

Medical Princess 691

Chapter 691 Reckoning a Plot Three Years Ago

After contacting Xiao Xuanzi, Qing'er soon got the news and asked Shao Wanru to meet him in a tea house.

Shao Wanru left via the back door with Yujie.

The old maid at the back door had a good relationship with Yujie recently. From time to time, Yujie would go out from the back door to buy some food and things for Shao Wanru.

Because she was just a servant girl, and she sent a lot of things to the old maid at the back door every time she went out, this time when Yujie went out, the old maid only glanced at the little servant girl behind her and let her go.

In the past, when Yujie went out, she would occasionally take a little servant girl who helped her carry things.

Recently, Fifth Miss Shao had been very influential. Even Madam of Duke Xing had been locked up in the ancestral hall. It was unknown when she would be released. The old maid in the backyard did not dare to trouble the people of the Piaoyun Courtyard. She let them go quickly and even joked with Yujie.

After they came out from the back door, a simple carriage had already stopped at the door. Yujie and Shao Wanru, who was dressed as a little servant girl, got on the carriage. Then the carriage went all the way forward. After turning a few corners, they came to the back door of a teahouse.

Xiao Xuanzi had been waiting at the back door for a long time. When he saw Shao Wanru getting out of the carriage, he hurried over with a smile and stretched out his hands to lead her inside. Shao Wanru nodded and followed him inside.

They entered from the back door, went up to the second floor, and then went up to the third floor from a secluded corner on the second floor. Finally, they entered a private room on the third floor.

This private room was very large. It was divided into the inner room and the outer room. Xiao Xuanzi stopped Yujie at the door of the inner room and pointed inside with a smile.

Yujie stopped, standing outside with Xiao Xuanzi.

Shao Wanru entered the inner room.

On a wide chair near the window, Chu Liuchen sat there lazily. He wore a navy blue brocade robe, and his black hair was tied up casually. He didn't wear a crown, which made him look more relaxed and casual.

There was a gauze curtain on the window, and the room was lit. But it was not so bright. The light was hazy, but it made people feel that he was as handsome as the jade. Even if he was wearing such a heavy-colored robe, he was still handsome and elegant.

This man was really good-looking no matter what clothes he wore!

Of course, if he sat more uprightly, he would look more elegant. However, at this moment, he was leaning there and did not seem to have many bones, which made him look a little slovenly.

“Sit down!” Hearing the voice, Chu Liuchen didn’t raise his head and said. He reached out to serve a cup of tea for Shao Wanru and pushed it to the opposite side.

Shao Wanru sat down opposite to him, picked up the teacup, and took a sip.

As soon as the warm tea entered her stomach, it immediately diluted the coldness she felt outside. It seemed that the room had eliminated all the coldness outside.

“I heard that you would have something urgent to discuss with me. What’s the matter?” Chu Liuchen raised his long and narrow eyes and asked lazily.

“Did Xiao Xuanzi tell you things about Doctor Qiu?” Shao Wanru didn’t beat around the bush and went straight to the point.

“What’s the use of a little doctor? Why does he make you be so anxious to see me?” Chu Liuchen said with a smile. His handsome face seemed to be covered with a layer of excitement, which made him extremely attractive. It seemed that he was in a good mood.

In the past, he had always made appointments with Shao Wanru or directly blocked her. He had never seen Shao Wanru specially make an appointment with him.

“Prince, I’m talking about something serious!” Shao Wanru said helplessly.

“Am I not serious? Don’t worry, a doctor can’t stir up trouble. I feel much better now. I won’t let other doctors treat me as they like!”

Chu Liuchen squinted, saying with a smile.

Hearing his words, Shao Wanru felt relieved and knew that he had understood what she meant. “Prince, do you also think that Doctor Qiu came to the capital for you?”

“He is such a good doctor. It seems that he is also a famous doctor. When he just arrived at the Deputy Prime Minister’s Mansion, he cured the Second Young Master of the Prime Minister Wen. It is said that the injury of the Second Young Master also baffled many doctors. As soon as Doctor Qiu came, he didn’t use much medicine on him. After a few needles, he was almost cured!”

Chu Liuchen looked at Shao Wanru with his beautiful eyes and said slowly. He turned the teacup in his hands, and a perverse sneer appeared on his thin lips.

He had really neglected this Doctor Qiu. If Shao Wanru hadn’t asked Xiao Xuanzi to check again and again, he really wouldn’t have found that there was such a fish that escaped the net.

“He cured the Second Young Master Wen at that time. Is he going to recommend himself into the palace through this?” Shao Wanru’s heart jittered. Although she had guessed something, she was not so clear about it.

“That should be the reason. Three years ago, I was in poor health. My uncle and Imperial Grandmother asked people to find famous doctors from all over the world to treat me. The Doctor Qiu might come to

the capital at that time. But he came to the capital after Mingqiu Nun. At that time, Mingqiu Nun's diagnosis and treatment had some effect. I didn't want others to treat me again."

Chu Liuchen said.

"What's more, a recommended doctor before had treated me to vomit blood. My condition was even more serious!"

Therefore, this Doctor Qiu came to the capital city to treat Chu Liuchen. Everyone in the country knew that Chu Liuchen was in poor health, and they also knew that Chu Liuchen was looking for famous doctors all over the country. At that time, the timing of him to come to the capital city was quite good, but his luck was a little bad. In addition, Chu Liuchen's health was even worse because of the new imperial physician.

Shao Wanru hesitated for a moment and said, "Did... did Prime Minister Wen really find him?"

Prime Minister Wen impressed her badly. In her last life, Prime Minister Wen also allowed Madam Wen and Gu Xishu to deal with her and even drove her out of the Wen's Mansion. But when she thought about it carefully, Prime Minister Wen did not seem to plot against Chu Liuchen. What's more, when Chu Liuchen was in power, the Wen's Mansion was still standing.

"No! It's the cousin Miss from Prime Minister Wen's Mansion!" Chu Liuchen said with a smile.

Shao Wanru's heart skipped a beat and she asked anxiously, "Gu Xishu?"

"Zhuzhuo, how do you know the name of the cousin Miss from Prime Minister Wen's Mansion?" Chu Liuchen raised his handsome eyebrows and asked with a smile. His jade-like face looked more and more handsome under the light.

"This... I met her before, and she even ripped the hairpin from me!" Shao Wanru lowered her head uneasily. For some reason, she felt a little confused and subconsciously avoided Chu Liuchen's beautiful eyes.

Being looked at by him in this way, she felt that he had thousands of emotions, which were extremely attractive.

"Oh, it's because of this. I thought it was Third Young Master Wen..." Chu Liuchen said with connotation.

Shao Wanru's heart skipped a beat. She clenched the handkerchief in her hand and then slowly relaxed. She raised her watery eyes and changed the topic with a serious expression. "Gu Xishu is the cousin Miss of Prime Minister Wen's Mansion, but she is just a girl in the boudoir. Why did she find a doctor for such a purpose?"

No matter how she looked at it, Gu Xishu had nothing to do with this matter.

"Of course, I don't know this woman. She must have been cheated by someone, so she invited this doctor surnamed Qiu to the capital and then sent him to the palace. Unfortunately, I don't need him, but Duke Xing's Mansion used him. Then, Doctor Qiu was borrowed to your Duke Xing's Mansion!"

Chu Liuchen narrowed his handsome eyes and said.

His words were very straightforward, almost covering all the things that happened after Doctor Qiu came to the capital city. Shao Wanru fell silent and frowned tightly. She knew the meaning of Chu Liuchen's words.

If the reason why Doctor Qiu came to the capital city before was because they wanted to utilize him to deal with Chu Liuchen, then after he was useless to Chu Liuchen, Doctor Qiu would be used to plot against her.

He wanted to take advantage of Wang Yishu to deal with her. At that time, she had just entered Duke Xing's Mansion, and then she would inevitably live in Duke Xing's Mansion. At this time, if she was exposed that she had killed Wang Yishu, she would not have good results.

But at that time, her actions were faster than that of Madam of Duke Xing and Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion. As a result, their plans failed and Wang Yishu lived for three more years. Over the past three years, she suffered from an illness which was caused by Doctor Qiu. His needles were not to cure Wang Yishu's illness, but to let her endure and suffer.

This process lasted for three years. Now that she had come down the mountain, they wanted to plot her again!

After thinking for a while, Shao Wanru asked again, "Who cheated her?" She felt inexplicably complicated.

"Who else could it be except for someone from your Duke Xing's Mansion? It can be seen from sending people to Duke Xing's Mansion quickly afterward. You would figure it out by checking who is compatible with her in Duke Xing's Mansion!" Chu Liuchen said casually. It was not difficult to investigate this matter, and she just needed to inquire about it in the mansion.

"It should be Shao Yanru, it must be her!" Shao Wanru said with certainty. She tilted her face slightly, and Chu Liuchen's eyes fell on her face, which made her feel that she could not ignore him.

"I heard that when the children of Wen's Mansion and Duke Xing's Mansion were young, there was a side door for them to go in and out at will. Gu Xishu should have a good relationship with Shao Yanru at that time. Although the two families blocked the side door later, they should have a good relationship!"

A trace of coldness and cruelty flashed in Shao Wanru's eyes, and she only felt a chill slowly rising from her heart.

She finally understood why Gu Xishu couldn't go along well with her in her last life. After Wen Xichi's death, she was just a powerless person without any children. How could Gu Xishu not bear her? Why would she slander Shao Wanru and drive her from Wen's Mansion?

Her existence won't have anything to do with Gu Xishu. Such a thing shouldn't have happened.

But it turned out that the root of all this was Duke Xing's Mansion and Shao Yanru...

She narrowed her eyes slightly and hid the bloodthirsty coldness in her eyes. Sure enough, everything about her had something to do with Duke Xing's Mansion. They forced her to step into the desperate situation step by step. The last blow was made by Shao Yanru herself. When she was cut at the waist, her whole person seemed to be bleeding.

The blood gathered into a stream, winding under her body. At that time, she was even still alive.

“What’s wrong with you?” Finding that her delicate lips suddenly became as pale as snow, Chu Liuchen reached out and held her hands. He felt that her hands were also cold and had no warmth. He frowned and asked unhappily. He squeezed her hands hard and held her hands tightly!

Chapter 692 If Anyone Dares to Hurt You, I Will Make Him Pay with His Blood!

The warmth in her hands made Shao Wanru return to herself from the bloody scene. She took a deep breath and suppressed the hatred rolling in her eyes.

Since her hatred was too profound to dissolve, she decided to just take her revenge. She, returning from the hell, had made up her mind to fight desperately with Duke Xing’s Mansion in this life!

“I’m fine!” She said, while struggling to get her hands out of Chu Liuchen’s grip. However, he grasped her hands and showed no sign of loosening his grip.

She raised her eyes to look at Chu Liuchen, only to find that he looked up at her with his explorative eyes. She somehow felt afraid that her secret would be found out.

“Tell me, what happened to you just now?” Chu Liuchen, who did not intend to let it go so easily, asked.

“I... suddenly realized... it must be Duke Xing’s Mansion’s another plot against me. They intend to kill Wang Yishu and then shift the blame onto me. When I met Doctor Qiu, he repeatedly suggested me to visit Wang Yishu and said that she, who was about to die, spoke from her heart!”

Shao Wanru pulled herself together and analyzed in an organized way.

“Well, let her die for a proper reason!” Chu Liuchen said indifferently.

Shao Wanru felt her heart skipped a beat and involuntarily turned her head away. Every time she looked into Chu Liuchen’s eyes, she felt a little uneasy.

His beautiful eyes, which seemed to be filled with thousands of stars shining in the sky, dazzled her. But sometimes they seemed to be filled with tons of tenderness, which somehow made her face blush and her heart beat faster.

“What do you mean by letting her die for a proper reason?”

“Didn’t you say that they intended to kill her during your visit and then shift the blame onto you? You can go there with Qing’er, who can handle it!” Chu Liuchen said with a wicked smile, “Of course, there is another better solution. I can help you get rid of her directly!”

“Let Qing’er handle it. You have no valid reason to do that!” Shao Wanru shook her head and turned down the second very direct proposal he put forward.

Although she now bore the name of saving Chu Liuchen, she didn’t want him to get involved in her business too often.

“Do you mean that you haven’t been my princess yet?” Chu Liuchen squinted at her and said disapprovingly.

With her heart skipping a beat, Shao Wanru hurriedly lowered her head and said, "Your Highness, you must be joking!"

"I'm not joking. Since you're bound to marry me and become my wife, it makes no difference to be my princess earlier or later!" Chu Liuchen said indifferently.

"Your Highness, don't act rashly!" Shao Wanru was shocked, grabbed Chu Liuchen's hand and said anxiously.

He was Prince Chen who dared to do anything. Shao Wanru did not dare to let him help her. She believed that she was capable of handling the affairs in the backyard of Duke Xing's Mansion. Since it was a plot, she could handle it in secret.

With the help of those sent by Chu Liuchen, she could actually do a better job!

"You really don't want my help?" Chu Liuchen asked with a smile in a lazy voice.

"No!" Shao Wanru thought for a while and said. She somehow thought of a series of strange scenes. Was it the imperial palace with blood flowing like stream? Plenty of women's corpses were piled up on the steps leading to the palace...

"Well, forget it. I can wait for you to marry me. You are old enough for marriage. Since you have been engaged to me, you should marry me as soon as possible. I am also old enough for marriage!" Chu Liuchen squinted and said with a smile, seeming to be in a good mood and quite enjoyed being held by Shao Wanru.

Shao Wanru blushed and hurriedly shook Chu Liuchen's hands off, as if his hands were a piece of burning iron. Unfortunately, Chu Liuchen even acted faster than she did. He held her hand again and said, "What's wrong? You clung to me when in need of my help, and tossed me aside when not in need of my help. Zhuozhuo, it's not a good habit!"

As saying that, he winked at Shao Wanru playfully, looking like a gentle, innocent and bright young man.

"Your Highness, since you are a human being, how can I treat you like that!" With a blush, Shao Wanru said, while trying hard to withdraw her hands.

He seemed to indicate that she had done something evil like abandoning her husband.

Thinking of this, Shao Wanru blushed even more. She thought that she must have gone crazy so that such a crazy thought came into her mind after she heard Chu Liuchen's words.

"Well, that is to say, you won't abandon me, right?" Chu Liuchen, who was satisfied, said. Seeing her red face, he loosened his grip of her delicate little hands at the right time, leaned back with pleasure and looked at Shao Wanru with a smile, but he didn't say a word.

After realizing his feelings for her, Chu Liuchen thought that he could act faster!

He had always been a person who took action as soon as he aimed at the target!

Of course, he couldn't scare her. After all, their relationship began with Shao Wanru's promise to be his shield!

Well, he wanted her to be his shield for the rest of her life. Moreover, he would not allow his shield to be eliminated.

Since she had promised to be his shield, she should keep her promise for the rest of her life. It was the agreement between the two of them, wasn't it?

Chu Liuchen felt justified and contented. Looking at Shao Wanru's face, which had returned to red, he felt increasingly complacent. When he saw her pale face and lips just now, he was very dissatisfied.

Since he was displeased, he certainly would not allow those displeasing him to feel pleased!

He knocked twice on the table with his fingers and said, "Shao Yanru is close to both Chu Liuzhou and Chu Liuyue. It must be the plot of either of them. They consider me an obstacle!"

Shao Wanru was shocked, raised her head hurriedly and asked, "What do you mean, Your Highness?" She suddenly realized that the fight for the throne had begun long before.

"I didn't care about it at first... Anyway, as an invalid, I have no expectation of my future!" Chu Liuchen said casually.

Shao Wanru frowned with disapproval. In fact, when she first saw Chu Liuchen, she had such an intuition that Prince Chen didn't care much about his life and took the medicine at will.

At this moment, when she heard him say this personally, she actually felt her heart tremble. The fear made her feel extremely uncomfortable and try hard to prevent him from saying that.

Shao Wanru suppressed the inexplicable fear in her heart and asked, "Your Highness, your illness is curable. Don't you get much better now?"

"I'm fine now! I certainly should live well, because I can't let you be a widow before marrying me!" Chu Liuchen reached out to gently press her eyebrows and said softly with a smile, "Keeping frowning since an early age will make you show your age early!"

"Your Highness!" Shao Wanru reached out to push him away and said reproachfully.

"I mean it. I've told my grandma that I'm going to marry you. If I die at this time, considering my grandma's character, she will definitely make you live in widowhood for me!" Chu Liuchen withdrew his hands with a smile and said complacently.

Shao Wanru looked at him speechlessly, wondering what made him talk about his death so complacently. At the moment, he didn't look like the cunning Prince Chen he had always been at all.

"Your Highness, do you mean that you will be fine?" She, who grasped the other meaning of his words, rolled her watery eyes and asked.

"Of course I will be fine. Since they have their plots, so do I. Let's see who can be the winner!" Chu Liuchen said indifferently with composure in his eyes, as if he were not talking about something monstrous like striving for the throne.

Shao Wanru felt her heart beat faster. It was the first time that she had clearly heard Chu Liuchen talk about his wild ambition.

She didn't know why Chu Liuchen bestirred himself to fight for the throne and trample everyone under his feet in the last life. As the nephew of the emperor, he managed to defeat the emperor's sons and win the throne. It must be a piece of sanguinary and complicated history.

She bit her lip and suppressed the fear in her heart, thinking what made Chu Liuchen able to defeat the emperor's sons as the emperor's nephew.

"Well, are you interested in enjoying the great view of the country with me in the future?" Chu Liuchen asked with a smile. Under the light, his eyes looked not only as gentle as jade, but also seemed to be affectionate.

"Your Highness, if you fail..." Shao Wanru's voice sounded a little ethereal.

"Rest assured. Even if I fail, I will definitely protect you, my shield! If anyone dares to hurt you, I will make him pay with his blood!"

Chu Liuchen laughed in a low voice and said casually, "Anyway you are my shield. I will never abandon my shield! After all, it's you who managed to cling to me as my shield!"

His words were extremely ambiguous. Although Shao Wanru was worried, she involuntarily felt a little ashamed and annoyed at this time. She gritted her teeth and said, "Thank you for your kindness!"

"Don't mention it. You don't have to thank me for that!" Chu Liuchen said lazily. Then he stood up, walked to the window on the other side, looked out of the window, and said with a smile, "It's really snowing. Zhuozhuo, have you ever seen such a heavy snow in Jiangzhou?"

Shao Wanru got up speechlessly and walked to the window to have a look. As expected, there was a heavy snow outside, which was very rare even in the capital city. Every snowflake was very large and fell from the sky, looking very beautiful!

"Your Highness, I have lived in the capital city for three years!" Shao Wanru bit her lip and reminded him reluctantly. Such a heavy snow was rare, but she, who had lived in the capital city for three years, had seen a few times. She was not as surprised as she had been when she just moved to the capital city at the sight of this!

"The native place of doctor surnamed Qiu has been changed again. He is not from Jiangzhou now. Someone must have made another move." Chu Liuchen looked out of the window with a smile and said something completely irrelevant to what he had just said.

He changed the subject so swiftly that Shao Wanru was stunned for a moment and then turned her head quickly with a trace of impressive coldness in her watery eyes.

"Your Highness, do you mean that they are going to deal with me?"

Chapter 693 Wang Shengxue Shows up at Midnight

"If you can't handle it, just tell me, and I will clear the way for you!" Chu Liuchen said lazily.

"Thank you, Your Highness. I got it!" Shao Wanru bit her lip and said.

"Well, it's getting late. You should go back now. After we get engaged, I can come to Duke Xing's Mansion to visit you!" Chu Liuchen said, turned around and walked to the chair where he sat before and there was a cloak. He picked it up and shook it, which was not large and of a simple and plain style.

It definitely didn't belong to Chu Liuchen.

Holding the cloak, he walked up to Shao Wanru, put the cloak on her, and tied the cloak around her neck.

"This cloak is very ordinary. It's snowing outside!" He said in a gentle voice in Shao Wanru's ear so that she almost felt his warm breath. With a blush, she subconsciously pulled the hem of the cloak, felt a buzz in her head, lowered her head and dared not look at Chu Liuchen's face.

After putting the cloak on Shao Wanru, Chu Liuchen took two steps back to have a look at her. Then he nodded and said with a smile, "Okay, be careful on the way!"

His voice was elegant and gentle.

Seeing him step back, Shao Wanru breathed a sigh of relief and hurriedly stepped aside. After bowing to him, she turned around and left in a hurry, as if staying any longer would make her blush more.

Yujie had been waiting outside the door for a long time with a cloak similar to the one on Shao Wanru. When she saw Shao Wanru come out, she hurriedly followed her.

Xiao Xuanzi led them out and saw them get in the carriage. After that he turned around and went back to the third floor.

On the third floor, Chu Liuchen was standing by the window, which happened to enable him to see the back door. He saw Shao Wanru get in the carriage and the carriage leave.

"Master, the Fifth Miss has gone back!" Xiao Xuanzi entered the room and reported.

"Chu Liuzhou should still be in the imperial palace at this moment, right? Let's do it today. It's a nice day!" Chu Liuchen looked at the falling snowflakes outside the window and said in a voice which was very pleasant while as piercingly cold as a zither string in winter.

"Yes, I'm going to prepare now!" Xiao Xuanzi understood and replied hurriedly, "Master, would you like to go back to the mansion?"

The Empress Dowager had sent someone to tell Chu Liuchen that he didn't need to enter the imperial palace today!

"I'm going to the imperial palace to visit my grandma now!" Chu Liuchen said and chuckled with thick darkness in his eyes.

The thick darkness brought his face as pretty as jade a sort of cold and bloodthirsty rage and made it look chilling against the light and snow...

Shao Wanru came back as quietly as she did when she went out. The old maid guarding the back door almost went to sleep. Hearing the knock on the door, she got up and opened the door reluctantly.

Fortunately, after receiving the fruit Yujie just bought outside, the old maid's face softened. After the two of them went back, the old maid locked the door.

Shao Wanru followed Yujie to the Piaoyun Courtyard.

The snow was very heavy, and the strong wind blew on their faces, making them stagger. It hadn't been long since they went out, but the snow had been piled up on the path.

Shao Wanru went out this time to warn Chu Liuchen. She not only achieved her goal, but also learned that Doctor Qiu's native place had been changed. Knowing that it was a sign that they were going to take action, she thought while walking. She was a little distracted and almost fell down several times.

Yujie had no choice but to help her walk slowly.

It took them more time to return to the Piaoyun Courtyard than usual.

It got dark. Fortunately, it was a snowy day, on which the snow reflected some light and enabled them to vaguely see the road. However, the snow piled up on the road made it extremely difficult for them to walk steadily.

After walking for a while, Shao Wanru wiped the sweat off her forehead and stopped.

"Miss, there seems to be someone... I think..." Yujie pulled Shao Wanru to the back of a tree beside them and whispered.

Shao Wanru raised her head and found nothing, but she did not come out of the tree behind which they hid. Yujie always had good eyesight. Since she pulled her to hide here, there must be a reason for it.

As expected, they hadn't waited long before they saw a figure stealthily appear in front of them. It could be seen that this person didn't expect such a heavy snow, so he didn't wear any cloak to keep himself off the snow. Based on his moving in a sneaky way, they could tell that he obviously wasn't a good person.

When the person got closer, they could tell that it was a tall man.

A man appeared in the backyard?

Shao Wanru was shocked, stepped back and tried harder to hide herself behind the tree.

Both of their cloaks were light-colored and covered with snow at the moment, and they hid behind the tree without moving. Under the dim light, it was really difficult to discover that they were behind the tree. Moreover, this person seemed to be sneaky, so he wouldn't stop to have a close look.

The two of them watched the man leave.

After he was completely out of sight, Shao Wanru came out from behind the tree.

"Is it... Wang Shengxue?" Shao Wanru asked, because she didn't see it clearly just now.

"Yes, it's Childe Wang. Why is he here at this time? It seems that he came in stealthily. What is he going to do?" Yujie, who saw it more clearly than Shao Wanru did, said to herself in confusion.

Anyway, he shouldn't be here at this moment. What was more, it was the backyard of Duke Xing's Mansion.

Wang Shengxue rarely came to visit Wang Yishu and almost didn't care about the kinship with his sister. Now he even came to Duke Xing's Mansion to visit Wang Yishu less often. Even if he came, he just came to please Madam of Duke Xing, Old Madam of Duke Xing and the other masters in the mansion in the name of visiting Wang Yishu. He, who was declassé, was so notorious in Duke Xing's Mansion that even the servants didn't take him seriously.

In fact, it was late at this time, and the snow even made it darker. If Wang Shengxue had come early, he should have left early at the sight of the snow. It had been snowing for a long while.

It was even more impossible for him to come here when it was snowing. He would not enter the backyard on a snowy day with no emergency. He must manage to enter the backyard while the backyard was under chaotic management.

Looking towards where he had come through, Shao Wanru found that he really came from Wang Yishu's courtyard and headed for the Chuihua Gate.

She moved her stiff feet and walked forward slowly with Yujie's help, while thinking about what had happened just now, it was indeed strange that Wang Shengxue appeared in the backyard of Duke Xing's Mansion at this time.

Why did he come to visit Wang Yishu?

A thought suddenly came into her mind. She rolled her watery eyes, wondering if it was because the idle chess piece she had set worked. Wang Shengxue and Wang Yishu were not stupid. They met in private without letting others know because of their suspicion of Duke Xing's Mansion? That was great. Checking the time, she found it was time to visit Wang Yishu.

When they returned to the Piaoyun Courtyard, Qu Le had prepared hot water. After Shao Wanru washed up, Qu Le helped her sit down on the couch and put a heater in her arms.

After taking a sip of hot water, Shao Wanru felt as if she had come back to life.

Putting down the teacup in her hand, she looked at Qing'er and said, "Qing'er, go and find out what Wang Yishu is doing now."

"Yes, I'm going now!" Qing'er said with a nod and left.

Qu Le and Qing Yue set the table for Shao Wanru. After taking a few bites, Shao Wanru instructed them to clean up the dishes and go to have their dinner.

Leaning against the couch with a small heater in her arms, Shao Wanru carefully recollected what she had seen just now. It must have something to do with Wang Yishu, although she didn't know what they were going to do.

She was certain that Doctor Qiu was going to plot against her, and someone had changed Doctor Qiu's native place in secret so that Doctor Qiu would not be suspected.

The person changed Doctor Qiu's native place again and again in order to wipe out the clues pointing at Doctor Qiu. Even if Wang Yishu got killed and the plot behind it was exposed, they could stay out of it as much as possible and even hide the person behind the scenes perfectly.

In order to deal with Chu Liuchen, they found a doctor from Jiangzhou at random. However, she happened to be from Jiangzhou, so she was familiar with Jiangzhou. Or it could be said that not only she but also the members of the Qin's Mansion who moved to the capital were familiar with Jiangzhou. It was impossible to use a doctor from Jiangzhou, so they changed Doctor Qiu's native place.

Shao Yanru and Madam of Duke Xing's plot should be making use of Wang Yishu to deal with her by hurting Wang Yishu or even killing Wang Yishu and then shifting the blame onto her, who went to visit Wang Yishu. But there was one thing confusing her. How did they make Wang Yishu die at the right time?

How did they make Wang Yishu die exactly when she went to visit her?

After thinking it over and over again, she found that Doctor Qiu was the key point. Could it be that Doctor Qiu had his special acupuncture? It seemed that she had to turn to Mingqiu Nun for an answer!

If Doctor Qiu could really make Wang Yishu die at the right time with his acupuncture, Wang Yishu would be killed when she went to visit her.

If it were three years ago, it would have been a perfect plan. However, it had been delayed for three years because she managed to leave Duke Xing's Mansion three years ago. As long as Wang Shengxue and Wang Yishu were not completely stupid, they would have been able to find some clues after she gave them some directions in secret. After all, Wang Yishu just pretended to faint at that time.

Since Wang Yishu was not really sick, why did she get increasingly sick and couldn't even get up after returning to Duke Xing's Mansion? What was more, Wang Yishu had always been treated by Doctor Qiu. Didn't Wang Yishu and Wang Shengxue doubt it?

Now that they doubted it, what would they do?

Shao Wanru frowned slightly and had a vague intuition that she had grasped a clue. Madam of Duke Xing and Shao Yanru kept plotting against her and thought that everything was under their control, so they delayed the plot against her for three years. Did they really think that Wang Yishu was just an ignorant tool?

Wang Yishu just couldn't figure out their plot with no directions. Now Wang Shengxue, who acted in a sneaky way, seemed to have realized something!

She was happy to see them suffer losses!

Qing'er came back very late, but she got some information. Wang Yishu hadn't gone to sleep at this moment and was still talking with her maid about Wang Shengxue's visit. As expected, Wang Shengxue stealthily went to meet his sister, not anyone else in the mansion.

"Miss, I saw that Miss Wang kept touching something under her pillow. She touched it from time to time and then withdrew her hand, and repeated the same thing again and again. When I went over, they were going to sleep. So they just had a short conversation during which they only mentioned that it was

inconvenient for Childe Wang to go back on a snowy day. But even during such a short conversation, Miss Wang touched the thing at least ten times. It could be seen that she attached great importance to it or took it very seriously!”

Qing’er said with certainty.

She, who had learned the way to make a secret investigation, was good at detecting something imperceptible from someone’s actions and words.

Chapter 694 The Accident Outside the Palace Gate, He Breaks His Leg!

The sky was very dark. In fact, it was not very late. Chu Liuzhou came out of the Empress’s palace. Looking at the sky, he frowned tightly.

He entered the imperial palace in the evening and had a chat with the Empress. At that time, it had not snowed yet. However, now it was snowing so heavily that the snow had been piled up on the road in a short time.

It was some distance from here to the gate of the imperial palace. He didn’t notice it in the past, but he found the current situation quite unpleasant.

It would be more inconvenient for him to leave if he waited any longer.

As he walked down the steps, a little eunuch followed him closely with an umbrella.

They were followed by guards and servants.

Surrounded by a group of people, Chu Liuzhou walked to the gate of the imperial palace.

They walked unsteadily and much slower than usual. Chu Liuzhou kept frowning and was in a bad mood. Just now, the Empress showed him the list of the consort selection, but Shao Yanru’s name was not on it.

He had planned to marry Shao Yanru, and had always been confident that he could marry Shao Yanru. At the thought that Duke Xing would support him in the future, he even got close to Duke Xing in private and sometimes defended Duke Xing.

The Empress’s words still rang in his ears, and he knew that he should take her advice.

Shao Yanru shifted the blame onto Shao Jie’er for what had happened in the imperial palace, and Shao Jie’er was willing to take the blame. However, there were not a few people knowing it, including Chu Liuyue, him and even Honored Consort Shu, although everyone kept it a secret for various reasons.

Nevertheless, since so many people knew it, Shao Yanru was certainly unqualified to be Princess Zhou.

But he was still reluctant to give up on the support of Duke Xing, who was powerful. He even thought that not only he but also Chu Liuyue was unwilling to give up on it.

However, at the moment, Chu Liuyue was in a similar situation, so Chu Liuyue probably couldn’t make Shao Yanru his Princess either, but what about a consort...

“Your Highness, Prince Chen is here!” The little eunuch reminded him.

Chu Liuzhou looked up and found that he had arrived at the gate of the imperial palace. Looking towards the long path leading to the two gates of the imperial palace, he saw Chu Liuchen getting out of the carriage outside, and showed a mocking smile.

But he restrained his smile at once and strode out.

With Xiao Xuanzi's help, Chu Liuchen was trying hard to get out of the carriage cautiously and slowly.

He was trying hard indeed. Although there was a small stool under the carriage, although Xiao Xuanzi held this sick and weak Prince Chen with both hands for fear that he would accidentally fall, Prince Chen was getting off the carriage almost as slowly as a snail did. His slow motion could compare with that of a turtle.

Although the guards at the gate of the imperial palace looked steadily forward, they could feel Prince Chen's tiredness, tremendous tiredness!

In fact, it had been a while since the carriage arrived. Prince Chen got off the carriage slowly indeed, but he had never been fast, so it was normal for him to be slower on such a snowy day.

After struggling to get off the carriage with Xiao Xuanzi's help, Chu Liuchen stood firm by the carriage and took out a handkerchief from his bosom to wipe the sweat on his forehead.

Needless to say, getting off the carriage had exhausted him.

"Third brother!" Chu Liuzhou, who had walked through the long palace path, said very friendly.

Outside the palace gate, when the coachman of Prince Zhou's Mansion saw his master come over, he hurriedly drove the carriage over and waited by the carriage of Prince Chen's Mansion.

"Second brother!" Chu Liuchen said with a smile. It seemed that he was in a good mood and did not give Chu Liuzhou a cold shoulder.

"Third Brother, why do you come to the imperial palace at this time? You'd better rest in your mansion on such a snowy day!" Chu Liuzhou looked at the sky and then looked at him, and said with concern.

"I'm here to visit Imperial Grandmother. I'll go back later!" Chu Liuchen explained.

"Why do you come out on such a snowy day? You can visit Imperial Grandmother at any time. Seeing you come at this moment, she will be worried!" Chu Liuzhou said reproachfully.

"Well... it's my fault." Chu Liuchen accepted his advice and said with a nod, "Forget it. I'd better go back to my mansion now and come to visit Imperial Grandmother tomorrow!"

"That's good!" Chu Liuzhou nodded and said joyfully.

Chu Liuchen had always been gentle and elegant in front of others, but only Chu Liuzhou and his brothers knew how mean and intractable Chu Liuchen was and he had embarrassed them a lot. Fortunately, they were in front of others at this moment, so Chu Liuchen should accept his advice "out of kindness".

With plenty of people at the gate of the imperial palace, many of them could see how well he and Chu Liuchen got along with each other. He believed that tomorrow his father must be very pleased after learning that he got along well with Chu Liuchen.

Because his father thought highly of Chu Liuchen, he had to be on good terms with Chu Liuchen. It was a rare opportunity to show love and respect as good brothers should in front of others, so Chu Liuzhou decided to play the role of Chu Liuchen's good brother for another while.

"Third brother..."

"Second Brother, it's getting late. Let's go back. It's piercingly cold. I... cough, cough, cough..." Chu Liuchen turned his head to cough as he said.

Chu Liuzhou was a little embarrassed because of Chu Liuchen's interruption, but seeing Chu Liuchen cough, he immediately said with concern, "Third Brother, you are right. You really need to have a good rest and can't continue staying outside on such a windy and snowy day. Third Brother, after you!"

He stretched his hand as a hint for Chu Liuchen to go back to the carriage first.

"Second brother... after you. Cough, cough..." As Chu Liuchen said, he coughed again and stepped aside.

"Your Highness, please take another step aside. Your cough may be caused by the wind!" Xiao Xuanzi advised cautiously.

Chu Liuzhou looked at the place facing the palace gate and then looked at the long path, showing a complacent smile. The place facing the palace gate was not a good place. The heavy snow and the chilly wind in winter made it much colder in the place than in other places.

He had intended to talk with Chu Liuchen for another while outside on such a windy day, but it seemed that this invalid couldn't stand it. Well, he had better go back early, in case this invalid got sick again tomorrow and he had to take the blame for it.

"Third brother, I'm leaving now," Chu Liuzhou said with a smile, saluted Chu Liuchen with joined hands, and then turned around and walked to his carriage gracefully. Judging from Chu Liuchen's sickly complexion, it seemed that he couldn't get in the carriage in a short time. Chu Liuzhou didn't have the patience to stay with him at the gate to be exposed to the chilly wind.

Speaking of this, the wind was really chilly. If he kept being exposed to the wind, he couldn't stand it either.

The carriage of Prince Zhou's Mansion was stopped beside the carriage of Prince Chen's Mansion. The two carriages were both facing the large gate of the imperial palace. Seeing that Prince Chen was still coughing with Xiao Xuanzi's help on one side, the coachman of Prince Chen's Mansion, who was very perceptive, drove the carriage towards them, leaving the carriage of Prince Zhou's Mansion there.

The carriage of Prince Zhou's Mansion was the only carriage stopped at the gate. Seeing Chu Liuzhou coming over, the coachman drove the carriage towards Chu Liuzhou in order to please him.

After the carriage stopped in front of Chu Liuzhou, Chu Liuzhou got in the carriage. Hearing Chu Liuchen having a bad cough behind him, he turned his head on the carriage and asked with a very concerned look, "Third Brother, are you okay?"

He put his hands on the door of the carriage, but did not get in, with all his attention on Chu Liuchen, who was coughing so hard that he could not stand up straight. Although Chu Liuzhou felt delighted, he showed great concern.

The accident happened at this moment.

A horse in front of the carriage of Prince Zhou's Mansion suddenly raised its hooves and roared. Chu Liuzhou, who was standing on the shaft of the carriage, fell accidentally off the carriage and fell heavily on the ground in front of the palace gate. Everyone was shocked. The horse put its hooves down and was going to step on Chu Liuzhou, who fell to the ground and could not get up in a short time.

If it really stepped on Chu Liuzhou, he could probably be killed on the spot.

"Quick... Save my second brother!" Chu Liuchen held Xiao Xuanzi's hand and said loudly.

Several guards at the gate of the imperial palace immediately reacted. One of them reacted very quickly, drew the sword at his waist and threw it directly at the horse's hooves.

Another two guards went over and pulled Chu Liuzhou, who fell to the ground and could not get up in a short time, out of the carriage.

The sword came swiftly and happened to prick the horse's front hooves before it put them down. The horse roared in pain and fell down. Fortunately, Chu Liuzhou had been pulled away by two guards.

"Quick... Report it to my uncle and the Empress!" Chu Liuchen came over with Xiao Xuanzi's help and gave an order anxiously with his hand on his chest.

A eunuch at the gate of the imperial palace had rushed inside swiftly to report it. No one dared to mention what had happened to Prince Zhou at the gate of the imperial palace.

Chu Liuchen squatted down to check on Chu Liuzhou. It was a terrible accident indeed. Chu Liuzhou fell straight from the carriage and fell heavily to the snowfield.

Although the snow was soft, Chu Liuzhou obviously fell in a very wrong way. He twisted his body when falling down. Looking at his left leg, which was also a little twisted, Chu Liuchen realized that Chu Liuzhou's leg was injured, because his twisting leg was obviously not caused by spraining.

Chu Liuchen instructed someone to fetch a soft couch for Chu Liuzhou, while sending someone to report it again. No one noticed that the coachman of Prince Zhou's Mansion also fell on the ground and was also unconscious at the moment.

Both of them fell from the carriage. Chu Liuzhou was surrounded by people, while no one paid attention to the coachman.

As Chu Liuzhou's soft couch was carried to the Imperial Institute of Medicine, Chu Liuchen also headed for the Imperial Institute of Medicine with Xiao Xuanzi's help while coughing from time to time. At this time, although he was weak, he could not leave at will.

The imperial physicians in the Imperial Institute of Medicine had got the news. When Chu Liuzhou was carried here, they hurriedly began their diagnosis and asked Prince Chen, who was weak and sick, to the

warm room. He, who didn't look very well either, would probably get sick if he kept being exposed to the cold.

The Empress was the first to come. As soon as she entered the room and saw Chu Liuzhou in such a miserable situation, she immediately burst into tears. It was the nanny beside her who persuaded her to take a rest aside so that the imperial physicians could treat him.

Later, the Empress Dowager also came. When the Empress Dowager came, the imperial physicians had made a definite diagnosis that Chu Liuzhou had broken his leg! Yes, he had broken his leg.

After hearing this news, the Empress Dowager sighed helplessly and turned to check on the other grandson of hers. When she heard that Chu Liuchen had a recurrence of his old illness and had lain down now, she was as anxious as the Empress. Chu Liuzhou, who had broken his leg, could recover after resting for a period. But if anything happened to her sickly grandson, he would die...

Chapter 695 The Same Traces, the Emperor's Doubt!

"How is Prince Zhou?" The Empress looked at the head of the Imperial Institute of Medicine with a gloomy face and asked.

"There's nothing serious. His Highness will be fine after resting for a period!" The head of the Imperial Institute of Medicine wiped the sweat off his head and answered cautiously.

In fact, in terms of broken bones, Prince Zhou was not seriously injured, because he didn't break his thigh bone. However, no matter how minor his injury was, they had to take it seriously, because he was a prince anyway.

"There's nothing serious? In this case, what can be considered serious?" The Empress, who was furious, slammed the teacup in her hand on the table and shouted harshly.

"Okay... okay, we will do all we could to treat His Highness!" The head of the Imperial Institute of Medicine knelt down with fear and said hurriedly.

"How long will it take to cure him?" The Empress almost gnashed her teeth to ask.

"Uh, His Highness should stay in bed for a good rest for a few months before moving slowly. But His Highness should avoid intense exercise, in case he gets hurt again."

The head of the Imperial Institute of Medicine said with his head down and secretly wiped his cold sweat. It was indeed very difficult to do his job, because it seemed that these princes came to the Imperial Institute of Medicine from time to time.

Besides Chu Liuchen who had always been in poor health, the other princes came to the Imperial Institute of Medicine from time to time. Speaking of which, the head of the Imperial Institute of Medicine felt aggrieved.

"It will take several months, and it seems that he will recover with lingering effects!" the Empress said furiously. It was a critical moment. If Chu Liuzhou really had to lie in bed for several months, it would be a piece of terrible news.

“But... but His Highness should have a good rest after breaking his bones. Otherwise, the crooked bones will have an influence on the rest of his life!”

The head of the Imperial Institute of Medicine reminded her.

With her face darkening, the Empress clenched the handkerchief in her hand tightly. She understood that it couldn't be rushed. However, Chu Liuzhou broke his leg at this time. Thinking of the person who was most likely to benefit from it, the Empress was so furious that her face turned livid.

The person was either Chu Liuyue or Chu Liucheng. The Empress decided that she would never spare the person who dared to hurt her son at the gate of the imperial palace.

“Empress, how is he?” As the door was pushed open, the Emperor strode in and looked towards the bed in the room coldly. Seeing Chu Liuzhou lying on the bed, he came over in a hurry and asked.

“Your Majesty, please uphold justice for Zhou'er!” Seeing the Emperor come in, the Empress stood up and walked up to Chu Liuzhou's bed as well. However, instead of looking at Chu Liuzhou, she bent down to kneel down in front of the Emperor and said tearfully with a handkerchief in her hand.

Seeing that Chu Liuzhou, who was lying on the bed, was still in a coma with a splint on his leg, the Emperor also felt sad. It really broke his heart to see his son, who had always been his strongest son, lying here in a coma at the moment.

“Get up. What did the imperial physicians say?” The Emperor reached out to help the Empress up and asked gently.

The Empress stopped pretending and stood up at the proper time. She wiped the tears off her face with a handkerchief and said with red eyes, “Your Majesty, they said that Zhou'er broke his leg. How could he happen to break his leg at this time? Selecting his princess is of vital importance to him. If we select a Miss with whom Zhou'er is dissatisfied to be his princess, I wonder if she can manage Prince Zhou's Mansion properly in the future. Your Majesty, I'm wondering who intended to hurt Zhou'er. Please uphold justice for me and Zhou'er...”

The Empress could not finish her words and tilted her head to wipe her tears.

The Emperor fell silent for a moment before he comforted her in a low voice, “Empress, rest assured. I will definitely find out it's an accident or a trap!”

Just now he came late because he went to look into the cause of the accident before coming. Until now, it seemed to be an accident caused by Chu Liuzhou's carelessness. Chu Liuchen got involved in it. However, Chu Liuchen acted as usual.

Moreover, when the accident happened, he was far away from Chu Liuzhou. It was Chu Liuzhou who turned back and talked to Chu Liuchen after getting on the carriage. Chu Liuchen did not induce Chu Liuzhou to continue the conversation. So it seemed to be an accident anyway.

However, as a member of the royal family, he considered such an accident the most unconvincing.

The Emperor actually didn't believe it. In particular, why did the horse of Prince Zhou's Mansion suddenly go crazy? The coachman should be questioned. However, the coachman broke his neck

unluckily when he fell off the carriage. No one noticed it before. It was too late to save the coachman after carrying Chu Liuzhou to the Imperial Institute of Medicine.

The coachman was dead, so no one knew what made the horse suddenly go mad, which aroused the Emperor's suspicion.

The same points reminded the Emperor of what had happened before. A thought came into his mind, and he figured out a suspect. However, he could not come to a final conclusion at the moment, so he could not say anything in front of the Empress.

"Thanks, Your Majesty. I thank you on behalf of Zhou'er!" The Empress, who knew that she should stop at the proper time, had wiped her tears off her face and said. Although she still looked sad, she had no objection to the Emperor's decision, which comforted the Emperor a lot.

Although he was not completely pleased with the Empress, at least she wouldn't harass him with unreasonable demands. This was the reason why the Empress could hold her position firmly for so many years.

"Where is Prince Chen? I heard that he was also there at that time. Did anything happen to him?" After comforting the Empress, the Emperor looked around and asked.

The Empress clenched her fists so hard that she almost pressed her long fingernails into her palms. The sharp pain made her face turn pale, but it also made her relax slowly.

"The Empress Dowager is taking care of Prince Chen over there. I heard that he kept coughing after being exposed to the wind, but he has stopped now. I don't know how he is going at the moment! I concentrated on Zhou'er just now, so I didn't check on Prince Chen's condition. I don't know how he is now. When Zhou'er fell off the carriage, Prince Chen was also there and must have been scared!"

The Empress said with a gentle expression. Although her eyes were still red, she said with obvious concern.

The Emperor fell silent for a moment, and said with a gentler look, "It's rare that you can think of Prince Chen when Zhou'er is in such a miserable situation. You stay here to take care of Prince Zhou, and I'll go to check on Prince Chen. Coincidentally, I intend to ask him about what happened at the gate of the imperial palace just now. I heard that it was he who sent Zhou'er to the Imperial Institute of Medicine."

"In this case, I really should thank Prince Chen. This child is so filial that he came to the imperial palace on such a cold day and almost got sick after chatting with Zhou'er for a long while at the gate of the imperial palace!" the Empress said.

She had asked Prince Zhou's servants just now and learned that Prince Zhou had an accident when talking with Chu Liuchen. She wished she could slice Chu Liuchen into little bits, but she still showed a gentle and tolerant look, as if she really cared about Chu Liuchen. However, she pointed out something fishy about Chu Liuchen while showing her concern for him.

Why did Chu Liuchen appear at the gate of the imperial palace at this moment?

If Chu Liuchen did not appear at the gate of the imperial palace, would Zhou'er be fine? In this case, there was something fishy about Chu Liuchen. Although this invalid was incompetent, it did not mean that it was impossible for Chu Liuchen to hurt Zhou'er.

Of course, the Emperor understood what she meant. He looked at the Empress with an unclear look and said slowly, "Well, I got it. I will find out the truth. Would you like to stay here with Zhou'er or go back?"

"I will stay here with Zhou'er. Anyway I can't fall asleep even if I go back at this time." The Empress shook her head and said. Her tears fell again, and she hurriedly lowered her head and wiped them off her face with a handkerchief.

"Well, instruct someone to prepare a room here for you. You can take care of Zhou'er here and go to sleep later. Otherwise, you will be out of spirits tomorrow. Zhou'er's health is important, and so is yours!"

The Emperor said softly.

"Thanks, Your Majesty!" The Empress bowed sideways and said, watching the Emperor leave with a trace of hatred and anger across her eyes.

"Your Grace, please sit for a while. His Highness will be fine. His Majesty said that he would definitely find out the truth." A palace maid comforted the Empress softly. Seeing that she stood by the bed and was reluctant to leave, the palace maid went to fetch a chair and helped the Empress to sit down.

"Find out the truth?" the Empress said with a sneer, because all the people in the room were her trusted servants, "There are only a few suspects. There's no need to find out the truth. If His Majesty really means it, he should directly arrest the two people and interrogate them!"

"Your Grace, please choose your words cautiously!" The palace maid looked out of the window in a panic and said. Although the people in the room were all the Empress's trusted servants, the Emperor and the Empress Dowager were outside.

"I know!" The Empress gritted her teeth, suppressed the jealousy and hatred in her heart and said. She had gritted her teeth to endure it for so many years. What else was she unable to endure at this time?

In order to make her son inherit the throne in the future, she could endure anything.

She could endure the woman and the invalid...

The Empress Dowager stayed in front of Chu Liuchen's bed. At this moment, Chu Liuchen had fallen into a deep sleep, but even so, his face was still pale.

Hearing the sounds from the door, the Empress Dowager looked back at the Emperor, who came in, and sighed softly.

Noticing the quiet atmosphere inside, the Emperor walked softly to the bed and had a look at Chu Liuchen, who was lying on the bed.

The Empress Dowager sighed again and said helplessly, "The imperial physicians said that Zhou'er probably got sick again after being exposed to the wind at the palace gate for too long."

“Why did Chen’er come to the imperial palace today?” The Emperor frowned and asked with deep eyes.

“In fact, he had planned to enter the imperial palace. I asked him to come over this afternoon, but he was not in the mansion at that time. The servants in his mansion said that they would tell him to come over when seeing him. Later, when I saw that it began to snow, I specially sent someone to tell him not to enter the imperial palace today! I didn’t expect that the person, who went to pass on the message, would miss him on the way!”

The Empress Dowager said with guilt. It was she who asked Chu Liuchen to enter the imperial palace in the afternoon. But Chu Liuchen was not in the mansion coincidentally at that time. The servants in his mansion said that they would tell him to enter the imperial palace when they saw him. Later, seeing that the sky was getting darker and it began to snow, the Empress Dowager sent someone to tell him not to come over.

She had asked about it just now, only to find that the person missed Chu Liuchen on the way and Chu Liuchen didn’t know that he was not supposed to come over.

“Mother, rest assured. I will find out the truth!” The Emperor comforted the Empress Dowager in a low voice, in case she felt worried.

It seemed to have nothing to do with Chu Liuchen, so was it really done by the two people he suspected? The Emperor felt distressed and got angry. He was still the Emperor. Couldn’t they wait any longer?

A thought came to his mind, and he figured out another doubtful point.

Chu Liuchen got hurt that day at the gate of the imperial palace because of the Changxing Grass. This time the horse somehow went crazy again. Was it also because of the Changxing Grass? Besides, last time the Fifth Miss of Duke Xing’s Mansion almost got killed in a carriage crash on her way down the mountain, and it was also because of the Changxing Grass!

If it was true that all of these accidents had something to do with the Changxing Grass, Prince Zhou’s Mansion would be involved in two of these accidents. Why was Prince Zhou’s Mansion related to the Changxing Grass from the Xu State again and again?

Chapter 696 A Stroke of Luck Falls in Commandery Prince Qing’s Lap

The news that Prince Zhou broke his leg at the gate of the imperial palace went out the next day.

The Emperor was furious in the court and poured out a stream of abuse against those from the six departments and nine ministers who might have any connection with it.

In the imperial court not as lively as usual, all officials lowered their heads and listened to the Emperor’s furious abuse. Then, the Emperor threw all the memorials at them.

Prince Zhou, the legitimate son of the Emperor as well as the most popular candidate for the Crown Prince, had an accident at the palace gate. Thinking that Prince Chen was frightened and got sick at the same time, many people had all kinds of suspicions, but didn’t dare to say so.

Everyone was secretly guessing who did it, and the person behind it seemed to intend to kill two birds with one stone. If it were any other prince who met Prince Zhou at the gate of the imperial palace this

time, there would be nothing serious. After all, it was Prince Zhou who fell off the carriage. However, Prince Chen was as fragile as a crystal.

He could get sick easily either on a hot day or on a cold day. What was more, in order to save Prince Zhou at the gate of the imperial palace, he had been exposed to the wind for a long time.

There was such heavy snow and a strong wind last night, and everyone knew that the palace gate was the windiest place. It was normal for him to get sick and remain unconscious after being exposed to the wind.

The person behind it managed to kill two birds with one stone indeed.

Plenty of officials secretly looked at Prince Yue, who was standing in front and listening to the Emperor's lecture. Although Prince Yue was as expressionless as usual, no one knew what he was thinking at the moment.

It seemed that he was most likely to benefit from it. But why did the Emperor keep mentioning Prince Cheng?

Most of the officials in the imperial court were smart people. After thinking carefully, they suddenly realized what the Emperor meant. Could it be possible that Prince Cheng was also likely to be the person behind it? Could it be possible that Prince Cheng, who had always been said to have so few desires that he was even unwilling to get married, also coveted the throne?

Reminded by the Emperor, plenty of officials thought so. After all, the current Emperor inherited the throne from the late Emperor, who was the current Emperor's elder brother, which indicated that it could be considered a tradition in their country for the younger brother to inherit the throne from the elder brother. However, unlike the late Emperor, the current Emperor had several grown-up sons who seemed to be interested in the throne.

However, only one of them could inherit the throne, and the person, who finally sat on the throne, was the winner. The sanguinary battle behind it was tremendously chilly.

Of course, each of them only had a life, so there were not many people who intended to take sides in the battle for the throne. Everyone thought that it was better to do nothing, especially in the current unclear situation. No one knew whom the Emperor would finally choose to be his successor. Everyone cherished not only their lives but also the lives of their family members. No one dared to take risks.

At this moment, they'd better act like deaf people and accept the Emperor's lecture, since even Prince Yue didn't say a word.

Therefore, only the Emperor's furious abuse could be heard in the quiet hall. After a long while, the Emperor stopped cursing and then issued an appointment which allowed Commandery Prince Qing to join the court meeting and investigate the case about what had happened to Prince Zhou at the gate of the imperial palace.

Since Chu Qing became Commandery Prince Qing, he had been an idle prince and no one took him seriously.

Both he and Prince Chen were the sons of the late Emperor, but only Prince Chen won the Emperor's and the Empress Dowager's favor. Moreover, Prince Chen had been raised by the Empress Dowager since he was a child. So the Emperor and the Empress Dowager certainly had a much deeper affection for Prince Chen than that for Commandery Prince Qing. Although Prince Qing was also the son of the late emperor, he couldn't compare with Prince Chen.

Besides, there was one good thing about Prince Chen: he would not be a threat to the successor of the throne.

The Emperor and the Empress Dowager doted on him so much naturally had a lot to do with his poor health. The officials all thought that it was reasonable for the Emperor to do so. Anyone, who sat on the throne, would not only appease Prince Chen but also dote on him. Of course, the Emperor had to do so to show his kindness to his citizens, right?

But Chu Qing was different. He was strong. Although Chu Liuchen was superior to him, he was also the son of the late Emperor. If he was in power, it would be a different situation.

Although Chu Qing had been recognized as a member of the royal family and became Commandery Prince Qing, no one in the imperial court was stupid enough to suggest that he should join the imperial court meeting. They all thought that Commandery Prince Qing could only be an idle prince during his lifetime and it was not bad.

Unexpectedly, the Emperor allowed Chu Qing to join the imperial court meeting when others did not mention it. In such an atmosphere, no one would be stupid enough to refute it. Therefore, Chu Qing successfully joined the imperial court meeting and was mainly in charge of the case about what had happened to Prince Zhou at the gate of the imperial palace.

After the Emperor appointed Chu Qing, he turned around angrily and left the court. All the officials breathed a sigh of relief and left after making their farewells.

Chu Qing also took a deep breath and was overjoyed. He didn't expect that it would be so easy for him to join the imperial court meeting and what had happened to Prince Zhou would turn out to be his opportunity.

He had been worried about joining the imperial court meeting and intended to do something in secret to make it happen. Unexpectedly, he got the opportunity, and it was the Emperor's idea to allow him to join the imperial court meeting, which was much better and safer than his secretly inducing others to suggest it.

"Commandery Prince Qing!" Hearing a cold voice, Chu Qing quickly restrained his emotions and turned around with a smile. He, who had just joined the imperial court meeting, could not offend anyone, let alone Chu Liuyue.

"Prince Yue!"

"There are plenty of people involved in what happened to second brother. Third brother is now also in the Imperial Institute of Medicine. I'm going to visit them later. If you have any message for them, I can take a message for you!" Chu Liuyue said lightly.

"I don't dare to trouble you, Prince Yue. I know little about the case now. I have to find out the truth before reporting it to His Majesty!" Commandery Prince Qing evaded the issue indifferently.

"In that case, I'm leaving now. I hope that you could find out the truth soon and bring justice for second brother and third brother!" Chu Liuyue said and twisted the corners of his mouth to show a very faint and very perfunctory smile. Then he ignored Chu Qing and left.

Chu Qing, who had been left alone, blushed and recalled that it was obviously Shao Yanru whom he had saved that day, but the servant from Prince Yue's Mansion claimed that it was Shao Jie'er, the Second Miss of the Shao's Mansion. How dared Shao Jie'er, who was just a concubine's daughter, lie and shift the blame on him? However, he could not say that it was not Shao Jie'er whom he had saved at that time.

With Chu Liuyue's, Chu Liuzhou's and Honored Consort Shu's claims, it could only be Shao Jie'er!

He had to swallow it. As he thought of it, he felt so indignant that he smashed the table in front of him at that time in his mansion. He was both aggrieved and furious.

They dared to treat him like that only because he was just an idle prince with no power but only a title.

Not only Chu Liuyue, Chu Liuzhou and Honored Consort Shu, but also Shao Yanru aroused hatred in Chu Qing's heart.

Regarding Shao Jie'er, he was definitely reluctant to marry such a concubine's daughter. How dared a concubine's daughter, who was humble and not valued, covet the position of his princess? Did she really think that Duke Xing's Mansion was powerful enough to enable her to marry him as his princess?

Chu Qing had tried hard to hold back his anger in the past few days. In order to suppress his anger, he did not even go out and stayed home with the excuse of getting sick. Unexpectedly, a stroke of luck fell in his lap when he stayed home. From now on, he, who held a post in the Ministry of Justice in charge of looking into Chu Liuzhou's case, was no longer an idle and powerless prince.

There was something that couldn't be rushed and should be taken slowly indeed!

If Duke Xing's Mansion offered him some great benefits, he could actually take Shao Jie'er as his concubine. Now he could just wait for Duke Xing's next move.

During the process of looking into Prince Zhou's case, he could get in touch with numerous people, including some high-ranking officials and some important relatives of the royal family. It was very beneficial to his plan.

The selection of his princess was even more important, so he couldn't make his choice rashly. He had taken a fancy to Shao Yanru before, but now Shao Yanru didn't like him, so he didn't want her to be his princess. He would like to see this woman kneel in front of him and beg him to accept her after he inherited the throne in the future...

Shao Wanru heard the news that Prince Zhou fell at the gate of the imperial palace. Of course, she also heard the news that Chu Liuchen stayed in the Imperial Institute of Medicine with Prince Zhou.

Shao Wanru fiddled with a hairpin in her hand and listened to Qing'er's report with a trace of gloom across her watery eyes. She did not believe that it was an accident. In particular, Chu Liuchen wouldn't get into trouble after she specially went to remind him to be careful yesterday!

With inexplicable trust in Chu Liuchen, Shao Wanru stopped thinking over it. This kind of thing was a serious matter in the imperial court, and as a girl in the boudoir, she was incapable of intervening in it.

She could only intervene in some domestic affairs in the mansion, such as Wang Yishu's affairs.

"Miss, I met Doctor Qiu just now as expected. When he saw me, he stopped and greeted me. Then he wanted to say something but hesitated for a while before leaving."

Qu Le, who came in with a hamper, put down the hamper in her hand, wiped the sweat off her head and said. She had walked a little too fast just now so that her head was covered with sweat even in winter.

Qu Le usually went to fetch the lunch at this time. But in the past, Qu Le had never seen Doctor Qiu on her way. Doctor Qiu usually took remote paths to get in and out of the backyard, so it was impossible for him to meet the members of the Piaoyun Courtyard. However, he met Qu Le today.

"What did you say?" Shao Wanru smiled slightly, rolled her watery eyes slightly, and asked.

"Of course, I said as you told me. I asked about Miss Wang's health condition politely. Doctor Qiu said that Miss Wang was really in terrible condition and was probably going to die in these few days. If you were available... Speaking of this, he stopped and deliberately let me imagine it!"

Qu Le said disdainfully.

Several of her master's trusted servants, including her, now had confirmed Doctor Qiu's evil intent towards her master. Doctor Qiu now acted as her master guessed. They found their master increasingly admirable and convincing.

"Miss, are we going now?" Qing'er asked.

"It's not the right time yet. Let's wait for a few more days!" Shao Wanru smiled and said unhurriedly. She leaned against the chair, passed the hairpin in her hand backward and said to Yujie, who was combing her hair, "I'll wear this hairpin!"

The hairpin made of purple bamboo was elegant and natural, suiting her well in the current situation. Without a bright look, it was simple but gorgeous, of an ancient style and a properly plain color.

"Qing'er, keep an eye on the door of the backyard tonight and see if Wang Shengxue will come, if he will go to visit Wang Yishu and what they will talk about!"

"Yes, I got it!" Qing'er said with a nod and left.

Yujie inserted the hairpin in Shao Wanru's bun. After Shao Wanru took a look in the mirror, she stood up and said, "Let's go and have a look now!"

Chapter 697 The Third Madam Once in Power

It was none other than the Third Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion that Shao Wanru was about to see. It was the first time that Third Madam had invited Shao Wanru after she had formally taken over the mansion. She said that she had something to discuss with Shao Wanru.

The houses for the first branch of Duke Xing's family were located in the middle of Duke Xing's Mansion, and the first branch had the most courtyards. Originally, everything in the mansion would have been inherited by the first branch, but later, Shao Yuanhao became the only offspring of the first branch. So naturally, no one cared about which houses belonged to the first branch. The second branch got some benefits from occupying courtyards, and so did the third branch.

There was only one naive child in the so-called first branch, so no one would care about this.

After Shao Wanru had come back, there was one more person in the courtyard of the first branch, but there were still only a few in total. The third branch originally had been located to the side, but after occupying several courtyards belonging to the first branch, the third branch naturally became close to the middle.

The courtyard of the Third Madam was not far from Shao Wanru's Piaoyun Courtyard. When Shao Wanru came over, she even saw the arrogant Shao Jie'er in the room of the Third Madam. This was the first time that she had seen Shao Jie'er since she had come out of the palace. Compared with Shao Jie'er's timid look in the past, Shao Jie'er in front of her now looked like a noble daughter of lineal descent.

"Fifth Sister, Third Aunt has been waiting for you for so long, but you did not come until now! Indeed, noble people are busier than us!" Seeing Shao Wanru coming in, Shao Jie'er looked her up and down. She didn't find anything wrong with Shao Wanru's clothes, so she immediately smiled and spoke with a handkerchief covering her mouth.

She had been used to being bullied by other sisters in the mansion, but now she stood up with great difficulty. She thought that she would soon become the wife of Commandery Prince Qing. Moreover, she heard that the Commandery Prince Qing also had some work to do now, so he would not be an idle member of the Imperial Clan in the future. Thus, she had to show her prestige to someone, so Shao Wanru, who was not favored, would naturally become the target of her trampling.

Shao Jie'er wanted to humiliate her so as to gain face!

Shao Wanru sneered in her heart and glanced at Shao Jie'er coldly, but she didn't answer her. She only looked at the Third Madam, who was sitting there with a cold face, and asked, "What's the matter, Third Aunt?"

"Can't Third Aunt ask to see you even if there is nothing important? Fifth Sister, Third Aunt is now in charge of the internal affairs of Duke Xing's Mansion. There are many things that may be related to you!" Shao Jie'er wiped the corners of her mouth with a handkerchief and said with a smile, but her eyes were full of anger. It was so hateful that Shao Wanru didn't take her seriously.

The Third Madam picked up the teacup by her hand and took a sip. Then she put it down slowly and let Shao Jie'er scold Shao Wanru.

"Third Aunt is now in charge of the internal affairs of the mansion, so Second Sister comes to Third Aunt's place all the time? I was wondering whether you often came here to visit Third Aunt before."

Shao Wanru spoke calmly, as if she was not mocking Shao Jie'er for fawning over the rich and powerful people.

Shao Jie'er's face turned red. She was so angry that she smacked the table and suddenly stood up. "Shao..."

"Second Sister, what do you want to do? Do you want to lose your temper in front of Third Aunt? Have you forgotten your identity?" Shao Wanru looked up and interrupted Shao Jie'er rudely. She looked at Shao Jie'er with her bright watery eyes, which made Shao Jie'er feel guilty. For some reason, she did not dare to call Shao Wanru's name directly.

Shao Wanru ignored Shao Jie'er, who was frightened for the moment, and turned to asked the Third Madam with a smile, "Third Aunt, did you ask me to come over here to let Second Sister scold me?"

Her words sounded like a joke, but the meaning in her words made it impossible for the Third Madam to ignore it.

The Third Madam really wanted to show her severity to Shao Wanru so that Shao Wanru would know who was in charge of the back yard of the mansion. However, she didn't expect Shao Jie'er to be so useless that her words were all blocked by only a few words said by Shao Wanru.

"Rui'er, you are the elder sister. How can you be so rude? Well, both of you, sit down!" The Third Madam had to speak.

"Third Aunt, look at Fifth Sister..." Shao Jie'er said with disobedience.

"Don't complain that Fifth Sister talks back to you. Even Third Aunt also wants to criticize you. A good relationship between sisters is the most important thing in our mansion. If sisters can't get along well with each other, who else can they rely on in the future? Life is not easy for a female. Although it depends on the elders whether you can have a good marriage, it won't be good if you have no support from your parent's home after you get married. You can still support each other after getting married in the future!"

The Third Madam spoke calmly. Her face looked better than before and calmer than the last time that she had met Shao Wanru. She was neither happy nor gloomy. She was just like an ordinary and fair Madam.

"Yes, Third Aunt!" Shao Jie'er was dissatisfied, but she had to suppress her temper and grit her teeth. Her eldest sister had said that everything would go smoothly if she could bear this. When she really became the wife of Commandery Prince Qing in the future, she would have plenty of time to trample on Shao Wanru, so she was really not afraid of her.

"Wanru, you are now a member of our mansion, and your surname is Shao, too. Although you have not grown up in our mansion, you have to treat yourself as a member of this mansion. You can't keep yourself aloof from your sisters in our mansion. This is not Qin's Mansion, and your sisters are not First Miss Qin."

The Third Madam warned Shao Wanru.

Her words were unpleasant to hear. The grievances between Qin Yuru and Shao Wanru had spread all over the capital city three years ago. What the Third Madam said seemed to let Shao Wanru know that Duke Xing's mansion was her home, but she implied that Shao Wanru had always kept herself from her sisters and fought for supremacy. She was not a good sister.

Yujie was so angry that she wanted to raise her head to defend her. However, she was stopped by the expression in Shao Wanru's eyes, and she could only lower her head.

The Third Madam didn't seem to be an easy-going person, and she wanted to step on her Miss as soon as she took charge of the mansion.

"I naturally understand what you mean. This is Duke Xing's Mansion, and I am also a child of Duke Xing's Mansion. Naturally, I am different from others. If you think it's right for Second Sister to scold me as soon as she came in, I can argue for myself in front of Old Madam!"

Shao Wanru was as calm as water.

The Third Madam's expression darkened. She didn't expect Shao Wanru to be so difficult to deal with. Since Shao Wanru became the daughter of the former Heir of Duke Xing, the Third Madam almost had no contact with her. This was their first meeting. The Third Madam didn't want to suffer a loss. "Why bother Old Madam with such a small thing?"

Unlike Madam of Duke Xing, the Third Madam had never been favored in front of Old Madam.

"It's best not to bother Grandma. If you want to bother her, you may trouble my other grandma. It will be more trouble!" Shao Wanru took a deep breath, as if she was finally relieved.

The Third Madam was very upset. She looked at Shao Wanru and said slowly, "There are many things in your room that should be changed. We may not be able to change them in a short time. Old Madam wants you to change some things appropriately. In fact, there are not many good things in our mansion. Three years ago, there was a big fire, and all the good things in the courtyard burned up."

Three years ago, the fire had burned the most gorgeous courtyard and the things inside in the mansion. Three years later, the newly rebuilt courtyard was still the most beautiful one in the mansion, but it was still occupied by Shao Wanru. Thinking of the dissatisfaction of her two daughters in private, the Third Madam was not very happy.

"Three years ago, when I lived in this courtyard, it was arranged by my second aunt. I don't know why this courtyard was so gorgeous at that time," Shao Wanru said with a blank expression. Since the Third Madam mentioned it, it was quite a coincidence.

"The courtyard three years ago was not arranged for you. It was originally for Big Brother..." Shao Jie'er curled her lips and said disdainfully. She just couldn't stand that Shao Wanru, as an orphan with no parents who was no better than her, had the confidence to occupy the best courtyard in the mansion.

"Why?"

She could only be placed in the corner. How could an orphan without a father and mother, who did not win the favor of the elders in the mansion, occupy such a good resource?

The Third Madam frowned and said angrily, "Jie'er, don't talk nonsense!"

"Yes, Third Aunt!" Seeing that the Third Madam was angry, Shao Jie'er had to shut up.

After scolding Shao Jie'er, the Third Madam turned to Shao Wanru and said, "Three years ago, your Second Aunt arranged it for important issues, so the things inside were extremely gorgeous. At that time, you happened to return to the mansion. Your Second Aunt thought that you were the most important, so she gave the courtyard to you. But she didn't expect that it would be set on fire. If she wanted to set it up now, it would not be as good as it was at that time!"

So she was here today to tell Shao Wanru that the things sent over would not be good?

Shao Wanru sneered in her heart. It must be really bad for the Third Madam to take the initiative to come and say that the furniture was bad. At most, it was not damaged, but all of the furniture inside must be most ordinary. It was even possible that they would buy some ordinary things on the market to arrange for her.

At that time, even if some people said that the furniture was not delicate, because she had agreed in advance, she could only suffer in silence!

The Third Madam was good at scheming. Once she gained power, she would not be soft-hearted when she repressed people.

She bullied her since she was just a weak girl. She thought that even if Shao Wanru knew that she had suffered losses, she couldn't say anything!

Shao Wanru rolled her watery eyes, looked at the decoration in the room, and said with a smile, "You say that the furniture is ordinary. Is it as good as is what's in this room?"

Compared with Madam of Duke Xing, this Third Madam had never been favored. She was even ignored by Old Madam. In addition, she did not have any children. She only had two daughters, so she did not have enough power in the mansion. But even so, as the Third Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion, she still had the dignity.

Each piece of furniture in the house was of high quality. Even if it was not made of good wood that had been passed down for generations, it was carefully selected and valuable, which showed the dignity and honor of the Madam of Duke's Mansion.

"You are a junior, how can you compare with Third Aunt? Do you want to have a similar arrangement with that of Third Aunt?" Shao Jie'er curled her lips and said for the Third Madam aside.

The Third Madam picked up the teacup and took another sip. Then she took the teacup and turned it around. The teacup in her hand was a delicate one given by Old Madam, and it was also very gorgeous. Compared with the simple furniture in her home, it should not belong to her.

The reason why she took it here was to repress Shao Wanru. She thought that she had no good stuff in Qin's Mansion!

"Third Madam's teacup is so beautiful. Can you show it to me?" Shao Wanru turned her eyes and didn't care about Shao Jie'er's sarcasm. She smiled. Her sweet smile immediately made the whole room lively.

However, the Third Madam's expression darkened...

Chapter 698 Carelessly Present Evidence in Front of Her

The Third Madam put down the teacup in her hand and said indifferently, "It's just a cheap and counterfeit tea set!"

"Third Aunt..." Shao Jie'er exclaimed in surprise.

"Well, we're done for now. I'm tired. You can leave now!" the Third Madam said, reached out to touch her head, and closed her eyes slightly.

"How are you going to redecorate my yard, Third Aunt?" Shao Wanru asked softly.

The Third Madam closed her eyes and whispered, "Of course I'll do all I can to make it as good as possible. Nevertheless, I have just taken charge of Duke Xing's Mansion recently, so I may not be able to handle everything perfectly nor guarantee that you will be pleased with everything I choose to place in your courtyard."

"I believe you will do a good job, Third Aunt. Second Aunt has been detained in the ancestral hall, and no one knows when she will be released. You're the only person in charge of the domestic affairs of our mansion. I heard that when my mother lived here, you got along well with her. I have to trouble you to redecorate my courtyard. If there's anything that doesn't go well with my courtyard, please tell me bluntly. I'll go to my maternal grandma's mansion to see if she has anything better!"

Shao Wanru spoke with a sweet smile and raised her long eyelashes, looking elegant and leisurely.

However, with her face changing, the Third Madam suddenly opened her eyes and looked at Shao Wanru coldly. Meanwhile, Shao Wanru looked at her without avoiding her eyes.

Shao Jie'er, who couldn't stand it anymore, suddenly stood up, glared at Shao Wanru, and said, "What are you talking about? Do you mean that you will turn to Rui'an Great Elder Princess as long as you find anything displeasing in your yard?"

"Don't be angry, Second Sister. If you also had a maternal grandmother like mine, you would probably say the same thing!" Shao Wanru shook her hand gently and said with a smile.

Although she spoke in a soft voice with a sweet smile, the provocation in her words enraged Shao Jie'er so much that her face turned red.

Everyone in the mansion knew that Shao Jie'er was the daughter of a concubine without a noble grandparents' family. Shao Wanru was obviously picking on her.

"Shao Wanru, you..." Shao Jie'er was so angry that her voice almost cracked.

"Don't get angry, Second Sister. I'm afraid you won't be able to marry Commandery Prince Qing as you expected. I heard that he has an engagement!" Shao Wanru said meaningfully. She heard the news from Qing'er.

Although it was only a rumor now, it seemed to be targeted at Shao Jie'er.

"What? You are talking nonsense!" Shao Jie'er said, really getting anxious this time.

Shao Wanru said meaningfully, "You can send someone to inquire about it to see if I'm talking nonsense, Second Sister. After all, news heard from others could be false, right? It's been so long since the accident. Has Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion sent anyone to propose marriage to you? Could it be possible that he's not even going to take you as his concubine?"

Since Shao Jie'er took the blame for Shao Yanru, of course, she intended to make Chu Qing accept the marriage with her so that she could be his princess.

Of course, Shao Jie'er showing up here was no coincidence. No matter who advised Shao Jie'er to come here today, Shao Wanru would like to enlighten her that with her reputation tarnished, she was busy enough with her own affairs.

Since someone incited Shao Jie'er to mess with Shao Wanru, Shao Wanru decided to mess the situation up even further. Someone like Shao Jie'er was unable to accomplish anything but was liable to spoil everything. Shao Wanru had better incite Shao Jie'er to mess with someone else than let Shao Jie'er mess with her.

"I... I'm going to Big Sister's courtyard..." Shao Jie'er couldn't sit still this time. After saying that, she turned to Shao Yanru angrily.

She would not have dared to do that in the past. But in the current situation, she would definitely go to check it out.

Watching Shao Jie'er vanish in her sight, the Third Madam snorted and said, "You're quite smart, Wanru!"

Shao Wanru took two steps forward and bowed to the Third Madam. Then she straightened up and smiled more gently. Glancing at the tea set with some curiosity, she said, "Third Aunt, this tea set looks really like it is from my mother's dowry. You know, there are paintings of some precious things in my mother's dowry valued by her, a female member of the royal family, in case someone tries to deceive her descendants."

The Third Madam's face darkened, but she still said in a gentle voice, "It's just a counterfeit tea set, not the authentic tea set."

"It looks like the authentic tea set," Shao Wanru said with a sweet smile.

"Well, you can leave now. I know what you mean." The Third Madam asked her to leave with a displeased look.

At the moment, a maid entered the room with a bowl of medicine, followed by Shao Caihuan, the Third Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion. Before the maid had come in, they had smelled the medicine.

Shao Caihuan walked in without looking sideways and said, "Mother, it's time to take the medicine now!" After bowing to the Third Madam, she sat down beside her in an intimate manner.

"Third Sister!" Shao Wanru stepped forward and bowed to her.

Shao Caihuan raised her eyes and asked in a lukewarm tone, "Oh, you're here, Fifth Sister. What brings you here?"

“Third Aunt asked for my opinion about the redecoration of my yard. Since Third Aunt has made the decision for me, I expressed my gratitude to her here!” Shao Wanru bowed to the Third Madam gracefully, made her farewells, and then left.

The Third Madam’s face remained gloomy even after Shao Wanru left, and she glared at Shao Wanru’s back as she walked away.

“Mother...” Shao Caihuan gently pulled her sleeve and said.

The Third Madam gave an order, “Change the furniture we’ve prepared before and send something better from the mansion to her courtyard. If there is no suitable furniture in the mansion, buy some outside. We must offer her some decent furniture. Return the furniture you and your sister chose before, and send them to her yard!”

“Mother, why? Didn’t you say that we can choose whatever we want now?” Shao Caihuan asked in confusion.

After taking charge of the domestic affairs of Duke Xing’s Mansion, the Third Madam immediately became generous to her two daughters and acted like the hostess of Duke Xing’s Mansion.

During all these years, the third branch had always been under the control of the second branch. In the inner courtyard, the Third Madam was neither favored by Old Madam nor the hostess of Duke Xing’s Mansion, so all the good things were reserved for the two brothers of the eldest branch. Not only Old Madam but also the others in Duke Xing’s Mansion considered the Third Madam to be an insignificant person.

What’s more, the birth mother of the only son of the third branch was a concubine, which made the Third Madam even less respected. Her two daughters were as out of favor as she was. Now she got a hard-won opportunity and became the hostess. Of course, she wanted to keep all the good things for the third branch.

This time, she coveted the furniture of Piaoyun Courtyard. Unexpectedly, Shao Wanru refused to make any concessions and claimed that she would ask Rui’an Great Elder Princess to have a look after the redecoration was done.

What kind of person was Rui’an Great Elder Princess? Rui’an Great Elder Princess could even enrage Old Madam of Duke Xing’s Mansion so much that Old Madam almost spat blood, not to mention the Third Madam was just a powerless Madam. The Third Madam did not dare to confront Shao Wanru. Besides, she had carelessly presented evidence of keeping Shao Wanru’s mother’s stuff just now.

“I got this tea set from your grandma. It’s rare for her to be so generous. I presented them today in order to amaze Wanru. Unexpectedly, she recognized that this tea set was part of Infanta Qinghua’s dowry,” the Third Madam said with a gloomy face.

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When she noticed that Shao Wanru stared at the tea set just now, she immediately had a bad intuition. She suddenly remembered that after Old Madam gave her this tea set, she had sent someone to make an investigation, only to find that it was part of Infanta Qinghua’s dowry. It was not appropriate for her

to use her eldest sister-in-law's dowry. Moreover, if Rui'an Great Elder Princess found out about it, she would probably make another scene.

"So we are going to just let it go?" Shao Caihuan said reluctantly. Like the Third Madam, she had always been an insignificant person in Duke Xing's Mansion, inferior to Shao Yanru. After all these years, her mother finally became the hostess of Duke Xing's Mansion. Anyway, she thought that she should get great benefits from it like Shao Yanru had done before.

"At least leave the eldest branch alone!" the Third Madam thought for a moment and said. Then she picked up the bowl of medicine and drank it up.

After putting the bowl down, she wiped the corners of her mouth with a handkerchief and looked at the door thoughtfully. From the short conversation with Shao Wanru just now, she could tell that Shao Wanru was not simple. Shao Wanru used both soft and hard tactics to make Shao Jie'er, who tried to mess with her, leave. After that, when Shao Wanru saw the tea set in front of her, she suggested that it belonged to her mother instead of pointing it out directly.

She was much shrewder than ordinary people.

Everyone in the mansion said that Fifth Miss Shao was the most poor master not favored by Old Madam in the whole mansion. Since she had reclaimed her identity, no one really regarded her as a member of Duke Xing's Mansion. Any servant could tread such a master underfoot. However, Shao Wanru was fine, while Madam of Duke Xing got into trouble.

The Third Madam knew her second sister-in-law well. How could her second sister-in-law, who was so scheming and cruel, get into trouble?

There must be something fishy about it!

Not only the members of Duke Xing's Mansion but even people outside said that Shao Wanru was pitiful, but it was someone else other than her who got into trouble. Thinking about it carefully, the Third Madam found it extremely horrifying.

After thinking it over, the Third Madam made up her mind and said slowly, "Send this tea set to Shao Wanru after cleaning it, and pay more visits to the eldest branch when you have time."

"Mother, why? Didn't you ask us to keep our distance from them just now?" Shao Caihuan asked, more confused. Her mother didn't say so before and told them not to get close to the others in the mansion. Anyway, the others didn't take them seriously, so they could just keep themselves aloof from the others in the mansion with the excuse of taking care of their sick mother.

"Our third branch has never been taken seriously in the mansion, and I'm much inferior to your second aunt. When Infanta Qinghua, the Madam of the eldest branch, was here, she was really nice to me. Now Shao Wanru and her brother are the only members of the eldest branch. It won't do any harm to get along well with them. You don't want to be Shao Yanru's stepping stone, do you?"

The Third Madame spoke casually.

"Absolutely not!" While saying this, Shao Caihuan gnashed her teeth. Others considered the First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion gentle and dignified, but she knew that Shao Yanru was extremely vicious. Shao

Yanru had always trodden others underfoot to get everything she wanted. If she had not been smart enough, her future would have been ruined by Shao Yanru. Every time she thought of this, Shao Caihuan hoped that she could tear the mask off Shao Yanru's face.

"Mother, don't worry. I will make friends with Fifth Sister!" Shao Caihuan was not stupid. She immediately understood the Third Madam's words and said with a nod.

The Third Madam, who was still in poor health, supported her head with her hand and said, "Take this tea set to be cleaned and send it to her. Take your sister to visit her!"

"Yes, Mother. I'll go in a minute!"

"Wait a minute, take this ring as well!" the Third Madam said and suddenly rolled up her sleeve, revealing an exquisite ring inlaid with a dark ruby on her slender finger...

Chapter 699 Make a Choice

"Big Sister, why hasn't Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion sent anyone here?" Shao Jie'er rushed into Shao Yanru's room and anxiously asked Shao Yanru, who was about to take the medicine.

Shao Yanru put down the bowl in her hand heavily, looked at Shao Jie'er coldly, and said, "What's the matter?"

Noticing her cold gaze, Shao Jie'er shivered in secret and immediately returned to herself. She bowed sideways to Shao Yanru and said, "Big Sister! I came back from Third Aunt's courtyard!"

"What did Third Aunt say?" Shao Yanru lowered her head, looked at the bowl of thick decoction in front of her, and asked coldly.

"I told Third Aunt about the redecoration of Fifth Sister's courtyard. Although Third Aunt didn't say it clearly, I think she will send Fifth Sister some ordinary furniture," with worry in her mind, Shao Jie'er said vaguely.

"In this case, you may go back now. I need to take medicine!" Shao Yanru asked her to leave with a cold face.

"Big Sister... I... I..." Shao Jie'er minced her words. She had always been timid in front of Shao Yanru.

"Finish your sentence or go back!" Shao Yanru said impatiently. She had been nervous these days and had not felt relieved until now.

Although Doctor Qiu said that his acupuncture would work, it would do harm to her health after all. Thinking that Shao Jie'er also got involved in it, she couldn't calm down no matter how hard she tried. She looked gloomier than usual and was in a different state from before.

"Big Sister... I... I just want to ask when Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion will... send someone to propose marriage." Shao Jie'er plucked up her courage to ask.

"How would I know?" Shao Yanru said coldly. Since her marriage had not been settled yet, it was impossible for her to care about Shao Jie'er's marriage. That day, they just suggested Commandery

Prince Qing to marry Shao Jie'er. Did Shao Jie'er really think that Commandery Prince Qing would accept her as his princess?

Didn't Shao Jie'er realize her inferiority to her, the First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion?

Shao Jie'er, who was frightened by the meaning behind Shao Yanru's words, burst into tears and said, "Big Sister... you said that Commandery Prince Qing would marry me..."

Shao Yanru picked up a teacup impatiently and threw it at Shao Jie'er while shouting angrily, "Shut up!"

Although the cup was empty, Shao Jie'er felt a sharp pain in her arm after the cup hit her. Then the cup fell to the ground and broke into pieces, one of which fell at Shao Jie'er's feet and cut the lower part of her outer skirt.

Shao Jie'er stopped crying and looked at Shao Yanru in horror.

"Why are you crying? I suggest for you to enter the imperial palace with tears, tell Empress Dowager and Empress that it was I rather than you who fell into the water that day, and see how they punish you after finding out that you lied. You could be convicted of deceiving the Emperor or at least have your reputation ruined," Shao Yanru said with a sneer.

Her words stung Shao Jie'er. She dared to ask about it at the thought that with evidence of her taking Shao Yanru's place, she could ask Shao Yanru to ask Commandery Prince Qing to marry her. After all, she had done Shao Yanru such a big favor and helped her out. However, she had never thought that she would be convicted of deceiving the Emperor if she went back on her word.

Shao Yanru and she were in the same boat.

At this moment, Shao Jie'er suddenly realized what had happened. She clenched her handkerchief and began to tremble slightly. In fact, it was the proof of her guilt, wasn't it?

Even if she went back on her word and made Shao Yanru take the blame, how could Prince Zhou, Prince Yue, and Honored Consort Shu let it go? Strictly speaking, not only she but also they had deceived the Emperor.

If things really developed to this point, she might not even be able to survive.

Thinking of this, she felt terrible. She looked at Shao Yanru with slightly red eyes, her face turning pale and her lips trembling a few times, unable to say a word.

"Go back to think it over and work out what you should do next. Commandery Prince Qing probably is not going to send someone to propose marriage in a short time. Nevertheless, since the accident happened in the imperial palace, Empress Dowager and the Empress will definitely settle it properly. You can go back and wait. I'll send someone to tell you if I get any news!"

When Shao Yanru saw Shao Jie'er's frightened look, her face softened a little. After all, she could still use some help from Shao Jie'er now, so she didn't want to fall out with her. At present, there were fewer people in the mansion able to help her. If she lost Shao Jie'er, she would have no other helpers in the mansion.

"I got it... Thank you, Big Sister!" Shao Jie'er opened her mouth again. This time, she finally heard her voice.

"You can leave now!" Shao Yanru waved her hand and said.

"Yes, Big Sister!" Shao Jie'er, who didn't dare to talk back to Shao Yanru this time, turned around and walked out. When she reached the door, she turned to glance at Shao Yanru before walking out with her eyes drifting.

Shao Yanru was not a kind person. With such a proof of her guilt in Shao Yanru's hands, what would Shao Yanru do to her?

As long as Shao Jie'er thought of such a possibility, she trembled with fear, felt cold all over, and even had an intuition that she would eventually be killed by Shao Yanru. She involuntarily began to wonder why she had lost her head and agreed to take Shao Yanru's place at that time.

Now it seemed that if anything terrible happened, Shao Yanru would definitely push her out to take the blame. Maybe Shao Yanru would even claim that she begged to take Shao Yanru's place out of the desire to become Commandery Princess Qing!

Shao Jie'er was not incurably stupid. Thinking of Shao Yanru's and Madam of Duke Xing's vicious deeds in private, she found that she was very likely to be killed by Shao Yanru. At the moment, she felt so terrible.

Standing at the door of the courtyard and thinking for a while, she gritted her teeth and stepped on a path. Now she could only ask her biological mother, Concubine Lu, for help.

Let's put aside what happened after Shao Jie'er hurriedly turned to her biological mother, Concubine Lu, whom she had always despised, and let's shift our attention back to Shao Caihuan and Shao Cailing, who kindly went to visit Shao Wanru with a tea set.

Hearing that the two of them had come, Shao Wanru went to the corridor to greet them in person and lead them in joyfully.

It was really the first time for the two sisters of the third branch to come in.

They had just watched it from outside. Madam of Duke Xing decorated the courtyard for her eldest son's wedding and shut them out of the courtyard before the decoration was completed. Now when they came in to have a look, they were increasingly convinced that Madam of Duke Xing was quite partial towards her son.

The beautiful scenery in just a few steps in the courtyard was enough to make the courtyard outshine other courtyards.

When they got inside and saw that the furniture inside was indeed inconspicuous, the two sisters exchanged glances.

All the damaged furniture in the room had been removed, and the furniture placed here at the moment was for temporary usage, because the proper furniture had not been delivered yet. The Third Madam, who had just taken over, managed to spare some time to ask Shao Wanru to go to her courtyard today for a discussion about it.

Now it seemed that the Third Madam was going to take action soon.

Shao Wanru instructed someone to serve tea and then said with a smile, "Third Sister, Fourth Sister, please sit down. My courtyard is simply decorated for the time being. Third Aunt is going to begin the redecoration soon, right?"

Shao Caihuan, the Third Miss, smiled slightly as she said, "Mother said that she would begin the redecoration of your courtyard in the next few days. If there is anything you don't like, you can tell my mother or me!"

Shao Cailing gave Shao Wanru a hard look and didn't say anything. In fact, she was not very willing to come over.

Since the accident three years ago, the third branch had not been close to the other masters in Duke Xing's Mansion and had almost kept themselves aloof from them with the excuse of the Third Madam's poor health unless they had to talk to them. As long as they mentioned the Third Madam's health condition, it would remind Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion and Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion, Madam Jiang, the reason why the Third Madam was in poor health.

It was because of the carriage crash that had been planned for a long time.

Considering this, Old Madam and Madam of Duke Xing no longer despised the third branch as before and were more friendly to the third branch. They didn't mind the Third Madam and her two daughters keeping themselves aloof from them, as long as they didn't cross Old Madam's bottom line.

Therefore, Shao Caihuan and Shao Cailing didn't like the other sisters in the mansion very much.

Shao Caihuan was a little better. After all, she was a little older and did a good job in controlling her emotions. At this moment, she showed a sweet smile, as if she had no grudge against Shao Wanru.

Meanwhile, Fourth Miss Shao Cailing couldn't control her emotions properly. She looked at Shao Wanru with an explorative and unkind look. She still remembered that the carriage crash, where her mother got hurt, had something to do with Qin's Mansion. Shao Wanru was Qin Wanru at that time. From this point of view, it also had something to do with Shao Wanru.

Shao Caihuan pushed the tea set towards Shao Wanru and said with a smile, "My mother asked me to bring you this tea set. Grandma gave it to my mother a long time ago, and today it was the first time that my mother had presented it. Thinking that you liked it and found that it looked like part of Infanta Qinghua's dowry, my mother asked me to bring it to you."

She didn't directly say that it belonged to Infanta Qinghua.

"Uh... it may be inappropriate! Since Grandma gave it to Third Aunt, how can I accept it?" Shao Wanru said and gently pushed the gift box containing the tea set back to Shao Caihuan, as if she didn't know the truth.

"It's alright. It didn't belong to my mother at first. Grandma has given away plenty of gifts before, but my mother has never been favored, so she just got this tea set. Since you reclaimed your identity, my mother has been in poor health and had no time to give you a gift. It's rare to find something that you like, which offers us a chance to give you a gift!" Shao Caihuan said.

Her words were meaningful. Shao Wanru turned her watery eyes and they became deep. The Third Madam had played such an amazing trick by not only dispelling her doubts but also giving her directions. Nevertheless, it went as she had planned, so she was not surprised.

She not only said something meaningful in front of the Third Madam, but also used both tough and soft tactics. If the Third Madam was smart enough, she would definitely know what to do next!

Now it seemed that the Third Madam was not stupid. She set up a ladder for the Third Madam three years ago, and the Third Madam gave her directions three years later.

Of course, she got the directions by intimidating the Third Madam. Without her meaningful words, the Third Madam would have worked with the second branch to suppress her rather than given her directions. After all, all the members of Duke Xing's Mansion had no so-called family affection for her.

However, it was just as well. At least, it enabled her to see through their minds!

"I'm so grateful to Third Aunt. Third Sister, Fourth Sister, please convey my gratitude to Third Aunt after you go back." Shao Wanru gave in and said meaningfully with a smile, "If I get what I want in the future, I will never forget Third Aunt and the two of you!"

Chapter 700 The Ring Dropped in the Snow

Both parties wanted to get close to each other, so they talked gently. It could be considered the first time that Shao Wanru had a friendly talk with her sisters since she moved to Duke Xing's Mansion.

Shao Caihuan was not as arrogant as she was when they first met, and was very polite. Meanwhile, Shao Cailing was not talkative. She just responded in a lukewarm voice and looked Shao Wanru up and down with explorative eyes from time to time.

Generally speaking, the two sisters of the third branch came and left joyfully, and they even invited Shao Wanru to go out together in a few days.

After they talked for a while, the two sisters went back. Shao Wanru specially walked them out of her courtyard and watched them leave before turning around to return to her courtyard.

It had snowed heavily last night. When she got up this morning, the snow piled up in her courtyard had been shoveled off, but the road was still wet. For fear that Shao Wanru would fall, Yujie specially supported her on one side and cautiously helped her to the main room.

After getting her footing in the corridor, Shao Wanru stamped her feet and suddenly found something dark red on the steps, which looked particularly enchanting and dazzling against the snow.

"Miss, what is this?" Yujie asked. She, who also found the dark red stuff, took a few steps down and picked it up. It turned out to be a ring made of a dark red gem with a circle of fine pearls around it. The dark red gem surrounded by white pearls made it look like a simple but gorgeous flower.

Such an exquisite flower ring was quite rare.

Shao Wanru took it and looked over it a few times. She rolled her eyes and fixed them on a small mark at the edge of the internal surface of the ring. It was a mark she had seen many times in the last life...

"Miss, it should be dropped by the Third Miss and the Fourth Miss!" Yujie looked around and said. Such an exquisite ring definitely did not belong to a servant, because it was impossible for a master to give a servant such a ring as a reward.

"Go and send it to Third Sister and Fourth Sister!" Shao Wanru rolled her watery eyes, handed the ring to Yujie, and gave an order.

"Yes, Miss, I'm going right away!" Yujie said with a nod, picked up the ring and rushed out.

Shao Wanru raised her head to look outside. It hadn't been a long time since Shao Caihuan and her sister left. After a heavy snow, although the snow on the road had been shoveled off, other places in the mansion were still piled up with snow. They must walk slowly.

"Miss, I didn't see any ring on the two Misses' hands just now!" Qing Yue lifted the curtain, came out and said. She, who came out after hearing the sounds from outside, also heard the conversation between Shao Wanru and Yujie.

The ring was so conspicuous. If either of the two Misses wore it, she couldn't have neglected it!

Shao Wanru smiled slightly and stepped into the room beneath the lifted curtain. Suddenly she felt a stream of warmth dispelling the coldness she brought from outside.

Qu Le brought over the refilled heater. Shao Wanru took it, walked up to the couch, sat down and looked out of the window thoughtfully. Yujie, who walked fast, ought to have caught up with them at this time.

As she expected, soon there came footsteps. After walking to the corridor and stamping her feet to shake off some snow, Yujie lifted the curtain and came in.

"Miss, both of the two Misses said that it didn't belong to them. They have never seen this ring nor worn any ring." Yujie came in with the ring in her palm and said.

"Put it down!" Shao Wanru said indifferently, "When you caught up with them, were they walking very slowly around our courtyard?"

"Yes, the two Misses were not far from the door of our courtyard. They walked very cautiously, laughing and talking, so they didn't go far. They stopped immediately when they heard me calling them," Yujie answered with a nod.

Shao Wanru put the ring in her palm, rotated it in her palm, and then turned it over and narrowed her watery eyes to look at the small mark at the edge of the internal surface of the ring.

"It's from the imperial palace!" she said slowly.

Most of the things in the imperial palace had common marks, and this ring was such a case.

"Why was something from the imperial palace dropped here?" Yujie asked in surprise.

"They brought it here!" Shao Wanru said and turned to look at Qing Yue, "Where is the picture album sent by maternal grandma?"

"Yes, Miss. Please wait for a moment. I'm going to fetch it right away!" Qing Yue answered and went into the inner room. After a while, she came out with a picture album.

This picture album was one of the detailed records of Infanta Qinghua's dowries.

The picture album contained the pictures of some specially made things.

Shao Wanru opened it and read it page by page. As she expected, she found a ring in the bottom right corner of the page, which presented a set of jewelry.

The set of jewelry included a bracelet, a pendant, a hairpin and this ring.

"Is it Infanta's dowry?" When Shao Wanru saw it, Qu Le, who was sharp-eyed, also found this picture. She looked at the ring on the table and then looked at the picture in the album, and immediately discovered that they were exactly the same.

"It's one of my mother's dowries!" Shao Wanru said with a smile, closed the picture album in her hand, and handed it to Qing Yue. When she saw this ring, she had this speculation, so she was not surprised at this moment.

The Emperor thought highly of Duke Xing's Mansion, so it was not surprising that something from the imperial palace appeared in the mansion. However, Shao Caihuan and her sister offered her the ring by accidentally dropping it in her courtyard, which indicated the different meaning of the ring. The only connection between the ring and her was that it was one of her mother's relics, and it could be useful to her.

As she expected, Shao Caihuan and her sister came here today not only to make friends with her, but also to offer her an excuse.

"Isn't this tea set also one of them? Why did they secretly throw this ring at the snow in the corridor after bringing the tea set here?" Qu Le asked in confusion.

At this moment, the maids all understood that this ring had something to do with the Third Miss and the Fourth Miss. However, the two of them kept denying it. They really could not figure out what they meant by doing that!

Shao Wanru reached out to open the gift box on the table and looked at the tea set inside. It was indeed the tea set she had seen in the picture album just now. She had read the picture album sent by her maternal grandma several times. In particular, she had tried to roughly memorize some distinctive items in the picture album. But because there were numerous items in the picture album, she failed to memorize all of them.

She guessed that this small ring belonged to her mother, but she couldn't identify it before checking the picture album. Now she realized why they left the ring here.

"This tea set should be given to the Third Madam by Old Madam. The Third Madam gave it to me because she wanted to be friendly with me. But if I make a scene with it, the Third Madam should also take the blame. So she told her two daughters to leave this ring here. This ring shouldn't be given directly to the Third Madam by Old Madam!"

Shao Wanru fixed her eyes on the tea set, picked up one of them and looked at it. Obviously it had been well preserved almost without traces of usage. It should be rarely used.

"The Third Madam didn't get it from Old Madam directly? In this case, where did she get it?" Qing Yue, who was shocked by the twists and turns behind it, asked.

"She might get it from third uncle or get it by chance... or even pick it up somewhere!" Shao Wanru said and narrowed her eyes slightly, looking lazy and casual.

The Third Madam was indeed thoughtful!

"Pick it up? Could it be possible to pick up such an item?" Qu Le asked in shock.

The ring was obvious very valuable and must belong to a master. Any servant, who picked it up, would not dare to keep it for his own and would definitely return it to its owner. In this case, how could it fall into the hands of someone else?

"The Third Madam has prepared it long before?" Yujie, who figured out what Shao Wanru meant, suddenly opened her eyes wide and asked.

Shao Wanru didn't answer, but just nodded. It seemed that the Third Madam had prepared it for her long before, and today the Third Madam invited her over in order to sound out her attitude.

If she was really useless and timid, she wouldn't be able to get the ring and would even be suppressed by the third branch.

Now, giving her the ring was a sign of befriending her, as well as a sign of putting forward their requirement!

It was exactly what she was thinking! Since they had secretly left the ring to her and indicated that it had nothing to do with them, it meant that she could look into why the ring showed up here with relief.

"Put this ring away. I'll handle it after dealing with Wang Yishu!"

"Yes, Miss!"

"Can you fix my leg as soon as possible?" Chu Liuzhou looked at the imperial physicians, who knelt on the ground, with a cold face and said in a sharp voice.

"Your Highness, please take it easy. It takes time to fix your leg!" The imperial physician on duty hurriedly tried to comfort him. In fact, Prince Zhou was not seriously injured.

"Take it easy. Take it easy..." As Chu Liuzhou thought about it, he got increasingly furious. How could he not get mad about getting hurt in an accident? He picked up the cup and smashed it hard on the ground.

How could he calm down? The consort selection was coming, and he got a lot on his plate. This was a big event that had a great influence on his life. How could he break his leg at this critical moment? He had always been in good health and had never thought that he would fall at the gate of the imperial palace like the invalid Chu Liuchen.

Last time when Chu Liuchen was knocked out at the gate of the imperial palace, he had laughed at Chu Liuchen in his mansion afterward. Now it was his turn to get seriously injured. He only felt extremely ashamed and furious.

“Your Highness, the Empress told you to take it easy. She will definitely find some famous doctors to treat you!” The personal eunuch standing by his bed answered cautiously.

“If the famous doctors are so capable, Chu Liuchen won’t remain sickly till now!” Chu Liuzhou realized that the eunuch was obviously trying to comfort him, so he said grumpily.

“Your Highness, in fact... there is indeed a famous doctor... but...” the eunuch said as he glanced at the imperial physicians, who were straining their ears to listen to him in the room.

There was only one person, who could be the greatest scholar or martial artist, but could be plenty of people proficient in literature or martial arts, and it also applied to medical skills. Each of these imperial physicians had extraordinary medical skills, knew well about Chu Liuzhou’s condition, and thought that Chu Liuzhou had to spend a long time recuperating. Now the eunuch seemed to suggest that there was a famous doctor who thought that he could cure Chu Liuzhou in a short time.

After exchanging glances, they all strained their ears angrily to listen to the eunuch, intending to find out who dared to deceive Prince Zhou with this kind of nonsense.

“You may leave now!” Noticing the imperial physicians’ action, Chu Liuzhou waved his hand grumpily and scolded them, “You are all useless!”

The imperial physicians could only stand up one by another with their tails between their legs, and left after exchanging glances.

“Tell me, where is the famous doctor?” Seeing that the imperial physicians had left, Chu Liuzhou hurriedly asked.

“I heard that there is a miracle-working doctor in Prince Chen’s Mansion...” the eunuch answered, but he was interrupted by Chu Liuzhou impatiently before he could finish his words, “A miracle-working doctor? If he’s really capable, Chu Liuchen will not remain half-dead till now!”

With no outsider in the room, Chu Liuzhou was not afraid of being heard!