

Medical Princess 621

Chapter 621 Cad and Ingrate

The carriage went straight to Prince Yue's Mansion. As soon as it turned into the main street of Prince Yue's Mansion, Shao Yanru's calm voice came out of the carriage, "Go back to the mansion!"

The coachman took a big turn on the street and changed the direction of the carriage. After that, he asked seriously to Shao Yanru in the carriage, "First Miss, shall we go back to our mansion now?"

"Yes, go back to our mansion!" Shao Yanru pulled the handkerchief in her hand and frowned, but she did not look as annoyed as she had been just now after being irritated. At this time, she could not act rashly and blindly. If she came here rashly in a panic, people would definitely notice. Even if she entered from the back door, it would not be appropriate.

The more complex the situation was, the more she could not panic. She took a deep breath and suppressed all the anxiety in her heart. This matter had to be given further thought, and actually, her own affairs had not been solved yet. If something else happened, she would be doomed eternally. She had to calm down!

This time, the coachman did not hesitate and drove the carriage straight to Duke Xing's Mansion.

When they arrived at the mansion, after the carriage stopped, Shao Yanru got off and walked slowly with Shuqi to the Yingyue Courtyard where Madam of Duke Xing lived.

Madam of Duke Xing was dealing with the affairs. When she saw Shao Yanru walking in with a calm face, she waved her hand and all the servant girls and old maids in the room left silently.

Only Nanny Sheng stayed there.

Seeing her daughter frowning, Madam of Duke Xing was a little anxious. Before Shao Yanru sat down, she asked, "How is it going?"

Shao Yanru sat down, picked up the teacup served by Nanny Sheng, took a sip, and then slowly put it down. She raised her head and said, "Mother, Shao Wanru is very stubborn. She didn't say what Eldest Uncle left for her, and she spoke in a threatening manner with much confidence!"

"How dare she..." Madam of Duke Xing slammed her hand hard on the table, and the corner of her mouth turned cold.

"Mother, what on earth did Eldest Uncle leave behind?" Shao Yanru looked at Madam of Duke Xing and asked expectantly.

Madam of Duke Xing waved her hand and said impatiently, "I don't know exactly. Your father means that there may be something important in your uncle's hands, but whether it is true is not sure. Only after Shao Wanru shows it to us can we know!"

Speaking of this, Madam of Duke Xing was very depressed, because Duke Xing did not say this clearly. He only said that these things were very important to the whole Duke Xing's Mansion, whose future it was also related to. If they could be found, it would be of great benefit to Duke Xing's Mansion. Moreover, he could guarantee that his son would win in the end and become the Heir of Duke.

Duke Xing had submitted memorials to ask Emperor to confer Heir of Duke upon Shao Yuanhao. Madam of Duke Xing and Duke Xing had quarreled for this matter. Madam of Duke Xing felt a burning pain in her throat, and her eyebrows were full of hatred. It was all that b*tch. Definitely, it must be because of that b*tch.

For that b*tch, Duke Xing had done this and even sacrificed his son for it. Every time she thought of this, Madam of Duke Xing felt as if her heart was suppressed by something, which made her unable to breathe.

Why did her son have to look up to others?

“Mother, I can’t get the answer. If you really want to know, you can ask her by yourself!” Seeing that Madam of Duke Xing didn’t tell her the truth, Shao Yanru’s face darkened, and she put down the teacup in her hand heavily. She also had a lot of annoyances, so she really didn’t want to deal with Shao Wanru for this fabricated thing.

She knew nothing about it, so how could she find out anything from Shao Wanru? However, her mother seemed to conceal something and didn’t want her to know.

“How can you talk like this? Ru’er, what I do is all for you and your brother. As a mother, how could I hurt you?” There was a flash of sharp light in Madam of Duke Xing’s eyes. Her voice became soft and she comforted Shao Yanru.

“Mother, since we don’t know what that thing is, how can we get it from Shao Wanru? Mother, you know that Shao Wanru and I are just maintaining our relationship with dignity now. Shao Wanru may have already had complaints about me in her heart after this accident. She thinks that I was the one who stirred this up. How can she believe my words in this way?”

Shao Yanru couldn’t help feeling annoyed again. She really didn’t want to listen to Madam of Duke Xing’s lie. In her opinion, it had nothing to do with her but her eldest brother. Eldest brother should deal with this by himself. Why did they rely on her?

“Does she suspect that it has something to do with you?” Madam of Duke Xing sat upright and said indifferently, “The Ministry of Justice said that it was not a big deal and had nothing to do with our mansion. It was just an accident. Why does she become so scheming at such a young age and still not letting us go? It was Qin Yuru who invited her to go down the mountain. What does it have to do with us?”

Speaking of this, Madam of Duke Xing was really angry. She had been to Duke Yong’s Mansion before. Originally, she had thought it would be easy to let Duke Yong’s Mansion admit it because Countess Yong didn’t dare to disobey her. However, she didn’t expect that she would suffer setbacks.

Countess Yong had rejected all the conditions and benefits that she had proposed and refused her without hesitation. This was something that had never happened before. Duke Xing’s Mansion was in the first class, but Duke Yong’s Mansion was only a third-class Duke’s Mansion, which was not at the same level at all. In the past, Countess Yong had always tried to curry favor with her when seeing her, so Madam of Duke Xing had never thought that she would refuse.

Madam of Duke Xing was so angry that she left quickly!

"I don't know why she insists on not letting me go. She thinks it's my idea. Mother, it's obvious that I can't start from Shao Wanru. You'd better go to Duke Yong and tell him that by sacrificing a daughter-in-law with a bad reputation, he will get a daughter-in-law with a good reputation in the future. So he would definitely agree with it!"

Shao Yanru didn't know that Madam of Duke Xing also came back in failure. She thought it was easier to start from Madam of Duke Yong's Mansion. In the past, she had seen the flattery of Madam of Duke Yong's Mansion to her mother. Almost as long as her mother said something, she would do it. She was very obedient and was much easier to deal with than Shao Wanru.

As long as Qin Yuru took all the responsibilities, Shao Wanru could put down her guard and even feel a little guilty to her so that she could take advantage of the opportunity to get in.

"She can't do that. I don't know what happened to her recently, but she insisted that Qin Yuru was not only her daughter-in-law but also Old Madam's granddaughter. She can't push her too far. Otherwise, she will be in trouble!" Madam of Duke Xing said gloomily.

"Mother, you must let her admit it. Otherwise, something terrible will really happen. Even if the people of the Ministry of Justice don't investigate this matter, everyone in the capital city will think that we have done it. I came from the street just now and heard many people talking about our mansion. They are all saying that father is pretending. If you can't settle the matter of Qin Yuru, unless father asks for the position of the heir of a duke again and again and asks for it to be given to Shao Yuanhao, the rumors outside won't stop!"

Shao Yanru curled her lips and pushed Madam of Duke Xing. She didn't believe that her mother wouldn't be moved. Her mother always thought that the title of Heir of Duke Xing was in her brother's pocket. If it didn't belong to him, her mother would definitely feel worried.

Her mother pushed Duke Yong's Mansion so that she could be more relaxed. Shao Yanru didn't think there was anything wrong with this. They were both her mother's children. Why should her mother think more about her elder brother and consider less about her?

"Is there really such a rumor outside?" As expected, Madam of Duke Xing's expression changed greatly.

Shao Yanru thought for a while and said, "When I came here just now, I heard it through the carriage. I don't know if it was because people on that road talked a lot about it or all the people in the capital city discussed it in private!" She said that she heard it occasionally so that it would add more importance to the matter. She knew clearly that her mother was suspicious.

Even if she was her biological daughter, she could not compare with her son.

Although she was more useful than her elder brother, her father and mother had more expectations for her elder brother.

"They've gone too far!" A sharp light flashed in Madam of Duke Xing's eyes. She stood up, walked around the room twice, and finally calmed down and sat down again. "Ru'er, don't worry. I will talk to Countess Yong again. As for you, you can talk to Qi Rongzhi. She ate us and used us. In the end, she even said some ambiguous words to accuse our mansion. We really raise an ungrateful person!"

“Mother, what Qi Rongzhi said before was said to the Ministry of Justice. Even if you want her to turn over her statement, it’s impossible!” Shao Yanru said coldly, “Since she has deliberately led this to us, you don’t have to take care of her. Didn’t my cousin say that he needed a legal wife! It’s a good position for her!”

“Wang Shengxue?”

Shao Yanru sneered and said, “It’s him. Except for him, who else is qualified to marry this ungrateful person? Coincidentally, he is also an ungrateful person. They are a match made for each other!”

Although Wang Shengxue was still in the capital city, he was not a motivated person. In the past, he relied on Duke Xing’s Mansion to live and his reputation was so bad that he had two concubines before getting married, Ning Xueqing and Dong Xing. So no decent girl was willing to marry him. He wandered around and gradually changed from a child from an aristocratic family to an ignorant and incompetent playboy.

Originally, there was still some money in his family, but now the money was almost spent by him. From time to time, he would come to Duke Xing’s Mansion to ask for help.

Because of the reason of Wang Yishu, Madam of Duke Xing was quite generous.

“Well, just him!” Madam of Duke Xing sneered. She originally wanted to deal with this b*tch after the matter was settled, but now she happened to annoy her! Since she was nominally her Godmother, she would let this b*tch marry a dog-like person.

“Nanny Sheng, go and ask Wang Shengxue to come over later!” Madam of Duke Xing had an idea in her mind and had a cold smile on her face.

“Yes, Madam, I will go now!” Nanny Sheng came out behind her and said respectfully!

Shao Yanru nodded, picked up the teacup, took a sip slowly, and reminded Madam of Duke Xing, “Go quickly. I have to fulfill my cousin’s wish. Mother, what do you think of Wang Yishu?”

Nanny Sheng left quietly. When she reached the door, she even closed the door of the main room for them.

Chapter 622 Guest Coming from the Back Door

“I’ll take care of this girl for more time!” Madam of Duke Xing said decisively.

Shao Yanru said disdainfully, “Why? You have raised her for so long! She has been provided with delicious food and drinks all the time. Do you really intend to raise her for the rest of her life?”

Since Wang Yishu came back from the palace in a faint, it was said that she was very weak and was so sick that she could hardly speak. She was maintained with medicine every day, but in fact, she was grounded in the yard. There were only one old maid and one servant girl to serve her. No one else was allowed to enter and no one inside was allowed to come out.

She seemed to live an imprisoned life.

"You don't have to worry about this. Your father and I have other plans!" Madam of Duke Xing said impatiently.

Shao Yanru was unhappy in her heart, but there was a faint smile on her face. She stood up and said, "Mother, I am tired. You go to deal with Qin Yuru's matter first. The longer this matter is delayed, the worse it will be for our mansion. Prince Yue and Prince Zhou were a little angry in the letter before. Please tell my father that if he can't solve it as soon as possible, Prince Yue and Prince Zhou will be trouble for us. Maybe they will agree to Shao Yuanhao's request."

Although the request was Duke Xing's Mansion's own business, the other officials had the right to show their agreement or objection. When Duke Xing's Mansion proposed this request, many officials who are in good relation with them opposed it. But if Prince Yue and Prince Zhou agreed, many officials would follow them. The position of Heir of Duke Xing might really fall into Shao Yuanhao's hands.

"You should beg the two Princes and say something good. Just say that this matter will be dealt with as soon as possible, and try not to ruin your reputation!" Madam of Duke Xing said it again and again.

"Yes, mother, I'll keep it in mind!" Shao Yanru's voice became softer, and she looked very obedient. She bowed to Madam of Duke Xing, turned around, and walked out gracefully.

No one noticed the sarcasm in her eyes. So what if her mother and father were partial? She had her own way to make them anxious and rush to purify her reputation.

Her future was also related to the future of Duke Xing's Mansion. She did not believe that they were not in a hurry. Of course, she would not let Shao Wanru go smoothly!

The trap she had set before, even if she left, could still be used. This time she left in a hurry, she didn't believe that she could clean it up. There were still some of her people in the Yuhui Nunnery...

"Miss, Great Elder Princess asked you to stay in the mansion for a few days and said that she wanted to make some clothes for you. The cloth was given by the palace. She asked you to pick a few more!" Nanny Yu smiled and asked someone to put down the cloth. A dozen pieces of cloth were spread all over the table, looking very gorgeous.

Fortunately, although they were gorgeous, they looked very low-pitched. They were mainly silver-white, lake-blue, light green, and pink-white, decorated with dark-striped flowers. They were already very plain and clean.

They were also suitable for her to wear now.

Shao Wanru put down the book in her hands, walked to the table, and looked through it. Then she picked up two pieces of cloth, one of which was white with some gray raindrops, and the other one was light green with several green leaves at the bottom.

"Miss, these two pieces of cloth are too old-fashioned. They are not suitable for you to wear at your age!" Nanny Yu reminded her. These two pieces of cloth were not only unimpressive but also old-fashioned. They did not look like the kind that young girls were willing to wear.

"I'll take these two. Originally, I don't need to choose any one of them. I'll go to Huaguang Temple in a few days. When I arrive at Huaguang Temple, I can still wear the clothes in Yuhui Nunnery before. They

are convenient to wear, and they don't look impressive. However, I can't refuse my grandmother's good intentions. These two sets of clothes are ok. I will not necessarily wear them. When I come back from Huaguang Temple in the future, I won't need these thin autumn clothes!"

Shao Wanru said casually.

She did choose these two pieces of cloth deliberately. These two pieces of cloth were indeed not suitable for her. It was not that she did not know how to choose the cloth. A light piece of cloth was more suitable for a young girl to wear. However, she did not intend to make clothes at the moment. But it was hard to refuse her grandmother's good intentions. It was better to implicitly show that she did not want to choose.

She should not refuse the things given by the elder! Besides, her grandmother felt that she owed her a lot and wanted to make it up to her wholeheartedly. If she told her directly, her grandmother might be sad again. She might as well pick two unsuitable ones to express her meaning implicitly!

This kind of cloth might not be passed by her grandmother. However, her grandmother must know what she meant. It was not that she did not accept her grandmother's kindness, but it was not the proper time at the moment.

"Nanny Yu, if grandma asks, just say that I choose these two pieces for the time being. Now that Brother Hao and I are in trouble, it's better not to give anyone a chance to talk about us!" Shao Wanru reminded Nanny Yu again.

"Yes, I understand!" Nanny Yu nodded with a distressing feeling. She also knew that this was the best way, but her miss was at her beautiful age. She had to wear the most unimpressive and inappropriate clothes, which made her feel sadder and sadder.

"Is grandma back?" She looked up at the sky outside the window. It was getting dark, but Rui'an Great Elder Princess had not come back from the palace yet. She could not help but feel worried.

"Don't worry, Miss. I went to ask the supervisor nanny of Great Elder Princess before and she said that there would be such things in the past. Sometimes, the Empress Dowager talked with Great Elder Princess more excitedly, so she would come back after dinner. She asked you to have dinner first!"

"Then please set up dinner first!" Shao Wanru said.

"Miss, there is a carriage at the back door. It is said that First Miss Qi wants to see you." Yujie hurried in and put down the food basket in her hands.

Behind her was an old maid. "Miss, this is the old maid who is in charge of the door of the backyard!"

"What's going on?" Shao Wanru looked at the old maid and asked.

"Greetings, cousin Miss. I was guarding at the back door just now. I heard someone knocking on the door and opened it. It was an ordinary carriage. A servant girl stood at the door. When she saw me coming out, she handed me a letter. She said that she was the Miss of Magistrate Qi's Mansion in Jiangzhou and wanted to see cousin Miss!"

As the old maid spoke, she handed over a letter respectfully.

Shao Wanru took it and took out the letter. When she saw that, she knew it was really written by Qi Rongzhi, but her eyes darkened.

Qi Rongzhi grew up with her, so she was very familiar with her calligraphy. Naturally, she could know it at a glance. It was getting late, and what's more, she sent it at the back door. No matter how she looked at it, Qi Rongzhi seemed to be sneaky.

The words in the letter were very simple. "I can tell you something about your biological father!" "

Her biological father had an accident at the border at that time, which was inconvenient to investigate in the capital city. But it was a little closer and easier to find something from Jiangzhou. If there was anyone else who could find anything, it could only be the magistrate of Jiangzhou apart from Qin Huaiyong.

And she did want to find out the truth about her parents.

Although everything seemed to be an accident, all these accidents led to the result that the people of the senior branch of Duke Xing's Mansion were all dead except for a posthumous child. In the end, the second branch benefited from it. Moreover, Duke Xing's Mansion brought up her younger brother in a bad way. Even if Duke Xing made a memorial and asked for a title for her younger brother in the future, there would inevitably be many people who would disagree.

Originally, Duke Xing's Mansion didn't insist on Shao Yuanhao. In addition, Shao Yuanhao was disappointing. Moreover, in the last life, Duke Xing's Mansion didn't even give Shao Yuanhao this opportunity. Instead, they directly "lost" Shao Yuanhao!

In this life, if she hadn't happened to meet Hao'er and he lived in the Great Elder Princess's Mansion, he would have died. From this life, it seemed that the second branch didn't have any bad intentions toward her and her brother. But in fact, as what had happened in the last life, the second branch had been secretly plotting against her and her brother.

In the end, she and her brother lost their lives because of their plot!

Her parents, her younger brother, and herself all disappeared. From then on, everything in Duke Xing's Mansion had nothing to do with her and her brother!

If Duke Xing's Mansion was really so innocent, Shao Yanru should not have treated her like this in the palace at that time. After her rebirth in this life, she would make all the people who owed her pay back. Even if it had been so long, she would definitely reverse the case and let all the things be known to the world.

However, the letter came at the right time and seemed to be able to find out what she was thinking. Since when had Qi Rongzhi been so smart? If Qi Rongzhi was really so smart, she would not fall into such a bad situation. She should be worried about her situation in Duke Xing's Mansion now!

Therefore, she was also anxious!

She held the letter in her hands and pondered for a while. Then she looked up at the old maid and asked, "Did you see the person in the carriage?"

“Miss, I didn’t see her. But the servant girl said that this was her Miss. She said that if you see this letter, you will definitely see their Miss!”

The old maid reported to her.

Shao Wanru put the letter in her hand into the envelope and then handed the envelope to the old maid. “Go and tell First Miss Qi that I am not in good health. I have taken the medicine and have already had a good rest. If she really wants to come, we can talk about it after a period of time!”

“Yes, I will reply to her now!” The old maid nodded and took the envelope. After bowing to Shao Wanru again, she turned around and left in a hurry.

“Miss, you don’t want to see Miss Qi?” Yujie set out the dinner and asked in surprise.

“It’s not me who is in a hurry now. It’s her. Why should I be anxious to see her? Besides, it might not be her!” Shao Wanru smiled slightly, picked up the rice that Qu Le served her, and said lightly.

“It may not be her? Who is she? What does First Miss Shao want to do?” The first person that Yujie thought of was Shao Yanru, and she immediately became furious.

Yujie really felt that First Miss Shao, who was the best at pretending, was too fake. Everything was perfect as if she was a dummy. She didn’t know whether those people had eyes or not. It was obvious that she was a vicious woman with a dignified appearance.

“It’s not Shao Yanru, it’s Qi Tianyu!” Shao Wanru’s face was slightly cold. This time, Qi Tianyu couldn’t sit still anymore. Qi Rongzhi was not so smart that she would hook her with such words, but Qi Tianyu could!

Chapter 623 Brother and Sister Made an Evil Plan

“How could he be so shameless to come here? He plotted against you with First Miss Shao before, but now he wants to come here in the name of First Miss Qi. How shameless he is!” Yujie said angrily.

Yujie and Qu Le knew what had happened in Yuhui Nunnery. After that matter, Qi Tianyu had gone down the mountain in disgrace, but it was unexpected that he would come again this time.

“He thinks that I really wanted to know these and wants to threaten me with them to help Qi Rongzhi out. He believes that as long as he has these things, it will be easy to ask me to say a few words for Qi Rongzhi!”

Shao Wanru sneered.

Qi Tianyu thought that although she had made some progress, she was still a girl in the boudoir and had little experience. As long as he tried his best, he would be able to deal with her. Qi Tianyu really thought too highly of himself!

However, Shao Wanru could tell from what she had just said that there was something else behind the incident. It seemed that Magistrate Qi in Jiangzhou had found out something, otherwise Qi Tianyu would not say so. It would be good news!

Qi Tianyu also meant to strike a pose, but Shao Wanru would not give them a chance to do so! Moreover, people like Qi Tianyu often have it both ways. If this way didn't work, they would definitely come up with another way. It was best to distance himself from Duke Xing's Mansion at this time.

If Duke Xing's Mansion became prosperous, he would naturally attach himself to it again. If Duke Xing's Mansion was in a slight decline, he would also be able to leave immediately!

"Has Qing'er finished arrangement in Yuhui Nunnery?" Shao Wanru stopped thinking and changed the topic suddenly. She wanted to suppress the matter of Qi Tianyu and Qi Rongzhi. Now, she was not the only one who was in the teeth of the storm. She was just a victim among the people who were involved in this game, and she was a victim under the watchful eyes of the public.

Even if they were in the teeth of the storm together, she was the last one to worry about it.

This pot of porridge had already been stewed, so just wait to see how everyone is going to deal with it next...

"Don't worry, Miss. I have asked Qing'er, and she said that you don't have to worry about it. There have been people watching over there. If something happens, they will definitely report it to you as soon as possible!" Yujie checked that people in the room were all Miss's trusted subordinates, so she lowered her voice and said.

Qing'er was freaking out and now she stayed in Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion. It was said that her condition was in a stable condition now. But this servant girl had been badly scared, and she didn't dare to see anyone at this time. So, Rui'an Great Elder Princess put her in a remote and empty garden and asked someone to guard her. Yujie went to see her from time to time to show Shao Wanru's kindness to her.

Seemingly, Shao Wanru did not forget this servant girl who had been frightened like her, but in fact, she was contacting Qing'er through Yujie. Considering Qing'er's current situation, it was not convenient for her to appear in front of Shao Wanru, but it was just right for Yujie to see her.

"That's good. Let's take no move for the time being. Just wait and see!" Shao Wanru smiled slightly and said with a sparkle in her eyes, "Go to prepare our luggage first. We will go to Huaguang Temple tomorrow!"

She had discussed this with her grandmother. She was afraid that Duke Xing's Mansion would force her to go back. She did not worry about Shao Yanru, but was afraid that Old Madam would come. The point of "being filial" would force her to go back, so she had to leave before Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion would come here.

At the back door, the old maid who was in charge of the back door repeated what Shao Wanru had said, and then she handed the letter in her hand to the servant girl beside her. Then she entered the door, and decisively closed the door.

"Excuse me..." The servant girl wanted to knock on the door but was stopped by a man's voice.

"Big brother, what should we do now? Shao Wanru doesn't want to see me at all, but... but I... they actually want to marry me to the useless Wang Shengxue, brother!" In the carriage, Qi Rongzhi's face immediately changed, and she took Qi Tianyu's hand, who was sitting beside her and cried.

"Big brother, I don't want to marry that kind of garbage. He goes to Duke Xing's Mansion to seek gratuitous financial help all day long. And there are two concubines in his mansion, who quarrel with each other every day. He even always hangs out in brothels. Big brother, I would rather die than marry such a person."

Thinking of the message she had inquired about, Qi Rongzhi choked with sobs and cursed while gnashing her teeth, "Madam of Duke Xing and her daughter, these b*tches will die in their boots!"

"Didn't you insist on entering Duke Xing's Mansion at that time? Now you know that they look kind in the face but very wicked in heart!" Qi Tianyu frowned tightly and was in a bad mood too.

"Big brother, what should I do? What should I do? I... I want to go home. I want to go back to Jiangzhou. I don't want to come to the capital city anymore!"

Qi Rongzhi burst into tears. She did not want to find a good husband anymore. She just wanted to go home.

"You can't leave now!" A trace of darkness flashed in Qi Tianyu's eyes, and the expression on his face softened a little.

"Why can't I leave? Brother, if I stay here, they will send me to Wang Shengxue. That sh*t. I don't want to marry him. He is the last one that I will marry!"

Qi Rongzhi cried loudly and shook Qi Tianyu's hands hard. She really wanted to leave. In the past few days in Duke Xing's Mansion, she had done everything carefully and been afraid of offending people, but it turned out to be like this. She was really unwilling to accept this result!

"Don't worry. I won't let you marry Wang Shengxue. Even if he wants to marry you, he can't!" Qi Tianyu sneered. Of course, he didn't want to have such a useless brother-in-law. His sister deserved a better man. Moreover, this would be good for his and his father's career. "Rongzhi, which one do you think is better, Prince Yue or Prince Zhou?"

"Big brother?" Qi Rongzhi's eyes suddenly widened, and she looked at Qi Tianyu in disbelief. This was something that she could only think of in her dream at night!

Qi Tianyu reached out and touched her head. "It's impossible for you to be the legal wife, but if you enter Prince Yue's Mansion or Prince Zhou's Mansion, it is possible for you to become the legal wife in the future!"

"Big brother, do you mean to let me enter the prince's mansion?" Qi Rongzhi was stunned at first, then surprised, and then overjoyed. She was so excited that her hands, which were holding the handkerchief, were trembling. The originally hopeless thing immediately burned with hope in her heart, and she looked at Qi Tianyu eagerly!

"Yes, father and I have the same idea. We just wanted you to take advantage of Duke Xing's power. Now it seems that we can't do that now, but it doesn't matter. Just you might have a lower position in the prince's mansion. But these are only temporary because father and I will definitely help you!"

This was the first time that Qi Tianyu talked about his father's plan in front of Qi Rongzhi.

Qi Rongzhi nodded in surprise. She was so grateful that she couldn't believe what she had heard was true. She hurriedly promised, "Brother, you and father can rest assured. If I can enter the prince's mansion successfully this time, there will be no more trouble in the future. I will be obedient to the prince, and wait for father and brother's help to be promoted to a higher position!"

As long as she could enter the prince's mansion, even the lowest concubine would also be acceptable, which was at least much better than marrying the disgusting Wang Shengxue. In the future, she could make those who had suppressed and bullied her all kneel at her feet.

Shao Wanru, Shao Yanru, Madam of Duke Xing... Everyone waited. One day, she would trample on them.

"Brother, what should we do now? Will Shao Wanru ruin your plan if she doesn't see me?" She reached out to lift the window and looked at the back door of Great Elder Princess's Mansion, which was closed tightly. Immediately, she was a little annoyed. If Shao Wanru really ruined her bright future, she would definitely give Shao Wanru hell.

"Originally, I wanted to use her to whitewash you, at least making you innocent in the previous things. But now we can't anything when we can't see her. In this case, you don't have to stay in Duke Xing's Mansion anymore. You have your elder brother in the capital city. If something happens in Duke Xing's Mansion, you can go back to our mansion!"

Qi Tianyu said with an idea in his mind. Previously, he had been trying to get close to Duke Xing's Mansion with the help of Qi Rongzhi. However, since Duke Xing's Mansion was not in a good situation now, he'd better stay away from it as soon as possible. He could not let himself involved in the matter of Duke Xing's Mansion.

At present, the first branch in Duke Xing's Mansion had established its momentum. Although they only had an orphan and an orphan girl, almost all the momentum was coming for them. Even Duke Xing was forced to make a memorial and ask for a title. Although it was not easy to ask for the title of Heir of Duke, and the title would not go down like this, some trend could be spotted.

"Rongzhi, when you meet Shao Wanru in the future, you must show your sisterhood with her. Whenever or wherever you meet her, you must behave like this. Do you hear me?"

Fearing that Qi Rongzhi would make trouble, Qi Tianyu warned her.

"Why? Brother, when this b*tch was in Jiangzhou, she made you so disgraced and even made me lose my marriage. It was the two sisters who made trouble. Why do I have to be nice to them when I meet them?" Qi Rongzhi was unhappy. In her opinion, it was all Qin's Mansion's fault, and it was the Qin's sisters' fault.

Qin Yuru was not a good person. Neither was Shao Wanru!

They were both b*tches!

"Just leave it alone. You only need to remember that she is still a person who we can't deal with for the time being!" Qi Tianyu glanced at Qi Rongzhi. "If something goes wrong, you may fail to enter the prince's mansion and even have to marry Wang Shengxue in the end!"

Hearing what he said, Qi Rongzhi was immediately scared. She nodded hurriedly and said jealously, "Brother, don't worry. I won't hurt her for the time being, and I will be nice to her. But if there is a chance in the future, you must promise me that you can't take her side. I will make Shao Wanru kneel in front of me one day and let me trample on her!"

"Well, at that time, you can do as you want. But now, you have to listen to me!" Qi Tianyu nodded.

"Big brother, don't worry. I will listen to you!" Qi Rongzhi had a new hope, so she immediately wiped away her tears and said.

Qi Tianyu leaned over and said something to her in a low voice, making Qi Rongzhi nod repeatedly.

After they finished their words, they asked the servant girl to get on the carriage, and then the carriage slowly left the back door of Rui'an Great Elder Princess. The two siblings in the carriage didn't notice that another carriage was parked at the door of a shop opposite them. They had monitored the whole process.

They saw that a servant girl went in to deliver the letter and it was returned later. No one got out of the carriage, so they couldn't see who she was. Then the carriage stopped at the back door for a long time. It seemed that there could not be only one person in the carriage, otherwise one couldn't have let the servant girl wait for so long outside the carriage.

"Find out who this carriage belongs to and who is inside!" said Wen Xichi. Since they were from the Ministry of Justice, they had to find out this seemingly strange thing.

"Yes, Sir!" A guard turned around and left.

No one expected that an accident that had happened when they had been going down the mountain would cause a great disturbance in all directions. And because of this, the situation in the whole capital city become increasingly strange...

Chapter 624 One Step Late, Making the Evil Old Woman Angry

Shao Wanru left the next morning, and no one expected that she would leave. Old Madam of Duke Xing took Madam of Duke Xing to Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion, but she did not find Shao Wanru. Old Madam of Duke Xing, who struggled to come over, was so angry that she almost fainted. That girl must have done it on purpose. She knew that she would come over and "implore" her to go back, but she left early.

Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion was reluctant to come and then left angrily. It was rare for Rui'an Great Elder Princess to send her to the gate, and she held the hand of the Old Madam with a reluctant look, repeatedly explaining Shao Wanru's intention to observe mourning and cultivate for her parents.

Even though she was still injured and it was difficult for her to take a step forward, she still asked someone to carry her to Huaguang Temple.

Her words made Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion, who had claimed that she was sick and came to invite Shao Wanru back to her mansion to recuperate, blush with embarrassment. However, she couldn't say anything else when she saw Rui'an Great Elder Princess's smiling face. She only felt that she

was holding a breath in her heart. She couldn't get it up or down. She almost vomited blood because of suffocation.

In the past, she had dealt with Rui'an Great Elder Princess a lot. The princess had always been mighty. Even if she had been wronged, she was still very mighty. Usually, the Old Madam would show that she was at a disadvantage at this time, and she would say that it was not a big deal for her to be at a disadvantage. The two mansions had a relationship. Even if her son and daughter-in-law were gone, she would still let Rui'an Great Elder Princess win.

Looking at the princess's resentful and aggrieved look, the Old Madam felt that she was much smarter than the princess. How could a Great Elder Princess with just a noble reputation be powerful?

Now the roles were reversed. She was so angry that her face turned blue. With trembling fingers, she held Madam of Duke Xing's arm and pinched her hard. Madam of Duke Xing felt it so painful that her face turned pale, but she dared not make a sound.

It was not easy to wait for Great Elder Princess to finish "showing her politeness". Old Madam got on the carriage with Madam of Duke Xing's help. Her face immediately darkened. She patted the wall of the carriage hard and said in a hateful voice, "She has gone too far!"

Madam of Duke Xing rubbed her own arms and gritted her teeth. "Mother, let's go to Huaguang Temple!"

She didn't believe that she could not see this girl.

"We can't go now. Since she has gone to Huaguang Temple, it means that she is going to cultivate. If we disturb her rashly, it will only make more gossip in the capital city!" the Old Madam rejected Madam of Duke Xing's suggestion.

"Then what should we do?" Madam of Duke Xing said without giving up.

"Just do as you said before!" the Old Madam glanced at her and said slowly.

Madam of Duke Xing was stunned at first, but then she realized something and nodded repeatedly. In fact, this idea was not made by her, but by her daughter. Since it had been arranged, it should not be wrong.

"Then later I'll ask someone to go to Yuhui Nunnery to get her stuff." Madam of Duke Xing's face looked a little better.

"Go!" the Old Madam closed her eyes and said coldly. She disliked this little granddaughter more and more. It seemed that she had no feelings for Duke Xing's Mansion. When she came out of the Yuhui Nunnery, she didn't go back to the mansion. No matter how outsiders pointed fingers at Duke Xing's Mansion, she didn't say a word for Duke Xing's Mansion. It was really hateful!

When she thought of this hateful girl, she thought of Infanta Qinghua. If it weren't for Infanta Qinghua, her son wouldn't have died. He was her most promising son. Thinking of this, she couldn't help but have tears in her eyes. Her son was killed because of Infanta Qinghua. Great Elder Princess was so shameless to say that she was the victim in front of her.

Shao Wanru was now persuaded by Great Elder Princess to stay away from her father's family despite being a member of the family. However, it also showed that this girl and Qinghua were the same kinds of people. Both of them were not good people and came to ruin the family. The string of Buddha beads hanging in the Old Madam's hands began to slide slowly, which could eliminate the anger in her heart.

How could she love this girl considering what this girl had done?

Forget it, forget it. The girls in her mansion were quite a lot and they did not lack her. When this girl was not recognized, everyone in the mansion was kind and peaceful. There was nothing wrong. But when she was recognized, there were so many accidents, as if she was really a "disaster". Of course, the Old Madam did not dare to say these words to others. After all, the emperor had heard it before.

When Shao Wanru arrived at Huaguang Temple, she didn't take the Wenxin Road. In her current situation, it was not convenient for her to get up, so she naturally didn't have the strength to walk on the Wenxin Road. After entering Huaguang Temple from the side, she arrived at the room where she had contacted to live before.

In the temple, a reception monk and a young monk came to welcome her into her yard.

In order to keep quiet, Great Elder Princess chose a relatively remote room for her.

Because Huaguang Temple was a royal temple, both the Buddhist temple and the yard for pilgrims inside were different from the small ones in Yuhui Nunnery. It looked very gorgeous.

In particular, the courtyard Shao Wanru was living in now was said to be a top-class courtyard for distinguished guests. It was not only quiet but also elegant. There were several purple bamboos in it, which were the most famous in Huaguang Temple. There was also a tablet of the sage. The words on it were grand and clear.

It was not inferior to the stone tablet in the tablets forest that Shao Wanru had seen in the purple bamboo forest of Huaguang Temple.

The yard was set against the back mountain, and there was a small stone path directly up to the mountain from the back gate. It could be seen that the scenery of the mountain was not bad. From a distance, there were rocks and trees, and pavilions towering on the mountains. From time to time, tourists would pass by, but they would all go up from another road.

It should be a small shortcut to enjoy the scenery in the back mountain, but it was not a necessary path.

Apart from being close to the other courtyard, there was still a distance from the courtyards of other pilgrims with at least two-hundred-meter way. There was only a small Buddhist temple around it. Although the scale was not big, the Buddha statues inside were all with a golden body. At first glance, one could tell that they were valuable. The layout here represented the royal temperament.

It should be used for the guests of the royal family to rest and present incense. Ordinary pilgrims couldn't come here at all!

There was a small rockery at the door. A few plum trees behind the rockery even began to show their sprouts, which might have something to do with the mountain. It was really an unexpected joy.

Shao Wanru slightly checked the courtyard and was very satisfied. It was not very big, but it was exquisite and ingenious. Even the stone tablet in the courtyard was enough for her to read for a month. As for the courtyard on the side, it seemed to be empty and no one should live there.

This was even better. If there were someone from the royal family living by her side, she would have to pretend to be seriously injured and frightened, and she would not dare to show up in front of others. It would be really stuffy. It would be best if there was no one living by her side!

There was also a tall maple tree planted in the yard. It was the time when the maple leaves were brilliant. When the wind blew over, red maple leaves would fall down from time to time. If they were not cleaned up for a while, they would pile up under the tree.

Yujie and Qu Le were interested in picking up the beautiful maple leaves.

They were the girls who had served Shao Wanru in the Yuhui Nunnery. Shao Wanru also brought Qing'er here. She told the public that this servant girl was better than before and if no one frightened her, she might be fine. She brought her to the mountain for her health. If she was disturbed too much at the foot of the mountain, she would be frightened more.

Both Shao Wanru and Qing'er were "frightened"!

There were not many things, only a few clothes to be sent to the mountain. As for the rest, the Huaguang Temple said they would provide them, but it was much simpler than the original ones.

Huaguang Temple was not like Yuhui Nunnery. Since there was a courtyard specially prepared for the royal family, the things inside were naturally more exquisite. Although the color of the things was the same as that of other ones, they were actually different.

The reception monk and the little monk led them here and left. But they also said that there would be a little monk responsible for delivering food for them in the future. If they wanted to eat anything, they could tell the little monk in advance.

This was also different from that of the Yuhui Nunnery. Yujie and Qu Le expressed their gratitude to the reception monk on behalf of Shao Wanru and sent him to the gate of the courtyard. Then the reception monk and the little monk left sensibly.

After they left, Shao Wanru went to the courtyard and sat on the stone bench under the maple tree to rest. She leisurely enjoyed the scenery. The autumn was about to pass, and the weather had turned cold. The thick green color of the mountain had faded, and the layers of red leaves had almost fallen. But even so, the mountain was still beautiful and made people feel refreshed.

Although the lunch was very simple, it was good to taste. Shao Wanru was in a good mood and ate half a bowl of rice more than usual. Yujie and Qu Le also kept praising it. In the afternoon, they strolled around in the yard. After walking around, they went into the room to take a nap.

While she was in a daze, she suddenly heard a voice coming from outside the courtyard. It was very loud as if someone wanted to wake her up deliberately. It was really not pleasing to hear.

Shao Wanru sat up, used her hands to rub her eyes, and asked, "Is anyone there?"

"Miss, you're awake. I'm here!" Qu Le's voice came, followed by the sound of footsteps. She reached out to hang the hook on Shao Wanru's bed and handed her a cup of warm water.

Shao Wanru took it and took a few sips to relieve her dry throat. Then she asked lazily, "What are they talking about outside?"

Qu Le took over Shao Wanru's cup, turned around, put it on the table, and said, "Miss, someone indeed sent something here. He said it's ours, but Yujie said it's not. The other person insisted that it must be ours, so there is a quarrel at the gate of the courtyard!"

"That's it? Why were they so noisy?" Shao Wanru leaned back and was not in a hurry to get up. She was originally injured, so it was not appropriate for her to get up at this time.

"If there were only people from Duke Xing's Mansion, of course, they wouldn't have quarreled. But there are also the people from the Ministry of Justice!" Qu Le curled her lips in disdain.

"The Ministry of Justice? Shao Yanru is really capable. Is this also related to Qiu Yu?" Shao Wanru thought for a while and then made up her mind.

"It's not related to Lord Qiu. It's related to the person you can't think of..." Qu Le's expression was a little terrible. She glanced at Shao Wanru secretly and wanted to say something but stopped on second thought!

"Just say it!" Shao Wanru said lightly. She raised her watery eyes slightly with a little curiosity. There was a trace of a smile in her picturesque eyes. Was Shao Yanru going to give her a surprise?

Chapter 625 Who Does Shao Yanru Call for Aid!

"It's the Third Young Master Wen!" Qu Le hesitated for a moment and said discontentedly, "I'm wondering what makes the Third Young Master Wen mix up with the First Miss. I thought him quite smart. But now he seems to be a fool deceived by the First Miss."

"It's Lord Wen!" Shao Wanru corrected her with a smile. Although it was unexpected, she was not quite surprised. Shao Yanru had to maintain her relationship with Qiu Yu for interests, but she should be on good terms with Wen Xichi!

The Wen's Mansion and Duke Xing's Mansion were neighbors, so the kids of the two mansions had known each other and played together since their childhood. Afterward, they grew up and couldn't meet at will, so it became inconvenient for them to get along in the old way.

In the last life, Shao Wanru married Wen Xichi. Once, after Wen Xichi took some medicine and went to sleep, she wandered around the Wen's Mansion. Nevertheless, she didn't dare to go too far, so she just had a walk nearby. She saw a blocked small door on a wall and it was supposed to allow people to go through.

On the other side of the wall was Duke Xing's Mansion. It showed that the two mansions had been very close at the beginning so that there was even a small side door between the two mansions making it convenient for the kids of the two mansions to play together. Shao Yanru and Wen Xichi could be considered playmates in childhood.

In the last life, she only lived cautiously and did not dare to meddle in anything. After seeing it, she didn't ask about it, but just had some speculations and had even been panic-stricken for a period after that.

Because of Qin Yuru, she didn't have a good impression of Duke Xing's Mansion in the last life. Meanwhile, she considered Duke Xing's Mansion wealthy, powerful and overbearing. If the side door was opened up one day, which enabled Qin Yuru to come over, she didn't know what Qin Yuru would do to torture her!

Every time she thought of this, she was so scared that she even had no appetite. Later, Wen Xichi, who was sensitive, realized her bad mood. After asking her for a long while, he learned that her bad mood was caused by the side door. He burst into laughter and then comforted her that the side door was opened up in their childhood to make it convenient for them to play together. When they grew up and could no longer meet each other at will, the door was blocked.

Since it was blocked, it certainly wouldn't be opened up again. So he told her to rest assured.

Thinking of what had happened in the last life, she didn't feel strange about the connection between Shao Yanru and Wen Xichi. Qiu Yu and Shao Yanru had no connection, while Shao Yanru and Wen Xichi had been friends since childhood. Even if he helped Shao Yanru, others would not feel strange about it!

"The chest has been sent here?" Shao Wanru raised her eyebrows and asked, stopping thinking about the relationship between Wen Xichi and Shao Yanru. In the last life, Wen Xichi should have got sick at this time. In this life, she reminded him to escape from it, which could be her repaying of his kindness in the last life.

"Yes, it's the chest. I have seen it. Sister Yujie said that the chest didn't belong to you. However, the nuns sent by the Yuhui Nunnery insisted that it was found in the silence room where you lived for a long period before, so it couldn't belong to anyone else!"

Qu Le said calmly. All these maids knew that the chest had been placed in the silence room by Shao Yanru long before, so they didn't panic at it being exposed at this time.

"Are there plenty of onlookers? Isn't our courtyard far from the residences of other pilgrims?" Shao Wanru said unhurriedly. She had just woken up lazily with her long hair disheveled which made her palm-sized little face look like a fascinating painting with every twinkle and smile full of charm.

"They have made a big scene. The two nuns from the Yuhui Nunnery and the two old maids from Duke Xing's Mansion seem to have been noisy along the way and have attracted some people to come with them. Besides, Lord Wen and his two subordinates also come with them. It's obvious that something serious has happened, so a group of people is naturally attracted here to watch the fun!"

Qu Le said and curled her lip. The First Miss Shao really managed to make use of everything, even the nuns from the Yuhui Nunnery. It was surprising that nuns showed up in a temple. Hearing them arguing about something, plenty of people were attracted to watch the fun. At this time, their courtyard had been surrounded by a crowd of people!

If it weren't for the fact that ordinary people weren't allowed to enter this courtyard, there would have been some unruly pilgrims rushing in!

"Miss, you should rest for a while and leave them out there arguing!" Qu Le said. They were really not afraid of making a big deal out of it.

"No, go and ask Lord Wen to come over. I want to ask him what's going on!" Shao Wanru thought for a while and gave an order lightly.

"Why should we do that? Since he comes with the old maids from Duke Xing's Mansion, he's naturally on their side. Miss, you can just ignore them. Anyway, you are in poor health now and it's inconvenient for you to meet others." Qu Le said in disapproval. She had a good impression of Lord Wen before, but now she thought that he was too stupid to be the top scholar because he couldn't even see through the First Miss's hypocritical and vicious mask.

"Since he's sent here by the Ministry of Justice, I should meet him!" Shao Wanru shook her head and said, disagreeing with Qu Le's preventing her from meeting Wen Xichi in a fit of pique.

Wen Xichi was supposed to come here for something, she just wondered if his visit at this time was just a coincidence or he had to come with them or he volunteered to help them.

The last one was the least possible. But in any case, since Wen Xichi was still here, he must come for something important. Despite her poor health, she had met a few people before.

Hearing Shao Wanru's words, Qu Le pouted and didn't dare to disobey Shao Wanru's order. She put a cushion behind Shao Wanru's back to make Shao Wanru feel more comfortable, and then let down the gauze curtain and placed a screen in front of the bed. After that, she went out to invite Wen Xichi here.

Shao Wanru leaned against the cushion and closed her eyes slightly, listening to them arguing outside. She didn't hear it clearly, probably because others were too noisy.

Then there came some footsteps. The person seemed to have paused upon arrival at the door and then walked in slowly.

"Your Excellency, please have a seat!" Qu Le said. She had placed a chair and a tea table on the other side of the screen. After asking Wen Xichi to sit down, she served him a cup of tea, and then stood beside the screen and vigilantly watched Wen Xichi leisurely pick up the teacup, put the tea foam aside with the lid, and take a sip of tea.

"Your Excellency, forgive me for not being able to get up and greet you!" Behind the screen, there came Shao Wanru's soft and weak voice which showed that she was in poor health.

"You're over courteous, Fifth Miss. How are you?" Wen Xichi put down the teacup in his hand with a smile, asked softly, and stared at the screen with his pretty eyes. On the gauze screen, there was a painting of beauties of four seasons. He couldn't see through it, so there must be something else blocking his sight.

"It's nothing serious now." Shao Wanru said in a low voice.

Although she said that it was nothing serious, she didn't seem to be fine.

"Fifth Miss, can I ask you something?" Wen Xichi said strictly.

"What is it?" Behind the screen, Shao Wanru paused for a long while and then asked in a low voice.

"Fifth Miss, have you bred enmity with anyone before?" Wen Xichi asked smoothly as if he were asking about the weather rather than a serious issue.

"Enmity? Why do you say that?" Despite her low voice, Shao Wanru sounded a little surprised.

Wen Xichi fell silent for a moment and still stared at the screen with a painting of beauties of four seasons. There seemed to be something flashing through his mind, but he failed to grasp it at the moment. He frowned, stopped beating around the bush, and said bluntly, "When you were in Ningyuan Army General's Mansion, you were on bad terms with the First Miss and Madam Di of Ningyuan Army General's Mansion, as well as had issues with the son and daughter of the magistrate of Jiangzhou. After reclaiming your identity, you didn't get along well with the members of Duke Xing's Mansion. Fifth Miss, do you agree with what I said?"

"Your Excellency, what do you mean?" Shao Wanru still said in a calm voice, as if Wen Xichi was talking about a passerby rather than her.

"Fifth Miss, as a weak Miss, don't you think that you have too many enemies?" Wen Xichi said. After saying that, he clenched his fist on his thigh hard with a trace of discomfort across his eyes. The last question even made him feel uncomfortable as if he were blaming Shao Wanru for everything that had happened.

However, he had made some investigations and discovered that Shao Wanru was actually a poor victim in these things, a poor girl whose life had almost been ruined several times.

"Your Excellency, what do you mean?" Despite her weak voice, there was a hint of anger in it.

This reminded Wen Xichi of the little girl who had shone his eyes at the very beginning. He felt a little uncomfortable for some reason.

He reached out to rub the space between his eyebrows, managed to suppress the inexplicable feeling in his heart, and explained scrupulously, "I just want to find out the one intending to hurt you. I don't mean to blame you. Please tell me bluntly. There may be some secrets behind what happened before!"

His words were very official, so they were naturally vague.

The case seemed to have been settled, but it actually had been handed over to Wen Xichi in secret because the Changxing Grass could have something to do with plenty of people. The minister of Ministry of Justice advised him to start with inquiring Shao Wanru privately. Anyway, the incident was targeted at Shao Wanru.

There was a moment of silence on the screen. With her long eyelashes fluttering, Shao Wanru slowly opened her fluid eyes and showed a trace of gloom. As she expected, the case was still under investigation. Chu Liuchen had told her before and asked her to make concessions to avoid trouble. No matter who was behind it, she should just say that she didn't care about who was to blame since it was an accident!

She just needed to show a generous attitude!

No matter what the Ministry of Justice was going to do, Chu Liuchen told Shao Wanru not to get involved in it and warned her that if she took the risk to intervene in it with her current identity, she would get killed even before knowing what had happened.

But now Wen Xichi asked her about the case. It seemed that he intended to open a breach from her. No matter what he would find out, if he opened a breach from her, she would get involved in it. It was not a good thing for her.

In this case, what should she say now?

Chapter 626 Borrow the Officers from the Ministry of Justice

“Fifth Miss, don’t worry. You just need to tell me bluntly. I’ll only record it and won’t put you in a difficult situation. I mean to find out the truth for you!” Hearing no sound come from behind the screen, Wen Xichi said slowly.

His words couldn’t even convince himself. It was just an official statement. Regarding what Shao Wanru was going to be faced with, it actually had nothing to do with him. Wen Xichi had never considered himself a soft-hearted person. After discovering his cousin sister’s evil intention, he dealt with her swiftly and ruthlessly by making his second brother and her caught meeting in secret behind the fake hills and being intimate with each other. His parents were very angry now.

His mother suggested that his second brother should marry his cousin sister, but his father thought that such an ill-behaved girl was unqualified to be the legal wife and could only be a concubine!

His parents kept arguing about it and couldn’t make a decision, so they especially asked for his opinion. Although he didn’t express his opinion, he implied that his cousin sister kept giving him different things and even brought him some food and knitted items at night, and he wondered what she meant by doing that. After they heard his words, his mother’s face changed dramatically, while his father pounded the table and stood up.

Therefore, his cousin sister became his second brother’s concubine. Because his second brother had no legal wife at the moment, she was just a nominal concubine, which meant that in order to show respect for the future legal wife of his second brother, the two of them did not really consummate their marriage!

Only when the legal wife of his second brother married into the Wen’s Mansion, Gu Xishu could officially become his second brother’s concubine after formally greeting her.

After dealing with these things quickly, he felt extremely calm when Gu Xishu stared at him with tears, as if the person in front of him were not the cousin sister he had cared much about.

A cold-hearted person like him would naturally not show even the slightest bit of concern for others. Moreover, now he worked in the Ministry of Justice, so he couldn’t allow himself to be swayed by emotions.

However, the words supposed to be normal somehow made him feel increasingly uncomfortable and even guilty. Wen Xichi reached out to rub the space between his eyebrows, and those incontinuous parts of his dream somehow flashed through his mind again.

Of course, the dream was not real and had not disturbed him for a long time. But he somehow had the dream more often. Could it be possible that he had been stressed out recently? The minister suggested that he should find out something as soon as possible and then report it to the Emperor.

"Fifth Miss..."

"Your Excellency..." The two of them almost spoke and then stopped at the same time.

"Fifth Miss, go ahead!"

"Your Excellency, go ahead!" The two of them fell silent for a moment and then spoke at the same time.

"Well, I'll say it bluntly. I want to say that since you've made a thorough investigation, why bother to ask me? As a lady in the back yard, I could have offended no one outside the back yard. I survived, fortunately, otherwise, you may not be able to see me at this moment!"

She talked about how she escaped from death in a great catastrophe in a slightly sarcastic tone. This kind of indifference made Wen Xichi feel very uncomfortable as if his chest were pressed by something.

Managing to suppress this uncomfortable feeling, Wen Xichi quickly regained his senses and said, "Fifth Miss, can't you offer any clues?"

"I really don't have any clues. If I had known that someone intended to hurt me, I wouldn't have come down the mountain at that time. Regarding what happened before, I can say that no lady would risk her reputation!" Shao Wanru said calmly with a hint of indifference.

Her words were very reasonable. A lady's reputation was incomparably precious. Even if she made a slight mistake, she would be doomed eternally. No Miss from an aristocratic family dared to risk her reputation.

Thinking of what he had found out, Wen Xichi involuntarily sighed for the ill-fated Fifth Miss Shao and thought that she was actually a poor person!

"Since you know nothing about it, I'll leave now!" Wen Xichi said decisively.

"Qu Le, walk Lord Wen out!" Shao Wanru was more decisive. She sounded weak but cold and decisive at the same time. It seemed that she wanted Wen Xichi to leave as soon as possible so that she didn't even ask him to stay a little longer conventionally.

Wen Xichi remembered that when they met for the first time, she was joyful. Why did she become so indifferent to him now?

Although he had got up, he didn't move and asked involuntarily, "Fifth Miss, have you noticed what is going on outside the door?"

As soon as he said this, Wen Xichi felt a little regretful. He didn't want to intervene in it and just intended to watch the farce. Some time ago hearing that he was going to come up the mountain to ask Shao Wanru about something, Shao Yanru specially sent someone to ask him to allow the servants from Duke Xing's Mansion, who were going to deliver some stuff to Shao Wanru, to join them in visiting the Huaguang Temple.

Considering that it was no big deal, Wen Xichi agreed. Unexpectedly, not only the old maids from Duke Xing's Mansion but also the two nuns from the Yuhui Nunnery, who claimed to bring Shao Wanru's stuff down the mountain, came with them. Although it was a little strange for the nuns to visit the Huaguang Temple, it was no big deal.

So he brought them up the mountain. Except this, other things had nothing to do with him. He just intended to do Shao Yanru a favor.

However, he didn't expect that he would be the one exposing his intention.

"Your Excellency, do you know what's going on?" Shao Wanru was stunned for a moment and asked, not expecting that Wen Xichi would mention it. Since Wen Xichi began to talk with her, she knew that he tried to stay out of what was going on outside and suggested that it had nothing to do with him, so she didn't ask about it.

Unexpectedly, he mentioned it when he was about to leave. It was really surprising.

Since he asked, Shao Wanru certainly would not let go of such an opportunity!

"Your Excellency, you must have been listening to them for a while. Have you got any clues?"

"What's in the chest" Since Wen Xichi had asked about it, he decided to intervene in it directly. After thinking for a while, he found the key point and spoke.

"I've no idea!" Shao Wanru said lightly and asked him back, "What chest?"

She, who had just woken up, naturally did not know what caused a quarrel outside.

Wen Xichi fell silent for a moment and then said slowly, "It's said that there is a chest. Your maid said it doesn't belong to you, while the nuns from the Yuhui Nunnery said it belongs to you because it was discovered in your silence room, so they quarreled about it!"

"My silence room?" Shao Wanru repeated in surprise.

"It's indeed your silence room. I heard that you have meditated there." Wen Xichi said in a deep voice.

"The silence room is not mine, but my Big Sister's. When I went up the mountain, she happened to come down the mountain. Considering the good view and good location of the silence room, I specially borrowed it for meditation," Shao Wanru thought for a while and said.

"Although it's not yours at the beginning, you have stayed there for so long." Wen Xichi said bluntly. From this point of view, it was most likely that the chest was left by Shao Wanru.

"Your Excellency, can I borrow the officers of the Ministry of Justice you brought here?" Shao Wanru thought for a moment and asked, "I heard that the officers of the Ministry of Justice all have a pair of sharp eyes!"

"Okay!" Wen Xichi said instantly. At this moment, his interest was aroused and he wondered how Shao Wanru was going to solve the problem.

"Qu Le, come in!" Shao Wanru said.

Qu Le answered and went in. Then there came a very low voice, but he could tell that it was Shao Wanru who was giving Qu Le instructions. Qu Le answered repeatedly and then walked out from inside.

“Your Excellency, please go out with Qu Le and bear witness!” Shao Wanru’s gentle voice came from inside. Although it sounded a little weak, it somehow aroused Wen Xichi’s interest. Now he really wanted to see how she was going to solve the problem.

Just now, he stood aside and witnessed the whole thing. Each of them claimed that they were right. The old maids from Duke Xing’s Mansion intended to carry the chest into the courtyard, while the maid guarding the door did not allow them to do that and even managed to push the two old maids out of the door with her own strength.

The two nuns from the Yuhui Nunnery also repeatedly confirmed that the chest was discovered in the silence room, where the Fifth Miss Shao had spent most of her time during the more than two years in the Yuhui Nunnery, so they insisted that the chest could belong to no one else other than the Fifth Miss. However, the maid denied it and insisted that the chest didn’t belong to her master.

She said that there was some clutter piled up in the corner of the silence room. Because the silence room belonged to the First Miss, it was inappropriate for them to check the clutter so that none of them knew what was piled up there, not to mention the existence of the chest. There was one thing she was sure of, that was, the chest definitely didn’t belong to her master.

Therefore, they kept arguing about it. It was a complete mess. Wen Xichi thought that it would even be difficult for him to make a judgment.

Wen Xichi said goodbye and followed Qu Le out. When they came to the door of the courtyard, Shao Wanru’s maid was still standing at the door, as if intending to guard against the old maids with her own strength.

In front of so many people, the nuns from the Yuhui Nunnery could only try to kindly persuade Shao Wanru’s maid to get out of the way, while unable to help the two old maids openly. After being stopped here for so long, the two old maids got so impatient and furious that they wanted to shout at Shao Wanru’s maid. Fortunately, the last bit of their senses made them only gnash their teeth and pretend to be reasonable.

The two officers from the Ministry of Justice, who followed Wen Xichi here, watched the fun with folded arms beside the courtyard. Before their superior gave an order, they would just stand aside and watch the fun.

Outside the door of the outer courtyard, there were plenty of people around pointing at the maids and nuns and talking about them. Most of the people, who had been watching for a long time, knew what was going on.

They had various opinions about it!

Qu Le came out, walked up to Yujie, and whispered a few words in her ear. Yujie turned around, looked at Wen Xichi, who was in the corridor, with doubts, and reluctantly nodded after a long while.

Qu Le walked over and said to the two officers, who were enjoying the farce, “Sir, Lord Wen asks you to do us a favor!”

The two of them, who were enjoying the farce, didn't expect that they were going to be part of it. They looked up at Wen Xichi, who was in the corridor. Seeing him nod at them and knowing that he agreed to their intervention, they had no choice but to stand up straight, put down their arms, and said, "What do you want us to do? Name it."

"Did you see the chest?" Qu Le asked with a smile.

The two officers from the Ministry of Justice nodded. As onlookers who had watched the whole thing, how could they not know the chest causing the trouble?

"Can you find anything unusual on the surface of the chest? I heard that the members of the Ministry of Justice are all very experienced. I wonder if you... can do it?" Qu Le smiled and said meaningfully.

Chapter 627 A Lock Which Has Been Used for Three Years

Getting Lord Wen's approval, the two officers from the Ministry of Justice took action. If they could show their capability in front of the young and promising Lord Wen, they could probably have a bright future!

Thinking of this, the two officers from the Ministry of Justice immediately walked over in high spirits. Of course, it was also because they couldn't bear to be belittled by a maid as the officers from the Ministry of Justice.

"Get out of the way!"

The chest was placed between the two old maids from Duke Xing's Mansion. Seeing the two officers from the Ministry of Justice coming over, they became uneasy.

"There's nothing special against the rules in the chest!" An old maid stepped forward, stopped the officers from the Ministry of Justice, and said. The First Miss had just asked the officers from the Ministry of Justice to take them up the mountain in order to put on a bluff rather than to check the stuff they brought.

"We can only confirm whether there is anything against the rules after having a check!" One of the officers from the Ministry of Justice glanced at the old maid and said lightly.

The other one of them came over, crouched down in front of the chest, and began to check it carefully.

The intervention of the officers from the Ministry of Justice confused the onlookers. Could there be anything against the rules?

The crowd became less noisy and looked towards the officers from the Ministry of Justice, who came over. Plenty of people in the capital city could recognize the uniform of the officers from the Ministry of Justice.

"It's really nothing serious. We just brought the chest our Fifth Miss left in the Yuhui Nunnery. Perhaps it's been a long time, so she can't remember it!" The other old maid said with a hollow laugh while reaching out to pull the chest back.

"She can't remember her own chest?" The officer from the Ministry of Justice, who was standing, glanced at the old maid and said. He, who had seen this kind of people a lot when handling cases, could tell that the old maid was in a panic.

Before intervening in it, he just considered it a farce and didn't find anything unusual about the two old maids from Duke Xing's Mansion. However, at this moment, he could tell that the old maids looked very uneasy. Could there be anything fishy about the chest?

"Lord Wen suggested that this is a royal temple and you can't make a scene at will here. If it's taken seriously, it could be considered contempt for the dignity of the royal family. We can't allow you to go on like this. If Lord Wen didn't see it, we wouldn't intervene in it. Now that he saw it, we have to help you find out the truth, in case you break the peace of the Huaguang Temple!"

The officer from the Ministry of Justice said with a smile. He was extremely polite and seemed to indicate that he had no choice but to intervene in it. If he didn't see it, it was none of his business. Now that he saw it, he naturally had to do something. Although it was not a case, wasn't the ultimate responsibility of the Ministry of Justice to maintain public security and deal with various affairs?

From this point of view, it was reasonable for them to deal with it.

"But... this is nothing serious!" The old maid in front said. However, the old maid behind her reached out to pull her sleeve as a hint for her to step back, and then said to the officers from the Ministry of Justice with a smile, "Your Excellency, since you intend to help us, we can't have no sense to appreciate your kindness. Go ahead please!"

The old maid thought differently from the old maid in front. They didn't want the intervention by the officers from the Ministry of Justice and just intended to find an unexpected opportunity to open the chest. However, after being in a stalemate for so long, they still didn't find the unexpected opportunity. Since the officers from the Ministry of Justice wanted to intervene, they could just let them do it. Opening the chest could only do good to them.

Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion had told them to open the chest on the spot.

As the two old maids stepped aside, the two officers from the Ministry of Justice came over and crouched down in front of the chest. The two of them didn't open the chest at once but began to examine it carefully. Since they intended to show off their professional skills, they naturally started with the examination.

The chest seemed to have been used for a period of time. They couldn't tell how long it was, but they were sure that it must have been a long time.

They looked down at the lock on the chest and examined it carefully, and then drew a sound conclusion after discussing in a low voice for a while, "This lock at least has been used for three years!"

"Impossible! How could it be possible!" On hearing this, the old maid, who stood beside the two officers from the Ministry of Justice and didn't think that they could discover anything, said anxiously with her face turning pale.

"The lock must have been used for more than three years, although we are not sure how long it is." One of the officers from the Ministry of Justice ignored the old maid's pale face and continued saying.

"That's great. My master has stayed in the Yuhui Nunnery for more than two years at most. Before my master went to the Yuhui Nunnery, the silence room had been the First Miss's residence, so the stuff inside must belong to the First Miss!" Yujie said excitedly at once with her eyes lighting up.

"Didn't you say that you are not sure how long it is? In this case, how can you say that the lock must have been used for more than three years?" An old maid retorted in disapproval.

"The lock happened to prevail in the capital three years ago. Because the craftsman who made this kind of locks got involved in a murder, the technique of making this kind of locks failed to be handed down! Besides, the lock seems to have been used for three years!" one of the officers from the Ministry of Justice said.

"Uh... Maybe someone bought the lock before that, but used it later rather than use it at once!" The old maid felt her heart thumped, but still insisted.

"It turns out that the lock doesn't prevail now and failed to be handed down long ago. That's great. Three years ago, my master just moved to the capital city. She was unlikely to go out to buy a lock, let alone put it away and use it later!" Yujie immediately retorted.

"But no one can say that the lock must have been used for three years!" the old maid still said stubbornly.

The officers from the Ministry of Justice ignored them, picked up a brick, and smashed the lock. After that, they opened the chest and took out a set of clothes and a box of jewelry.

Plenty of people were amazed at the gorgeous clothes, which were almost dazzling in the sun but looked small. When the jewelry box was opened, people found the jewelry inside was even more gorgeous and extraordinary.

"The clothes are so small... that they fit the Fifth Miss before she went up the mountain! They definitely don't fit the First Miss!" the two old maids exchanged glances, breathed a sigh of relief, and immediately put on a casual smile and said.

Shao Wanru was still petite when she went to the Yuhui Nunnery, so it was reasonable that she brought a set of small clothes.

"Where... where do the clothes come from?" Yujie and Qu Le opened their mouths wide in shock and said, almost unable to believe what they saw.

"I have no idea... What... what's going on?"

Obviously, the two maids were also confused and had no idea what was going on. Looking at this set of clothes, they really couldn't figure out when their master had this set of clothes.

"The clothes are small and fit a girl of eleven or twelve years old," one of the officers from the Ministry of Justice unfolded the clothes and said strictly.

"When the Fifth Miss went to the Yuhui Nunnery, she was eleven years old. But... but she went there to observe mourning for the heir and Infanta Qinghua and meditate. How could she wear such gorgeous clothes and resplendent jewelry? What... what happened?"

The two old maids also looked confused, as if they really knew nothing about it. However, they were loud enough to be heard by everyone around them.

Thinking of what had happened before, plenty of people thought that they had understood. The Fifth Miss Shao was obviously a person intent on seeking fame. She claimed to observe mourning for her parents. However, these clothes and jewelry indicated that she just pretended to be aloof from material pursuits but actually she did that in order to show her filial piety.

The clothes and jewelry obviously belonged to the Fifth Miss Shao. Otherwise, the maid would not deny it immediately. It was because she was afraid that others would discover the stuff inside and suspect the Fifth Miss Shao.

“These things definitely don’t belong to my master. My master has never seen them before. Someone intends to set up my master again after the failure last time!” At this moment, Yujie realized what was going on and said angrily, “My master almost got killed on the mountain path before. Isn’t it enough?”

Her words reminded everyone of what had happened. It was so serious that plenty of people still talked about it in private and thought that the conclusion drawn by the Ministry of Justice was too simple. The incident sounded not simple. How could they make it a minor incident and conclude without a concrete result?

Nevertheless, as the victim in the case, the Fifth Miss Shao was really generous. She agreed with the result with no objection. It could be seen that she was a kindhearted girl. In this case, she seemed to be unlikely to do something against “filial piety”.

Seeing that plenty of people began to vacillate, the old maid hurriedly said, “How can you say that? Who would set up the Fifth Miss...”

“It happened before! My master almost got killed on the mountain path. The First Miss got involved in the incident, and now she has something to do with the chest. Is the First Miss not compatible with my master in Eight Characters? Before my master went to the Yuhui Nunnery for meditation, the First Miss hurried down the mountain. Now the First Miss has something to do with these!”

Yujie angrily interrupted the old maid. She had always been more courageous than ordinary maids. Moreover, they were not in Duke Xing’s Mansion. Strictly speaking, she now couldn’t even be considered a maid of Duke Xing’s Mansion. So she felt that she had justice on her side when talking about this.

Hearing what she said, the old maid was so frightened that her face changed dramatically. She had never expected that Yujie would have the nerve to say something like that in front of so many people. Yujie shouldn’t say that as a maid. Wasn’t Yujie afraid that the Old Madam would instruct other servants to beat her to death after knowing it?

“How... how dare you!”

“I would say something offensive rather than let someone set up my master unscrupulously.” Yujie said coldly, and then took two steps forward and bowed respectfully to the two officers from the Ministry of Justice, “Your Excellency, please find out where the clothes and jewelry come from. Is there no way to find out who intends to set up my master?”

"A lock which has been used for more than three years and the clothes which fit my master when she was younger. At that time, we just moved to the capital and really didn't know about this kind of lock. Besides, my master was young and wouldn't have any opportunity to go out. Even if she had an opportunity to go out, she didn't know about this kind of lock. But now everything shows that they belong to my master. I'm wondering whom my master has offended so that she's criticized like that!"

Qu Le was also an eloquent person arguing a point to death. Although she was not as sharp-tongued as Yujie, she followed Yujie's topic and cooperated with Yujie well!

Chapter 628 Make Concessions in Order to Gain Advantages, Leave Her No Chance to Defend Herself

"Are they made of... the Colorful Yarn?" One of the officers from the Ministry of Justice touched the collar and said uncertainly.

"Let me have a look!" The other officer from the Ministry of Justice took the clothes, and said hesitantly after pinching them carefully, "It seems to be true!"

Because the Colorful Yarn was precious, very few people had the opportunity to see and touch it.

"How about presenting them to Lord Wen?"

"Okay, I'm taking them there now!" After the two officers from the Ministry of Justice had a discussion, one of them took the clothes and went inside to find Wen Xichi, who was in the corridor. Wen Xichi took the clothes and pinched them carefully, and then nodded to indicate that it was the Colorful Yarn. After talking with Wen Xichi in a low voice for a while, the officer from the Ministry of Justice returned to the door of the courtyard.

He raised the collar of the clothes in his hand and said with certainty, "Part of the clothes are made of a piece of cloth named Colorful Yarn, which is not available to ordinary people. It used to be a tribute, and only some aristocratic families in the capital could get it from the imperial palace!"

Plenty of people had never seen the Colorful Yarn, but they had heard of it. Hearing that the two officers from the Ministry of Justice were so sure that the collar of the clothes was made of the Colorful Yarn, they looked at the two old maids from Duke Xing's Mansion in confusion. Could it be possible that Duke Xing's Mansion set up such a trap in an attempt to ruin the Fifth Miss Shao's reputation?

If these traces didn't point to Duke Xing's Mansion at the same time, it wouldn't arouse suspicion!

A lock prevailing three years ago, the rust on the lock, and the Colorful Yarn which was only available to noble families, all of these indicated that there might be someone behind the scene pushing it forward on purpose.

"It... could also be Great Elder Princess..." Noticing the bad situation, an old maid hesitated in explaining.

"Nanny, please watch your mouth. Rui'an Great Elder Princess is a senior member of the royal family. You can't accuse her like that as an old maid. If you have no solid evidence, I'm afraid you will get killed even without knowing why!"

Yujie interrupted the old maid with a sneer.

Hearing her words, the old maid shut her mouth tightly and no longer dared to talk nonsense.

What Yujie said was true. If the old maid dared to accuse Great Elder Princess with no solid evidence, Great Elder Princess had the right to punish her. A humble old maid was not enough to make Old Madam go against Great Elder Princess.

“You delivered a chest up the mountain in such a big way and even brought the nuns from the Yuhui Nunnery. The two of you could do this job, but you brought the nuns from the Yuhui Nunnery, which was supposed to be eye-catching. What’s more, you came up the mountain with the officers from the Ministry of Justice. It’s impossible not to attract people’s attention!”

Yujie scared an old maid off by shouting at her, looked up at the crowd around her, and said in a sarcastic tone with a faint smile.

Connecting everything together, people found it impossible not to suspect Duke Xing’s Mansion!

Some people even recalled that Yujie had mentioned that the First Miss of Duke Xing’s Mansion seemed to be on bad terms with the Fifth Miss Shao, and thought of the rumor that the accident happening to the Fifth Miss before seemed to have something to do with the First Miss and be targeted at killing the Fifth Miss. Could it be possible that the First Miss intended to ruin the Fifth Miss’s reputation after the failure last time?

“No, it... it’s just a coincidence. The reason why we brought the nuns here is that we wanted them to testify that the chest was discovered in the Fifth Miss’s silence room for fear that the Fifth Miss might not know about it!” The other old maid hesitated in explaining.

“It’s just a chest. Could it be possible that you know that the stuff in the chest is harmful to reputation, so you deliberately brought the nuns from the Yuhui Nunnery to bear witness and thus to make my master admit it?” Yujie asked with a sneer, took a few steps forward, and approached the old maid with cold eyes.

The old maid was scared, stepped back in a hurry, and looked towards the other old maid beside her. The other old maid compressed her lips in fear and did not dare to say anything. Seeing the old maid’s pleading eyes, the other old maid thought for a while and lowered her head. She, who had been threatened by Yujie a moment ago, did not dare to talk nonsense at this moment.

“How... how could we know it...” The old maid could only explain for herself.

“Since you don’t know it, why do you try to make my master admit that the chest belongs to her? We have never seen this chest before. Even if it was indeed discovered in the silence room, didn’t the First Miss leave anything there? We didn’t check the corners of the silence room. My master just borrowed the silence room, so it’s impossible for her to remove everything left by the First Miss as a guest!”

Yujie said without showing any mercy to the old maid.

The old maid became increasingly flustered with her head covered with sweat, no longer as aggressive and domineering as before, and felt a chill on her back.

“I... I...”

“My master told you to take the stuff back and said that sisters should be on friendly terms with each other. What happened before was an accident, and what happened just now was also an accident.

Please tell the First Miss that my master now lives in the Huaguang Temple in seclusion and just wants to pray for the heir and infantia quietly.”

After going inside once, Qu Le became much gentler and no longer as aggressive as before when showing up in front of the crowd again. Despite her rage and reluctance, she seemed to intend to make concessions!

After that, Qu Le came over, bowed to the two officers from the Ministry of Justice, and said, “My master told me to express her gratitude to you. Just forget about what happened today... and stop investigating into it!”

The last sentence could hardly be heard, but those who listened to her quietly still heard it saw that she was obviously aggrieved and angry but had to lower her head, and thought of what she had mentioned before. What had happened to the Fifth Miss Shao at the foot of the Yuhui Nunnery was an accident, and what happened here was also an accident. So no one should be blamed, and even the First Miss Shao, who had something to do with these accidents, shouldn’t be blamed!

It seemed that the First Miss Shao was not as kindhearted as she was said to be and might even be vicious. Although what was going on was not a big deal, it could be harmful to a lady’s reputation. Besides, if what had happened at the foot of the Yuhui Nunnery was not an accident, the person behind the scene should intend to kill the Fifth Miss Shao!

The connected incidents and the maid’s aggrieved tears made the onlookers think that the First Miss Shao of Duke Xing’s Mansion was really not a good person. Despite her good look, she couldn’t be considered good in conduct.

People began to talk about her in groups of three and four and dig up something happening a long time ago. Thinking of what made them consider the First Miss Shao talented and wise at that time, they found that she was actually scheming.

Hearing their discussion, the two old maids from Duke Xing’s Mansion panicked with their faces turning pale and had no idea how to end it at the moment!

Since Shao Wanru suggested that they should stop investigating into it, the two officers from the Ministry of Justice threw the clothes back into the chest and pushed the chest in front of the two old maids from Duke Xing’s Mansion naturally. After that, they retreated to the courtyard and stood behind Wen Xichi.

At this moment, the two old maids no longer dared to stir up any other trouble and ran away with the chest in disgrace. Glancing at the pilgrims who were talking around them, the nuns from the Yuhui Nunnery couldn’t bear to stay longer and followed the two old maids down the mountain.

With no fun to watch, the onlookers also left. But they kept talking about it even after leaving. It was different from what had happened at the foot of the Yuhui Nunnery. At that time, it was reasonable to consider it an accident. After all, there was no evidence to prove that Duke Xing’s Mansion had intervened in it.

The engagement of Duke Yong’s Mansion and Duke Xing’s Mansion in the shifting of responsibility could be considered caused by the fact that neither of them dared to take responsibility after the accident.

However, what happened today was really presented in front of plenty of people. Judging from the speechless look of the two old maids, they could tell that it must a trap someone set up for the Fifth Miss Shao.

Thinking of the Fifth Miss's origin, they thought that the Fifth Miss, who had been set up by the First Miss repeatedly, was so poor. How could the First Miss deserve the reputation as the first beauty in the capital city with unparalleled talent and wisdom? Anyone, who married such an evil lady, would inevitably get a peaceless home.

There were plenty of onlookers with various opinions, and some of them made some ridiculous remarks. The pilgrims here were of all walks, unlike the pilgrims, most of whom were female, in the Yuhui Nunnery. As they talked about it, their words might become increasingly offensive...

Wen Xichi quietly watched the whole thing with a frown. Seeing that all the onlookers had left, he walked out with his hands clasped behind his back. In fact, he didn't like this kind of scheming lady. No matter Shao Wanru was set up by Duke Xing's Mansion or not, it was certain that Shao Wanru was very scheming.

It reminded him of his cousin sister and made him feel very uncomfortable.

Glancing at Wen Xichi's face, his two subordinates didn't dare to say a word and followed him to leave.

After everyone left, Yujie and Qu Le closed the door of the courtyard and went to the main room.

Shao Wanru stood by the window of the main room. The hanging curtain blocked the view of those outsides, but it enabled her to vaguely see the scene outside.

"Miss, they are all gone!" Qu Le smiled and said without the previous grievance and rage.

Shao Wanru slowly withdrew her gaze and said with a slight smile, "Yujie, go to ask the monks of the Huaguang Temple for a few scriptures later and tell them that I'm going to calm myself by copying scriptures."

Incidents happened one after another. Even if Shao Yanru tried to hide behind the scenes all the time, she would drag her out. Shao Yanru had always been cunning. She obviously got involved in plenty of incidents, but the evidence always pointed to someone else. If the Ministry of Justice really investigated what happened just now, she was sure that the evidence would finally point to either Old Madam of Duke Xing or Madam of Duke Xing while Shao Yanru was definitely flawless!

However, what Qu Le said just now hit the spot. The most important thing was that Shao Wanru suggested them to stop investigating it. In this case, Shao Yanru could not prove that she was innocent even if she wanted to.

Now it was Shao Yanru's turn to panic, and she was only afraid that Shao Yanru didn't panic!

"Qu Le, close the door and decline visits. Tell the monks in the temple that I'm still recuperating and going to spend the rest of my time copying the scriptures and praying for my parents. I don't have the mood to do anything else! Ask them to help me decline visits!"

It was impossible that the monks in the Huaguang Temple didn't know that the old maids from Duke Xing's Mansion had made such a big scene...

Chapter 629 Sister Holding Out an “Olive Branch”

Shao Yanru arrived at Huaguang Temple at noon but was stopped by the reception monk near the temple on the way to Shao Wanru’s yard.

“Master, I’m here to see Fifth Sister. Grandma asked me to explain what happened this morning to Fifth Sister!” Shao Yanru bowed extremely courteously to the monk who stopped her and spoke in a delicate tone. She was gentle and looked very likable with her gorgeous face.

However, she did not run into an ordinary monk!

“Miss Shao, Fifth Miss is not receiving guests now. She’s recovering from her illness and is spending the rest of the time copying scriptures and praying for blessings. I’m afraid she can’t see you!”

The reception monk bowed with good manners.

Shao Yanru delicately pleaded. “It’ll be fine. I’ll leave after I explain. I won’t interrupt her cultivation in seclusion!”

“First Miss, copying scriptures and praying for blessings require calmness and focus. I hope you won’t disturb her!” The reception monk shook his head with a smile.

“I’ll be fast. I only need a moment!” Shao Yanru grew agitated.

“Not even one moment. Serving requires being pious. Only when she’s pious will her prayers be answered. How can she be disturbed by trivial matters!” said the reception monk.

“Our Miss only wants to discuss with Fifth Miss the thing that happened in the morning. Our First Miss doesn’t know about the chests at all. Old Madam sent them, but people out there are all saying that it’s our First Miss’s fault. What exactly is happening!” Shuqi could not refrain from walking out from behind Shao Yanru and snapping to defend her master, while Shao Yanru seemed to be on the brink of tears, looking aggrieved!

“What happened in the morning is our fault. Fifth Miss Shao is a distinguished royal guest and poor in health. She shouldn’t be disturbed by anyone. People of the Ministry of Justice came, so we let so many people in, and the incident took place. Now that everything has settled down, First Miss should stop dwelling on it too!” the reception monk said gently and pressed his palms together to slightly bow to Shao Yanru.

However, his feet did not move an inch.

“Why did you say our First Miss is dwelling on it? It’s just that Fifth Miss said something misleading, which led to people gossiping about our First Miss!” Shuqi said indignantly.

Her words were a little disrespectful; it seemed that she really got carried away.

“Miss Shao, Fifth Miss is from the royal family and is now cultivating in seclusion in our temple. If something were to happen to her in our temple, both we and Miss Shao couldn’t take responsibility! If someone overheard what you said, they could charge you with smearing her reputation, and even your First Miss would be implicated!” The monk’s face fell as he spoke in a displeased tone.

...

"I..." Shuqi was almost livid with rage. She was stopped by Shao Yanru when she was going to snap.

"Thank you, master. My servant girl has been impolite. When will Fifth Sister have a rest? I'll meet her when she takes a break!" Shao Yanru inhaled deeply to suppress her irritation, trying hard to hold back the bubbling anger.

She used to think that the matter would never be traced back to her, but she did not expect Shao Wanru's servant girl to be so audacious, hinting that she hurt Shao Wanru and also telling all of her past relevant affairs. When she heard people say that she was an extremely sinister girl who envied Shao Wanru and schemed against Shao Wanru again and again, either to ruin Shao Wanru's reputation or to kill Shao Wanru, she just wanted to vomit blood because of anger!

She intended to escape unscathed, but actually, she got trapped deep in trouble. Shao Yanru knew that the longer the words circulated, the uglier they would get. She could only hurry to the mountain and wanted to act like Shao Wanru's close sister in front of people. Nevertheless, she didn't expect to be cold-shouldered.

Huaguang Temple was different from Yuhui Nunnery, so she did not dare to put on a harsh attitude. Judging from the Huaguang Temple monks, she knew that she wouldn't be able to see Shao Wanru right now. Hopelessly, she could only gnash her teeth and take it lying down and go to an ordinary yard, saying that she would also stay at Huaguang Temple for a few days to present a lot of incense.

The reception monk led her to the yard where she would be staying. She found it very far away from Shao Wanru's yard. One was in the east, and the other was in the west. It was nearly impossible for her to sneak over there.

Ordinary pilgrims were supposed to live far away from the distinguished guests of the royal family, and now, the monk purposely chose a yard even further for Shao Yanru. However, still, Shao Yanru could not protest. She could only wait, not believing that Shao Wanru was really cultivating in seclusion.

During the next few days, once Shao Yanru got time, she would wander around Shao Wanru's yard, thinking that whenever she met Shao Wanru, she could "display their sisterhood" with her. However, the door of Shao Wanru's yard had always been tightly shut.

Every day, only the little food-delivering monk would come, carrying a food basket.

Shao Yanru also thought about sneaking near the yard with Shuqi. Nevertheless, they would always be stopped by Huaguang Temple monks before they even got to the door. They would always put on professional faces and advise Shao Yanru to leave that area, saying that this was where Fifth Miss Shao cultivated in seclusion and no one was allowed to trespass.

After doing this a few times, Shao Yanru felt angered and resentful, and at the same time, hopeless. This was Huaguang Temple, not Yuhui Nunnery, where she had stayed for long and had some connections left. If it had been Yuhui Nunnery, she could still have seen Shao Wanru even if the latter claimed to be cultivating in seclusion, but she just could not do so in Huaguang Temple.

Huaguang Temple had a strong background and did not fear a daughter from an aristocratic family like her. With a connection to the royal family, Huaguang Temple dared to do many things other temples did

not, like blocking Shao Yanru, the eldest daughter of lineal descent in an aristocratic family, at the yard door and stopping her from going an inch closer.

While feeling angry and anxious, Shao Yanru finally realized that she and Shao Wanru were different in their mothers' families. Her mother's family was, after all, weaker compared to Shao Wanru's royal bloodline, which was her weakness when she faced Shao Wanru.

If her mother had been Infanta Qinghua and Rui'an Great Elder Princess had been her grandmother, she would not have ended up in such a plight.

She used to think that her mother had been smart enough to marry into Duke Xing's Mansion from her relatively small family and also to have the entire Duke Xing's Mansion in the palm of her hand.

Nevertheless, now, she could only wait anxiously and angrily in a yard for normal guests for Shao Wanru to walk out one day!

This was because she was not from the royal family. If she had been a daughter in the royal family, how could she have been treated so unfairly? Every time she thought of that, Shao Yanru would gnash her teeth in anger. If things continued in this way, all the previous plans would fail.

She had to meet with Shao Wanru and discuss the past matters with her. She had to make all the people think that she was on good terms with her sister Shao Wanru.

This was a royal temple that restricted her in some ways. However, it must have done that to Shao Wanru too!

She was patient enough to wait...

"Miss, Miss Shao is still staying at Huaguang Temple and wanders near our yard occasionally!" Qing'er went in to report something that Yujie and Qu Le could not track.

"Just let her. Anyway, I don't plan to go out anytime soon!" Shao Wanru put down her pen, stretched her wrist, and spoke calmly!

She chose Huaguang Temple exactly because its status was different from that of other temples. Even with the status of Duke Xing's Mansion, Shao Yanru was incapable! Huaguang Temple might compromise one time, but there would not be a second time, which would seem intentional!

When the farce took place, no monks from Huaguang Temple showed up even when it was such a big scene, which meant that someone had instructed them to do so. Nevertheless, they could not do it one more time. Therefore, she specially asked Qu Le to tell the monks that she would either take time to recover or copy scriptures and would not receive guests!

She meant to tell Huaguang Temple that she did not want to see anyone, which was a somewhat official notice to the temple: If something like this happens again, Huaguang Temple can't avoid it even if it wants to.

The first time could be an accident; they could say that they failed to take care of Shao Wanru properly since she just came and did not notice such a thing had happened. But, if such an accident took place again after she informed them, even Huaguang Temple could not shirk the responsibility. Moreover, even her grandmother could interfere to inquire about the matter!

“Miss, even though First Miss wanders, it won’t change anything. Now, words must have gotten ugly out there! She’s just too sinister—scheming against you all the time and dreaming of pushing all those matters onto others!” Yujie said indignantly while bringing in a cup of tea.

Shao Wanru’s subordinates did not have any good impressions of Duke Xing’s Mansion and hated the evil Miss Shao even more.

“If she gets close to my yard and sees me, she’s bound to act like we’re close. She’ll even intentionally hurt herself to force me to act like that,” said Shao Wanru with calm eyes. She picked up the teacup by her hand, took a sip, and spoke indifferently.

Yujie became restless. “Then will you hide from her all the time?”

“It won’t be long. Grandmother said that the two princes are soon going to officially start selecting consorts. I might be a candidate!” Shao Wanru said flatly. She could not be sure about it either. Her grandmother just mentioned it and seemed to imply that she should also take part in it.

However, the Shao Yanru in this life was not the Shao Yanru in the last life, after all. She could not have all the advantages. When she lost them, Shao Yanru would panic and would definitely take another shortcut when she failed to seek any profits after sticking around Shao Wanru for a while. She would never put all her eggs in one basket.

Moreover, there was one more baffling thing that kept haunting her dreams these days. She even could not tell if she was living in the past or the current life!

There was a tunnel under the main room. The tunnel went past the silence room and probably Shao Yanru’s room too. Shao Wanru remembered that when Shao Yanru returned, her room got quite noisy as well and she wouldn’t let people mess around with it, even though her empty main room had always remained quiet.

Lying in bed at night, she was still thinking. Shao Yanru really seemed to know about the tunnel that should lead deep into Yuhui Nunnery. Behind the high wall, Commandery Prince Qing had already appeared, so what was the use of the tunnel and why were they still digging it?

Or had the tunnel been dug long ago? If that was the case, did this matter have something to do with Commandery Prince Qing?

She seemed to forget a very important thing. What was it? In a blur, she seemed to see Shao Yanru standing in a pavilion in a fancy dress. Shao Yanru looked down at her as she was kneeling and Shao Yanru slightly curved her lips. Shao Yanru smiled gently and elegantly, as if what was kneeling in front of her was just an ant.

Who was beside Shao Yanru? There were so many people, men and women, and Shao Wanru couldn’t see clearly...

Chapter 630 Walking Out Overtly

She could not see clearly in the blur, but then again, somehow, she thought she could see through it, so she tried hard. However, she always found that there seemed to be a veil. What was blocking her from seeing it clearly? That seemed to be a crucial, really important person who she had been ignoring.

Then, she vaguely saw that she was lying in a palace. The large palace was majestic and tall, and was very cold, but not as cold as her heart.

Chu Liuchen's face appeared in the palace. His pair of deep eyes seemed to not have a trace of light in them at all. They were so dark that they seemed to cover the entire sky. His desperate face carried a bloodthirsty aura that could destroy the world. Then, an image of a pool of blood flashed. All consort candidates fell down on the ground. Those once beautiful faces all looked twisted and grim. The magnificent palace was almost covered in blood.

The royal palace that used to be gorgeous and graceful turned into an asura hell, cold and bone-chilling. Drops of blood accumulated to surround and protect something that she could not see clearly. She only felt her body shaking. She suddenly opened her eyes and looked at a place in the dark, feeling dazed. She felt so nervous that her entire body tightened up.

She felt so real while going between the dream and reality. She could see clearly those candidates' desperate and twisted faces. Flower-like girls lay dead everywhere in the royal palace, which was a massacre she had never seen before. She had even painted some of the girls.

They were all aristocratic family daughters entering the palace for consort selection.

She remembered she went into the palace just to paint those consort candidates and then present them to the Emperor to select. However, those girls should all die in such a bloody way! What in the world did she forget, or did she remember it wrong? Why was it so messy!

In the past, though her memory was kind of hazy, she was sure about the part she could remember. Nevertheless, now, she even had to doubt if she really remembered it clearly. Why did it feel contradictory from her past memory?

"What? Did you have a nightmare?" In the dark, a voice rang out.

Shao Wanru froze for a moment and subconsciously wanted to scream but someone covered her mouth. Then, there was a gentle voice. "It's me!"

Hearing it was Chu Liuchen's voice, Shao Wanru became relieved. She smelled a faint medicine fragrance, which she found soothing, so her body involuntarily relaxed and she reached out to gently push Chu Liuchen's hand.

Seeing her calm down, Chu Liuchen then lay his hand down. "What is it? What is the nightmare about!"

After saying that, he leaned beside Shao Wanru very casually and even took a cushion by her head to lazily lean against it.

"I don't know. I seemed to have a dream about Shao Yanru. There's something... I couldn't see clearly in my dream!" Shao Wanru kneaded her forehead, feeling an uncomfortable, numb pain.

She closed her eyes again to calm down her beating heart, which was flustered by the bloody scene she had witnessed. What exactly did she remember wrong? Or did she fail to understand something?

The memory, especially the part she dreamed, from her past life was indeed somewhat blurry. She seemed to have seen something that happened after her being cut in two at the waist!

Why did she seem to see Shao Yanru's face among those dead people for a moment? How... did Shao Yanru die? Why was it like that!

"Dreaming about Shao Yanru? That's really so great of you to dream about her instead of me! Do you still have any feelings for her!" Shao Wanru still felt a kind of numb pain in her forehead and Chu Liuchen stretched his slim fingers to flick it.

"Ouch!" Shao Wanru felt like she had woken up because of the pain. All the hazy scenes in her head all vanished and her clear memory was restored. While covering her head, which was aching from the flick, she raised her eyes and looked at Chu Liuchen. "Why are you here now?"

Huaguang Temple was not a place that was easy to enter. If someone could sneak in so easily, it would not be called a royal temple. She heard that there were martial artist monks in Huaguang Temple. They were good at kung fu and protected the temple. It was very hard for people to sneak into Huaguang Temple.

Royal family members would not have cultivated in seclusion here if the place had not possessed strong power. For several dynasties, it remained a royal temple and also had a rich history. Huaguang Temple was not loyal to one certain emperor, but to whoever the current emperor was, which was why they still were flourishing after hundreds of years.

Chu Liuchen said, as if it had been natural for him to say this, "Of course, I'm here to cultivate in seclusion too."

"You also come here to cultivate? And why didn't I know that?" Shao Wanru asked in a daze while flashing her watery eyes. She really found it weird. If Chu Liuchen came to Huaguang Temple too, it should have been something big. How could he come here silently?

"I'm poor in health and can't come here extravagantly. So I simply brought a few people to live here!" A smile flashed across Chu Liuchen's eyes as he spoke leisurely.

"Where do you live?" Shao Wanru suddenly had a bad hunch.

"Next to you, of course!" Chu Liuchen said casually and reached out to fondle her hair scattered on the pillow. Shao Wanru did not like tying up her hair when sleeping and just let it loose every time. When he wrapped her sleek hair around his finger, he felt smoothness and indescribable subtleness.

Moonlight flowed in from the half-open windows. It was vague, carrying a feeling that was hard to describe. Suddenly, both of them stopped saying anything; an atmosphere beyond expression flowed in the air.

Shao Wanru's face reddened somehow. She did not look sideways but could feel that Chu Liuchen seemed to be looking at her. At that time, she felt lucky that it was dark; she could hide a little bit. Nevertheless, her temperature rose unnaturally; she felt a little hot.

"Why don't you go back!" She did not feel too comfortable when her body remained in the same position for a long time. Since she was between the sheets, she took the opportunity to move her hands and legs. "It's late."

"I've slept too much during the day. I can't sleep now, so I came over to talk to you for a while!" Chu Liuchen said very casually, "I heard the previous scene was really big, and Shao Yanru kept pestering you!"

"She might be going back soon. Will the consort selection start soon?" Talking about Shao Yanru, Shao Wanru slowly calmed down and her face returned to normal. Her watery eyes flashed. In the dark, her tranquil eyes looked very beautiful.

"Yes, it will start soon. But there's no hurry. You still need to wait for a while. At least it has to be past the new year!" Chu Liuchen said leisurely.

He meant that Shao Wanru also had to attend the consort selection, which she had expected. Chu Liuchen had used her entering Prince Chen's Mansion as an excuse, and Empress Dowager agreed too. However, it was not announced publicly, after all, not so many people knew about it.

Since the consort selection was going to start, she had to take part in it, even though it was only nominal. Otherwise, people would say that the Emperor liked his own two sons more and wasn't that enthusiastic about his nephew. He could only choose all the consorts from the candidates and give them to those princes to stop the public from gossiping.

People would gossip when he was just an ordinary nephew. Moreover, Chu Liuchen had always been a special one.

"Prince Yue, Prince Zhou, you, and Commandery Prince Qing?" Shao Wanru thought about it and asked.

In her last life, she remembered that Prince Xin got married late, probably because he had younger than other princes. Chu Liuxin always looked like a child. Though he was a little older than Shao Wanru, Shao Wanru just considered this Prince Xin really childish by doing things with his courage only, not having any plans.

Chu Liuchen fondled Shao Wanru's strand of hair that had been wrapped around his finger and said very casually, "And there's Chu Liuxin too. But Consort Ming might not choose anyone since she's vain."

Chu Liuxin's mother Consort Ming was an ambitious woman as well. In the last life, it could be said that Consort Ming was the one who caused Chu Liuxin's tragedy.

With that ambition, she naturally would choose a marriage that was beneficial to her son, and it was not easy to choose a daughter-in-law. Nevertheless, this time, Prince Yue, Prince Zhou, and Chu Liuchen would choose wives too. Prince Yue's mother was the Consort of Virtue. Though they were all consorts, the Consort of Virtue was the first consort of the four consorts, whom Consort Ming couldn't compare with.

Moreover, it was even more so when it came to Prince Zhou since he was the Empress's legitimate eldest son. Even Chu Liuchen could choose a marriage with protection from the Empress Dowager and the Emperor.

Prince Xin would be the last to choose from those that the others did not want. Consort Ming would never be satisfied. Moreover, Chu Liuxin was really too young. He could wait for another three years. Of course, she would not say anything like this. Publicly, she was bound to choose with others and it would not matter if she really chose anyone or not in the end.

The youngest prince was supposed to be treated with more care. Moreover, this one still looked like he had not grown up!

“What? Are you worried that you can’t get into my mansion? Rest assured, the place of my Princess is of course reserved for you!” Chu Liuchen smiled and looked languid and casual.

In the dark, Shao Wanru’s expression became a little uneasy. “Your Highness, since I’ve promised you, you can use me for sure!”

Wouldn’t a Princess be the best target to block all arrows!

“As long as you remember. Now, let yourself recover first. After the new year, go attend the consort selection. I’m living right next to you now. If you need anything, just have Qing’er call me there!” Chu Liuchen tilted his head to look at Shao Wanru. He could only see a pair of clear eyes in the dark, looking somewhat innocent against her raven hair.

He gently patted her thin body and slowly rose, with a small light on his handsome lips.

Seeing him get up, Shao Wanru also sat up. However, just as she did that, he pressed her back down, his lazy tone sounding somewhat teasing. “Don’t get up now. In the future, just serve me getting up in the morning when you marry me!”

After finishing that, he then frivolously pinched her cheek and narrowed his mysterious eyes. He actually stopped embarrassing her and turned to walk away in a good mood. Then, under Shao Wanru’s dazed eyes, he straightforwardly opened her door and overtly walked out like that after closing it for her!

“Overtly... So he did not come in through the windows?”

Shao Wanru almost froze as she watched him leave. Could he be more out of line...