

Medical Princess 631

Chapter 631 Call Me Prince Chen

Shao Yanru got up early in the morning, took Shuqi to the closest Buddha hall to Shao Wanru's courtyard, and then got up and walked out after spending a long time worshipping the Buddha there.

This was the place where Shao Yanru was stopped by the reception monk before, and she was not allowed to get closer to Shao Wanru.

As usual, she sat in the pavilion next to the hall for rest and stayed there for quite a long time. During this period, she had patiently waited here, where she could see Shao Wanru's courtyard from a distance so that if anyone came from Shao Wanru's courtyard, she could see it immediately.

Since she didn't cross the boundary, the monks in the temple turned a blind eye to it.

Shao Yanru even only had some pastries for lunch so that she could spend more time watching over Shao Wanru more closely.

The area was close to the courtyards where the members of the royal family cultivated in seclusion, so ordinary people were not allowed to come here. Shao Yanru usually sat there for a long time, but only saw no one except for the monks in the temple.

However, things were different today. Shao Yanru saw some people coming from a distance, so she sat up straight in a hurry. When they got closer, she found that it was Commandery Prince Qing, Chu Qing, who was surrounded by a group of people. She, who was disappointed, lowered her head slightly in an attempt to pretend that she didn't see him.

Unexpectedly, Chu Qing saw her and led a group of people to the pavilion where she sat.

When they arrived at the pavilion, Chu Qing waved his hand, and several attendants stood outside the pavilion.

"First Miss Shao!" Chu Qing came in, said politely, and bowed deeply to Shao Yanru with a smile. Shao Yanru stood up in a hurry to bow to him back.

"What are you doing here, First Miss Shao?" Chu Qing asked with a smile, while naturally sitting down on the stone stool opposite Shao Yanru. When they enjoyed the scenery in the Yuhui Nunnery last time, the wind raised her veil and he had seen her face.

"My Fifth Sister lives inside, and I want to meet her!" Shao Yanru sighed and said gently, and then sat down when Chu Qing smiled at her.

"Why don't you go over?" Chu Qing asked in astonishment.

"The monks in the temple said that my Fifth Sister has been recuperating and cultivating in seclusion, so no one is allowed to disturb her!" Looking at Prince Qing in front of her, Shao Yanru suddenly had an idea and said with an increasingly gentle and helpless smile. Her delicate face was filled with bitterness, which indicated that she was extremely sad. "My grandma is worried about my Fifth Sister, so she asked me to come and have a look. But if I can't see my Fifth Sister and confirm that she's fine, how can I go back and tell my grandma about it?"

“So you keep waiting here?” Commandery Prince Qing said with displeasure, “How can the Fifth Miss be so rude? Since she can cultivate in seclusion, she should be able to receive guests. How can she decline visits? I happened to get in. How about if I take a message to the Fifth Miss for you?”

“Well, thank you, Your Highness!” Shao Yanru, who was overjoyed, got up excitedly, bowed deeply to Commandery Prince Qing, and said. Chu Qing’s visit turned out to be a bonus.

As long as her message was taken to Shao Wanru, she didn’t believe that Shao Wanru could refuse to meet her. It was one thing if Shao Wanru didn’t know that she came here, but it would be Shao Wanru’s fault if Shao Wanru still refused to meet her after knowing it. Moreover, she claimed to come on instructions from grandma. In this case, Shao Wanru could be considered “unfilial” if she still refused to meet her after knowing it. She didn’t believe that Shao Wanru dared to go against “filial piety”, the most important virtue.

It was okay if Shao Wanru really dared to do that. She could use it to make others doubt that Shao Wanru just pretended to be “filial”. Shao Wanru treated a living elder like this, let alone the deceased ones!

If Shao Wanru was proved to be hypocritical this time, she could be suspected to be hypocritical in other things. Shao Yanru could arouse people’s suspicion of Shao Wanru’s filial piety and clear her name!

“Don’t mention it. It’s no big deal. First Miss, please wait here. I’ll be back soon!” Chu Qing really didn’t think it a big deal. He stood up and said generously. That would be great if he could take this opportunity to win the First Miss Shao’s favor because he had coveted the power of Duke Xing’s Mansion for long.

If he could win the First Miss Shao’s favor, he could not only marry such a beauty but also had the support from Duke Xing’s Mansion. It was quite a rare opportunity.

It was inappropriate for him to visit Duke Xing’s Mansion even if he wanted to do that. After all, he had no connection with Duke Xing. Although he socialized with the crafty man with a smile when meeting him in the imperial court, the crafty man kept a distance from him and acted indifferently. He was wondering how to get close to Duke Xing. Doing Shao Yanru a favor offered him a great opportunity.

The consort selection was coming, so he had to do something!

“Thank you, Your Highness!” Shao Yanru thanked him again in a sweet voice and looked expectant. In front of such beauty, Chu Qing was in high spirits. He strode gracefully to Shao Wanru’s courtyard, followed by a group of people, while Shao Yanru watched them from a distance.

Chu Qing came here today to meet Chu Liuchen. He had always wanted to visit Chu Liuchen, but usually didn’t go at the right time. Chu Liuchen was either taking medicine or seeing a doctor or had just fallen asleep and couldn’t be disturbed. Until now, he had visited Prince Chen’s Mansion several times, but he was declined every time with a sufficient reason.

It made Chu Qing feel aggrieved and angry.

Later, he intended to leave with Chu Liuchen from the imperial court, but he did not expect that Chu Liuchen to gently told him that he was going to the Empress Dowager’s palace to take medicine. He had

just reclaimed his identity, and the Empress Dowager had always been indifferent to him. He did not dare to visit the Empress Dowager at will, so his plan failed.

This time he managed to find out that Chu Liuchen had come to the Huaguang Temple for cultivation in seclusion. It was late last night, so he got up early this morning and came to visit Chu Liuchen with a group of people.

The reception monk led him to Chu Liuchen's yard. When they arrived at the gate door of the courtyard, Chu Qing waved at the reception monk, and the reception monk put his palms together and left.

After the reception monk left, Chu Qing turned around and headed for the courtyard beside Chu Liuchen's courtyard. Just now, Shao Yanru had told him clearly that Shao Wanru cultivated in seclusion in the courtyard next to Chu Liuchen's courtyard.

When they arrived at the door, Chu Qing put his hands behind his back and instructed the manservant to knock on the door. However, no matter how hard the manservant knocked, the door remained tightly closed.

Inside the room, Shao Wanru had gotten up. She walked to the window, looked at the courtyard door, and heard the loud knocks with her long eyelashes fluttering. She had learned that the person outside was Commandery Prince Qing, Chu Qing. Just now, Qing'er had told her that she saw Chu Qing and Shao Yanru talk and laugh intimately in the distant pavilion.

Of course, Qing'er also told Shao Wanru that Chu Liuchen had his own way to deal with it and she just needed to have a good rest inside and ignore what was going on outside!

"Climb over the wall and open the door!" Seeing that the door remained closed with no one answering as if there were no one inside, Chu Qing said in displeasure. The beauty was watching him from a distance. The door remaining closed was just like a slap in the face for him.

"Yes!" A guard took two steps forward and jumped onto the wall. When he was about to jump into the courtyard, he suddenly saw another guard show up on the wall of the courtyard beside Shao Wanru's courtyard, wave the long sword, and stab him in the chest.

The guard of Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion reacted quickly. He turned over and jumped off the wall in a hurry, drawing the long sword. The guard showing up later on the wall also jumped down and fought with him.

Noticing the bad situation, the guards around Chu Qing drew their swords. Some of them stood in front of Chu Qing, while some joined in the fight, which became fierce at once.

Although the guard jumping down later was skilled at combat, he couldn't resist a group of guards. After being stabbed a few times, he turned over, fell to the ground, and was captured.

"Who are you? Why do you assassinate me?" Chu Qing, who came up to the captured guard surrounded by several guards, asked with unkind eyes.

"Assassinate you? You think highly of yourself. You dared to instruct your guard to climb over the wall and so many guards to fight with my guard. This is the Huaguang Temple, not the Yuhui Nunnery. How dare you do something like that!" A cold voice came from the side, suppressing Chu Qing's voice.

Chu Qing looked back hurriedly, only to see that the door of the courtyard was opened and Chu Liuchen showed up with a gloomy face followed by a group of guards.

"I... Big Brother, I didn't..." Chu Qing thought to himself that he got into trouble and hurriedly explained.

"Call me Prince Chen!" Chu Liuchen said with a sneer and walked over slowly with a slight smile, which was so gloomy that it made the guards following Chu Qing take a step back involuntarily.

"Prince Chen, I need to talk to the Fifth Miss Shao. I didn't mean to offend her and didn't know that the guard works for you!" Chu Qing didn't dare to argue. He waved at his guard as a hint for them to leave and explained.

"Talk to the Fifth Miss Shao? Why don't I know that you have a connection with the Fifth Miss Shao?" Chu Liuchen said coldly, glanced at Chu Qing with disdain, and then turned his gaze to Shao Yanru, who was in the distant pavilion, "Is it the First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion who asked you to come here?"

"Yes, the First Miss Shao asked me to take a message to the Fifth Miss Shao!" Chu Qing said in an aggrieved tone and clenched his fists hard. He didn't have the strength to confront Chu Liuchen yet and even had to please Chu Liuchen.

He was considerably reluctant. They were both the sons of the late emperor. Why should he be inferior to Chu Liuchen? He was much healthier than Chu Liuchen, who was an invalid. He should be a more decent prince than Chu Liuchen!

"What's the relationship between you and the First Miss Shao so that you met here and she asked you to disturb my cousin sister? My great-aunt once told me to take good care of my cousin sister and not to allow those rash people to offend her. My great-aunt does have a prophetic vision. I run into this kind of people just a day after my arrival!"

Chu Liuchen said and stared at Chu Qing's face gloomily. The feeling of being targeted by a ghost made Chu Qing take a step back uneasily. When he realized it, he felt furious and thought, "Why should Chu Liuchen scare me away off?"

"Prince Chen, since the First Miss and the Fifth Miss are sisters, it's no big deal for me to pass on a message for the First Miss!" Suppressing the jealousy in his heart, Chu Qing said with a flattering smile, while clenching his fists under his sleeves. He could accept other princes' contempt for him, but why should such an invalid look down on him and even frighten him off overwhelmingly? How could he not get furious?

"Prince Qing, you certainly don't think it a big deal with the intention of pleasing the beauty and intended to disturb my cousin sister in her cultivation even if you had to be against the world and filial piety. I'm wondering what you are up to. The First Miss Shao does have the infinite charm of the first beauty in the capital. I hope you could win her favor as you wish!"

After finishing speaking, Chu Liuchen turned into the yard with a group of people, leaving Chu Qing alone!

Chapter 632 Very Solid Gold Bracelets

Seeing Chu Liuchen leaving, Chu Qing felt ashamed and annoyed with his face turning blue and then white, thinking that he had been completely humiliated today!

In this current situation, he definitely couldn't go to meet Chu Liuchen. Even if he did, Chu Liuchen, who had always been arrogant and capricious, definitely would refuse to meet him.

"Your Highness!" Seeing him stand there in a daze, a guard reminded him in a low voice.

"Let's go!" Chu Qing gnashed his teeth, managed to suppress his anger, and said. After that, he turned around and strode away.

Shao Yanru, who had been watching over them from a distance, saw Chu Liuchen show up and Chu Qing return without accomplishing anything, feeling angry and annoyed. Why was Chu Liuchen also here? When did he come? Why did he live in the courtyard next to Shao Wanru's? Although the courtyard was also prepared for the members of the royal family, there should be other courtyards, right?

She had intended to find a loophole in the guard of Shao Wanru's courtyard and thought of a way to rush in. But now that Chu Liuchen showed up, she knew that no matter what plan she made, it probably would not work!

Seeing Chu Qing come over, she forced a smile, went up to him, and said in a sweet voice, "Your Highness!"

Meanwhile, she looked at Chu Qing with expectation in her eyes.

Chu Qing, who had collected himself at the moment, even showed a gentle smile. Seeing Shao Yanru bow to him, he helped her up courteously.

"First Miss, I'm really sorry. Just now, Prince Chen told me that the Fifth Miss Shao is so seriously injured that she could only rest quietly every day and spend the rest of time copying the scriptures with the little strength left in her. So it's really inconvenient to disturb her!" Chu Qing said with a smile on his apologetic face, "I shouldn't disturb her this time. How about if you come again after some time?"

"Can't I meet her? I... I just want to meet my Fifth Sister even if we make no conversation!" Shao Yanru said tearfully. A beauty in tears was quite pitiful. What was more, Shao Yanru put on a gentler look.

Such a beauty really made Chu Qing feel tender and protective and want to hold her in his arms and comfort her, and he was very willing to do so. However, thinking of the devil living in the courtyard next to the Fifth Miss Shao's courtyard poured a basin of cold water over his head and made him feel cold!

"First Miss Shao, I'm really sorry!" Chu Qing said. This time he did not dare to make any promise. It was really not worthwhile to displease Chu Liuchen for help Shao Yanru.

"I still have to thank you, Your Highness. I'm sorry to trouble you!" Shao Yanru said, out of her senses.

"Since the Fifth Miss Shao has been cultivating in seclusion, you'd better go down the mountain. Down the mountain... there are all kinds of rumors unfavorable to you!" Chu Qing said softly with gentle eyes.

He didn't care much about Shao Yanru's reputation and even thought that the damage done to Shao Yanru's reputation could be helpful to him. He just needed the support from Duke Xing's Mansion. However, Duke Xing's Mansion could offer great support anyway, so numerous people wanted to

connect with Duke Xing's Mansion through marriage. If Shao Yanru remained her good reputation, he was definitely not good enough for her.

Commandery Prince Qing clearly knew that he was in an embarrassing situation now and was in need of power.

Although reputation was important, it couldn't compare with power. It was the best choice for him to have a princess with a bad reputation but a powerful family background. Shao Yanru now fit the criteria well. For fear that Duke Xing's Mansion would consider him not good enough for Shao Yanru, he deliberately mentioned it in front of Shao Yanru.

With her face turning red, Shao Yanru struggled to suppress the anger in her heart by biting her lip hard and said in an aggrieved tone, "Thank you for telling me that, Your Highness. I'm going down the mountain. The rumors are just rumors. It's reasonable for me to be suspected after such an accident happened to my Fifth Sister."

"Never mind. If the Fifth Miss explains it after getting better, you will be fine. How could someone as kind as you be that kind of vicious person!" Chu Qing comforted her.

"Thank you for trusting me, Your Highness!" Shao Yanru said gratefully with tears in her eyes.

"Someone as kind as you is definitely worth trusting!" Chu Qing said in an increasingly gentle tone with burning eyes, which were apparent to Shao Yanru, and invited, "Let's go, First Miss Shao?"

Shao Yanru glanced at Shao Wanru's courtyard. Knowing that it was useless to stay longer, she could only turn around and leave. Not long after, Shao Wanru received the news that Shao Yanru had gone down the mountain!

Without Shao Yanru watching over her closely outside, she became much looser in her courtyard. The area was secluded, and basically, no one came here. Besides, the two residents were both delicate and noble patients. The area in the Huaguang Temple became increasingly peaceful.

Shao Wanru sat in front of the stone table in the yard, picked up a book, and read it casually, while several maids picked up the maple leaves falling from the trees leisurely and felt that they lived quite a leisurely life. The courtyard beside their courtyard was very quiet as if no one lived there. If they hadn't known that Chu Liuchen did live there, they wouldn't have been able to guess that there was someone inside.

Especially when this person showed up leisurely at the gate door of the courtyard, Shao Wanru speechlessly instructed Yujie to bring him in.

"Come in, I'll show you something good!" Chu Liuchen, who was in a good mood, walked up to Shao Wanru and said.

Then he went to the main room. Shao Wanru helplessly looked at him, who looked more like the host than her.

After entering the room, Chu Liuchen put the thing in his hand on the table. Shao Wanru came over to have a look and immediately looked at Chu Liuchen speechlessly.

Were they bracelets?

A pair of gold bracelets looked very heavy. No, they should be described as particularly heavy. People usually collected these kinds of gold bracelets rather than wear them.

The most important thing was the value. They were a pair of extremely solid bracelets made of pure gold with no pattern looking very rough. This style was completely different from what Chu Liuchen liked. Shao Wanru didn't expect that he would take out such a pair of gold bracelets!

It was hard to figure out the meaning behind this pair of solid gold bracelets!

"How are they?" Chu Liuchen asked in a good mood, sat down on the big chair she usually sat on, and slightly narrowed his slanted eyes.

Under his gaze, Shao Wanru became alert and hurriedly said, "Great, great. Where did you get such a pair of gold bracelets, Your Highness? I have never seen such a pair of solid gold bracelets!"

"They are yours now!" Chu Liuchen waved his hand and said.

"What... are they used for?" Shao Wanru asked in confusion.

"Of course for wearing!" Chu Liuchen said and squinted at her while reaching out to grab one of her hands and fetching the bracelet with the other hand. He immediately felt the weight of the bracelet on his hand, while her tender hand on the other hand of his was extremely light. He involuntarily stopped his movement and looked at the bracelet in his hand with some hesitation. For the first time, he wondered if he brought the wrong bracelets!

"It... doesn't seem to be used for wearing, right?" These words were said in an extremely low voice and supposed to be said to himself.

Shao Wanru couldn't help laughing. It was rare to see Chu Liuchen hesitate because he had never been a hesitant person.

"Your Highness, it should be for collecting. No one would wear such a solid bracelet!"

These kinds of bracelets seemed to be for collecting like gold bars and gold bricks, which were easier to hide.

Chu Liuchen sat up straight, put down Shao Wanru's hand, narrowed his eyes, turned over the bracelet, and examined it with weird coldness in his eyes.

Shao Wanru stood up, poured him a cup of tea, and put it in front of him. Chu Liuchen reached out to take it and took a sip, still concentrating his attention on the gold bracelet thoughtfully.

It was for collecting, and compared with gold bars and gold bricks, it was less easy to discover that it was for collecting. In this case, was the place he discovered actually for storing treasure?

"I'll go and have a look!" After putting down the teacup, Chu Liuchen stood up and said thoughtfully. He had thought them just a pair of rare gold bracelets, but he did not expect that there was a secret behind them. It was quite a bonus.

"Your Highness, do as you please!" Shao Wanru nodded and said. Knowing that he must have realized something, she stood up and walked him out.

After walking him to the door of the courtyard and seeing him leave, she went back to the room, picked up a writing brush, and began to copy the scriptures. She did have a lot of scriptures to copy.

Later she had a very simple lunch. She always had a light diet and had been a vegetarian on the mountain during the past three years. After having her lunch, she put down the writing brush and went to take a nap under Yujie's advice.

Unexpectedly, not long after she fell asleep, she suddenly heard someone calling her. She suddenly opened her eyes, only to see that Qing'er, who looked nervous, asked her.

"Miss, Xiao Xuanzi asks you to pretend to be His Highness, because Prince Cheng is here!" Qing'er gasped with sweat all over her forehead.

"Prince Cheng?" Shao Wanru, who had just woken up, sat up and asked blankly.

"Yes, His Highness has gone out, but we should keep it a secret. But Prince Cheng came at this time and said that he wanted to meet His Highness. Xiao Xuanzi was so anxious that he wanted you to lie in bed and pretend to be His Highness and thus to deceive Prince Cheng!" Qing'er said as she reached out to help Shao Wanru get up.

"Now?" At this moment, Shao Wanru heard Qing'er's words clearly. She, who was frightened, woke up completely at once and asked in surprise, "Prince Cheng is already here?"

"Not yet. He's on his way here. I'll take you there now!" Qing'er said anxiously.

"Okay!" Shao Wanru said with a nod, took an outer garment at will, and put it on. When she saw several sachets on the table and a red peony sachet among them was particularly conspicuous, something seemed to flash through her mind. She took the sachet and followed Qing'er to the courtyard. Qing'er took her over the wall.

As soon as they jumped over the wall, Xiao Xuanzi, who was walking around in the courtyard, got excited at the sight of Shao Wanru. After bowing to her, he had no time to say anything else and led Shao Wanru to the main room, while saying in a low voice, "We can't let others discover His Highness's going out. His Highness is not here, and it's not convenient to ask a guard to pretend to be him for fear that the guard's pretending will be exposed. So I venture to ask you to come here!"

So he was not afraid that her pretending would be exposed! But this was not the time to talk about it.

She would talk about her doubts later, and she also thought that she was a suitable person. Qing'er helped her lie on the bed, and she instructed Rui'an to hang up the sachet in her hand. As the curtain was let down, the entire room was filled with the strong smell of medicine, which obviously indicated that it was a patient's room.

Of course, this was the worst plan. It was best if they could keep Prince Cheng outside. There were not many guards left behind, but they had to make the room look heavily guarded with Chu Liuchen inside. All the guards left behind went to confront Prince Cheng. This was the reason why they had to ask for external assistance. Shao Wanru only hoped that she didn't have to confront Prince Cheng...

She had an intuition that Prince Cheng didn't come with good intentions, but why did she still feel strange about it?...

Chapter 633 The Red Sachet Hanging at the Bedside

Prince Cheng's showing up in the Huaguang Temple was actually an accident!

He did come to the Huaguang Temple for something. However, upon his arrival at the Huaguang Temple, he received a strange letter which said that Chu Liuchen claimed to come to the Huaguang Temple for recovery but actually had a plot, where he was going to collude with Commandery Prince Qing, Chu Qing, his biological brother.

Although the Emperor had conferred the title of prince upon Chu Liuchen, which was equivalent to accepting Chu Liuchen as his son, and Chu Liuchen could declare himself a prince in front of the Emperor. But after all, he was not the Emperor's biological son. In terms of kinship, Chu Qing was his closest brother.

What were they up to? The answer was obvious!

The letter said that if Prince Cheng didn't believe it, he could go to the place where Chu Liuchen recuperated. At this time, he was definitely not there!

Prince Cheng was dubious about the letter. After thinking for a while, he decided to go there. If he didn't find anything unusual, it meant that the letter was a trap. If he found something unusual, it meant that Chu Liuchen had a plot. Prince Cheng wondered why the invalid strove for power because no matter how hard he tried, he wouldn't be able to inherit the throne!

Anyway, with doubts in his heart, Prince Cheng led a group of people to "visit the patient".

There was a distance between Prince Cheng's residence and here. When Prince Cheng came over, he saw two guards at the door. At the sight of him, the two guards hurriedly stepped forward, bowed to him, and said, "Greetings, Your Highness!"

"Where's your master?"

Prince Cheng asked with a smile.

"Our master is inside!"

"Tell him that I'm here." Prince Cheng said with a nod.

A guard turned around and went to report. After a while, Xiao Xuanzi ran out cheerfully. Before he got close, he said joyfully, "Greetings, Your Highness!"

"Forego formalities!" Prince Cheng waved his sleeve and said, "What is your master doing now?"

"His Highness just took the medicine and fell asleep. Your Highness, please come in!" Xiao Xuanzi said with a smile while leading Prince Cheng inside.

"Since he's sleeping, how can I disturb him?" After taking two steps forward, Prince Cheng stopped and said. He, who usually liked living in major temples, did not care about the affairs of his nephews in the imperial palace, only went to visit the Empress Dowager when he entered the imperial palace and was not close to other members of the royal family.

"My master is sick most of the time, so those who come to visit him could get in and have a look at him. It'll waste a lot of time if you wait until he wakes up! Your Highness, please come in!" Xiao Xuanzi continued inviting him in enthusiastically.

It was true that everyone knew that Chu Liuchen was in poor health, and there were some people coming to visit him from time to time. Of course, not everyone could be allowed to get in and have a look at him. Plenty of people couldn't even enter Prince Chen's Mansion.

"He just took the medicine?" Prince Cheng said with a nod. He instructed others to wait at the door, and then followed Xiao Xuanzi into the room with Xiqi.

"Yes, he just took a little medicine and may wake up in a while. My master has always been a light sleeper with difficulty in sleeping. If he could sleep well, maybe he could get much better." Xiao Xuanzi said, preoccupied with some troubles, "In recent days, my master has slept much better than before!"

"Was the situation even worse before?" Prince Cheng asked with a frown.

"Exactly. In the past, no one was allowed to make a sound when my master was asleep. Anyone who disturbs my master in his sleep would be severely punished. Once there was someone dull waking up my master, which made the Empress Dowager so angry that she almost killed all members of his family!"

Xiao Xuanzi said.

"All members of his family? Was he a servant in the imperial palace?" Prince Cheng asked curiously.

"Of course not. He came to the imperial palace to visit the Empress Dowager and paid an unnecessary visit to my master. Unfortunately, my master didn't feel well that day and struggled to fall asleep. After being woken up, my master felt so uncomfortable that he even spat out the medicine which I tried hard to persuade him to take. How could the Empress Dowager not get angry? You know, the Empress Dowager is most concerned about my master's health!"

Xiao Xuanzi led Prince Cheng to the main room, while chatting with him with a flattering smile, "Your Highness, here are some stairs. Be careful."

Prince Cheng nodded and went up the stairs. There were also two guards standing in front of the main room. Seeing them come over, the two guards hurriedly lifted the curtain.

"Your Highness, please come in!" After entering the room, Xiao Xuanzi said in a much lower voice than he did outside, while enthusiastically leading Prince Cheng inside with the same smile.

Prince Cheng came in and looked at the ornaments in the room. Although the rooms in a Buddhist temple were usually simply and elegantly decorated, he could tell that the ornaments in the room were elegant but valuable. Compared with the courtyard where he lived, it was obviously decorated in a much better and meticulous way.

He had come to the Huaguang Temple before. The courtyard, where he lived, was chosen by himself. There were plenty of courtyards distributed in different parts prepared for the members of the royal family. Only the courtyard was the least splendid and could be considered the least conspicuous one among the royal courtyards, and that was what he wanted.

Before the situation was clear, he hoped to avoid the attention of the Emperor and officials of all ranks. Now he was just a practitioner, who still wore his hair with a desire to be a monk and didn't even want to get married.

A practitioner like him should be aloof and indifferent!

What did the letter mean? As he thought, he glanced at Xiao Xuanzi's flattering and friendly smiling face. It seemed that all the eunuchs had the same expression, and he could not find any difference at the moment.

He continued walking inside.

On the bed behind the screen, Shao Wanru was on tenterhooks and only felt that almost every footstep of Prince Cheng made her heart skip a beat. She pressed her chest with one hand, closed her eyes tightly, and didn't dare to move, only feeling her rapid heartbeat. She bit her lip hard and managed to suppress her rapid breathing.

She couldn't help clenching her fists under the quilt!

"Your Highness, please come here!" She heard Xiao Xuanzi say in a low voice, which was friendly and relaxed, and come at a light pace. Obviously, he was afraid of disturbing the person on the bed!

Afraid of disturbing the person on the bed?

With a sparkle in her eyes, Shao Wanru seemed to realize something. She relaxed a little with her long eyelashes fluttering and her eyes closed tightly, only listening to what was going on outside.

The footsteps were indeed light, but they belonged to more than one person. Prince Cheng really came!

Prince Cheng followed Xiao Xuanzi past the screen, entered the inner room, and immediately fixed his eyes on the red sachet hanging on the gauze curtain at the head of the bed.

It was indeed impossible for such an incompatible red sachet among the simple decoration of the room not to attract Prince Cheng's attention. The bright color and the gorgeous peony made the sachet quite eye-catching.

With his hands suddenly trembling and his eyes slightly twitching, Prince Cheng looked slightly sullen and said, "Why is there such a vulgar sachet hanging on Prince Chen's bedside? This is a quiet place in a temple!"

He didn't say loudly, but he was obviously furious. Shao Wanru, who was on the bed, stretched her ears. In fact, she was curious about why Prince Cheng seemed to be displeased with the red sachet.

Xiao Xuanzi also saw the sachet hanging at the bedside. After thinking for a while, he realized something and thought that the Fifth Miss Shao was so smart. He lowered his voice, approached Prince Cheng, and whispered with a smile, "Your Highness, this sachet was sent by the Empress Dowager for exorcising evil spirits. It is said that red can suppress evil spirits."

"Well, why is it made into a sachet with a peony pattern?" Hearing that it was sent by the Empress Dowager, Prince Cheng asked in a low voice with the coldness on his face fading a little, although he still looked unkind.

"It's said that it is made into a sachet because a sachet is easier to hang. A piece of hanging red cloth doesn't look good. Regarding the peony... it's probably also for good looking." Xiao Xuanzi reached out to touch his head and explained in confusion, indicating that he was not clear about it either. Since it was sent by the Empress Dowager, it was inappropriate for Xiao Xuanzi to ask about it.

It seemed that Xiao Xuanzi had asked about it, but didn't get an answer!

Of course, the Empress Dowager's servant could not be inquired casually. Even Chu Liuchen, her beloved grandson, might not be able to get the answer.

This was very real!

Prince Cheng tried hard to look away from the red sachet and then looked at the bed. There was a vague figure behind the gauze curtain, which indicated that someone was sleeping on the bed.

"Your Highness, let me lift the gauze curtain. Please take a look and don't wake my master up, okay?" Xiao Xuanzi said in an increasingly low voice with a flattering smile on his bitter face and looked at Prince Cheng pleadingly.

At the moment, Shao Wanru, who had been prepared on the bed, felt her heart pounded rapidly. If she was covered with the quilt, Prince Cheng might not be able to tell that she was a fake. However, if Prince Cheng lifted the quilt slightly or checked on her while pulling the quilt for her, he would inevitably discover that she was a fake.

She was lying on the side with her face toward the wall and not completely covered with the quilt. Besides her hair, half of her face was also exposed. As long as Prince Cheng leaned forward to check on her, he would definitely discover that she was not Chu Liuchen. When the time came, neither Chu Liuchen nor she could explain it.

But in the current situation, the only thing she could do was to clench her teeth and hold on and see which of them could hold on till the final moment!

Gnashed her teeth, Shao Wanru went all out and decided to stop thinking. With nothing in her mind, she became composed and her hands stopped trembling.

Prince Cheng nodded and looked at the red sachet hanging on the gauze curtain with disgust again. Instead of moving forward, he took a step back.

Xiao Xuanzi went forward and lifted half of the gauze curtain, revealing the figure reclining on the bed. She was not completely covered with the quilt, and half of her face was exposed and toward the wall. Under her long black hair, there was her white and tender skin. At this moment, she slept there and breathed steadily without being disturbed by what was going on besides the bed.

"Your Highness, haven't you seen my master for a long time? Would you like to come and have a look at him?" Xiao Xuanzi lowered his voice to invite Prince Cheng to come nearer while lifting the gauze curtain.

It was supposed to be Prince Cheng's idea. He did intend to check if the person on the bed was Chu Liuchen. Only in this way could he solve the doubts in his heart. However, Xiao Xuanzi said what he

wanted to say. He frowned slightly, looked up at the red sachet hanging on the gauze curtain, and stepped forward...

Chapter 634 A Retreat in Fear!

"No, it's good that your master is fine. Put it down. Be careful, or he'll catch a cold!" Prince Cheng suddenly smiled and said softly. Then he stepped out of the room gently with joy.

Xiao Xuanzi hurriedly put down the gauze curtain and followed him out quietly.

When he reached the door and saw Prince Cheng standing there with his hands clasped behind his back in the corridor, he stepped forward with a smile and greeted him. "Prince Cheng!"

Prince Cheng did have something to ask Xiao Xuanzi. Hearing the sound of light and hurried footsteps behind him, he knew that Xiao Xuanzi had come out, so he asked, "How's your master's diet these days? Does he sleep well?"

"My master has been doing good these days. He's much better now than he was before. He won't faint if something goes wrong. Commandery Prince Qing has been here before!" Xiao Xuanzi said with an ingratiating smile as usual.

Prince Cheng's expression remained unchanged, and he asked casually, "Commandery Prince Qing has been here? When?"

Xiao Xuanzi thought for a while and answered, "Yesterday. Commandery Prince Qing said he and my prince were brothers, so he should call on him. However, my master didn't like Commandery Prince Qing, so he didn't let him enter the courtyard. When they met outside the courtyard, he asked Commandery Prince Qing to go back. At that time, the First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion was also present!"

"Was the First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion also here to visit your master?" Prince Cheng asked.

"Of course not. First Miss Shao came with Commandery Prince Qing. Then she stayed outside because of her identity. Commandery Prince Qing came here first. Later, after he was driven away by my master, he went down the mountain and left with her!" Xiao Xuanzi said cautiously.

This was indeed the case. First Miss Shao stayed in the pavilion outside, and Commandery Prince Qing came in to knock on Fifth Miss Shao's door and was sent away by Xiao Xuanzi's master. Then Commandery Prince Qing left with First Miss Shao. However, Xiao Xuanzi didn't mention anything about Shao Wanru, which was the most important. Given his statement, it sounded as if Chu Qing and Shao Yanru had come and left together.

"When did Shao Yanru get so close to Chu Qing?"

Prince Cheng frowned without anyone noticing and was considerably dissatisfied with Duke Xing. He slightly raised the corners of his mouth and said, "In this case, you should serve your master well. If there's anything wrong, just come and report it to me. I'll also be living in Huaguang Temple these days, listening to the monks chanting sutras for a period of time!"

He had thought that First Miss Shao was a bright beauty who could be used by him in the future. Now, however, he found the woman way too fickle in relationships. She seemed to want to hook up with

anyone with a royal pedigree without regard to her capabilities. Did she really think that royal offspring were so easy to fool around?

"It seems that I have to give Duke Xing a warning lest his daughter should get too dizzy with success to ruin my plans."

Prince Cheng knitted his brows all the time since he walked out of Chu Liuchen's yard. He had a feeling that he had been set up by someone today. If he did lift the quilt or check around this time, feeling suspicious of Chu Liuchen, this matter was bound to be known by Empress Dowager.

Although what he did could be considered as his concern for Chu Liuchen, his nephew, he had been indifferent to secular affairs for many years and once said that he would become a monk. He seldom lived in Prince Cheng's Mansion in the capital city and always kept himself aloof from people. Not only did he not have a good relationship with civil and military officials, but he also was not close to the royal family.

With his character, it was pretty good if he went to visit Chu Liuchen. How could he walk up to check Chu Liuchen's health intimately even with the bright red peony sachet hanging on the head of the bed? His dislike of this sort of thing was unknown to others, except for Empress Dowager.

If he behaved differently, all his previous efforts would be for naught. Therefore, this trap was aimed at him. Who targeted him and tried to set such a trap?

Was it Chu Liuyue or Chu Liuzhou, or this thoughtless Chu Qing?

First, he was attracted here by a letter. Then, under the attentive guidance of Xiao Xuanzi, he checked Chu Liuchen. All these kept reminding him that somebody was keeping an eye out for him. Was it because of the thing that happened a few years ago? Was it Chu Liuchen who he met at that time? Chu Liuchen fainted because of this, so someone took advantage of this matter!

It was an accident back then. Prince Cheng hadn't been able to find it out till now. He had a name in mind for the person behind it, but he couldn't investigate it any further for some reason. If he dug too deep with the power at hand, there would be a risk of getting himself exposed.

Therefore, he stopped investigating it after he had a rough guess!

Nonetheless, if others connected what happened today with the past incident, they would inevitably think that he was up to something. The first thing he had to deal with was the sickly Chu Liuchen. Every time Chu Liuchen was a little out of sorts in the future, people would think of him. That was not a good thing!

Although it was said that Chu Liuchen's health was a little better, this was based on the fact that he passed out from time to time in the past. Chu Liuchen was different from ordinary people. If something happened to him due to his disturbance this time, he would surely incur the wrath of Empress Dowager. If someone else with evil intentions tried to stir up trouble, it wouldn't be something hard to imagine what kind of trouble was lying in wait for him when others thought of what had happened before.

Prince Cheng gasped and felt a chill go down his spine. He almost fell into someone else's trap.

“Go back and send a generous gift to Prince Chen!” Prince Cheng ordered in a cold voice, with a trace of fierceness in his eyes. He must find out the person who had plotted against him in the dark. The letter could not end up in his man’s hands for no reason.

“Yes, Your Highness. I’ll go back and prepare it immediately!” Hearing his master’s words, Xiqi knew that he was furious, so he quickly responded carefully.

“Go back to the mansion at the foot of the mountain to prepare a generous gift. When everything is ready, send it up here. Take this opportunity to send a message to Duke Xing and ask him to keep his daughter in check. The top priority of the royal family choosing a girl is morality. If she has no virtue, or if she has dubious relationships with other royal brothers, she won’t even be able to be a concubine, let alone the Princess Consort,” Prince Cheng ordered coldly.

“Got it!” Xiqi hurriedly lowered his head. He had heard what Xiao Xuanzi and Prince Cheng had said just now, and he also knew why Prince Cheng would say that...

It was quiet in the room. Although there was no sound, Shao Wanru still didn’t dare to move. She was afraid that Prince Cheng would come back. By then, what she had hidden with great difficulty would be exposed!

Her eyes were still closed, but her ears were raised high, and she was following everything outside.

She felt that the gauze curtain seemed to be lifted up, but she clearly didn’t hear any footsteps. She was so stupefied that her hair stood on end. Did she feel wrong?

Then the bed suddenly collapsed as someone sat down on it. Shao Wanru instantly opened her eyes. What greeted her was a pair of enchanting eyes.

When she saw the person in front of her clearly, she breathed a sigh of relief. She felt comfortable, as if she came to life, and her body no longer curled tightly together.

She took a deep breath and asked, “Why are you here?”

Chu Liuchen took off his shoes and lay down sidelong. He said lazily, “Why can’t I be here? This is my bed.”

After saying that, he nudged Shao Wanru inside and took up more places. Then he took a cushion and leaned on it.

He was wearing a light purple brocade robe with a slightly open neckline and white lapels, which made him look noble and elegant. In addition, he had a delicate face and glittering eyes. He was endowed with an ineffable charm.

He was still like someone walking out of a painting, unlike anyone in the secular world. Such a person could only appear in the painting. When he appeared in the real world, even Shao Wanru, who was confident about her composure, felt uneasy, so she simply sat up.

“Since Your Highness is back, I’ll go back now!”

“Why are you in such a hurry? I happen to have something to tell you!” Chu Liuchen reached out to hold her slender waist and pulled her into his arms. His voice was gentle, rendering her mentally tipsy!

The tug made her fall on him. She subconsciously reached out to push him away, but when she saw his lazy but threatening eyes, she relaxed sensibly. It was obviously impossible for her to let him be polite!

"Your Highness, what's the matter? The matter of the golden bracelet or the matter of Prince Cheng?" Shao Wanru asked helplessly.

"Is there anything wrong with Prince Cheng?" Chu Liuchen suddenly smiled and seemed to be in a good mood.

"Initially, I thought it had nothing to do with you, but now I don't think so!" Shao Wanru was truly helpless. She had sensed that there was something fishy about this matter before. She vaguely felt that Xiao Xuanzi was too organized, for he almost seized the initiative every time when dealing with Prince Cheng. He was intent on having Prince Cheng check whether the person in the bed was Chu Liuchen.

Prince Cheng didn't even need to find an excuse himself. Xiao Xuanzi had already prepared all kinds of excuses, which made Shao Wanru, who was lying on the bed, think that he must be one of Prince Cheng's men. Otherwise, how could he have thought of everything for Prince Cheng? Furthermore, these reasons were acceptable and reasonable!

However, Shao Wanru was sure that Xiao Xuanzi was not Prince Cheng's man. He was Chu Liuchen's man, and he was the most loyal one!

What did he mean? Even if he was loyal, why did he ask Prince Cheng to check it out even though he knew it was a fake on the bed? It seemed that he wanted Prince Cheng to expose his master's plan. If it were not for Chu Liuchen's order, how could he have done everything so flawlessly and fearlessly?

Moreover, Chu Liuchen's return was too coincidental. Not only was it coincidental, but it was also at the right time. He came back without making any sound. If he had not been paying attention to this place, he would not have been able to control it so well.

"So, Your Highness, where were you just now?" Shao Wanru pushed Chu Liuchen and tried to stay away from him, looking at him with vigilance.

"Where do you think I would be?" Chu Liuchen slightly raised the corners of his mouth and smiled seductively. However, no matter how attractive he was, Shao Wanru glared at him with a pair of watery eyes and asked through gritted teeth, "Your Highness, weren't you in my yard?"

Chapter 635 Sending a Few Pairs of Bracelets to Duke Xing's Mansion

"Of course, I am in your room. I have to rest even though you have changed your bed with me!" Chu Liuchen looked at Shao Wanru with a meaningful smile.

That was to say, the prince didn't go out at all just now but hid in her room?

Shao Wanru opened her watery eyes wide and stared at him sincerely. She shouldn't have been panic just now, for he had been in the next yard the whole time!

She took a deep breath and subdued the rush of anger inside. "Your Highness, since it's over, I'll go back!"

"Why are you in such a hurry? Since you are already here, you don't have to go back so early!" Chu Liuchen smiled sideways at her. He had a pair of beautiful, shining eyes, but a few traces of laziness could be seen in them.

"It's improper!" Shao Wanru said unhappily with a straight face.

"Why is it improper? Since you're here, why are you in such a rush?" Chu Liuchen asked with a smile. Noticing the shame and anger in her watery eyes, he quit teasing her. He took out the pair of bracelets from his sleeve and handed one to Shao Wanru. "Take a look. Do you feel anything unusual?"

Shao Wanru had seen this bracelet before. Now since she had to look at it again, she could only do it perfunctorily!

Feeling helpless, she took the bracelet that was stuffed into her hand and looked up at Chu Liuchen's beautiful and elegant face in confusion.

"Did you find anything unusual?" Chu Liuchen asked.

Shao Wanru shook her head. She really didn't find anything.

"I'm going to send you the pair of bracelets!" Chu Liuchen suddenly smiled meaningfully and reached out to put the other bracelet in Shao Wanru's hand. "Take it as your best dowry!"

Shao Wanru blinked her eyes speechlessly. Shouldn't this so-called best dowry be used as a gift to the bride when a woman got married? Moreover, it was often women who did such a thing. What on earth was his doing?

In the end, Shao Wanru took the pair of bracelets that Chu Liuchen forced to give her back. She had no choice but to take them. When she went back, she asked Yujie to put them away. Such bracelets were not designed for people to wear initially. They were so heavy and solid that no one would wear them!

After Shao Wanru left, Chu Liuchen also got up and walked to the window. Looking at the mountains outside the window, he asked with a smile, "Xiao Xuanzi, what do you think of the bracelets?"

"There's no doubt that the bracelets are prime, but if they're kept by Fifth Miss Shao..." After Shao Wanru left, Xiao Xuanzi entered the room. At this moment, he hesitated and paused. He assumed that it wouldn't be a good choice to have Fifth Miss Shao keep the bracelets. If anything went wrong, something serious would unquestionably happen!

"I can't ask her to keep the bracelets?" Chu Liuchen glanced at him from the corner of his shining eyes, looking elegant and noble.

"Master, if someone discovers that the Fifth Miss possesses such a pair of bracelets, he'll be suspicious of her!" Xiao Xuanzi reminded him carefully.

Chu Liuchen's extremely long eyelashes cast ragged shadows on his face. He looked at Xiao Xuanzi with a faint smile and asked, "So?"

"So... you'd better be cautious!" Xiao Xuanzi replied helplessly. As a servant, he felt he had seen through it, but his master didn't seem to realize it.

"Of course, I'll be cautious. She's my Princess Consort. If I'm not careful, I won't even have a wife!" Chu Liuchen said casually.

If one listened to these words alone, he would have a feeling that they had a deep meaning, as if they meant something.

Xiao Xuanzi gazed at his master speechlessly, and his face wrinkled. He believed he had made it clear, but his master didn't seem to get him.

After thinking for a while, he thought he could explain it again, so he reminded his master a second time. "Master, if the Fifth Miss engages in the consort selection, she's likely to be chosen by other princes!"

Fifth Miss Shao was getting more and more gorgeous now and was no longer the childlike little girl she once was. She was even more outstanding than the First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion. In Xiao Xuanzi's view, the top beauty in the capital was none other than the Fifth Miss.

With such striking features, how could those princes not be mesmerized by her the moment they saw her? Even if they didn't promise her the title "Princess Consort", they were willing to have her as their concubine!

"How dare they!" Chu Liuchen's face darkened, and a trace of gloom was floating in his pretty eyes. His previous gentleness and elegance immediately changed into weirdness and coldness.

"Master, it's not about whether they dare to do it. Although the Empress Dowager has agreed to the marriage between you and the Fifth Miss, it hasn't been made public. If the other princes make their desire for the Fifth Miss public, it'll be too late for you to regret it!" Xiao Xuanzi said earnestly and secretly wiped his sweat!

Chu Liuchen landed his cold eyes outside the window and suddenly found the previous beautiful scenery to be not that eye-catching, and he even had an aversion to it. He snorted and said, "If anyone dares to harbor any unrealistic delusions about my woman, he has to see if he can survive my tricks!"

Xiao Xuanzi supposed his master understood and asked again, "The gold bracelets..."

"Ask Zhuozhuo to keep them temporarily. I'd like to see who dares to make an issue of the gold bracelets!" Chu Liuchen said. Suddenly, he smiled devilishly, turned around, patted Xiao Xuanzi on the head, and added, "Go and tell her men that if anyone asks about the gold bracelets, just turn the Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion into the wire-puller!"

"Why didn't you say that earlier?" Xiao Xuanzi breathed a sigh of relief.

"Why should I say that?" Chu Liuchen chuckled. Looking relaxed, he looked like a gentle and harmless young man, but his words didn't sound harmless at all. "It's better for her not to know what has caused by the Duke Xing's Mansion!"

It didn't matter as to whether others thought that way!

"Do you mean that it was the Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion who privately gave them to the Fifth Miss? The Fifth Miss was ignorant of it because she didn't like them and hadn't seen them before?" Xiao Xuanzi's eyes lit up, and his face was full of joy. It seemed that his master understood it. He had thought

that his master didn't understand his feelings for Fifth Miss Shao and accidentally put her in danger. It would be too late to repent if something truly happened!

"Send one or two pairs to each lady of Duke Xing's Mansion!" Chu Liuchen said lightly.

"Yes, master, I'll go and prepare now!" Xiao Xuanzi nodded repeatedly. If his master behaved generously by sending other ladies the same gift, it would have nothing to do with the Fifth Miss in the eyes of others!

Shao Wanru knew nothing about the arrangements of Chu Liuchen, but the next day, Yujie secretly told her that the bracelets were given by the Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion. If someone asked about them in the future, she could say that she didn't have a clue. The bracelets were originally mixed in a pile of gifts and put away by a servant girl.

Previously, after Shao Wanru had an accident, Duke Xing's Mansion had sent a lot of gifts to her. She seemed to take them seriously, but basically, she didn't spare them a glance before her maids packed them up. It was a suitable reason for this situation.

There was a pair of gold bracelets on the gift list. If one didn't observe them, he wouldn't notice that they were so different. They were so heavy to wear.

Shao Wanru deliberately took out the pair of gold bracelets again. She studied them for a long time in the sunlight pouring in through the window but found nothing. Then she asked Yujie to put them away and lock them!

Since it had a cause and effect and was done under Chu Liuchen's instructions, it seemed to be a trap. As for whether the trap involved people from Duke Xing's Mansion or not, it was not something she needed to consider.

In her last life, she had no idea how Chu Liuchen defeated all his opponents and took the position of Crown Prince. But there was one thing she was sure of. The means Chu Liuchen used to take the position were undoubtedly sinister. He had never been a kind person, so being gentle and elegant was just a front for his viciousness.

Peace stayed the next few days. Duke Xing's Mansion hadn't sent anyone to disturb her, and even the courtyard next door was quiet. Chu Liuchen seemed to be convalescing from his illness. Yujie even saw Mingqiu Nun appear next door from time to time to treat Chu Liuchen.

People from the palace came here occasionally.

The men of the Empress Dowager, the Emperor, and the Empress seemed to concern about Chu Liuchen's health genuinely. However, even if they called on him, they kept their voices low and didn't make much noise. They all knew that Prince Chen was recuperating, so no one dared to make a noise.

One day, someone knocked on the door of Shao Wanru's courtyard.

Yujie looked at the palace maids standing outside in surprise and said, "You are..."

The leading palace maid stepped forward and said with a smile, "Ordered by the Empress Dowager, I'm here to make clothes for Fifth Miss Shao!"

Yujie couldn't figure out what it meant. After looking them up and down for a while, she asked again, "Make clothes for my Miss?"

"The Empress Dowager heard that Fifth Miss Shao doesn't have any fabulous clothes, so she ordered us to prepare a few sets of clothes for her. That way, she can go straight to the palace to participate in the consort selection!" The palace maid explained with a smile and a gentle attitude.

The fact that this Fifth Miss Shao could get an imperial edict from the Empress Dowager meant that the Empress Dowager had thought highly of her. It seemed that she was blessed, so the palace maid naturally treated her maid kindly.

Of course, what mattered most was Rui'an Great Elder Princess mentioning Fifth Miss Shao now and then when she came in and out of the Empress Dowager's palace. The servants in the Empress Dowager's palace basically knew that. Many people thought that the reason why Rui'an Great Elder Princess said so was probably that she wanted Fifth Miss Shao to marry a prince.

With Fifth Miss Shao's status, she could be the Princess Consort. However, she seemed to be in a high position, but in fact, she had no practical use. These princes might not take a fancy to her.

Nonetheless, since Rui'an Great Elder Princess had said so and done so, even if this Fifth Miss Shao could not become the legal wife, the royal family would have to give her the position of concubine. There were tons of people who thought so, and this palace maid naturally could not afford to offend Fifth Miss Shao.

Nevertheless, she merely had no guts to offend Fifth Miss Shao in her presence. To be honest, she didn't take her seriously. She showed her respect in her presence just for the sake of Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

Yet when they saw Fifth Miss Shao, the palace maids sent by the Empress Dowager no longer dared to underestimate her, who was said to be of little use.

Chapter 636 the Empress Dowager's Imperial Decree

When the palace maid came in, she bowed to Shao Wanru and then looked up. After clearly seeing the young lady sitting in the seat above, she was so shocked that she couldn't even say a word.

The First Miss Shao was known as a remarkable beauty in the capital city. The palace maid, who worked in the Empress Dowager's palace, had seen the First Miss Shao before and thought the First Miss Shao gorgeous indeed.

She didn't expect that there was someone more gorgeous than the First Miss Shao. Despite Shao Wanru's plain black clothes, she looked even more ravishing than those well-dressed Misses from aristocratic families.

Such simple black clothes made her look like a heavenly fairy with a delicate little face coming out of a painting.

"Do you come here for measurement?" Shao Wanru looked at the palace maid and said with a smile.

“Are... are you the Fifth Miss Shao?” The palace maid hurriedly said with a smile, hid the shock in her eyes, and looked increasingly respectful. There were all kinds of beauties in the imperial harem, but none of them amazed her as much as the Fifth Miss Shao in front.

“Yes, do you come here for measurement?” Shao Wanru stood up and said.

“Yes, I’m sent by the Empress Dowager. She knows that you have been living in the nunnery and now in the temple, so you must have no suitable clothes for the coming consort selection. Fifth Miss Shao, you are on the list. The Empress Dowager issued an imperial decree which instructs us to make a few sets of clothes for you in case you have no suitable clothes for entering the palace!”

The palace maid introduced with a smile and called two palace maids coming for measurement over, and they came forward to measure Shao Wanru’s size.

After that, she instructed other palace maids to put a few pieces of cloth on the table for Shao Wanru to choose from.

“Rui’an Great Elder Princess intended to send another few pieces of cloth here. But the Empress Dowager said that she could send a few more pieces of cloth in the name of Rui’an Great Elder Princess and her so that Rui’an Great Elder Princess didn’t have to send another few pieces of cloth!” The palace maid, who was obviously very clever, said tactfully while explaining why Rui’an Great Elder Princess didn’t send anything.

Something like making clothes was supposed to be a matter within Rui’an Great Elder Princess’s duties. But since the Empress Dowager had issued such an imperial decree, it was feasible for her to do the job for Rui’an Great Elder Princess.

Rui’an Great Elder Princess had always been respected in front of the Empress Dowager. Although the Empress Dowager seemed to have done Shao Wanru too big a favor this time, since the Empress Dowager had always been nice to Rui’an Great Elder Princess, it was reasonable for the Empress Dowager to do her granddaughter a favor.

The palace maids brought plenty of cloth. After expressing her gratitude, Shao Wanru came over to pick four pieces of cloth and repeatedly told the palace maid that four sets of clothes were enough for her.

The palace maid looked at her with approval, did not insist that she should pick more, and just instructed other palace maids to pack up the rest of the cloth with a smile.

In fact, the young ladies couldn’t bring too many clothes when entering the imperial palace for the consort selection, and four sets of clothes were appropriate. Of course, with the Empress Dowager imperial decree, one could bring a few more sets of clothes.

The Fifth Miss Shao, who was young and exceedingly beautiful, was so steady that she didn’t become haughty because of the Empress Dowager’s kindness and picked four sets of clothes according to the rules, which really made the palace maid think highly of her.

After Shao Wanru picked the cloth, the palace maid presented her with a set of gorgeous jewelry given by the Empress Dowager. After finishing her task, the palace maid left with a smile.

"Miss, I... seem to have seen this set of jewelry somewhere!" Yujie looked at the set of jewelry and said in confusion.

In the open exquisite jewelry box on the table, there was the set of jewelry given by the Empress Dowager. It was indeed very beautiful and obviously extraordinary.

"Where have you seen them?" Shao Wanru asked curiously because the items in the imperial palace were customized and were not available to everyone.

Yujie, who had lived in the Yuhui Nunnery with her for such a long time, was not supposed to have met many people.

"Let me see!" Yujie closed her eyes and began to recall those whom she had met. However, after thinking for a while, she thought of nothing and could only shake her head helplessly and said, "Miss, I can't think of the person, but I think I have seen them!"

"Have you seen the same jewelry or similar jewelry?" Shao Wanru reminded her. She reached out to pick up a hairpin, walked up to the dressing table, and inserted it in her bun in front of the mirror.

The half comb and a few strings of beads hanging on the hairpin made her look more delicate than a flower.

"Miss, I think of the person. It's... it's the First Miss!" Dazzled by the string of beads, Yujie became clear-minded and said, "Miss, do you still remember when the First Miss came to the Yuhui Nunnery and met you for the first time? At that time, she wore such a hairpin!"

It was an exquisite hairpin, and one could tell that it was customized in the imperial palace at a glance!

"Duke Xing's Mansion has always been in favor with the Emperor, so it's reasonable for them to get it from the imperial palace. It's not a big deal!" Hearing Yujie's words, Qu Le, who came in to serve tea, said in disapproval.

"But... but the two hairpins are the same..." Yujie hesitated and said anxiously.

Many of the jewelry in the imperial palace were customized indeed. However, this was the reason why the jewelry was more or less different and there would not be two hairpins that were exactly the same. No matter the jewelry was given to someone as a reward or kept for wearing, it would be indecent in the imperial palace to have the same jewelry as others.

"They are exactly the same?" Shao Wanru asked with interest and reached out to pull the hairpin out of her hair. Unlike the simple hairpins outside, it was a more gorgeous hairpin with a half fan and beads, which were as big as rice grains but round, hanging on its end.

On the gold thread, the bright white pearls swayed from time to time. If it was inserted in her hair, it would make her dark hair and pretty face look even more delicate.

It was a very beautiful hairpin, which could be favored by plenty of girls because of its unique look. Nevertheless, it would not be unique, and there should be some similar ones. Although they could not be exactly the same, the goldsmiths would be glad to make a few similar ones to please the masters in the imperial palace.

“Uh... I can't remember. Maybe... maybe they are not the same!” Yujie was baffled and said with a frown after thinking for a while. She couldn't remember if they were exactly the same. At that time, because the First Miss's hairpin was beautiful and different from ordinary hairpins, she took a few more glances at it.

After the First Miss began her long stay in the Yuhui Nunnery, she had never seen the First Miss wear such a hairpin. So her memory was a little blurred now! She could only vaguely remember that it was a fancy hairpin different from other ordinary hairpins.

“Miss, the First Miss's hairpin is probably also given by the Empress Dowager!” Qu Le guessed.

Shao Wanru said with a slight smile, “Put away the jewelry for the time being!”

Since this set of jewelry was given by the Empress Dowager for the consort selection, she would wear them in the consort selection. Nevertheless, it was very surprising that the Empress Dowager sent some palace maids to make clothes for her and bring her jewelry.

Wouldn't the clothes and jewelry given by the Empress Dowager at this time make others think too much? She, who had always been low keyed, would attract much attention because of this.

Was it a good thing or a bad thing? But in any case, since it brought her to the spotlight, she would not let go of such an opportunity.

Sometimes a good thing could turn into a bad one, while a bad thing could turn into a good one!

“Yujie, take the jewelry to Duke Xing's Mansion later and put them in my courtyard in Duke Xing's Mansion. Tell them that it is inappropriate to keep such gorgeous jewelry in the Huaguang Temple on the mountain!”

After a set of gorgeous clothes was discovered in the silence room, it was reasonable to put this set of jewelry in Duke Xing's Mansion. She should act like a practitioner during the cultivation and not wear bright-colored clothes and gorgeous jewelry.

When the old maid from Duke Xing's Mansion came to invite Shao Wanru down the mountain, she had said that the courtyard had been prepared. At that time, Rui'an Great Elder Princess had sent Nanny Yu, Shao Wanru's personal old maid, there and several maids to help her deal with the affairs in the courtyard for the time being.

Shao Wanru could live there directly after going down the mountain. The courtyard had been fully prepared with the stuff sent by Rui'an Great Elder Princess and arranged by Duke Xing's Mansion.

“Send the jewelry to Madam of Duke Xing for her to have a look, and then ask Nanny Yu to put them away!” Shao Wanru said in detail with a trace of deepness across her watery eyes.

No matter where Shao Yanru got the set of similar jewelry, she would definitely be anxious at the sight of this set of jewelry. Shao Yanru, who was also a Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion, got nothing from the Empress Dowager while she did. Not only Shao Yanru but Madam of Duke Xing would be anxious!

The dispute between Shao Yanru and Qin Yuru had not been settled yet. It could be seen that Duke Xing's Mansion didn't gain the upper hand...

"Mother, why haven't you solved the matter yet? It's just a humble Duke Yong's Mansion. Why does it take so long to settle the matter?" Shao Yanru said impatiently in a rage with a pale face.

"Qin Yuru is pregnant, so Countess Yong refused to let her go. She said that she would handle it after Qin Yuru's delivery!" Madam of Duke Xing said with her face darkening and struck the table in rage, not as dignified and decent as she had always been in front of others. Speaking of this matter, Madam of Duke Xing was also furious.

Recently, she had been secretly negotiating with Countess Yong. As long as Duke Yong's Mansion could make Qin Yuru take the blame, Duke Xing's Mansion could give Duke Yong's Mansion some great benefits.

Countess Yong put it off at the beginning and said that she would talk it over after returning. However, Countess Yong put it off again and again, and now she said that Qin Yuru was pregnant and it was impossible for her to hurt her grandchild, so she politely refused Madam of Duke Xing.

"Mother, it's just a humble Duke Yong's Mansion. Couldn't we deal with Duke Yong's Mansion with our power? If they don't want to make Qin Yuru take the blame, we can suppress the entire Duke Yong's Mansion. Isn't Duke Yong my father's subordinate?"

With her pretty face becoming gloomy, Shao Yanru suppressed the annoyance in her heart and said coldly, "Mother, Shao Wanru got the jewelry from the Empress Dowager, while I didn't. It can be seen that the Empress Dowager is displeased with me. In this case, even if I have a chance in the future, I probably won't get what I want, which will influence the entire Duke Xing's Mansion!"

Chapter 637 Bet the Hope on Which of Them!

"I know, I know, but your father..." Madam of Duke Xing became increasingly annoyed, raised her eyebrows, and said furiously, "Your father also asked me to tell you to be more cautious in conduct. Don't hook up with Commandery Prince Qing! Bah, when did you hook up with Commandery Prince Qing?"

"Mother, when did father say that?" Shao Yanru froze for a while and said. She didn't expect that there would be such a thing. "Mother, why didn't you tell me earlier?"

"It's nothing but your father's groundless accusation. I know that you met Commandery Prince Qing when you came down the mountain that day. I wonder who gossiped in front of your father and said that you hooked up with Commandery Prince Qing. How could you take a fancy to Commandery Prince Qing?"

Madam of Duke Xing said with a sneer.

When she heard Duke Xing's words at that time, she was so furious that she almost left in a rage. How could her arrogant daughter take a fancy to Chu Qing, who had just reclaimed his identity as the son of the late emperor. The late emperor had passed away. Even Chu Liuchen, the legitimate son of the late emperor, was not favored by the current emperor. How could Chu Qing be favored?

"Mother, did anyone say something in front of my father?" Shao Yanru said calmly with her face darkening.

"I don't know who said that. Your father specially came to tell me this. Madam of Duke Xing said angrily and even got angrier as she thought about it. She was proud of her daughter. She could ignore that others spoke ill of her daughter, but it was impossible for her not to get angry at Duke Xing's criticism of her daughter.

"Mother, since father said so, it must not be groundless. My reputation has been tarnished now. I have to participate in the consort selection this time. Otherwise, I won't have any chance in the future!"

Shao Yanru clenched her fists, stopped in front of Madam of Duke Xing after walking around the room twice, looked into Madam of Duke Xing's eyes, and said, "Mother, I can't keep waiting!"

"Ru'er, have you made your decision?" Madam of Duke Xing grabbed Shao Yanru's hand and asked in a panic.

To choose Chu Liuyue or Chu Liuzhou had always been a question in Duke Xing's Mansion. At present, the situation was not clear yet, so betting the hope on which of them was of vital importance!

"Mother, attending the consort selection doesn't mean that I will be selected. My reputation has been tarnished now, and what put me in this situation was related to either Shao Wanru or Qin Yuru. The two of them have the greatest impact. Shao Wanru is still in the Huaguang Temple, so I can't deal with her for the time being. But I can deal with Qin Yuru!" Shao Yanru gnashed her teeth and said.

She had enjoyed a great reputation. At that time, speaking of her, everyone described her as a model of Misses from aristocratic families with a ravishing look and decent bearing. However, now when people spoke of her, she got both praise and blame, and even plenty of women thought that she was the most scheming and vicious lady.

She had sent her maid to inquire about it that day. Getting the news, she was so furious that she smashed all the things in her room. When was her reputation as terrible as that of Qin Yuru's?

She couldn't keep waiting, but she couldn't make up her mind, so she couldn't skip the consort selection for any reason. Nevertheless, attending the consort selection didn't mean that she was going to make a bet.

She considered both Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou promising, so she had to wait for another period of time. She decided to enter the imperial palace to attend the consort selection, but she had to be left in the basket and could make Shao Wanru take the blame. She had some scratches on her face because of Shao Wanru, so she had to quit the selection. No one could blame her for this.

She could wait longer to deal with Shao Wanru, but she couldn't wait any longer to deal with Qin Yuru. She had to try everything to restore her reputation.

"Mother, you should meet Countess Yong again. If she still refuses, tell her about what her son has done and let her know that she can't protect her daughter-in-law even if she wants to!" Shao Yanru said with a sneer.

"You mean Di Yan's mistress, the prostitute?" Madam of Duke Xing said hesitantly. She got the news from Duke Xing, but Duke Xing told her to wait and see what would happen, not to stir up trouble with it for the time being and save it for greater use.

“Yes, make Di Yan’s mistress known. If Qin Yuru knows it, the entire Duke Yong’s Mansion will have no peace.” Shao Yanru said with a sneer, not believing that she couldn’t deal with a lady with a ruined reputation, “Mother, if you don’t do it, my bad reputation will have a great impact on our plan!”

With a bad reputation, even if she became a member of the imperial harem, it was impossible for her to become the empress, who only played the second fiddle to the emperor. This was an important reason why Shao Yanru did all she could to maintain her reputation in front of others!

She could not bear any damage done to her reputation!

“Okay!” After thinking for a while, Madam of Duke Xing finally said with a nod. She could only do that now. No matter what she intended to do with it, she could only make use of it now. Moreover, if Countess Yong complied with her request, she didn’t have to expose it.

She just wanted to remind Countess Yong that she knew what Countess Yong’s son had done. If she exposed it, it would definitely be significant. Considering that Old Madam of Duke Yong had always been protective towards Qin Yuru, neither Di Yan nor Countess Yong could get away with it!

“Mother, if Countess Yong agrees, you can ask her to hide Qin Yuru for the time being and suggest that the Huaguang Temple should be a good choice!” Shao Yanru said with a sinister smile.

It was indeed a good choice to make Qin Yuru hide among the pilgrims of the Huaguang Temple, and she could shift the blame onto someone else. Wasn’t Shao Wanru on the mountain?

Regarding Qin Yuru, Shao Yanru didn’t think that she could restrain herself. Based on her impression of Qin Yuru, Shao Yanru knew that Qin Yuru would definitely make a scene after being told about it.

However, she didn’t expect that she would guess wrong again...

There was a path from the back door of Shao Wanru’s courtyard leading to the back mountain of the Huaguang Temple. On the back mountain, there was a plum blossom forest, a corner of which was planted with white plum blossoms.

White plum blossoms were different from red plum blossoms, which were as dazzling as fire and looked strikingly gorgeous against the white snow.

Numerous people went to the back mountain to appreciate a large number of red plum blossoms while paying no attention to the white plum blossoms in the corner. At the sight of the white plum blossoms in the corner, almost all pilgrims would turn back. They considered that the red plum blossoms against the white snow were amazing, while the white plum blossoms against the white snow were a little boring!

There were light snowflakes falling from the sky. Shao Wanru didn’t wear black clothes today. Instead, she was dressed warmly and wrapped in a light purple cloak, and her dark hair was bound up with a simple hairpin made of purple bamboo. But even so, she still looked ravishing against the white plum blossoms.

The snow scene in front even made her look like a fairy in a dream.

She walked along the path among the white plum blossoms. When she went out, there was only light snow. Unexpectedly, when she arrived at the back mountain, the snowflakes became large. The sky and the ground were both white, making her even unable to see the road in front of her clearly.

There were no other pilgrims on the way.

Few people came to the white plum blossom forest in normal times, not to mention on such a snowy day.

"Miss, let's go down!" Yujie looked at the accumulated snow behind her and advised. Although she was used to climbing mountains, she could not help gasping at this moment.

"It's okay. It's not far away!" Shao Wanru said, shook her head, and narrowed her fluid eyes to look ahead. With layers of plum blossoms in front of her and the falling snow, she could only see a small section of the path.

Chu Liuchen had been weird recently. He didn't live in the yard at the foot of the mountain, but got into the depths of the white plum blossom forest from time to time and lived there. Moreover, he asked Shao Wanru to bring him lunch.

At this time, the sky was dark, but in fact, it was only noon!

"Miss, you can rest here and wait for me. I'll deliver the lunch and go down the mountain with you after returning!" Yujie put down the hamper, gasped, and suggested.

"No, that's okay. It's just a little cold!" Shao Wanru rubbed her hands together and said. Fortunately, the cloak was warm, so she didn't feel so cold with her hands under it. It was much colder here than in Jiangzhou, especially in winter.

"Well, Miss, I'll walk fast, while you can walk slowly!" Yujie picked up the hamper and said.

"We are not in a hurry. It's rare to enjoy such beautiful scenery. It's actually not bad!" Shao Wanru said with a smile and stretched out her hand. A snowflake, which was cold but fascinatingly beautiful, fell on her palm. She involuntarily showed a smile. She was indeed cold while thinking that everything in front of her was beautiful!

Seeing that her master kept ignoring her suggestion, Yujie had no choice but to follow her helplessly. With a hamper in her hand, she couldn't hold an umbrella for Shao Wanru. Meanwhile, her master was so disobedient that she lifted the hood, which was supposed to cover her head.

"Miss, the snow is too heavy. You'd better let down your hood, in case you catch a cold!" After taking a few steps, Yujie said again.

"It doesn't matter. I'm in good health!" Shao Wanru said with a smile. She somehow thought of what had happened in Jiangzhou. She had been very naughty since her childhood, and there were not so many rules in Jiangzhou. In addition, Madam Di indulged her intentionally or otherwise. So she had done something like climbing over a wall and climbing a tree in her childhood.

She had often acted as naughty as a boy behind Qi Baiyu at that time. But now thinking of it, she found that it seemed to be a long time ago as if it happened in the last life. In fact, it did happen in the last life. From the day she was reborn, she was no longer the Qin Wanru in the last life!

"Miss..." Yujie still wanted to advise her, but Shao Wanru reached out to stop her.

Shao Wanru stood still and frowned slightly. She keenly captured a series of sounds different from the sounds of wind and the sounds of snowing.

The sounds were caused by swords and came from not far ahead! With her face changing slightly, she said in a low voice, "There's some people in front and some sounds caused by swords!"

"There... there are some people in front and some sounds caused by swords?" Yujie said, trembled in fear, and almost failed to hold the hamper in her hand.

"Go down the mountain quickly and tell Qing'er to come here!" Shao Wanru looked around and said decisively. She walked slowly and could be discovered easily, while Yujie walked fast and wouldn't be discovered easily.

"Miss, I can't leave you behind!" Yujie said in fear and almost cried. She was strong, but it didn't mean that she was skilled in martial arts, and she had never experienced this kind of thing before.

"Go, tell Qing'er to come and protect me. You can't help me if you stay, and you will make me exposed!" Shao Wanru reached out to push Yujie, took a deep breath, and said, and then looked at the path in front, which was distant and gray, "Go. They're coming here!"

Chapter 638 Nightmare in the Snow

Yujie had no choice but to leave in a hurry. Knowing that she not only could do nothing to help but also could make them a big target, she pulled Shao Wanru to hide behind a big plum tree and then ran down the mountain to ask for help.

In the heavy snow, the sounds of swords colliding were getting closer and closer. Shao Wanru could vaguely see some figures and hear heart-wrenching screams. She wrapped herself up in the cloak, almost curled up into a ball, watched the figures moving quickly, and didn't dare to move. Before the situation became clear, she would not act rashly.

Nevertheless, she somehow got fidgety!

It seemed that in an instant, the space flashing with knives and swords was getting closer. Protected by a group of guards, Chu Liuchen was dressed in a snow-white fox fur outer garment and standing straight in the snow. From time to time, the edge of his purple robe under his snow-white fox fur outer garment was revealed, looking splendid against the white snow.

He was protected by four or five guards, confronting a large group of men in black, who wore black masks and looked particularly conspicuous in the snow.

The guards protected him and retreated step by step from the end of the road. The men in black were approaching, and the guards were fighting with them. The blood dripped on the snowfield and stained Shao Wanru's sight.

The plum tree she hid behind was big, occupying more than half of the road, but it was a place with advantages in both attack and defense. The leader of the guards protected Chu Liuchen and came up to the tree.

Shao Wanru hesitated for a moment and didn't dare to move!

"Who, who is there? Come out!" A guard shouted harshly when discovering her, who curled up into a ball and pointed the long sword in his hand at her.

Shao Wanru had no choice but to stand up from behind the tree. She, who had been hiding for a while, felt her body stiffened and couldn't stand up at the moment. She intended to stand straight after taking a breath with her hand on the tree, but fell into a warm blossom and was wrapped up in a large fox fur outer garment. She staggered and involuntarily held the person in front of her.

The faint scent of the medicine was so familiar that she could tell who the person was before seeing him clearly.

"Why are you here alone?" He said in an unkind voice accompanied by shrill screams.

"I... I told Yujie to go back!" Shao Wanru returned to herself from shock, lowered her head, and said. Then she looked up and asked anxiously, "Who sent them?"

Wrapped up in Chu Liuchen's outer garment and tightly held by him, she actually didn't see his face.

"I don't know!" Chu Liuchen raised his head and said with Shao Wanru in his arms. He looked towards the men in black, who were attacking the guards fiercely, slightly lifted the corners of his thin lips to show an insidious and indiscernible smile, turned to the men in black but didn't say a word.

The guards rushed forward one by one to fight with the men in black. One of the men in black even broke through the defense line of the guards and rushed to Chu Liuchen. Chu Liuchen held Shao Wanru in his arms motionlessly, watched the sword reach the point a finger away from him, and suddenly drew the sword under his fox fur outer garment with the other hand.

The sword flashed and killed the man in black with one strike!

The blood dripped on the pure white snow in front of Shao Wanru. Realizing what had happened, Shao Wanru hurriedly lowered her head and saw that the man in black reluctantly opened his eyes wide, which almost came out of his eye sockets, through the gap of the fox fur outer garment.

She felt her eyes were covered by a pair of cold hands and heard Chu Liuchen's cold voice, "Don't look at it!"

Shao Wanru felt her eyes were covered by a pair of hands, which were very cold! Although she didn't see clearly Chu Liuchen's movement outside the fox fur outer garment at the moment, she knew that Chu Liuchen killed the man in black in front with the hand covering her eyes now. However, she was not afraid at all.

With her long eyelashes fluttering in Chu Liuchen's palms, she had an inexplicable feeling, subconsciously pulled down his hands, tried to put on a serious look, and said, "I'm not afraid!"

In the last life, she seemed to have seen more people lying on the stairs of the hall, including the candidates for the consort selection and some others, and all of them were dead!

Meanwhile, she seemed to be not afraid at all and just looked at the imperial palace bathed in blood quietly, as if she harbored profound hatred against everything here.

Blood flowed down from the stairs, and the maidens as beautiful as flowers died on the spot one after another. She watched that indifferently. At that time, was she dead? Was she cut in two at the waist at the bottom of the stairs?

With a buzz in her mind, she held Chu Liuchen's hand tightly and stared at the ferocious face the man in black showed before his death while thinking of those candidates whose delicate faces had become ferocious.

She remembered that it should happen before her death. Why did she now feel that it happened after she was cut in two at the waist? She didn't know whether her memory was right or wrong!

Her hands, which was warm, became cold at once and trembled involuntarily. She seemed to see a pair of gloomy and desperate eyes in the bloody sky, and they seemed to be familiar!

But... why... She didn't know...

"What's wrong? Don't push yourself!" Chu Liuchen said while covering her eyes with his hands again. This time she didn't shake him off. The air was filled with the strong smell of blood instead of the fresh smell of snow. Because her sight was blocked, there also seemed to be a strong smell of blood in her breath.

The strong smell of blood reminded her of the stairs and palaces where numerous candidates lay.

Didn't Chu Liuchen kill those people in order to become the Crown Prince? If not, why did he do that? Why did the candidates enrage the devil?

She reached out to pull Chu Liuchen's hand down again stubbornly and hold it tightly with all her strength, as if only in this way could she convince herself that she was real and alive and not the girl cut in half at the waist in that dream.

She breathed deeply. The suffocating feeling made her involuntarily feel short of breath.

Chu Liuchen seemed to find her abnormal. He turned with her in his arms, relaxed his grip on her waist, waved his hand, and let down the fox fur outer garment. He raised her chin with his hand and carefully observed her expression, only to find that her lips, which had always been red, became pale almost with no color and her fluid eyes became dull.

He involuntarily frowned, lowered his head, bit her cherry lips hard, and then let go of her with a hint of worry in his eyes.

The sharp pain made Shao Wanru collect herself. She held Chu Liuchen's hand and breathed so deeply and rapidly that she choked and coughed violently.

Chu Liuchen compressed his lips slightly and reached out to pat her back. Only when her face recovered did he put down his hand.

"What happened?" Chu Liuchen raised his eyebrows and asked.

"I... seemed to get lose in a nightmare!" Shao Wanru lowered her head and said after collecting herself.

"I told you not to look at it, but you still did that!" Chu Liuchen said in displeasure and reach out to hold her back in his arms. Although he acted quickly, he was not as violent as before and even loosened the knot around his neck to loosen the collar band of his fox fur outer garment.

Shao Wanru was held in his arms and turned around with him. Although she didn't know what was going on, she knew that they must be in a dangerous situation and she should stay in his arms obediently at this moment.

She sniffed a familiar scent of medicine with a hint of warmth which pacified her heart that was battered and even couldn't tell right from wrong. She subconsciously grasped the edge of his fox fur outer garment and quietly listened to the sounds from outside. She could still hear them fighting, so it was obvious that the fight was still going on.

"Your Highness, be careful!" Suddenly, a scream came to her ears. Shao Wanru couldn't see what was going on outside, but she could hear that.

She held Chu Liuchen's hand and intended to pull him away. However, she felt dragged violently, and then slipped and fell down. Shao Wanru almost closed her eyes tightly at once and waited for the pain.

However, she didn't feel pain after falling down. She opened her eyes and stretched out her hands, only to find that Chu Liuchen was under her. At this moment, Prince Chen passed out with a pale face and pale lips before saying anything.

"Save His Highness!"

"Hurry up, protect His Highness!" Someone screamed while someone panicked. Shao Wanru, who also panicked, reached out hurriedly to get off Chu Liuchen and picked him up. With a pale face and his lips stained with blood, he spat out a mouthful of blood that sprayed all over her. His blood was of a deep color and a strong smell.

The blood... was not ordinary blood.

She touched Chu Liuchen's face with a trembling hand while reaching out for Chu Liuchen's hand with the other hand and intending to feel his pulse.

"His Highness, His Highness is here. Hurry up!"

"Come here. It's over here!" More guards rushed over from nowhere. Some came to help Chu Liuchen up, some went to block the men in black's way, and some hurried to break some plum branches to make a stretcher. Shao Wanru was pushed three feet away from the crowd.

Fortunately, seeing so many guards show up, the men in black knew that they were in a disadvantageous position, so they turned around and ran away. But it was too late. Except for two or three of them managing to escape, the rest of them were all killed here.

The men in black lay on the ground in disorder and the snow in the field had been stained with blood.

"Quick, take His Highness to the imperial palace!"

"Hurry up!" The guards were busy rescuing Chu Liuchen. Shao Wanru stared at Chu Liuchen from a distance. The long distance and the guards around him made her unable to see his face clearly. She wondered how he was exactly.

She could not help frowning tightly!

"Miss, Miss!" She heard Qing'er's voice coming from behind and saw Qing'er show up on the path in a panic. Seeing Shao Wanru standing at the intersection, Qing'er breathed a sigh of relief and looked towards Chu Liuchen who was surrounded by the guards. She was shocked at once and rushed to Shao Wanru.

"Miss, are you alright?"

"I'm fine!" Shao Wanru shook her head and said, looking at Chu Liuchen, who was on a simple stretcher carried out by several guards in a hurry. She frowned tightly with a trace of doubt across her watery eyes. He spat out the blood of a deep color just now. What did it mean?

Chapter 639 Met His Demand

Shao Wanru, together with Qing'er, returned to her courtyard with doubt.

The courtyard next to them was in a mess. Chu Liuchen did not stay in Huaguang Temple but was escorted by the monks of Huaguang Temple to rush downhill.

Then he was directly escorted to Prince Chen's Mansion.

The Empress Dowager had already got the message and secretly entered Prince Chen's Mansion with several trusted subordinates. After Chu Liuchen was lifted up, when she saw the dark bloodstain on his pale lips, she became limp and almost fell down.

"Chen'er, Chen'er!" After she shouted twice in a sharp voice, her face was as pale as snow and she was about to fall down. Nanny Wei hurriedly reached out to hold her and comforted her, "Empress Dowager, let's go to have a rest in the outer room. Prince Chen is a lucky fellow and he will be fine!"

Qi Jue was called in hurriedly, and he ran over with sweat all over his head. After bowing deeply to the Empress Dowager at the door, he immediately entered the room.

"Chen'er has already been in such poor condition, but someone still can't tolerate him over and over again. I... I..." The Empress Dowager held on to Nanny Wei's hand to stabilize her body. Her face was flushed with anger.

"Empress Dowager, don't worry. Let's go to have a rest first!" Nanny Wei comforted Empress Dowager composedly. Then, she and another palace maid beside her together held Empress Dowager to sit in the outer room. She could hear the hubbub inside, which sounded a little panicked and anxious.

Some people ran out and rushed out. The moment they arrived at the courtyard, they immediately asked someone to open the warehouse and asked for some medicine.

Then someone came out with a basin of bloody water. Frightened by the dark bloody water, Empress Dowager suddenly stood up, but her limp body was about to fall down because she had stood up too

fast. Nanny Wei quickly held her up, "Empress Dowager, don't worry. Prince Chen will be fine. Don't worry!"

"Who can he threaten with such a poor body? It is Emperor and I that most feel sorry for him..." After the Empress Dowager sat down, she took Nanny Wei's hand and cried out of control.

"Empress Dowager... this... this can't be blamed on you. You had no other choice in that case..." Nanny Wei lowered her voice and tried to persuade her. Of course, she didn't dare to mention the Emperor casually!

The Empress Dowager struggled to turn her head back. When she saw another person carrying a basin of bloody water from the inside, she almost broke down. In the past, although she knew that Chu Liuchen was in poor health, she had never seen those basins of bloody water so directly. They were all from her favorite grandson!

"We must find out who did it to Chen'er. How dare he do this again and again? He has gone too far!" The flush on the Empress Dowager's face changed into coldness. She gritted her teeth and said bitterly, "I just want to treat him better, but this is in nobody's way. How can't someone even tolerate him!"

Empress Dowager put her trembling fingers at the corner of the table and slowly clenched her fists.

"Empress Dowager, if you don't dote on Prince Chen too much... it may be better!" Nanny Wei sighed softly and said in a low voice.

She was the trusted subordinate of the Empress Dowager, who had also accompanied Empress Dowager to enter the palace. After so many years, the two of them had gone through a lot of ups and downs. There were some things that others did not dare to say, but she dared to give Empress Dowager some appropriate advice.

"Just because I dote on Chen'er? But Chen'er has nothing but my love... In fact, everything should have belonged to Chen'er. They even do not forget to kill Chen'er in their fierce fight. If at that time... Now it is Chen who would have been sitting in that high position..."

"Empress Dowager, please watch your words!" Nanny Wei was so anxious with sweat that she quickly interrupted Empress Dowager's words. Although these words were spoken by Empress Dowager, those who heard them were also guilty. At this time, there were so many people in Prince Chen's inner room. If they heard something and spread it out, it would be a big deal!

Empress Dowager also knew that she had made an indiscreet remark. She clenched her fists and sat with a gloomy face, and the room strangely became quiet.

Suddenly, Chu Liuchen's painful cry came out. Hearing this, Empress Dowager stood up immediately and uncontrollably wanted to rush in, but she was held tightly by Nanny Wei, "Empress Dowager, calm down. You can't enter the room at this time."

"Chen'er is screaming in pain. He has always been good at bearing it, even at his young age. But... but now... he is crying out in pain..." Empress Dowager was trembling and her eyes became red with tears.

"Empress Dowager, don't worry. If you go there now, it will not only be useless but also cause a delay in Prince Chen's treatment. Moreover, Prince Chen will definitely not want to see you like this. You dote on

him most, and for him, you are also his most beloved grandmother. If he sees you like this, Prince Chen will be sad!”

Nanny Wei was afraid that she couldn't persuade Empress Dowager, so she directly used Chu Liuchen as an excuse!

Empress Dowager was still trembling but did not act rashly anymore. She leaned on the table and slowly sat down. Then, there were painful sounds coming from inside from time to time. For Empress Dowager, the suppressed sound seemed more distressed than direct shouts. Almost every muffled groan of Chu Liuchen made the Empress Dowager tense up.

Empress Dowager with great empathy was almost suffering, and her expression was getting worse and worse. Nanny Wei was worried that the Empress Dowager would faint, so she had been paying close attention to Empress Dowager.

Another painful screaming came out.

“If Chen'er can be fine this time... I... I will definitely satisfy him!” Gritting her teeth, Empress Dowager unconsciously said these words.

“Empress Dowager!” Nanny Wei looked at Empress Dowager full of horror.

Empress Dowager indeed said these words rashly, but after that, she seemingly came to a sudden realization. She frowned tightly and said, “If Chen'er can be fine, I... Even if I help him, it doesn't matter. Originally... it belongs to him. No matter from which aspect, it all belongs to him... Chen'er is the most suitable one...”

“Empress Dowager...”

“Well, stop talking about this. Let me calm down for a while!” Empress Dowager shook her head wearily and said bitterly. Even she herself didn't believe these words. Would Chen'er really be okay? As long as he could stay alive, it was already good. How could he really be fine?

The room became quiet again. The time passed slowly, almost little by little. The Empress Dowager stood up and sat down repeatedly, and felt quite restless.

Nanny Wei stood aside quietly and didn't try to persuade her anymore. The Empress Dowager had always been the most steady one. Even when the mutiny in the palace had happened at that time, the Empress Dowager hadn't been so flustered. But now, her heart was really in a mess...

Finally, Finally, the voice inside quieted down, and Chu Liuchen stopped making any sound. People retreated from the room one by one, and finally Qi Jue. Seeing Qi Jue coming out, Nanny Wei hurriedly stopped him and said, “Doctor Qi!”

Qi Jue was a doctor called in by Chu Liuchen himself. His medical skills were very good and even better than the imperial physicians in the palace in some aspects. The Empress Dowager would also ask him to treat some of her diseases.

But he didn't want to enter the palace as an imperial physician and felt that it was comfortable and leisurely to stay in Prince Chen's Mansion. So he became an idle person in Prince Chen's Mansion, mainly to cure Chu Liuchen and nurse his health.

Qi Jue came over and bowed to the Empress Dowager. Empress Dowager's eyes fell on his wrinkled sleeve, which seemed to have been rolled up, and there was a large frightening bloodstain on it.

"How is Chen'er?" Empress Dowager's voice was a little hoarse.

"Well... it depends on whether Your Highness can bear it or not..." Qi Jue shook his head and said.

"Don't you have any confidence?" Empress Dowager didn't blame Qi Jue and asked again.

"If Your Highness can wake up in these three days, he will be fine. But if he... may not wake up this time!" Qi Jue told her with a grave face.

"Blood... why is it dark?" Empress Dowager's eyes were dull, and she seemed to lack energy. After asking this question, she even almost fainted and fell down.

"Your Highness was poisoned in the past. It is okay to lose this blood, but he also spat out some poison rooted in his body!" Qi Jue said. He had been treating Chu Liuchen's illness, so how could he not know the truth of Chu Liuchen's health condition?

"Then... will he really recover?" Empress Dowager looked at Qi Jue eagerly.

Qi Jue shook his head, seeing that Empress Dowager's eager eyes lost light, and he sighed, "Your Highness has been poisoned for a long time, and the toxin has been rooted since his childhood. Even though he spit out some now, the previous poison has worked for a long time... Besides, I don't know whether Your Highness can survive this time!"

"I know! You can leave now!" Empress Dowager's face suddenly turned pale. She said slowly after a long pause.

After bowing deeply to Empress Dowager, Qi Jue slowly retreated. When he reached the door, he looked into the room and shook his head, and then left with his hands clasped behind his back.

The room suddenly quieted down again. The quiet atmosphere was strange and depressing. After a long while, Empress Dowager said to Nanny Wei, "Help me to go there and see Chen'er!"

Nanny Wei answered. She reached out to hold Empress Dowager's slightly stiff body and carefully walked to the inner room. Xiao Xuanzi was guarding there in the inner room. When he heard the voice at the door, he hurried over to greet her and helped hold Empress Dowager to enter the inner room with Nanny Wei.

There was a strong smell of blood in the room. Chu Liuchen was lying in the bed with a pale face, seemingly having no breath. Empress Dowager staggered and almost fell down, and she tried to reach out to the bed.

Nanny Wei and Xiao Xuanzi hurriedly helped her to sit down at the bed.

Looking at Chu Liuchen, who was lying in the bed without a trace of blood, Empress Dowager's eyes became red again, and her tears fell down one by one. She pinched the corner of her eye with a handkerchief, but made no sound, for fear of disturbing Chu Liuchen. After looking at him for a while, she reached out to touch his face again. She breathed a sigh of relief when she felt the lightly warm temperature.

Then, she gestured to Nanny Wei to help her up. Xiao Xuanzi also helped on the other side. When they reached the outer room, Empress Dowager said to Xiao Xuanzi, "Go back and take good care of your master. If your master wakes up, you will be rewarded heavily. If... if he doesn't wake up, you will have no need to serve him anymore!"

"Yes, yes, I will go to serve the master now!" Xiao Xuanzi was frightened to kneel down and said repeatedly.

Chapter 640 The Life-saving Kindness Falling from the Heaven

After returning from Prince Chen's Mansion, Empress Dowager went to the emperor's imperial study first. The most distinguished mother and son in the country drove the others out of the imperial study. After talking for a long time, Empress Dowager left the emperor's imperial study with a serious face.

When she returned to Palace of Benevolent Peace, she immediately sent people to reward a lot of precious medicinal materials to Prince Chen's Mansion.

After the reward of Empress Dowager, the Emperor immediately rewarded him as well. The Empress' reward was not much later than theirs. As for the other imperial concubines, although they were not qualified, they all looked very sad. No one laughed wantonly in the whole palace. At this time, they knew that the Emperor was in a bad mood, and no one dared to annoy the Emperor at this time.

A palace maid came to the imperial study silently and handed a letter to the Emperor.

After reading it, the Emperor kept silent for a long time. But then, he went out from the back door of the imperial study with his trusted subordinates and turned to a remote palace. There were two guards guarding the door. When they saw the Emperor coming over, they bowed respectfully and then stood aside.

The Emperor walked into it.

The tall palace looked very deserted. It was almost the same as the Cold Palace. But no one could expect that the one who lived in it was not the concubine who was demoted in the Cold Palace, but Consort Lan who had once been favored.

It was said that she had once doted so much that no one could compare with her. But it was unknown that why she had annoyed the Emperor. Then, she was watched over by the Emperor. Even the Empress could not enter here at will.

Few people knew this since no one was allowed to come in here. But there was no restriction on the people inside to go out!

In the bedchamber, a beautiful woman with long hair, dressed in an extremely simple plain-colored dress. The dress made her more beautiful and attractive. Even though her eyes were red and swollen, she still made people feel sorry for her.

"Your Majesty, I want to see Chen'er!" Hearing the voice at the door, the woman sitting on the couch immediately raised her head and said excitedly with tears on her face.

The Emperor came over and sat on the couch. He reached out to pull her, but she shook off his hand. "Your Majesty, I want to see Chen'er. How is he? Is he all right?"

"Lan'er..." The Emperor's voice was very hoarse.

"I want to see Chen'er. I want to see Chen'er. Why do you stop me... You said that you would not stop me..." The woman wailed, raised her red and swollen eyes, and cried.

The Emperor reached out his hands to rub his eyebrows and said, "Lan'er, it's not appropriate now. There... are many people watching him..."

Now almost everyone's eyes were fixed on Prince Chen's Mansion. If someone noticed something, it would be a very big deal.

"That's my son... I'm going to see him. I'm going to see him!" The woman said stubbornly. It seemed that she had never been so stubborn before. Tears kept falling from her snow-white cheeks.

The Emperor sighed softly and reached out to hold her in his arms. "Don't worry. I will try my best to cure him. He would definitely get well!"

"What if something happens?" The woman's voice sounded muffled and cold in his arms.

The Emperor pushed her away slowly. He looked at her as she shed tears, but her eyes were cold and sharp. Such a woman should have been weak, but at this moment, she was strangely determined, just like the charming girl many years ago.

"If something happens... I'm going to find out the culprit. I'm going to cut him into pieces!" The woman gritted her teeth and let her tears fall from the corner of her mouth. She was full of bitterness!

Maybe she was really wrong. She thought that by hiding in a corner, she could make Chen'er live safe and sound, and no one would be afraid of him. It was good to be an idle king in her life, but now she realized that she was wrong. Others had never intended to let him go, and they had never intended to let him live.

It used to be like this, but now it was still like this!

"Don't worry, nothing will happen!" The Emperor sighed, and his heart felt so heavy that he almost couldn't breathe.

"Your Majesty, you've told me so many times... But what's the fact? Who can tolerate him, right?" The woman curled her lips contemptuously, and her voice was so low that it almost sounded like she was talking to herself, but it made the Emperor quite ashamed.

He reached out and touched the woman's black hair. The Emperor's voice was almost low and soft. "Don't worry... Chen'er will be fine!"

This was not only a promise to the woman but also a promise to himself!

"Your Majesty, if something really happened to Chen'er this time, I must kill them...When the time comes, don't use other things as excuses...If Chen'er is fine, then I'll forget it... If..." The woman's voice was sad, or even desperate. Her eyes were fixed on the Emperor, and her tears were still falling.

She was almost choked with sobs, but she still insisted on finishing her words. She didn't even know how crazy her words were.

“Okay, don’t worry... I will promise you... It will be all right, it will be all right!” The Emperor comforted her and reached out to hold the woman tightly.

The woman lowered her head and leaned on the Emperor’s knees weakly. There was a trace of pain and despair in her voice. “Your Majesty, I only have Chen’er now. I only have Chen’er...”

That painful and struggling voice made the Emperor feel more painful. He reached out and patted her head to comfort her. “It’s okay. You still have me. You still have me!”

He did not use the high and mighty “sovereign”, but a “me”. He expressed explicitly that the person in front of him was so different from others.

The woman did not talk this time. She just held the Emperor’s legs tightly and cried in a low and painful voice...

The entire capital city, even to Huaguang Temple, was also strictly guarded.

As the person who saw this scene at that time and even pushed Chu Liuchen at the critical moment so that he could avoid the last sword strike, Fifth Miss Shao played a very important role. According to the guards at that time, fortunately, Fifth Miss Shao was there. The sword almost stabbed Chu Liuchen, and if so, Chu Liuchen would have been killed in one shot!

In this way, Shao Wanru was the savior of Chu Liuchen!

Now, she was sitting in Empress Dowager’s Palace of Benevolent Peace and waiting for Empress Dowager’s summon. How could she become Chu Liuchen’s savior for no reason? Shao Wanru still felt confused. She did nothing at that time. She slipped and fell heavily on Chu Liuchen.

Chu Liuchen fell to the ground and fainted, but she was fine!

Outside the palace gate, a eunuch screamed, “The Empress Dowager is coming!”

Shao Wanru stood up quickly and knelt down respectfully to the Empress Dowager who came from a distance.

Empress Dowager walked up to Shao Wanru, looked down at her, and then said softly, “Get up! Give her a seat!”

A palace maid came over to help Shao Wanru. She helped her sit down on a stool on one side and then retreated to stand behind her.

Empress Dowager also sat on the chair and observed Shao Wanru up and down carefully. She hadn’t seen Shao Wanru for three years. At this time, when she saw Shao Wanru again, she found that the little girl had grown into an extremely beautiful girl. Her appearance was elegant and there was a coldness in it. Even though there was some charm in the corners of her eyes, she became more dignified because of her elegance.

Empress Dowager nodded repeatedly and secretly breathed a sigh of relief. When Chu Liuchen was engaged with Shao Wanru, Empress Dowager didn’t take it seriously. She just wanted to make Chu Liuchen satisfied.

This matter had not been publicized at that time, so few people knew about it. If something really happened in the future, it did not matter. Chu Liuchen was young at that time, and his temper was uncertain. Who knew when he wanted to marry someone else? Empress Dowager thought that the statement at that time was just aimed at satisfying Chu Liuchen's childish wish.

Since he was childish, she didn't know when he will fall in love with other women.

However, after such an accident and seeing Shao Wanru's appearance in front of her, Empress Dowager felt very satisfied. Of course, what she was most satisfied with was that Shao Wanru rushed to save Chu Liuchen regardless of her own safety. This was what Empress Dowager liked most and appreciated most.

For Empress Dowager, it was good for Shao Wanru to have a beautiful face. But this kind of intention was the most important.

"I heard that you rushed over to save Chen'er at that time. I am really grateful to you in my heart!" Empress Dowager said slowly.

"Empress Dowager, this is what I should do!" Shao Wanru lowered her head and held the handkerchief in her hand. For no reason, she became his savior, but she could not refuse this. She had to accept it!

"You are a good child. In the future, you will be with Chen'er, and I will be relieved!" The Empress Dowager said with a sigh, and her heart became softer and softer. This child did not fight for anything. It seemed that she had a calm and peaceful character. She was really a good person.

She suddenly remembered what Old Madam of Duke Xing had said implicitly in front of her, and couldn't help frowning. She felt that Old Madam of Duke Xing was too partial.

How could such a good girl become the one in her words? She was really malicious.

Old Madam of Duke Xing always said that she was dissatisfied with Shao Wanru. She repeatedly said that this child was not filial. She deliberately competed with others and caused so many accidents. She deliberately talked about a small thing in a big way. She was really not a magnanimous woman. She really came from a small place...

Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion spoke ill of Shao Wanru many times in front of the Empress Dowager Queen. Although she said it implicitly, the Empress Dowager Queen could understand the deep displeasure in Old Madam of Duke Xing's words. After listening to Old Madam of Duke Xing's words, the Empress Dowager Queen also felt that Shao Wanru might not be a good match for her grandson, so she had doubts in her heart.

But at the moment, her doubts were all gone, and she felt that Old Madam's words were not true.

The original good one was said as a bad one by her because of her partiality. So the bad one might be said as a good one by her. Thinking of the recent rumors of First Miss Shao of Duke Xing's Mansion, she did not look like a good Miss from an aristocratic family. Instead, she seemed to be a vicious but dignified person on the surface.

It was better not to marry such a woman into the royal family. A few days ago, Consort of Virtue even asked about her, which meant that she liked her. That's unacceptable!

In the past, these things had little to do with the Empress Dowager Queen. But this time, the Empress Dowager Queen felt that she had to support Shao Wanru. Even for her grandson, she had to support her...