru really thought that she, who had stayed in the Yuhui Nunnery for a long time with only a few maids around, was so naive that she couldn't even distinguish the good from the bad!

"Big Sister, please go back!" She said coldly.

"Fifth Sister, I..." Shao Yanru still wanted to explain but was stopped by Yujie.

"First Miss, please go back. The imperial physician said that my master should have a good rest. Otherwise, it may be more difficult for her to recover!" Yujie said coldly, staring at Shao Yanru's face angrily.

If Yujie did this in the past, she would definitely be scolded by Shao Yanru. But at this moment, it was not the time to criticize a maid's manner.

Shao Yanru turned around helplessly and was about to leave with Shuqi. However, she heard Shao Wanru's extremely cold voice coming from behind!

"Big Sister, there won't always be someone to take the blame!"

"I..." Shao Yanru turned around and intended to explain, only to see that Shao Wanru still tightly closed her eyes and Yujie was standing aside and looking at her warily as if intending to stop her as soon as she did anything to Shao Wanru.

Shao Yanru collected herself and said with a depressed look, "Fifth Sister, time reveals one's heart. You will find out what kind of person I am in the future!"

After that, she turned away in a hurry with red eyes, seeming to be reluctant to let Shao Wanru notice her sad look.

Yujie had been staring at her fixedly, so how could she not notice Shao Yanru's sad look? At this time, the First Miss still kept her hypocritical mask and really treated her master and her as fools.

Shao Yanru stepped out of the room, looked back at the door of the silence room, and gnashed her teeth so hard that her teeth were almost pressed into her gums. She really underestimated Shao Wanru by considering Shao Wanru as just a little girl, who lived in the nunnery and seldom got in touch with others. Unexpectedly, Shao Wanru was so cunning. Did she fall into Shao Wanru's trap this time?

If it weren't for the fact that Shao Wanru acted as if she didn't sprain her ankle, she wouldn't have made it significant and even specially sent for Imperial Physician Qu. Although her grandma would push someone forward to take the blame for what had happened just now as she wished, there would probably be some rumors about her and they would even be spread to the imperial palace.

She had intended to make Shao Wanru leave a bad impression on the members of the imperial harem and the emperor, but now she suffered the consequences of her own deeds. Thinking of her good reputation she managed to establish during all these years, Shao Yanru gnashed her teeth in hatred.

After returning to her room, she stood there quietly and looked at the window coldly. Meanwhile, Shuqi stood in the shadow at the door, not daring to move and even breathe heavily.

"Pack up my belongings. I'm going down the mountain!" After a long while, Shao Yanru said, and her voice almost came out through her teeth.

"Miss, it's not the right time for you to go down the mountain now!" Shuqi was shocked and murmured. First Miss came up the mountain in order to avoid the consort selection for several princes. What should the First Miss do if she went down the mountain at this time?

"Hurry up and get the carriage ready!" Shao Yanru said as she waved her hand to slap Shuqi hard so that Shuqi took a step back and hit her head heavily on the wall by the door. The sharp pain made Shuqi burst into tears, but she didn't dare to say anything else and hurried out with a nod.

Behind her, Shao Yanru looked crazy with red eyes. All her plans had to be held back because of this. She would never spare Shao Wanru, who made her unable to stay in the Yuhui Nunnery to avoid the consort selection...

When Great Elder Princess came to Duke Xing's Mansion aggressively with a group of people, Madam of Duke Xing wanted to stop her, but she failed, and Rui'an Great Elder Princess rushed to Old Madam's yard with her entourage.

Someone had reported it to Old Madam, so she had freshened up hastily. As soon as she went to the outer room with a maid's help, she saw Rui'an Great Elder Princess rush in with a group of people. After entering the room, Rui'an Great Elder Princess directly instructed her entourage to take action without talking to Old Madam. The ornate room immediately became a mess.

"You... you..." Old Madam was so angry that she couldn't even say anything and just pointed at them and trembled all over.

Nanny Yu hurriedly patted her back so that she could get her breath back.

Seeing that they had almost smashed everything in the room, Rui'an Great Elder Princess said to Old Madam in a cold voice, "You hurt my granddaughter again and again. Last time, you tried to let an evil Taoist priest take her away. This time, you directly gave her a bottle of ointment mixed with something else. Is there no room in your mansion for such a little girl?"

"What... what do you mean?" Old Madam finally got her breath back and said.

"Mother, I don't know who should take the blame for the incident. Both Yanru and Wanru were injured on the mountain, so Yanru instructed her maid to come down the mountain to fetch two bottles of ointment. But just now, it was said that a bottle of ointment has been mixed with something else. After Wanru applied it to her injury, her injury got worse instead of getting better. Great Elder Princess was furious and thought it was our mansion that intended to hurt Wanru. But... but we didn't know it before giving the ointment. Besides, the maid brought two bottles of ointment to the mountain without knowing which one of them was harmful."

At this time, Madam of Duke Xing, who had learned the cause of the matter from Nanny Sheng, hurriedly explained it to Old Madam and then added a key sentence, "Mother, I think someone intended to set up our Duke Xing's Mansion. I'm wondering if it's a political enemy of Duke Xing's or someone else behind it!"

"Duke Xing's political enemy intended to set up two unmarried girls?" Rui'an Great Elder Princess raised her head and said with a sneer, "I don't care what you are going to say this time. If you can't offer a convincing explanation, let's argue in front of the Empress Dowager!"

After that, she turned around and left with her entourage, leaving no chance for Old Madam and Madam of Duke Xing to explain.

The members of Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion went back as aggressively as when they came. After they got out of Duke Xing's Mansion, Rui'an Great Elder Princess got into her gorgeous carriage, and the carriage turned and headed for Great Elder Princess's Mansion. The carriage was followed by two rows of old maids and maids, making them look tough.

Seeing such a large group of people pass by, the pedestrians on the street began to talk about it. A maid of Great Elder Princess's Mansion fell behind and looked kind. Some passers-by involuntarily stopped her and ask about what had happened just now.

A group of people from the Great Elder Princess's Mansion came and went in a big way. Something must have happened.

The old maid who stopped by them was eloquent. She told the whole story with a face full of anger and specially mentioned that the bottle of ointment mixed with something else was proved by Imperial Physician Qu from the imperial palace. After that, she hurried to chase after the Great Elder Princess's carriage.

Chapter 595 A Quiet and Modest Maiden Is A Gentleman's Good Mate!

"What's going on?" Chu Liuyue put down the wine cup in his hand and asked lightly.

He sat in a restaurant facing the street, so he could see that Rui'an Great Elder Princess's carriage came and left in a hurry. Everyone was shocked by such aggressive people.

"It is said that Great Elder Princess went to Duke Xing's Mansion and create a disturbance because the Fifth Miss Shao was poisoned." Xiao Qizi reported.

"She was poisoned? How did that happen on the mountain? Isn't it said that she was fine yesterday?" Chu Liuyue frowned and said.

Last night, the secret guard returned to the mansion and said that the Fifth Miss Shao seemed to have difficulty in walking. She had probably sprained her ankle, but the secret guard didn't say that she was poisoned.

"I don't know, but it's said that after the Fifth Miss sprained her ankle, the First Miss gave her a bottle of ointment mixed with some harmful drug. It not only won't make her injury get better, but also will make her injury suppurate and rot. Now people are wondering if it was the First Miss Shao who did it!" Xiao Qizi lowered his head and said.

Chu Liuyue frowned tightly and showed some displeasure on his face. Shao Yanru had got into much trouble recently. He was wondering what made her get into such trouble at this time.

"Send someone to check it out..." Chu Liuyue paused, waved his hand, and continued saying, "Forget it. Leave it aside now and see how it goes!"

He couldn't send his secret guards to the Yuhui Nunnery too often, because he didn't know who else had sent their secret guards there. If Shao Yanru hadn't promised him that Shao Wanru would certainly meet a man in secret, he wouldn't have rashly sent his secret guard there.

Unexpectedly, his secret guard heard the ambiguous conversation between Shao Yanru and Qiu Yu instead of catching Shao Wanru meeting Chu Qing in secret or sending him a note. Moreover, Shao Yanru seemed to have an ambiguous relationship with Chu Qing at the same time.

With the wine cup in his hand falling, he showed a hint of rage in his eyes. He considered Shao Yanru the perfect candidate for his consort, Now it was the critical moment to pick his consort, so he could not allow any mistakes.

But somehow, he found it quite a turnoff, as if something was stuck in his throat and he couldn't spit it out. Shao Yanru was just a girl. In fact, if she wasn't loyal to him, she was unnecessarily his only choice.

Despite his admiration for Shao Yanru's pretty face, he cared more about how much help she could offer with her family background and intelligence...

Xiao Qizi just stood there with his head down, not daring to say anything. His master liked the First Miss Shao and had a close relationship with her in private. Xiao Qizi considered the First Miss Shao his future mistress. In fact, he really wanted to put in a good word for his future mistress. However, his master's cold face made him dare not say a word.

After hearing what the secret guard reported, his master seemed to be displeased when speaking of the First Miss Shao.

"Your Highness, the Third Young Master Wen is here!" A guard reported at the door of the private room.

"Let him in!" Chu Liuyue raised his head and said gently, showing a smile on his face, which had been gloomy a moment ago.

As the door was pushed open, Wen Xichi walked in slowly. After standing in front of Chu Liuyue, he bowed deeply to Chu Liuyue and said, "Your Highness!"

"Yuanqing, you don't have to be over courteous. Sit down!" Chu Liuyue said with a smile and pointed to the chair opposite to him. They had known each other since their childhood, so they didn't need to be over courteous.

"Thank you, Your Highness!" Wen Xichi said with joined hands and sat opposite to him with a smile.

Xiao Qi placed another set of tableware neatly, poured a cup of wine for Wen Xichi, and then stepped aside to serve them.

"Have a try and see if the wine is good." Chu Liuyue said with a smile.

Wen Xichi picked up the wine cup, took a sip, and said with a sparkle in his eyes, "Good wine!"

"Of course it's good. I specially picked it among the tribute wine. Knowing that you like this kind of wine, I specially asked my father to give it to me. There's not much of them, only five pots in total. Take two pots back later!" Chu Liuyue said with loud laughter, picked up the wine cup, and clinked his wine cup against Wen Xichi's, "Bottoms up?"

"No. I can't do that. There's not much good wine. I should certainly taste it carefully. Thank you for your good wine, Your Highness!" Wen Xichi waved his hand leisurely with a smile, picked up the wine cup and tasted the wine, and then showed an increasingly gentle smile.

"You don't need to thank me. You did me a big favor last time. I should thank you!" Chu Liuyue said with a smile, withdrew his wine cup, and took a sip. He then nodded repeatedly and said, "Although I don't like this kind of wine, which is too sweet, I find it great after tasting it carefully!"

"Your Highness, it's just a lift of the finger. I've always remembered your kindness!" Wen Xichi said with a smile and took another sip of the wine in his cup.

The wine was extremely fragrant and sweet with a faint fruit flavor, just like that in his memory. He seemed to have tasted it, but he realized that he hadn't tasted it actually after tasting it carefully.

He thought it strange that he liked this kind of sweet wine instead of drinking some hard liquor like other men.

"There's no need to mention it again. Yuanqing, you've worried unnecessarily. Did you see Great Elder Princess's carriage just now?" Chu Liuyue said with an increasingly gentle smile.

"Of course I saw it. What has Great Elder Princess done?" Wen Xichi said. He only saw the back of Rui'an Great Elder Princess's carriage on his way here but heard all kinds of rumors related to the two Misses of Duke Xing's Mansion in the crowd.

"I heard that the Fifth Miss Shao sprained her ankle and used the ointment sent by Duke Xing's Mansion. The First Miss Shao and the Fifth Miss Shao each have a bottle of the kind of ointment, However, The bottle of ointment used by the Fifth Miss Shao was mixed with another drug, which would make her injury rot instead of making it get better. Great Elder Princess got furious and went to Duke Xing's Mansion to make a scene!"

Chu Liuyue said casually.

"After the case of the Baiyun Taoist Temple, why did something terrible happen again... Does Duke Xing's Mansion hate the Fifth Miss Shao so much?"

Wen Xichi asked in confusion with a frown.

"Who knows!" Chu Liuyue said indifferently, "But the Fifth Miss Shao is quite troublesome. She seems to have got into various trouble since she moved to the capital city!"

"Your Highness, what do you mean?" Despite the smile on his face, Wen Xichi said with more gloom in his eyes.

"I have met the First Miss Shao before. She is a rare gentle beauty with fair family background and a good reputation. I think she was unlikely to do that. What's more, my father has suggested that she will be selected... If there comes such a rumor, it will have a bad influence on her!"

Chu Liuyue said as if intending to make a casual conversation.

He came here today in order to meet Wen Xichi, and he did want to talk about the case of the Baiyun Taoist Temple. Talking about Rui'an Great Elder Princess's visit to Duke Xing's Mansion made it easier for him to lead the topic to this.

"Your Highness, do you want to select her as your consort?" Wen Xichi realized what he meant, but said with composure.

"I want to do so, but now..." Chu Liuyue said with a gloomy face, "My father will not allow a lady with a flawed reputation to be my consort, but I..."

Speaking of this, Chu Liuyue paused for a while and seemed to be a little embarrassed. He picked up the wine cup, drunk up in one swallow, and then put down the wine cup heavily. After that, he looked at Wen Xichi sincerely and said, "A quiet and modest maiden is a gentleman's good mate, and I'm no exception. If I can marry the First Miss Shao as my consort, it will be my pleasure!"

"Your Highness, it would not be difficult for the First Miss Shao to be selected in the past, and you just need to tell His Majesty about your wish after that. But now..." Wen Xichi coughed in a low voice and said, "I'm afraid it's a hard job!"

"So I have to ask for your help. I..." Chu Liuyue said with a slightly red face, looking like an affectionate young man, "I do have a deep affection for the First Miss Shao and don't want to see her marry someone else. I can only feel at ease after marrying her!"

Wen Xichi lowered his head and remained silent for a while. He then nodded slowly and said, "Since this is what you want, I'll help you!"

“Thank you, Yuanqing!” Chu Liuyue said. He, who was overjoyed, stood up and bowed deeply to Wen Xichi.

Wen Xichi hurriedly helped Chu Liuyue up and said, “Your Highness, you are over courteous. I will never forget your great kindness to our Wen’s Mansion!”

“Yuanqing, it’s just a lift of the finger. It’s no big deal!” Chu Liuyue waved his hand and said indifferently.

“You consider it a lift of the finger, but I consider you saved the lives of all of the members of my mansion.” Wen Xichi said with a serious look.

Chu Liuyue had exactly done a favor to the Deputy Prime Minister. A few years ago, the Deputy Prime Minister got involved in a corruption case, and all the doubtful points showed that the Deputy Prime Minister had done that. The emperor was furious and intended to search the Wen’s Mansion and confiscate their property. It was Chu Liuyue who took the lead to kneel in the imperial study and beg for the Deputy Prime Minister so that the emperor deferred making a decision.

After that, he participated in the investigation and even helped them a lot during the investigation. The Deputy Prime Minister had always been grateful to Chu Liuyue and asked all the members of his mansion to help Prince Yue as much as they could when it was necessary.

Nevertheless, after the case was solved, Chu Liuyue and the Deputy Prime Minister didn’t have a close relationship and just greeted each other when they met on their way to meet the emperor. It was said that when the emperor asked about it, Chu Liuyue only said that he had a good relationship with the Third Young Master Wen since their childhood. Knowing that it was impossible for someone like the Deputy Prime Minister to do so, he intervened in it in case that a loyal official was framed.

Since the case had been solved, other things had nothing to do with him. He helped the Deputy Prime Minister mainly for the sake of the Third Young Master Wen.

At that time, the Third Young Master Wen was just an idle scholar. Despite being famous for his talent, he was not an official. Moreover, he was young at that time, and he and Chu Liuyue had always been on friendly terms indeed. So he was not accused of ganging up for selfish interests.

Nevertheless, no matter how long it had been, the whole Deputy Prime Minister’s Mansion had always been grateful to Chu Liuyue.

Although they hadn’t kept in close contact with each other, all the members of the Wen’s Mansion had always kept what Chu Liuyue had done in mind.

The two of them had small talk for a while. A guard came to report that the emperor wanted to see Chu Liuyue. Chu Liuyue had to leave, leaving Wen Xichi in the private room alone.

Picking up the wine cup and tasting it carefully, Wen Xichi looked down. No one could see the emotion in his eyes. He just quietly looked at the empty wine cup in his hand. A quiet and modest maiden was a gentleman’s good mate? A faint smile, which was very cold and indifferent, showed up on his face...

Chapter 596 The Principal Maid As A Scapegoat

Shao Yanru had hurried down the mountain that day, but not been in hurry to return to the mansion. She went directly to a place and asked someone to invite Chu Liuyue.

When Chu Liuyue entered the room, he was full of the smell of alcohol. Obviously, he had been drinking wine before.

"Your Highness!" Hearing that Chu Liuyue had entered the door, Shao Yanru stood up with red eyes. It was obvious that she had cried just now.

"What happened?" Chu Liuyue had indeed been full of anger, but looking at the beautiful woman with tears in her eyes, now he became a little gentler.

"Your Highness, I... I really don't know why this happened!" Shao Yanru said with the grievance. She wiped the corners of her eyes with a handkerchief, but her eyes turned red with tears.

"How could there be two different bottles of ointment, and one bottle was mixed with something else?" Chu Liuyue said unhappily, "How could you make such a mistake at this time?"

"I... I don't know. Both she and I were injured. At that time, we went down the mountain and took two bottles of ointment from the mansion, but I didn't expect that it would be like this." Shao Yanru looked flustered and confused.

Chu Liuyue turned to look at Shuqi who stood beside Shao Yanru. Shuqi knelt down in a hurry and said, "When I went to the mansion to get them that day, Nanny Yu, who served Old Madam, told me which bottle was for First Miss and which one was for Fifth Miss. It really has nothing to do with First Miss."

"She specially told you this?" Chu Liuyue asked coldly.

"That's what she told me!" Shuqi nodded repeatedly.

"Since the two bottles of ointment are different, why don't you ask about them?" Chu Liuyue turned to Shao Yanru and asked unhappily.

"I... at that time, I thought my ointment was fine and hers had problems. You know, Grandma doesn't like her, so it's normal for her to be partial to me. I naturally listened to Grandma, so I wouldn't deliberately ruin Grandma's business. But I didn't expect that there was also something else in my ointment!"

Shao Yanru wiped her tears with grievance and bit her lips to red. Her big eyes seemed to be wet with water, which were so beautiful and moving.

Chu Liuyue's irritated heart calmed down, and he comforted her in a soft voice, "Well, next time you encounter something like this, you need to be careful. Don't make more trouble. Just now, Great Elder Princess was so angry that she went to your mansion and smashed a lot of things!"

"How, how could she do this? That... That is Duke Xing's Mansion..." Shao Yanru was shocked and said in disbelief with red eyes.

"So what? Fifth Miss Shao is Great Elder Princess's granddaughter. Besides, it is indeed your mansion's fault. I heard that Imperial Physician Qu has helped to verify it, so this matter is true. After returning to the mansion, you should persuade Old Madam not to make any trouble from time to time. Otherwise, it will ruin your Duke Xing's Mansion's reputation and you will also be involved with trouble!"

Chu Liuyue warned Shao Yanru. She was as beautiful as jade, and they had grown up together since they were young. He had some affection for her, and he couldn't bear to let her be involved in the trouble caused by Duke Xing's Mansion.

"I know... I will go back and talk to her, but... but what should I do now? Fifth Sister will not let it go easily. She asked someone to come here and stir up trouble, and then Great Elder Princess knew this matter. There was a matter of Baiyunguan before, and now we have such a thing. I'm afraid that Fifth Sister will not let the whole Duke Xing's Mansion go easy!" Shao Yanru said sadly.

Hearing that Shao Wanru would make the whole Duke Xing's Mansion suffer and looking at Shao Yanru's beautiful weeping face, Chu Liuyue felt more and more that he had done the right thing. This Fifth Miss Shao was really an unpleasant troublemaker.

"Don't worry. I will help you secretly. Go back and ask Old Madam to find someone to take the blame first. Don't get other aristocratic families involved again. Although these aristocratic families are no longer prosperous, they may have the last cards in their hands. Maybe you will both suffer at that time!"

"I know. I will listen to your words!" Shao Yanru knew that Chu Liuyue was talking about Duke Yong's Mansion, so she quickly promised him obediently.

Seeing that she was so gentle, Chu Liuyue's face looked a little better. He sat down on a chair on one side and held the teacup that Xiao Qizi had given him. After thinking for a while, he asked, "What's your relationship with Qiu Yu and Chu Qing?"

"What?" Shao Wanru didn't understand what Chu Liuyue had said for a while. After being stunned for a while, she asked a little uneasily.

"I heard that Qiu Yu and Chu Qing are now in Yuhui Nunnery and they both have contact with you. How is your relationship with them?" Chu Liuyue looked up at Shao Yanru and asked casually.

Shao Yanru's heart tightened unconsciously. She shook her head hurriedly and said, "Your Highness, although I know Official Qiu and Commendery Prince Qing, I only know their names and I haven't had any private contact with them!"

If Chu Liuyue wanted, it would not be difficult for him to investigate the matter that she had visited maple leaf forest with Qiu Yu and Chu Qing. Shao Wanru was smart and did not intend to hide it. Thus, she told him the truth and told him what had happened in the maple leaf forest.

Chu Qing had met her by chance, and Qiu Yu had been invited there because of Shao Wanru's matter. Later, it was because Shao Wanru's foot had been injured that the three of them had wandered a little, but soon she had come to accompany Shao Wanru.

Most of these things were true. She only hid something about her interaction with Qiu Yu and Chu Qing, but these key points could make the meaning of the whole sentence completely different.

Chu Liuyue looked quite satisfied. He nodded and did not ask any more questions. He only asked her to be careful after returning to the mansion, and then asked someone to send her out.

After getting on her own carriage, Shao Yanru did not go anywhere else this time. The carriage went straight to Duke Xing's Mansion.

As soon as she entered the mansion and got out of the carriage, she saw her mother standing in front of the carriage excitedly. When she saw Shao Yanru getting out, she rushed over and asked with concern, "Ru'er, are you okay?"

"Mother, don't worry. I'm fine. How's Grandmother?" Shao Yanru said with a smile.

"Your grandma was so angry that she almost fainted. She took the medicine and fell asleep just now. How could you be so careless, Ru'er? Didn't you say that her foot was not injured? Why did she get hurt so badly?" Madam of Duke Xing complained in a low voice as she pulled Shao Yanru into the room.

The wrongest thing in this matter was that Shao Yanru thought that Shao Wanru had not been injured, so she invited an imperial physician. Had it been an ordinary doctor instead of an imperial physician this time, it would be easier to explain. She could even secretly threaten the doctor to change his words and say something else that could prove Duke Xing's Mansion's innocence.

But now it was this Imperial Physician Qu invited by Duke Xing who had ruined the plan.

She felt as if she lifted a rock only to drop it on her own feet.

"Mother, check the people around Grandmother and see who can have the access to the ointment!" Shao Yanru had already thought of a solution on the way and said calmly.

"Who do you think can have?" Madam of Duke Xing also knew in her heart. She looked around and asked in a low voice.

Several servant girls and old maids followed them a few steps away, not too far or too close. The distance allowed them to see Madam and First Miss, but they couldn't hear their words. No one else was seen along the way. Just now, Rui'an Great Elder Princess had rushed in and smashed everything in the mansion, which had frightened all the servants in the mansion.

"Since one can get the key to my grandmother's private warehouse, he or she should be grandmother's trusted subordinate." Shao Yanru hinted.

"Nanny Yu?" Madam of Duke Xing rolled her eyes and asked.

"No, this won't work. Grandmother won't agree, but if you mention Nanny Yu first and then Shui Yan, Grandmother will give up her!" Shao Yanru said. If she mentioned Shui Yan first, she was afraid that Grandmother would take pity on her. But if she mentioned Nanny Yu first and then Shui Yan, she believed that Grandmother would give up Shui Yan after comparing her with Nanny Yu.

"Mention Shuiyan? But Shuiyan is..." Madam of Duke Xing's face darkened and she said with embarrassment. Shuiyan was the principal maid of Old Madam. Except for Nanny Yu, Shuiyan was the most capable servant of Old Madam. In the past, Shuiyan had always been kind to Madam of Duke Xing. Although she was not Madam of Duke Xing's servant, she was still the person who worked for Old Madam but showed kindness to Madam of Duke Xing. It was a little reluctant for Madam of Duke Xing to punish her.

"Mother, if you can't bear to give up Shuiyan now, do you want to make this matter a real mess? If a few more troubles happen in our mansion, the whole Duke Xing's Mansion will be implicated. At that time,

how can I marry into the royal family successfully?" Shao Yanru felt wronged and looked at Madam of Duke Xing with red eyes.

Madam of Duke Xing didn't have pity on Shui Yan because of her kindness. At this time, when she saw Shao Yanru's look, she immediately nodded and stamped her feet hard. "Okay, then just choose Shui Yan!"

A servant's life couldn't be more important than her daughter's reputation...

Rui'an Great Elder Princess had aggressively taken people to smash Duke Xing's Mansion, which once again pushed Duke Xing's Mansion into the limelight. First, it had been about the matter of Baiyunguan, and then the matter of this ointment. Later, it was said that the principal maid of Old Madam was vicious. Because Fifth Miss Shao had slapped her once in the mansion, she had born a grudge in her heart, so she had added some other powder into the ointment.

Of course, this servant girl had been sold after being beaten 20 times.

However, a little servant girl dared to mix other things into Fifth Miss Shao's ointment, which also showed that Fifth Miss Shao was really not valued by Duke Xing's Mansion. What's more, after she had been recognized, it was once said that her courtyard had even been burned down, forcing Fifth Miss Shao to move to Yuhui Nunnery.

All kinds of rumors came out that Duke Xing's Mansion treated the Fifth Miss harshly and even wanted to drive the Fifth Miss out of Duke Xing's Mansion. As for the reason, it was said to be for the title of Duke Xing. Because the two children of the first branch in Duke Xing's Mansion blocked the way of the Second branch, they wanted to kill the Fifth Miss Shao.

It was said that this rumor came from many cases. As for the reason why they didn't deal with Shao Yuanhao, it was because he was now in Rui'an Great Elder Princess's place, and Duke Xing's Mansion didn't dare to reach out to him.

Because of what had happened recently and its relation with the previous things, the more these words were spread, the more convincing they became. Some officials even began to collect information about it and were ready to impeach Duke Xing.

But at this time, another rumor came out and destroyed the good situation that Shao Wanru had won before...

Chapter 597 Wen Xichi Got to Act

"Miss, people are all saying that you are the root of the trouble. When you were in Qin's Mansion, you made the whole mansion restless. The original formal wife of General is now grounded in the backyard, and no one knows whether she is dead or alive. First Miss's reputation has also been ruined. Then after you were recognized by Duke Xing's Mansion, it's said that you have stirred up trouble in Duke Xing's Mansion and made Rui'an Great Elder Princess and Duke Xing's Mansion become enemies!"

Yujie came in angrily and reported to Shao Wanru the news she had gotten from Madame Dong after going down the mountain today.

Shao Wanru blinked her eyes and said, "Someone is secretly taking action to cope with the previous rumors. Is it because of this rumor that people discuss less enthusiastically the other people in Duke Xing's Mansion?"

"Yes, many people are talking about you now. They are all wondering if you are really a living disaster in this and anyone who is related to you will get in trouble!" Yujie became angrier as she spoke.

"A living disaster?" Shao Wanru walked to the window and looked coldly at the sleeping lotus in the water vat!

This piece of news could really vindicate Duke Xing's Mansion and Shao Yanru, so Shao Yanru definitely had something to do with this rumor. She could spread a rumor so well and so cleverly, which meant that this opponent was very difficult to deal with. Shao Wanru couldn't even guess who did this to her out of spite.

Since she entered the capital city, there were only a few families that she had contacted. The one who could help Duke Xing's Mansion at this time must be related to Duke Xing's Mansion, but only a few of them also had the ability to do so.

"Miss, shall we ask Prince for help..." Yujie also saw the fish tank outside the window. She thought for a while and asked cautiously.

"A disaster!" Shao Wanru curled her lips and her ruthless eyes fell on the blooming lotus flowers. She didn't know who was acting in the dark, but she knew that if the "disaster" really referred to her, she would be ruined completely.

A "disaster" could destroy not only a family but also a country! The superior was most afraid of the so-called disaster. If there was a disaster, how could he survive? It meant that the superior's position was unstable, and it might even make people suspect whether he had gotten his position in a justifiable way.

The matter about the current emperor's throne was originally strange. It was said that the throne belonged to Chu Liuchen, and it was the emperor who had stolen his nephew's throne. Now when it came to the so-called disaster, this idea was more convincing.

It was obvious that someone was trying to put her in a dangerous position and kill her!

"Miss, what should we do now?" Yujie asked anxiously. Nanny Dong also asked her to report this matter quickly and ask Shao Wanru to come up with a solution as soon as possible. Otherwise, something terrible would happen, and even Rui'an Great Elder Princess could not protect her.

Shao Wanru bit her lips to pale, and she deeply felt powerless. Even though she had been reborn, she was just a woman in the backyard. Such kind of cruel method in the imperial court was definitely not used by a woman!

He acted quickly and killed her with one shot. This made her think of the vague feeling that she had had after being cut in two at the waist that day. It had been so painful and powerless.

Everything around her had seemed to be so twisted that she could only see a piece of blood. There had also been a large blurred scene, which seemed to be the corpses of beautiful women. The blood had

been dripping down from the high steps, which had made her unable to tell whether the scene in front of her had been an illusion or a truth...

"Miss, Miss..." Yujie's panicked voice came to her ears. Her twitching fingers touched a place that could support her. Her hands were cold, which stimulated the madness in her heart. She slowly opened her blood-red eyes, and there were a few sleeping lotuses in front of her. Although there were not many, the colorful lotuses were swinging on the duckweed and water with vitality.

There was no step covered with blood, nor the pained and twisted body of hers!

She squinted and suppressed the smell of blood in her heart. She felt that the blood in her whole body was flowing slowly again, and the madness just now seemed to be merely her illusion.

"Miss, Miss, what's wrong with you?" Yujie reached out to hold her, and her face changed greatly. Just now, she saw Shao Wanru's body tighten with her eyes closed, and she was about to fall down. Fortunately, Yujie reacted quickly and reached out to hold her.

"Miss, I have something to report!" Another steady voice came, which made Shao Wanru's excited heart gradually calm down.

She took a deep breath, lowered her head, and saw that she was tightly holding a jade paperweight fixed on the table.

"I am fine. Let Qing'er come in!" She said in a low voice and tried her best to calm herself down. She could clearly hear Qing'er's voice outside.

"Yes, Miss." Yujie carefully let go of her hand. Seeing that Shao Wanru could stand there steadily, Yujie breathed a sigh of relief and turned to the door to let Qing'er in.

Since Shao Yanru left, everyone in the courtyard was Shao Wanru's people, so it was much more convenient for them to get along with each other.

It was much more convenient for Qing'er to do things, who pretended to be a rough servant girl.

Qing'er came in and gave a salute to Shao Wanru.

"What's the matter?" Shao Wanru asked, still looking at the paperweight. This paperweight was given by Chu Liuchen. In order to prevent her from falling down, Chu Liuchen specially made a shelf to fix this jade paperweight on the table, because Shao Wanru had accidentally broken several jade paperweights before.

"Prince says that you can rest assured and everything would be fine!" Qing'er said.

Shao Wanru clenched the paperweight tightly in her hand as if only in this way could it give her strength. The clear jade had a touch of coldness, which made her gradually regain consciousness. She rolled her eyes slowly and asked, "What else did Your Highness say?"

"He didn't say anything else. Just let Miss rest in the mountain to cultivate." Qing'er took a glance at Shao Wanru's expression. When she saw that Shao Wanru's expression was getting better, she felt relieved.

The scream of Yujie in the room just now was clearly heard by her. She even saw Shao Wanru's pale face and red eyes. She immediately knew that it was not good, so she came in to report to Shao Wanru.

She had just received the news from the foot of the mountain. Originally, she wanted to wait until Yujie finished reporting. But looking at Shao Wanru's expression, she knew that it was not good and rushed in. When she saw that Shao Wanru had calmed down again, she breathed a sigh of relief.

Her master had made it clear that she had to protect Fifth Miss. If something happened to her, she would not be able to survive even if she had ten heads.

Seeing that Shao Wanru's expression looked better and became lively, she wiped her cold sweat secretly. If she had known this earlier, she would have reported it before Yujie.

"You can leave now. I got it!" Shao Wanru nodded and looked up at the water lily outside the window. Her heart, which was cold and wild just now, somehow became peaceful because of this sentence.

It was very quiet in the imperial study. The emperor put down the memorial in his hand and picked up another one. When he saw clearly what was written on it, he was so angry that he threw the memorial out and sneered, "The Bane? They really dare to report it. Find out where these rumors came from and tell me who the Bane is?"

"Yes, Your Majesty. I'll send someone to investigate it now!" De Rong carefully bent down and picked up the memorials from the ground.

"Tell the eldest, second prince," The Emperor paused for a moment, and his face softened a little, "and the third and fourth prince to come here. I'd like to see who has stretched out his hand!"

He put down a memorial, picked another one, and looked at it. He was so angry that it also talked about it. He put it on the side, and took another and put it down again. His face became angrier and angrier.

Yes, Your Majesty. Please wait for a moment. I will go now!" De Rong lowered his head and did not dare to look at the angry face of the emperor. He obeyed the order and retreated to the door of the imperial study. He sent a few eunuchs and guards and asked them to go out separately.

Prince Zhou came the fastest. He was originally in the palace. The second one to come was Prince Yue, Chu Liuzhou, and the third one was Chu Liuxin. He had spent a lot of effort to find here from an opera stage. The last one was Chu Liuchen. He was pushed into the palace in a wheelchair.

It was not because he was sick again, but because of his weak body. He walked really slowly, and if he were pushed, it would be faster. As soon as Xiao Xuanzi pushed Chu Liuchen into the door, he saw three princes kneeling on the ground. In front of them, there was a broken cup. He hurriedly pushed Chu Liuchen into the door with observation and then carefully retreated behind Chu Liuchen.

He kept quiet, just like the other servants in the room.

"Greetings, uncle!" Chu Liuchen raised his eyes, looked at his brothers kneeling on the ground, and then looked at the furious emperor whose blue veins were obvious on his neck, and said gently.

Pointing with his finger, Xiao Xuanzi hurriedly reached out to help him. Chu Liuchen stood up from the wheelchair and was about to kneel to the emperor to show his respect.

"You don't have to, just sit down first!" Seeing Chu Liuchen's behavior, the emperor's expression softened a little, and he waved his hand and said.

Chu Liuchen didn't refuse him. He held Xiao Xuanzi's hand and sat down again. Xiao Xuanzi stood behind him obediently.

"Uncle, this is..." Chu Liuchen looked at the three people kneeling on the ground, and then looked at the emperor sitting on the throne. There was a little confusion on his face, and he looked very puzzled and worried.

"Look, you are all my good sons. I'm fine now, but you can't wait any longer. Bane? What's a bane? If I find out who it has something to do with..." The Emperor's expression was cold. He picked up several memorial beside him and threw them all on their faces.

"It's just a rumor in the marketplace, and you can't wait to move. It seems that all of you are free. How could you care so much about a rumor in the marketplace, especially about the backyard. The officials in the court don't care about political affairs. They are just in charge of the affairs of several women in the backyard!"

At this point, the emperor was so angry that he threw the rest of the memorial to his sons.

"Father, I don't know what happened. I was wronged!" Prince Zhou pulled out a memorial on his face. Regardless of the pain of his nose, he hurriedly defended himself loudly.

"Father, I don't know what happened too. I was in the Ministry of Works just now to see what is going to do about build the imperial court. I don't know anything about the officials!" Chu Liuyue said respectfully. Although he looked calm, his eyes were slightly red, as if he had been wronged but tried hard to calm down.

"Father, I'm watching a show. I'm just investigating the people's affairs there. I really don't know if anything has anything to do with me!" The youngest Chu Liuxin screamed with the grievance. He really felt wronged. He had heard the rumors outside. He went out today to find out where they came from. But he found an opera garden. Before he could figure it out, the emperor had scolded him.

Until now, Chu Liuxin still felt puzzled and didn't know where he was wrong. What did the memorial of the officials have to do with him?

Chapter 598 The More Intense, The More Fake

"What a good investigation of people's situation, and you even investigate in the opera garden!" The emperor said coldly.

"Father, it's true. If you don't believe me, you can check it. I really feel that the rumors outside are a little weird. She is just a weak woman who was forced to go to the Yuhui Nunnery. I can tell at a glance that she was framed by someone. Her fate is pitiful, but there are so many rumors. I think it's wrong!"

Chu Liuxin said boldly, with a rather angry expression on his face.

"Fourth brother, don't talk too much to make father angry!" Chu Liuyue scolded him in a low voice.

"I am..." Chu Liuxin, who had always listened to Chu Liuyue, was not so easy to appease this time. He was wronged and said.

Chu Liuyue pulled his sleeve at full tilt and glared at him, signaling him to shut up.

"Father, I am wrong. If I want to investigate anything in the future, I will report it to you first. I will never cross the line!" Chu Liuxin reluctantly admitted his mistake!

Two eunuchs came in in a hurry to report. De Rong stopped them at the door. When he heard their report, he could only come in and report to the emperor with a bitter face. In fact, this kind of thing could not be dealt with in a big or small way. But since the two eunuchs said so, he could only report it in this way.

"Your Majesty, the bunch of fancy carp in the Flower Garden are all dead. They say... say... they say...there are...scourges..."

"Your Majesty, some Tang Qianyan, which were in full bloom in the flower room, is dead. They say ... say that ... there are scourges..."

Before he could finish his words, he was hit on the head and knelt down in a hurry. "Your Majesty, I know it's a rumor, but people in the palace are also talking about it now. If something happens, they will say ... it is because of this!"

De Rong also hated it. The Emperor was not in a good mood at the moment. It was obviously because of the rumor of the "scourges". These people were not wise and came to report the "scourges". It was obvious that they were not in charge of their own affairs and did not manage it well. After the accident, they casually pushed it to the "scourges". They were just trying to shirk the responsibility.

However, they didn't expect that the emperor would be even angrier with these words!

"Beat the two slaves who spread rumors 50 times!" The Emperor flew into a rage.

If they were beaten 50 times, they would definitely lose their lives. What's more, the laws and skills in the palace were naturally more powerful than those outside the palace.

"Yes!" De Rong did not dare to plead for mercy. He stood up, bent over, and stepped back.

"Uncle-in-law, please wait for a moment!" The elegant and noble voice in the imperial study seemed abrupt but gentle at this time as if it immediately defused the serious anger in the whole study.

"What do you want to say, Prince Chen?" Seeing that it was Chu Liuchen who spoke, the emperor calmed down a little bit. Although there was still no smile on his face, his voice became soft.

"Uncle, after 50 beats, these two servants must be dead. Uncle, you'd better save their lives and interrogate them. Maybe you will know why there are rumors in the palace. In the past, no matter how powerful the rumors were, they couldn't affect the palace. Maybe it's because..." Chu Liuchen frowned tightly. Although his voice was gentle, he looked a little gloomy.

At this point, he didn't say anything more. He slowly lowered his head and didn't say anything.

Prince Zhou couldn't stand it anymore. He kowtowed to the emperor and said loudly, "Father, maybe there is someone who is spreading the rumor in the palace. Someone must have done it in secret. I hope that father could investigate this matter and give mother justice."

It was the Empress who was in charge of the harem. Now that rumors were everywhere, this matter would inevitably be pushed to the Empress. Originally, Prince Zhou wanted to see the fun, but now he couldn't help but stand out and defend his mother's reputation.

He glanced at his brothers severely. He wanted to see who did this. In the end, his eyes fell on Chu Liuyue. He still thought that Chu Liuyue was most likely to do this. Obviously, he wanted to do harm to him, the legitimate son of the Empress. He had to start with his mother. If Chu Liuyue did harm to his mother, he would lose his status as the legitimate son.

Chu Liuyue was the eldest son. If he was not the legitimate son, he would not be able to compete with him.

"Ask the Empress to manage the harem. If there are any people who spread the rumors, just punish them directly. Send the two servants to the Empress' palace and let her investigate them at the same time. Let's see who will spread rumors in the palace!" The Emperor said coldly.

"Yes, I'll send someone to report it to Queen right away!" De Rong answered and left.

"She is just a little girl in the backyard, and she is your cousin. She just can't stay in harmony with Duke Xing's Mansion. Now she is called a scourge. If she is a scourge, and you are her cousin, are you scourges?" The emperor sneered and looked at his sons kneeling below.

It happened all of a sudden and he hadn't figured it out yet. But it was obvious that she had been framed. In the eyes of the emperor, the matter of Duke Xing's Mansion was a dispute in the backyard. It was really not a big deal.

Although Rui'an Great Elder Princess had told him a few times, the Emperor could only politely ask Great Elder Princess to find the Empress Dowager or the Empress to deal with this matter. This kind of thing was not a big deal in the emperor's eyes, but if this matter was getting bigger, there must be someone behind it.

Thinking that Shao Wanru had another hidden identity that she would be the wife of Chu Liuchen. The emperor could not constrain his anger no matter how hard he tried. It was obvious that the person wanted to go against Chu Liuchen.

What scourge? If she was really a scourge, would Chen'er's body get better and better?

Others might not know, but the emperor was well aware of it. As early as when Chu Liuchen decided to marry Shao Wanru, he had asked the Imperial Astronomical Observatory to calculate the fate of the two people. It was said that they were made for each other. And it was also said the two people's marriage was also very good for Chu Liuchen's health.

The current Imperial Astronomical Observatory was trusted by the emperor, so he would not believe that Shao Wanru was a scourge because of these rumors. In addition, Chu Liuchen's health was indeed better than before, and the emperor was sure that Shao Wanru was a piece of luck for him.

It was obvious that someone couldn't bear to see Chu Liuchen become better by describing Shao Wanru as a scourge. Chu Liuchen obviously realized this just now, and he looked so sad.

As long as he thought of this, the emperor would be very furious.

"Father, I don't dare!"

"I don't dare, too!"...

Hearing the emperor's words, the three princes all lowered their heads and said that they didn't dare repeatedly. A cold sweat broke out on their foreheads.

Chu Liuchen said nothing and continued to lower his head, but his face became more and more gloomy. After a long while, he raised his head and said softly, "Uncle, you don't have to be angry. Let's check it out first!"

The emperor took a deep breath, glared at his three sons, and said loudly, "Look into it. Find out all the rumors outside as well. Ask the lord mayor to send people to various playhouses and libraries to find out all the suspicious people."

After coming out of the imperial study, Chu Liuyue took a deep breath and looked at the main hall outside the imperial study. He only felt stuffy in his chest. Originally, he thought it was just a matter of a little girl, but he didn't expect it to be so big. He just wanted to help Shao Yanru but he didn't expect that there were so many people who followed him to spread the rumors. Someone must know that it had something to do with him, so he took advantage of it secretly.

"Brother, who do you think will do this to kill a girl?" Prince Zhou followed him out with a gloomy face. Looking at his face, he said in a strange tone, "The flowers and fish in the palace are dead. Is it this scourge's fault? This guy is so stupid to think of this kind of thing."

"Eldest brother, second brother, I also think that the person who thinks of this is stupid. Fifth Miss Shao is such a good person, but she has been persecuted to such an extent. No matter from what perspective, I believe it is the people of Duke Xing's Mansion who did it. It is clearly said that people of Duke Xing's Mansion are trying to hurt Fifth Miss."

Chu Liuxin also followed them. After hearing their words, he said angrily.

He was really angry. Fifth Miss Shao was such a beautiful and kind person, how could she be stained like this? The most important thing was that he wanted to find an opportunity to talk about Fifth Miss Shao with his mother. If his mother agreed, he could go to his father to ask for his marriage. Unexpectedly, such a thing happened. Now the matter had not been settled, how could he dare to say such a thing?

Her mother always believed in the Buddha. If she knew a little rumor about the scourge, it would be impossible for her to agree with this. As long as he thought of this, Chu Liuxin was so angry that he wanted to strangle the person who said such a thing to death.

Who was so disgusting by spreading rumors!

"Fourth brother, don't talk nonsense!" Chu Liuyue looked at him coldly and spoke in a low voice.

“What’s wrong with me? It must be them. They said that they were going to send Fifth Miss Shao to Baiyun Taoist Temple, and then First Miss Shao gave Fifth Miss an ointment with poison. All these things had something to do with Duke Xing’s Mansion. Then it suddenly appeared that Fifth Miss was described as a scourge. If it had nothing to do with Duke Xing’s Mansion, who would it have something to do with!”

Chu Liuxin jumped and said. The more he thought about it, the angrier he became. Did someone know what he meant and deliberately want to spoil his marriage?

However, no one knew that he liked Shao Wanru except for those who followed him to Duke Xing’s Mansion that day, or those from Duke Xing’s Mansion had found through something?

Thinking of this, it became more and more credible.

“Fourth brother, be careful with your words. If father hears it, he will punish you. How can you talk about the important officials in the court at will!” Prince Zhou also advised in a cold voice. He glanced at Prince Xin from the corner of his eyes. Prince Zhou really didn’t take Prince Xin, who was a little too childish, seriously.

“Hey, what do you mean by helping Duke Xing’s Mansion?” Chu Liuxin was full of anger at this time. When he heard the two of them scolding him, he was so furious that he blurted out.

After that, without looking at their unhappy expression, he stamped his feet angrily, turned around, and strode away.

Chu Liuyue frowned and his expression didn’t change. “Fourth brother is still so childish. This thing can’t be as simple as it looks on the surface!”

“Brother, you also know that this matter is not simple. I don’t know who set such a trap to deal with a weak girl. He is really something!” Chu Liuzhou sneered and was not in the mood to show his respect to Chu Liuyue. He turned and went to the Empress’ palace.

He felt that Chu Liuyue was most likely to do it.

Chu Liuyue frowned, and then his eyes fell on Chu Liuchen, who was the last to come out. The wheelchair was skillfully carried out by two guards at the door. After it was put down, Xiao Xuanzi pushed it over from the back.

“Third brother...”

Chapter 599 The Consequences of Pushing Too Hard

“Eldest Brother, I’m sorry that I’m going to see Imperial Grandmother!” Chu Liuchen raised his cold eyes, looked at Chu Liuyue, who looked amiable and said.

The coldness in Chu Liuyue’s crystal-like eyes made his smile look a little stiff.

“Go ahead, Third Brother!” Chu Liuyue gave way to him and said.

Chu Liuchen nodded. Xiao Xuanzi turned his wheelchair and pushed it to the Empress Dowager’s Palace of Benevolent Peace.

Watching Chu Liuchen going away, Chu Liuyue became sullen despite the smile on his face. He walked out slowly with his hands clasped behind his back, thinking of a way to find out the cause of the incident.

He was very assured about Wen Xichi's capability. With his intelligence, Wen Xichi was unlikely to make a trivial matter within the inner court so significant that it was even known to the officials in the imperial court. When several documents were thrown on him, he stole a glance at them, only to find that they were all about the "bane".

The officials in the imperial court were all convinced of the claim of describing Shao Wanru as a "bane". It could be seen that their father must be suspicious of them.

He could be sure that someone, who was behind him and Wen Xichi, managed to make it significant in order to arouse his father's suspicion of him, so he couldn't act rashly at this moment.

He had intended to tell his father about his affection for the First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion, but now he decided to drop the idea. If his father associated Shao Yanru with it, he would probably get involved in it.

Therefore, during this period of time, he had to distance himself from Shao Yanru so as not to get into trouble. Meanwhile, he had to tell Wen Xichi not to act rashly in the upcoming days.

He didn't mind if others continued talking about the "bane", as long as he and Wen Xichi didn't get involved in it. He was assured that Wen Xichi would definitely wipe out the evidence of what he had done. Nevertheless, he couldn't have much contact with Wen Xichi in private during this period of time.

After figuring out his current situation, Chu Liuyue looked a little better!

He felt a little regretful that he had intervened in Shao Yanru's affairs, which was just a battle in the backyard. Moreover, Duke Xing's Mansion was not decent and tolerant enough indeed Shao Wanru was just a Miss returning to their mansion from outside. They just needed to prepare a set of dowry for her when she grew up and got married. Why were they so narrow-minded that they had to force her into a dead end?

At this moment, he disdained Shao Yanru in his heart and thought that Shao Yanru was not as perfect as he had imagined. If he really married her, could she really handle the affairs of his backyard well?

The rumors about the "bane" in the capital city came aggressively and disappeared quickly within a day.

Madame Dong specially came up the mountain in person to report it to Shao Wanru!

She said that the officers of the local authority had been trying to find out where the rumors come from, but they had no clue yet. No one knew where the rumors come from. It was said that a merchant from another place came to the capital city and heard it while chatting with others. However, the merchant just stayed in the capital city for a short time, and no one knew where he had gone after that.

As the rumors about the "bane" disappeared, the previous rumors intensified and were associated with the rumors about the "bane". The public opinion directed the spearhead at Duke Xing's Mansion, and people thought Duke Xing's Mansion the cause of the series of things.

Of course, people only talked about these rumors in private now without daring to talk about them in public. Those, who had talked about the rumors about the "bane" fervently before, had already been

arrested. At this time, no one dared to spread the rumors, for fear that they would get into trouble. After all, Duke Xing held real power.

Apart from the news, Madame Dong brought the news of Fanglan Embroidery Shop, which was supposed to be merged with Butterfly Clothing Shop as a shareholder. However, after Shao Wanru cleverly negotiated with them, both of the two shops made a concession later and reached an agreement that either of the two shops could borrow a certain amount of money from the other shop when it was short of money. It could be considered a reciprocal partnership.

"Miss, Fanglan Embroidery Shop said that they wanted to borrow a large sum of money this time. I can't make the decision." Madame Dong said while taking out a piece of paper from her bosom.

Butterfly Clothing Shop had always been stable in business with no shortage of funds despite its small scale. In recent years, Butterfly Clothing Shop had never borrowed money from Fanglan Embroidery Shop, while Fanglan Embroidery Shop borrowed money from Butterfly Clothing Shop from time to time for more than ten times. When they wanted to borrow a large amount of money sometimes, Madame Dong did not dare to make the decision and directly turned to Shao Wanru.

Fortunately, Fanglan Embroidery Shop kept its word and usually returned money soon.

"Have you checked their account book?" Shao Wanru glanced at the seal of Fanglan Embroidery Shop on the receipt and asked with composure. In the past three years, she had seen it more than ten times and found it familiar now.

"I haven't checked it yet. Miss, if you think it feasible, I'll ask someone to check their account book!" Madame Dong reported.

Fanglan Embroidery Shop wouldn't claim to be short of money with no evidence, so they would naturally show their account book to Madame Dong.

"Lend them money after checking the account book and finding nothing wrong as before!" Shao Wanru nodded and returned the receipt to Madame Dong.

"I got it!" Madame Dong said with a nod, put the receipt into her bosom, and then hesitated for a moment.

"Is there anything else?" Shao Wanru smiled slightly and asked softly.

"I... I seem to have seen an acquaintance a few days ago..." Madame Dong said hesitantly, "But I didn't see her clearly at the moment and was not sure if it's her."

"Who?" Shao Wanru asked with a smile.

"It seemed to be the personal old maid of the wife of the magistrate in Jiangzhou. When I was in Jiangzhou, I met her several times, so I can recognize her." Madame Dong said.

The personal old maid of Magistrate Qi's wife? Since a personal old maid usually followed her master to serve her master, could it be that Magistrate Qi had come to the capital city?

"Go to inquire about Magistrate Qi!" Shao Wanru thought for a while and gave an order.

She didn't know whether Magistrate Qi went to the capital in the last life. But what had happened in the last life might not happen in this life. Many things in this life had changed, and there were many things that even she didn't know.

Qi Tianyu came in a hurry that day and disappeared after setting her up. She had an intuition that Qi Tianyu would not leave so easily.

If he had let go of what had happened three years ago, he would not have done that on that day. Of course, in other words, he might be after something.

"Okay, I'll inquire about it after going back!" Madame Dong said with a nod. After reporting some trivial things to Shao Wanru and chatting with her for a while, Madame Dong hurried down the mountain.

After sending Madame Dong to the gate of the courtyard, Yujie stopped and asked her to go out on her own. Seeing that Madame Dong had left, Yujie returned to the silence room.

"Miss, is the First Miss really not coming back?" Yujie brought a cup of tea for Shao Wanru, put it down, reached out to point at the main room, and said.

"She isn't coming back!" Shao Wanru said with certainty. She didn't expect that Shao Yanru would leave so decisively even before revealing many clues she had set as if she had nothing to do with any of them.

But it also showed Shao Yanru's shrewdness. Shao Wanru felt that she had underestimated Shao Yanru!

Shao Wanru had thought that with so many clues in her hands, Shao Yanru would use them step by step. But now, Shao Yanru left decisively and only said that she went back to find out the truth and was too ashamed to see Shao Wanru before that.

Her words immediately left a good impression on others. Shao Yanru had cut off the connection with Shao Wanru before she was defeated, which made Shao Wanru consider Shao Yanru indeed a strong opponent of hers.

No wonder she died in Shao Yanru's hands in the last life, while Shao Yanru seemed to have nothing to do with it!

"The... the clothes..." Yujie said, reaching out to point to the corner, where there was a locked box, inside which the clothes were extremely fancy, gorgeous, splendid, and totally out of harmony with the Yuhui Nunnery.

It was a piece of clothes that was not supposed to show up here.

"Just leave them aside. Since she has left them there, she must be unwilling to let them go. She just doesn't think it the right time to take action now!" Shao Wanru said with a slight smile and cold eyes. Although Shao Yanru left decisively, she still intended to keep some unrevealed clues in her hands.

Such as the clothes and the silence room...

"If she still intends to use the clothes against you, she will definitely come up the mountain again. But you said that she's not coming back. How does she intend to make use of the clothes?" Yujie asked in confusion.

People would consider that Shao Wanru claimed to mediate on the mountain but actually had no filial piety at all only if the clothes were found in Shao Wanru's silence room. After Shao Wanru went down the mountain, no matter how gorgeous the clothes were, people would only consider Shao Wanru a little extravagant, which had little influence on Shao Wanru.

"So there should be someone coming up the mountain!" Shao Wanru said meaningfully.

Since Shao Yanru had left the mountain, there should be someone coming up the mountain and the one should be an acquaintance of Shao Wanru's. Otherwise, it was impossible for the one to enter her silence room.

She couldn't figure out who Shao Yanru would send to the Yuhui Nunnery at the moment, but she was sure of one thing. Shao Yanru would never let go of the clues she had set for nothing.

Shao Yanru would send someone to come up the mountain, and the one should be an acquaintance of Shao Wanru's and would not get Shao Yanru into trouble if something went wrong. Shao Wanru picked up the cup and took a sip with a faint sneer on her face. She suddenly figured out who the one was!

The one was really no match for Shao Yanru, but was the right person to deal with Shao Wanru!

It was just because of the one's identity!

In fact, Shao Wanru could not stay in the Yuhui Nunnery any longer. Within the high wall lived the late emperor's concubines, and a posthumous child of the late emperor had come out from there. It would not be peaceful anymore, and now it was just the beginning. She could not leave on her own, but now it was the best time to take action. No matter what Shao Yanru intended to do, she would inevitably make trouble. Shao Wanru just needed to meet trick with a trick!

Shao Wanru had prepared for the next step, while Qi Rongzhi had been sent to find the person...

There were a lot of people coming and going in the street. Sitting by the window of a private room and watching people coming and going busily, Qi Rongzhi found the lively scene included everyone except for her. She felt that she was a passer-by watching others engaged in their business just like the invisible person she was in Duke Xing's Mansion.

Everyone knew that she was out of favor with Madam and Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion. She was just an adopted daughter raised in their mansion, and it didn't cost a lot to raise her...

Chapter 600 Meet an Old Acquaintance

However, she didn't get the good marriage she expected! She was old enough to get married but hadn't even got engaged. Because Shao Yanru hadn't got engaged as the eldest Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion, she couldn't get engaged either.

The reason made sense, unless Qi Rongzhi's biological parents found a match for her. However, Magistrate Qi was far away in Jiangzhou. Besides, even if he came to the capital city, there wouldn't be many people willing to marry her, who was only the daughter of the magistrate of a remote place!

She closed her eyes tightly. When she opened them again, they became indifferent and gentle with the sadness fading away, which made her look just like Shao Yanru.

After spending a long time with Shao Yanru, she made some progress in manners.

“Miss, the Young Madam of Duke Yong’s Mansion is here!” Chunyi came in and reported.

“Please come in, Sister Yuru!” Qi Rongzhi said with a smile, stood up, and went out to greet her.

When the door of the private room was opened, Qin Yuru was standing outside the room. When she saw Qin Yuru in front of her, Qi Rongzhi was shocked by the lady in front of her although she had been prepared.

Was it Qin Yuru?

In the past, Qin Yuru had been lively and charming. She and Qi Rongzhi used to be known as two beauties when they were in Jiangzhou, and she was beloved by Qi Tianyu at that time. Thus, she had been an exceptional beauty and lived well in Jiangzhou. However, if Qi Rongzhi passed the lady in front of her on the street, she didn’t think she could recognize that the lady was Qin Yuru, who had grown up with her.

Qin Yuru was so thin that she was almost out of shape. Even her hair was dry and gray. Although her dark hair was done in a very gorgeous bun, it was just like a wooden framework without the vitality and freshness she used to have. Her eyes looked gray and gloomy and made Qi Rongzhi feel inexplicably cold when she looked at Qi Rongzhi.

She seemed to be ten years older than her actual age and looked like a woman lady in her thirties.

“Sister Yuru... you...” Qi Rongzhi said without feigning the astonishment on her face. In the past three years, she had never met Qin Yuru and didn’t expect that Qin Yuru had become like this.

“What’s wrong? You can’t recognize me?” Qin Yuru asked coldly with a sarcastic smile.

“No... it’s impossible. I just didn’t expect that...” Qi Rongzhi said, reached out to hold Qin Yuru’s hand intimately, led her into the private room, and sat down.

She picked up the teapot beside her, poured a cup of water, pushed it to Qin Yuru, and said, “Sister Yuru, since you married into your maternal grandma’s mansion, why do you become so thin? Are you sick?”

Both her appearance and mental state seemed to be completely different. She had changed so much that Qi Rongzhi was still astonished and even involuntarily asked the question in her mind.

“I’m fine. Tell me, what do you want from me?” Qin Yuru looked at her coldly and asked bluntly.

“Sister Yuru, I’m here to see you today!” With a gentle sigh, Qi Rongzhi said and became gloomy, “Think of our lives when we were in Jiangzhou and look at our lives now. If I had known that I would end up like this, I wouldn’t have come to the capital with your Qin’s Mansion. Although Jiangzhou is a small place, I can marry a handsome and promising man!”

After that, she picked up the teacup beside her and took a sip with a bitter smile on her face.

“Haven’t you got engaged?” Qin Yuru asked with a sarcastic smile.

"No, and I don't know when I can get engaged. Since the First Miss hasn't got engaged, it's impossible for us to get engaged as younger sisters!" Qi Rongzhi said and then gave an order to Chunyi beside her, "Go to the opposite restaurant to buy two pots of wine. It's a rare opportunity to meet sister Yuru again today. Since we have the same misfortune, let's have a drink and get drunk in secret as we did before!"

Chunyi replied and left.

Moved by Qi Rongzhi's expression and words, Qin Yuru looked a little better, didn't refuse, just glanced at her and said, "It's reasonable that you are not allowed to get married. But are you not allowed to get engaged either? Well, the rules of Duke Xing's Mansion are quite harsh!"

"It's not true. It's just that no one cares about this kind of thing. The First Miss has been occupied with her own business, so no one cares about this kind of thing!" As Qi Rongzhi said, she substituted tea for wine and raised her cup to take a big sip, "They won't have the time to arrange a marriage for me, an adopted Miss, before their biological daughter's marriage is settled!"

"Weren't you very complacent about being a member of Duke Xing's Mansion at that time?" Seeing Qi Rongzhi's frustrated look, Qin Yuru felt her anger worked off and said.

"At that time, I was ignorant and thought that I could get a good marriage after entering Duke Xing's Mansion. But now I wish I had never gone there. In this case, at least I could maintain a clean reputation." As Qi Rongzhi said, she became increasingly sad with her eyes turning red, stood up, and bowed to Qin Yuru.

"If there were any rumors outside tarnishing your reputation, I would like to apologize to you here."

Qin Yuru reached out and slapped Qi Rongzhi hard, making Qi Rongzhi take two steps back and bump into a chair beside her.

"Bitch, it's the first time that I've met you during such a long time. Why did you claim that I told you about the evil Taoist priest of the Baiyun Taoist Temple?"

"Sister Yuru, I'm really sorry about this. It's really not my fault. I... I found out about it later. Since the rumor has been spread then, I could do nothing about it. At least you've got married, while I... I haven't even got engaged!"

As Qi Rongzhi said, she burst into tears, covered her face with her hands, and struggled to stand still.

"You found out about it later. What happened?" Qin Yuru asked. The reason why Qin Yuru could come out today was that she was invited by Qi Rongzhi. Duke Yong's Mansion also wanted to find out why Qi Rongzhi got Qin Yuru in the case of the Baiyun Taoist Temple!

Qin Yuru couldn't get out of the mansion easily in normal times!

Since she married Duke Yong's Mansion, Qin Yuru had lost all her freedom. Although Old Madam of Duke Yong's Mansion doted on her, so what? Di Yan was Old Madam's favorite grandson, and the entire Duke Yong's Mansion couldn't afford to lose face. She could marry into Duke Yong's Mansion because of Old Madam, so how could she ask for more?

"It's Shao Wanru who did that!" Qi Rongzhi said with hatred. She sat back in the chair and picked up a handkerchief to cover her face with her eyes full of hatred.

This name seemed to be vague in Qin Yuru's memory, but it suddenly broke the indifference she had maintained for a long time. With a trace of bloodthirsty coldness slowly gathering her eyes, Qin Yuru tightly clenched her hands as skinny as chicken paws and almost said these words through her clenched teeth, "What does the bitch intend to do? Isn't it enough for her to put me in such a wretched situation?"

As she lived an increasingly miserable life in Duke Yong's Mansion, she bore increasing grudges against Shao Wanru and almost vented all her hatred of Shao Wanru. If it weren't for her grudges against Shao Wanru, Qin Yuru felt that she would have gone crazy.

Yes, all of her misfortune was caused by the bitch.

If it weren't for what Shao Wanru had done in Jiangzhou, she wouldn't have broken with Qi Tianyu and have such a terrible reputation. After they moved to the capital city, she and her mother's plans were ruined step by step because of the bitch. All of these were caused by Shao Wanru.

Qin Yuru thought that all her misfortune was caused by Shao Wanru, but she had never thought of what she had done to Shao Wanru. After doing so many evil and outrageous things, she still expected that Shao Wanru should be driven up the wall without resisting.

Seeing the wild hatred in Qin Yuru's eyes, Qi Rongzhi was satisfied, because she came here today to arouse Qin Yuru's hatred.

"Although I don't live well in Duke Xing's Mansion, my life is not bad. Shao Wanru, who lives in the Yuhui Nunnery now, has nothing to do with me. However, she deliberately said that it was you who told me about the evil Taoist priest. When the case of the Baiyun Taoist Temple was revealed, she said that in front of the servants sent up the mountain by Duke Xing's Mansion. After that, I got involved in it, and you were the next. Although I argued later, it was impossible for them to be partial to me since all of them are the members of Duke Xing's Mansion. I had to take the blame even if I didn't do it!"

Qi Rongzhi wiped her tears and said sadly.

In fact, her lie was flawed. Nevertheless, because Qin Yuru had hated Shao Wanru to the core long before, she didn't doubt Qi Rongzhi's words and was convinced of them at once before Qi Rongzhi said anything more.

"Bitch, bitch!" Qin Yuru picked up the teacup beside her furiously and smashed it on the ground.

Qi Rongzhi, who was sitting opposite to her, sneered. Qin Yuru was still so naive, and that should be the reason why she fell into such a wretched situation!

"Sister Yuru, we have been friends for many years. I just intended to get a higher status and have no evil intent. Although I've done something to hurt you, it's Shao Wanru who made me do it. Speaking of which, isn't it Shao Wanru who put me in this wretched situation?" Qi Rongzhi added another inflammatory detail to make Qin Yuru more furious.

Qi Rongzhi made sense and mentioned their close relationship before. Besides, Qi Rongzhi was also in a wretched situation. So they felt pity for each other now.

In the end, Qi Rongzhi even said with a little envy, "Sister Yuru, you've at least married into Duke Yong's Mansion and become the Young Madam of Duke Yong's Mansion. Duke Yong's Mansion will be in your charge in the future. Meanwhile, I have nothing now and uncertain about my future!"

After saying that, she wiped her eyes sadly.

As the door was opened, Chunyi came in with two wine pots and two empty wine cups on the tray in her hands.

After Chunyi put down the tray, Qi Rongzhi picked up the wine pot in front of Qin Yuru, poured a cup for her and another cup for herself, and said, "Sister Yuru, Shao Wanru is now the Fifth Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion, so we can do nothing about it. Let's get drunk. Now we are in different situations. She's a cloud high up in the sky, while we..."

Qi Rongzhi gave hollow laughter and tossed off her cup. With her tears falling down, she said in a choked voice, "We are nothing and destined to be trampled by her for the rest of our lives!"

Qin Yuru also grabbed the wine cup. After tossing it off, she smashed the cup heavily on the ground, gnashed her teeth, and said in hatred, "She is still nothing now. It's hard to say who will be the final winner!"