

## Medical Princess 721

### Chapter 721 She Can Be My Concubine

"A servant of Consort Lan?" The Empress asked, failing to maintain her dignified look.

"Yes, she was a major palace maid, who served Consort Lan before but was driven out of the imperial palace because of Consort Lan's fall in the battle three years ago." Nanny Xi knelt on the ground and reported truthfully.

She lowered her head and did not dare to peek at the Empress's face.

It became so quiet in the main hall that Nanny Xi could almost hear her breathing clearly and lowered her head even more.

After a long while, she heard the Empress ask, "Is she really a servant of Consort Lan?"

"I'm sure that she is indeed a servant of Consort Lan!" said Nanny Xi.

The Empress fell silent for another long while. The silent atmosphere gave a sense of depression, which made Nanny Xi almost unable to breathe.

"Why does Consort Lan's servant work for the Fifth Miss Shao of Duke Xing's Mansion? Dose she... wants to make use of her?" The Empress seemed to be talking to herself in a mild tone.

"I don't think so. Three years ago, her servant had to leave the imperial palace for a reason. Your Highness was fair in handling the matter, and even the Emperor couldn't say anything about it!"

Nanny Xi reminded her cautiously. Three years ago there was a fight between the Empress and Consort Lan, and it was indeed an accident. And this accident ended up with the Empress's victory and Consort Lan's trusted servant being driven out of the imperial palace.

The Empress fell silent again. She naturally remembered this. How could she forget it, one of her few victories against Consort Lan in their secret battles?

Three years ago, Shao Wanru was still just the Second Miss of the Qin's Mansion, who had just moved to the capital city from a remote place and had little connection with others in the capital city. It was indeed impossible for her to have a connection with Consort Lan. The only connection between them was that when Chu Liuchen visited Jiangzhou, it was said that he had lived in Ningyuan Army General's Mansion in Jiangzhou.

However, he just lived there. At that time, Shao Wanru was only an ignorant eleven-year-old girl. It was impossible for Consort Lan to include such a little girl in her plan. Moreover, she, a Miss not favored in the Qin's Mansion back then, had started a fight with the First Miss of Qin's Mansion in Jiangzhou.

In any case, it was impossible for Consort Lan to choose Shao Wanru as her pawn!

Was it really just an accident? She was a little uncertain.

"I heard that the Empress Dowager has intended to marry the Fifth Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion to Prince Chen since three years ago. Is it true?" The Empress said.

She just talked to herself subconsciously in a soft voice rather than want an answer from Nanny Xi.

Three years ago, she had made this guess, because she thought that what the Empress Dowager had done revealed her intention of setting Shao Wanru up with Prince Chen. The Empress Dowager called in Shao Wanru and then asked her to have a rest in the side hall, where Prince Chen happened to be as well. It seemed that the Empress Dowager wanted to bring them together, but the Empress doubted it a lot.

Shao Wanru was not an excellent candidate for Prince Chen's wife. Why did the Empress Dowager like her so much?

As the Empress Dowager's daughter-in-law, the Empress knew well about her partial mother-in-law. She had known long before that the Empress Dowager wanted to choose a Miss from a powerful and noble family as Prince Chen's wife so that Prince Chen could still live a wealthy and peaceful life after she passed away. Even if the new emperor didn't like him in the future, with the protection of his wife's powerful and noble family, the new emperor couldn't do anything to him.

Although Shao Wanru was of noble birth and had the backing of Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion and Duke Xing's Mansion, all insiders knew that it was impossible for Duke Xing's Mansion to support Shao Wanru. Moreover, Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion had no real power. Therefore, Shao Wanru was definitely not the candidate the Empress Dowager was most pleased with.

At that time, the biggest possibility was that the Empress Dowager indeed intended to set Shao Wanru up with Prince Chen, so she gave Shao Wanru the jade pendant as a token. However, the Empress Dowager was definitely unwilling to determine Shao Wanru as Prince Chen's wife. This time, she would definitely choose another candidate secretly.

The rumor was just the most intuitive conjecture some people made based on what the Empress Dowager had done at that time, so it couldn't be true.

Since it couldn't be true, Consort Lan wouldn't interfere.

In this case, was it really just an accident that Consort Lan's palace maid became Shao Wanru's etiquette instructor after being driven out of the imperial palace?

"Go and check the record of her leaving the imperial palace at that time. Find out why she became an etiquette instructor in the Qin's Mansion and she was assigned to work there by someone or she asked to work there."

After thinking for a while, the Empress gave an order to a major palace maid she trusted beside her.

"Yes, Your Highness. I'm going to check on it right away!" The major palace maid said and left in a hurry. After that, it became quiet again in the hall. The Empress frowned and thought it over quietly.

Things went so beyond her expectation that she had all kinds of speculations at the moment. But as she thought about them carefully, she didn't know which one was true. All of them were likely to be true. Some were more likely, while some were less likely.

Nanny Xi knelt there with her head down and did not dare to move. Even if she did not look up, she knew that the Empress must look sullen now. The news she brought was significant.

One of them was sitting, while the other was kneeling. There were two other palace maids standing beside the Empress, but they were all silent.

"Your Grace, Prince Zhou is here!" There suddenly came a sharp voice of a eunuch from the gate of the hall.

"Let him in!" The Empress said coldly.

As the door of the hall was opened wide, Chu Liuzhou strode in. When he saw Nanny Xi kneeling on the ground, he just glanced at her and then continued moving forward. He walked to the front of the Empress, and asked with concern after bowing, "Mother, are you feeling uncomfortable?"

The Empress looked a little gloomy.

"I'm fine. Sit down for a talk!" The Empress pointed to the chair beside her and spoke.

Prince Zhou came over and lifted the lower hem of his robe to sit down.

"Mother, do you have something on your mind?"

"I'm thinking about the consort selection!" The Empress reached out to rub the part between her eyebrows and said, looking quite tired. She didn't hide her thought.

"It hasn't begun, right? Why are you so tired now? If you're really tired, just assign a few imperial concubines to hold it, and you just need to take a look at the result at last!"

Chu Liuzhou said casually.

"Zhou'er, tell me whether you want to marry the First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion as your wife?" The Empress shook her head with a wry smile and asked.

As the master of the harem, she seemed to be living a glorious life, but in fact, she had to pick her steps. Both the Emperor and the Empress Dowager were superior to her, but neither of them was to be trifled with. Her biggest hope at the moment was her son.

If her son inherited the throne, she wouldn't have to live a cautious life as if treading on thin ice as she did now.

"She can be my concubine!" Chu Liuzhou thought for a moment and spoke.

In the beginning, he did want Shao Yanru to be his Princess, but he had been very distressed recently. Although it was acknowledged that Chu Qing saved Shao Jie'er, he definitely knew the truth as one of the witnesses. He and Chu Liuyue claimed that it was Shao Jie'er who had fallen into water, because he didn't want to see Shao Yanru marry Chu Qing.

At first glance, he could tell that Chu Qing, the son of the late Emperor, was overweeningly ambitious, since Chu Qing had played so many tricks to make his debut.

The sons of the royal family had always been astute. How could he be deceived by some coincidences on the surface? All of these were just tricks, and Chu Qing made his debut as the son of the late emperor through playing these tricks and even became faintly qualified to compete with them.

If Chu Qing married a Miss from a powerful family, it would go against any other prince's interest.

However, he was displeased with Shao Yanru at the same time. In Chu Liuzhou's view, Shao Yanru's reputation had been tarnished. She and Chu Qing had clung to each other intimately in front of him. Besides, there were guards on the bank helping Chu Qing pull her up, and they seemed to have held and dragged her as well.

Nevertheless, no matter how displeased he was, he could not push Shao Yanru to Chu Liuyue's side. After thinking it over, he could not bear to have a Princess, whose reputation had been tarnished. It made him feel like he had to swallow something dirty. However, he could accept her as his concubine.

"Duke Xing's Mansion will not allow their eldest lineal daughter to be a concubine!" The Empress frowned and said unhappily.

There was a discrepancy in their thoughts. Of course, she knew that Shao Yanru had fallen into water. But so what? Anyway, the news of Shao Yanru's falling into water didn't go out, and they had made Shao Jie'er her scapegoat. In this case, Shao Yanru was still flawless in front of others.

She was desperately longing for the power of Duke Xing's Mansion.

"She, in wet clothes, and a man clung to each other in front of me, and the same thing even happened between her and the guards. Duke Xing's Mansion has no qualification to ask for the position of Princess!" Chu Liuzhou said disdainfully.

Based on these, as long as he brought it up, Duke Xing's Mansion could not turn it down.

The Empress, who was not as optimistic as he, still frowned and said, "What if Chu Liuyue promises her the position of Princess?"

"Chu Liuyue also saw her fall into water at that time. If he doesn't want to feel ashamed in front of me, he could only accept her as concubine as well," Chu Liuzhou said.

The two of them were brothers as well as competitors. Since they were sensible, they had competed against each other and never given in to each other. They saw Shao Yanru fall into water together. Because they hesitated for a moment, Chu Qing seized the opportunity to save her.

Others didn't know that Chu Qing saved Shao Yanru, but the two of them saw it with their own eyes. If either of them accepted her as wife, the one would lose face in front of the other one.

Neither of them wanted to lose face. Although they were fighting for the throne, they had their pride as princes!

Hearing what he said, the Empress fell silent for a moment and thought it made sense.

"Even if both of you can just accept her as concubine, you can't guarantee that the First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion will marry you." The Empress pointed out a new doubt.

"Mother, don't worry. We can do something after the candidates enter the imperial palace. You are the host of the consort selection. No one knows what will happen when numerous candidates gather!" Chu Liuzhou said meaningfully with a smile.

During the consort selection, the candidates had to stay in the imperial palace for a period of time. There were many imperial concubines in the imperial palace, so it was very easy for them to do something.

The Empress nodded in agreement, but then she frowned and said, "I sent Nanny Xi to educate the First Miss Shao before with the intention of flattering her on the surface while secretly warning her. But now something goes wrong."

"What's wrong?" Chu Liuzhou asked.

With her face darkening, the Empress fell silent for a while, and then said, "Since you plan to marry Shao Yanru, Shao Wanru, also a Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion, can't be selected."

"Mother, let her also be selected as the candidates for my consorts!" Chu Liuzhou suddenly said, and the Empress looked up in astonishment.

## **Chapter 722 Prince Zhou's Desire**

"Let her also be selected as one of your consorts? What are you thinking? How can two Misses from the same mansion be selected as your concubines at the same time!" The Empress said with a cold face.

Shao Yanru was the noble eldest lineal daughter. Every mansion usually cultivated their eldest lineal daughter with all their strength and resources.

Shao Wanru was not inferior to her as the lineal daughter of the former Heir of Duke Xing as well as the daughter of Infanta Qinghua. Although she didn't had a powerful backer, her noble birth made her even superior to Shao Yanru.

Chu Liuzhou could threaten Shao Yanru with what had happened before. Even if he suggested taking Shao Yanru as concubine, Duke Xing would give in. But it was impossible for Duke Xing to give in when it came to Shao Wanru. If Shao Wanru became Chu Liuzhou's concubine, Duke Xing would fail to maintain his image as Shao Wanru's kind uncle.

There was a rumor prevailing among numerous people that Duke Xing's Mansion had treated the former Heir of Duke Xing harshly. Some people even believed that the current second branch of Duke Xing's Mansion set up the former Heir of Duke Xing and caused his death, so that the second branch of Duke Xing's Mansion inherited the title of Duke Xing. Now they were even more unwilling to see the descendants left by the former Heir of Duke Xing have a bright future.

That was the reason why the daughter of the eldest branch got into trouble again and again and even almost got killed.

Moreover, the Empress Dowager had learned what had happened to Shao Wanru. At this time, even if Duke Xing was willing to let his niece be Chu Liuzhou's concubine, it was impossible for him to really do so.

If he really did that, he would thoroughly discredited himself and could no longer play innocent in front of others. Moreover, Rui'an Great Elder Princess would not let him go.

"Mother, it's okay that I take both of them as concubines! In fact, father didn't make it clear that two Misses from the same mansion couldn't marry the same prince as concubines. They are just not allowed

to be Princesses at the same time. If they marry me as concubines under exceptional circumstances, it could be a wonderful thing!” Chu Liuzhou said confidently.

He had indeed asked the Emperor’s opinion about it in a roundabout way, but the Emperor didn’t say anything about it, so he had a new idea.

Shao Yanru was good, but Shao Wanru seemed to be better. It was quite a pity to give up such a beauty. Although Shao Wanru had no powerful backer, she was noble and stunning.

“How dare you ask your father’s opinion about this?” The Empress flew into a rage and spoke.

“Mother, I just brought it up when father happened to mention the consort selection. Mother, don’t worry. Father couldn’t have told my intention, because I wasn’t the one who mentioned the consort selection!” Chu Liuzhou hurried to explain when he saw the Empress get angry.

After hearing his explanation, the Empress warned him with the anger on her face fading away, “Don’t act rashly. Since you’ve mentioned it to your father, you must have drawn your father’s attention no matter you meant to mention it or not. If nothing happens, it will be fine. But if something happens and the two sisters both get involved in it, he won’t spare you easily!”

“Mother, has father perceived my intention?” Chu Liuzhou said discontentedly, “I just want her to be my concubine. Since I’m going to leave my Princess to be determined by you, why can’t I have one more concubine?”

Seeing that her son remained impenitent, the Empress poked her finger hard into Chu Liuzhou’s forehead and said in rage, “You are so shortsighted. You just covet her pretty face. After you inherit the throne in the future, you can get any beauty you want. It’s unnecessary to covet such a girl with no powerful backer!”

Of course, she expressed her opposition to his thought.

Of course, she objected to letting Shao Wanru marry into Prince Zhou’s Mansion. Marrying Shao Yanru was enough to enable Chu Liuzhou to get Duke Xing’s support. She had expected that Chu Liuzhou would certainly promise Shao Yanru the position of Princess, but now Chu Liuzhou just intended to take Shao Yanru as concubine. In this case, she could make a proper plan to choose a perfect wife for Chu Liuzhou. Thinking of this, the Empress felt a little better.

“Go and pay your respects to the Empress Dowager!” She waved her hand and spoke.

Since Chu Liuzhou had entered the imperial palace, he should pay his respects to the Empress Dowager.

“Mother, I’ll go now. But what about the thing we have talked over...” Chu Liuzhou said with dissatisfaction, expecting a definite answer from the Empress.

“Didn’t you just say that we could take actions after the candidates for the consort selection enter the imperial palace? It’s useless to talk about it now. Remember, don’t give yourself away in front of your father again!”

The Empress said with a wave of her hand, exasperated at his remaining impenitent.

Although he did not get a definite answer from the Empress, at least the Empress did not object as she did at the beginning. Chu Liuzhou was satisfied. He stood up and bowed to the Empress. Then he went to the Empress Dowager's palace to pay her his respects.

As soon as he left, the palace maid sent to make an investigation came back.

"Your Grace, I've checked it out. At that time, it was Duke Yong's Mansion who sent Nanny Zheng to the Qin's Mansion. They hired Nanny Zheng to be an etiquette instructor, but they only sent Nanny Zheng to the Qin's Mansion without telling who was going to be her master. Both Nanny Zheng and the other nanny sent by Duke Yong's Mansion stayed in the Qin's Mansion. But when the Fifth Miss Shao returned to her ancestral roots, the nanny who educated the First Miss of the Qin's Mansion quit and left!"

As the palace maid said, she presented the file she had just flipped through.

The Empress took it over and looked through it. All etiquette instructors had something to do with the imperial palace. In particular, Nanny Zheng, who had been of rank in the imperial palace, must have been recorded in files.

When she turned to the page, where Nanny Zheng was recorded, she saw the information the palace maid had just told her as expected. It seemed to be a real accident. The Empress frowned again.

After a long while, she said to Nanny Xi, who had been kneeling at her feet, "Go back to Duke Xing's Mansion and serve as the etiquette instructor of the Misses of their mansion. As for the Fifth Miss Shao, since she also has to learn rules and etiquette, of course, she had better join the other Misses. Her etiquette instructor has left the imperial palace for several years, so her etiquette instructor doesn't know about the situation in the imperial palace as well as you do. You can explain the taboos in the imperial palace in your class. In this way, you should be able to attract her to join your class."

"What should I do after that, Your Grace?" Nanny Xi asked. After kneeling for so long, she got achy knees, but she did not dare to move and was just trying to figure out what the Empress meant.

The Empress seemed to suggest her to adopt a much softer tactic than that she had adopted during her last visit to Duke Xing's Mansion.

Last time she was sent to suppress Shao Wanru, but this time the Empress seemed to suggest her to coax Shao Wanru to join her class. Nanny Xi, who was uncertain of her master's intention at the moment, asked cautiously.

"Go ahead!" The Empress did not intend to explain it to her. She waved her hand, leaned back, and directly instructed her to leave.

"Yes, Your Grace!" After saying that, Nanny Xi came out with her hand on her trembling knees. After getting out of the hall,, she carefully thought over what the Empress had said to her and the conversation between the Empress and Prince Zhou. Suddenly, she understood what the Empress meant.

After the soreness of her knees eased, she hurried back to Duke Xing's Mansion with the two palace maids who served her.

“She wants me to join my sisters in learning rules, because she’s not only going to provide guidance on etiquette, but also going to tell some recent taboos in the imperial palace?”

Shao Wanru thought for a moment and realized that Nanny Xi wanted her to join her sisters. Although she had an etiquette instructor, Nanny Zheng did not know what had happened in the imperial palace recently. So Nanny Xi took this as the excuse to ask her to join her sisters in learning etiquette.

In fact, she could join them!

“Go and tell the person sent by Nanny Xi that I will definitely join them tomorrow!” Shao Wanru, who was concentrating on working on the sachet in her hands, said without raising her head.

Her embroidery was very exquisite. In the last life, after she married Wen Xichi, she naturally had plenty of time to embroider leisurely. Although Wen Xichi knew nothing about embroidery, he was good at painting, which endowed him with a unique understanding of embroideries. So he gave Shao Wanru some advices.

As a result, her works were different from those of other women with a better layout, which made her works poetic and picturesque.

No matter how skilled other women were in embroidery, their works were based on women’s advices. However, her works were based on a man’s advices, so they had a more magnificent layout.

To take the sachet in her hands as an example, although she was embroidering it with the common pattern of a cluster of flowers, the flowers looked more elegant and natural. Painting skills blended in her work.

“Miss, are you really going to join them? I can tell at a glance that this Nanny Xi is up to nothing good. This time she acts on instructions from the Empress. I’m wondering how she’s going to deal with you!” Yujie said worriedly.

She had seen Nanny Xi pick on Shao Wanru in Old Madam’s courtyard. At that time, she was so angry that she almost lost control of herself.

“It doesn’t matter. She’s much softer now!” Shao Wanru said with a smile. Nanny Xi’s words were much softer than what she had said before. It seemed that the Empress had suggested Nanny Xi to be soft. In this case, she would like to see what Nanny Xi was going to do next.

Otherwise, if something really happened in Nanny Xi’s class, as someone on bad terms with Nanny Xi, she would definitely be suspected.

“Did anything happen in the ancestral hall?”

“Qing’er just told me that Nanny Sheng has been very busy these two days. She even sent someone out, and the person seemed to have delivered something into the imperial palace!” Yujie answered.

Since it was inconvenient for Qing’er to get in the room directly, she entrusted Yujie to report it.

“She sent someone to the imperial palace?” Shao Wanru asked thoughtfully.



“Did she send someone to deliver a message to the Empress?” Qu Le was shocked and asked in a hurry, for fear that Madam of Duke Xing and the Empress would collude to set up her master.

Shao Wanru shook her head and said, “The message wasn’t delivered to the Empress!”

The Empress had never been on intimate terms with Duke Xing’s Mansion, because she had never considered them, her extremely distant relatives, as real relatives. Madam of Duke Xing and the Empress were not close to each other.

Madam of Duke Xing was much closer to Honored Consort Shu, who was also a distant relative of Duke Xing’s Mansion. She occasionally sent some gifts, some of which were special for the Misses of Duke Xing’s Mansion.

The two of them had colluded to set up Shao Wanru before.

What happened to her before she entered the imperial palace last time was arranged by Duke Xing’s Mansion, and what happened in the imperial palace was arranged by Honored Consort Shu. Shao Wanru had figured it out when the accident occurred.

“The message should be delivered to Honored Consort Shu!” She said with a cold sneer. She was worried that Madam of Duke Xing was too hesitant to turn to Honored Consort Shu rather than that Madam of Duke Xing turned to Honored Consort Shu!

Now, Madam of Duke Xing got her favorite cloth, which set her mind at ease and gave her the impression that Shao Yanru was trying all she could to help her and left her the cloth as a hint of getting her out of the ancestral hall. So Madam of Duke Xing intended to save herself!

Madam of Duke Xing thought that she could cooperate with Shao Yanru and ask Honored Consort Shu for help. She was punished because what she had done was witnessed by someone from the imperial palace. Although Honored Consort Shu was not quite powerful, if she got the Empress involved in it, she still had a chance to get out of here!

“Miss, do we still need to keep an eye on her?”

“Yes. If she takes any unusual action, tell Qing’er to report it to me as soon as possible!” Shao Wanru rolled her watery eyes and said leisurely. A person was the most impatient when she was locked up. It was true even if this person was Madam of Duke Xing, who had always done a good job in restraining herself and didn’t seem like a gullible person...

## **Chapter 723 The White Powder Sent from the Imperial Palace**

“Madam, Honored Consort Shu gave you this!” After Nanny Sheng sneaked into the room, she poked her head out and looked back. Finding no one behind her, she reported in a low voice.

She put down the hamper in her hand and let out a heavy breath. Then, she opened the hamper and drew a small package from it.

She went to fetch dinner a little later and secretly went to the back door to fetch a small package sent in the name of a relative of hers.

There were only a few simple clothes in the package. She picked up the clothes and shook them one by one. Finally, a letter fell from the clothes at the bottom of the hamper.

Madam of Duke Xing hurriedly took it, sat down on a chair on one side, opened the letter and began to read it rapidly.

When she finished reading it, she showed a look of joy.

She reached out to draw a small package wrapped up with oil paper from a secret pocket of the clothes from which the letter had fallen.

She cautiously unwrapped it and found some fine white powder in it.

"Madam..." Under the light, Nanny Sheng said with her face turning pale and her lips trembling. She had realized something.

"That's a good idea!" Madam of Duke Xing said with a gloomy look, fixing her eyes on the white powder in front of her.

"Madam, you can't do that!" As Nanny Sheng said, she grabbed her hand anxiously, looked at her, and kept shaking her head.

"I already have Ru'er and An'er, so I don't mind hurting myself a little!" Madam of Duke Xing said. Her face looked strangely cold in the flickering light.

"Madam, no. Let... let me do it!" Nanny Sheng finally finished her words after her lips trembled a few times.

"You..." Madam of Duke Xing said hesitantly.

"Madam, I... I'm the Duke's wet nurse... He... still... still cares about me... If I'm really poisoned, I'm just worried that you will have no one to serve you... and talk with you... in the empty ancestral hall!"

Nanny Sheng said, while crying out loud.

Madam of Duke Xing fell silent and looked at Nanny Sheng with drifting eyes, while examining her and thinking over her words. In fact, she also thought the same as Nanny Sheng did, but she was afraid that Nanny Sheng would refuse to do that. If Nanny Sheng did it unwillingly, things could have come out against her and Nanny Sheng might even trump up a countercharge against her.

Nanny Sheng was the wet nurse of Duke Xing, so her being poisoned could attract enough attention indeed, but only if she was on her side. If Nanny Sheng turned against her, she was not afraid of it in the past, but now she was unable to handle it!

It was naturally a good thing that Nanny Sheng volunteered to do it, but now she hesitated.

She was not worried that Nanny Sheng would be poisoned, because she didn't think that Honored Consort Shu intended to kill her. Nanny Sheng could provide some clues leading to Honored Consort Shu. Although Honored Consort Shu was a favored concubine, she would get into serious trouble if she secretly poisoned the wife of a duke with the title of Honorary Lady.

However, the powder would definitely do harm to health. If Nanny Sheng got sick after taking it, she might be taken away from the ancestral hall. However, before they found out the truth, she had to continue staying in the ancestral hall. Without the help of Nanny Sheng, her trusted servant, she would have no access to the news from outside, which would probably lead to her mistakes in judgement.

Only when she got sick after taking the powder could she make it significant and get out of here.

"No, I'll do it. Remember what I told you before!" Madam of Duke Xing said, shook her head and gritted her teeth with a gloomy face. At this time, she had to sacrifice a little.

Nanny Sheng heaved a long sigh of relief. In fact, she was afraid that Madam of Duke Xing would really let her do it, but she knew very well about Madam of Duke Xing. If she did not volunteer to do it, Madam of Duke Xing would definitely suspect her in private.

She had to say that, but she also pointed out that if she really got sick, no one could run errands for Madam of Duke Xing and help her.

Now hearing Madam of Duke Xing's words, she secretly breathed a sigh of relief, only feeling cold in the back as if she had escaped death.

"Shall I go to tell the First Miss about this now?"

"No, as someone, who often goes out, you will be discovered. When the time comes, the trace will lead to Ru'er. It is a bad thing for both of us!" Madam of Duke Xing shook her head and spoke. She was now locked up in the ancestral hall, while Nanny Sheng was a conspicuous person who could attract attention wherever she went.

If Nanny Sheng was discovered, her plan would be more likely to be exposed.

Madam of Duke Xing believed that Ru'er had forgiven her long before. Otherwise, Ru'er would not have sent her favorite brocade here. Her daughter was smart, so her daughter probably did that as a hint for her to think of a way in the ancestral hall. Meanwhile, her daughter would cooperate with her outside.

Thinking of her daughter's intelligence, Madam of Duke Xing closed her eyes and thought it unnecessary to tell her daughter about it.

She believed that she didn't have to tell her daughter about it and her daughter would help her secretly when the time came. There was no need to explain more details about this kind of thing. It was a good thing for her daughter if she could leave the ancestral hall. Her daughter was going to attend the consort selection. If the news that she had a mother locked up in the ancestral hall went out, it would have a bad influence on her reputation.

Madam of Duke Xing provided a perfect explanation for the brocade they found at the door by thinking so.

She believed Shao Yanru sent the brocade as a hint for her to think of a way to get out of here. It also showed that Shao Yanru had forgiven her for her mistake and would secretly cooperate with her.

While they were discussing in a low voice, they did not notice that a figure flashed across the high window of the ancestral hall. Qing'er landed on the ground and adjusted the front of her clothes with a

smile. After that, she put on the look of a simple inferior maid, turned around and went to the Piaoyun Courtyard.

The powder had been sent to Madam of Duke Xing. As early as when someone gave the package to the old maid at the back door, she found the powder in the package and changed it as her master told her...

In the early morning, Nanny Xi sent some servants to invite the four Misses to the courtyard, where she lived now, to learn rules.

She didn't live in Shao Wanru's yard, but in a yard not far from the Piaoyun Courtyard. This yard was neither too big nor too small, well suiting her, an etiquette instructor sent by the imperial palace.

Shao Yanru was the first to arrive. After entering the room, she bowed to Nanny Xi first in a polite and respectful manner. Nanny Xi secretly nodded, thinking that the First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion was indeed a dignified and refined Young Lady from a noble family.

As a servant of the Empress, Nanny Xi admired those, who were as dignified, refined and graceful as the Empress, the most. Although Nanny Xi thought Shao Yanru was a little immature in manners at the moment, she could still tell that Shao Yanru did a good job.

The two sisters of the third branch came later. Nanny Xi just glanced at them casually and did not take them seriously. It was impossible for them to be selected, and they were just going to attend the consort selection as the other two Misses' companions. Although the two of them were also beautiful, they were still inferior to the First Miss and the Fifth Miss in appearance.

The First Miss and the Fifth Miss were the most ravishing among them.

The First Miss was graceful and dignified with the prestige and figure of a legal wife. She looked like a blooming peony with overwhelming charm. However, this was the case when the Fifth Miss was not around. The First Miss looked like a conventional beauty, who was not that stunning, when the Fifth Miss was around.

Speaking of which, this Fifth Miss Shao was the most gorgeous Miss in Duke Xing's Mansion.

Shao Wanru appeared at the door, dressed in a very simple light blue overall and an eight-piece plain white dress. They were very simple and plain, but added a little attractive charm to her. Her watery eyes seemed to contain thousands of stars. Her long and curly eyelashes fluttered and kept the infinite starlight in her eyes.

She, who looked as delicate as a flower with her skin as white as snow, was pure and aloof when she didn't smile, but was charming and attractive when she smiled.

Nanny Xi had seen all kinds of beauties in the imperial palace, but every time she saw the Fifth Miss Shao, she felt her heart beat fast and couldn't help admiring her beauty secretly. She had heard the conversation between Prince Zhou and the Empress that day.

Prince Zhou always had little regard for trifles and paid little attention to women. The only woman he had talked about was the First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion. He had said more than once that he wanted to take her as his Princess, of course, in order to get the support of Duke Xing's Mansion. But now he

said with certainty that the First Miss Shao's reputation had been tarnished, so she could only be a concubine. But was that true?

Nanny Xi felt her heart skipped a beat and suddenly had a bad intuition. It was the first time Prince Zhou had ever expressed his desire for a woman so definitely, wasn't it?

He had said that he wanted to take the First Miss Shao as his wife. Nevertheless, when the First Miss Shao failed to attend the last consort selection banquet because of learn painting in the Yuhui Nunnery, Prince Zhou asked the Empress to make the decision and did not insist on marrying the First Miss Shao!

If it was true... Nanny Xi hesitated. Then, when she saw Nanny Zheng behind Shao Wanru, she became even more hesitant.

She didn't expect that Nanny Zheng would follow Shao Wanru here.

Seeing Nanny Zheng come over, Nanny Xi felt a little uncomfortable on her chair and moved uneasily. She could not afford to offend Nanny Zheng either.

"Nanny Xi!" Shao Wanru said. After coming in, she bowed slightly to Nanny Xi and then stood up straight. Nanny Zheng stood behind Shao Wanru, looked at Nanny Xi with burning eyes, and smiled politely.

Nanny Xi stood up and said to Shao Wanru, "Fifth Miss, you're overcourteous. Please sit down. Let me introduce what you are going to learn today."

Shao Wanru sat down beside Shao Cailing as she was told.

Shao Yanru and Shao Caihuan were sitting opposite them. When they saw her coming over, they both smiled kindly, but they remained silent as rules required.

Shao Wanru returned a smile.

Nanny Zheng stood behind Shao Wanru respectfully, seeming to be at Shao Wanru's service.

Looking at Nanny Zheng's position, Nanny Xi hesitated for a moment and then said with a smile, "Nanny Zheng, since you are here, how about working with me to train the four Misses?"

Since she couldn't offend Nanny Zheng, of course, she had to be polite to Nanny Zheng. It seemed that the Empress didn't mean to offend Nanny Zheng openly. Moreover, the Empress implied her to sound out Nanny Zheng's intention.

"Nanny Xi, you are overcourteous. You are sent by the Empress. How dare I overstep my authority!" Nanny Zheng politely refused and still stood behind Shao Wanru as rules required.

It was a spot where the maids of the other Misses stood, but Shao Wanru didn't bring any maid other than Nanny Zheng today.

Shao Yanru also fixed her eyes on Nanny Zheng. She had also learned that Shao Wanru had an etiquette instructor, but now it was the first time for her to meet Nanny Zheng. Seeing that Nanny Zheng was neither humble nor arrogant in front of Nanny Xi, She frowned secretly. She didn't know when this

person entered Duke Xing's Mansion nor find out her background. She thought that she had misjudged the situation indeed.

Shao Wanru had such a capable servant in secret. Could it be that Nanny Zheng was the one who came up with those ideas to deal with her before?

After such a thought flashed through her mind, she was increasingly convinced that she was right. Nanny Zheng came from the imperial palace, and Nanny Xi considered her a big threat. How could Nanny Zheng be simple? It seemed that she had to be more careful...

## **Chapter 724 She Intends to Drag Nanny Zheng to Her Side**

Refused by Nanny Zheng, Nanny Xi had to give up.

Then Nanny Xi began to teach the Misses etiquette, such as how to walk properly, and the rules in the imperial palace.

Nanny Xi asked them to demonstrate their manners one by one, but she didn't dare to be harsh on Shao Wanru, who behaved so properly that she couldn't find fault with her no matter how harsh she was. Shao Wanru obviously had practiced her manners for a long time, so she was proficient and refined in manners.

Even Shao Yanru, who often entered the imperial palace, couldn't compare with her.

As such, after all the Misses demonstrated their manners, Nanny Xi found that she couldn't even point out a mistake in the Fifth Miss Shao's manners, which could almost be considered perfect. It was even impossible for Nanny Xi to behave so perfectly.

As expected, Nanny Zheng was very competent as the Fifth Miss's etiquette instructor.

During the break, Nanny Xi happily invited Nanny Zheng to sit down on one side, poured a cup of tea for her and handed it to her. After that, she said, "Nanny Zheng, please take a rest too."

"Nanny Xi, you're too polite!" Nanny Zheng said in a much kinder tone. She didn't refuse and sat down.

"Nanny Zheng, I didn't expect that you've done such a good job in teaching the Fifth Miss. Thank you for saving me a lot of trouble!"

Nanny Xi said with a kind smile, while fixing her eyes on the Misses who were sitting not far away. Now she looked completely different from the way she behaved when she first came to Duke Xing's Mansion.

"Nanny Xi, you're too polite. You teach them in a more systematic way." Nanny Zheng said in a lukewarm tone.

Nanny Xi rolled her eyes, leaned over and said in a low voice, "I just came to Duke Xing's Mansion, so I know nothing about the Misses of Duke Xing's Mansion. Old Madam suggested me to suppress the Fifth Miss at the beginning, but I think the Fifth Miss seems to be nice. Why doesn't Old Madam like her?"

She intended to inquire about Shao Wanru? Nanny Zheng squinted at Nanny Xi and said, "I really don't know why. I've just entered Duke Xing's Mansion as well. I haven't met Old Madam, and the Fifth Miss has never told me anything about Old Madam!"

Although she still said in a frigid tone, at least she became a little more talkative and seemed to be less unwilling to talk with her.

"It worked well." Nanny Xi thought complacently.

"This kind of thing isn't worth talking about indeed. I heard that the Fifth Miss is not favored in the mansion." Nanny Xi said with sympathy, and then fixed her eyes on Nanny Zheng with an increasingly warm smile, "Nanny Zheng, you was probably in a miserable situation after coming out of the imperial palace! You are so lucky to have a good master like the Fifth Miss Shao. I heard that she saved Prince Chen. I'm wondering how she did that."

She said softly, while shifting the subject from Duke Xing's Mansion to Chu Liuchen quickly and naturally. She was indeed worthy of her identity as a nanny sent by the Empress. At the moment, she, who was less aggressive and arrogant than before, looked very kind and friendly.

Nanny Zheng glanced at Nanny Xi calmly, shook her head slightly and said, "As a servant, I can't guess Prince Chen's private affairs!"

"That's true..." Nanny Xi said and smiled awkwardly. She didn't think Nanny Zheng's answer was unexpected. If she could get a definite answer from Nanny Zheng easily, she would doubt it.

Everyone in the imperial palace was astute, especially a personal servant like her. Others in the imperial palace might not know Nanny Zheng's identity, but how could she be unaware of it?

Maybe she didn't know it before, but later, she gradually figured out something from the Empress's words, so she didn't dare to really confront Nanny Zheng.

After talking cautiously with Nanny Zheng for a while, Nanny Xi fixed her eyes on Shao Wanru and praised Shao Wanru with a smile, "The Fifth Miss Shao really surprised me. She is so outstanding. I heard that she has cultivated in seclusion in the past three years. If she had showed up in public earlier, she would have been famous in the capital!"

"The Fifth Miss is still young!" Nanny Zheng said, also fixing her eyes on Shao Wanru, who was talking with her sisters. Sensing that they were watching her, she turned back and smiled at them gently.

"Although she's a little too young, she's in her prime now!" Nanny Xi leaned closer and said, "The Fifth Miss is so ravishing that she will definitely be selected. The Empress told me to pay special attention to the Fifth Miss. Now it seems that the Fifth Miss is the best among the several Misses. She just needs to learn etiquette as a mere formality!"

Hearing her words, Nanny Zheng felt her heart skipped a beat. Why did the Empress show kindness to Shao Wanru? What was more, Nanny Xi even suggested that the Empress wanted Shao Wanru to be selected, but it was contrary to what the Empress had expected before.

Could it be that the Empress wanted Shao Wanru to marry into Prince Zhou's Mansion?

"As servants, we can't decide it. As for etiquette, the Fifth Miss has been trained for several years, so she's not too bad in manners. But to get prepared to enter the imperial palace later, she still needs to learn etiquette." Despite her shock, Nanny Zheng said expressionlessly.

Nanny Xi had been observing Nanny Zheng's expression. Seeing her expressionless, she couldn't figure out what Nanny Zheng meant at the moment. Could it really be an accident that Nanny Zheng became the Fifth Miss Shao's etiquette instructor?

If it was really an accident, it would still be a hard nut to crack. If they could not handle it probably, Nanny Zheng, who had been Consort Lan's servant, could cause other trouble.

Nanny Xi knew that her master had never considered any of those new imperial concubines as a threat. Nanny Zheng's former master was the only threat to her master.

Although the Empress managed to entrench her position over the years, no one knew what she had been through.

It was not easy to entrench her position!

"Nanny Xi, Nanny Zheng!" There came a soft voice from beside.

The two of them turned around, only to see Shao Yanru stand beside them with a smile. When she saw them look back together, she smiled slightly and bowed to them gracefully.

Besides Shao Wanru, the First Miss Shao was also refined in manners.

"What's the matter, First Miss Shao?" Nanny Xi said with a smile. In her opinion, the First Miss Shao would definitely marry into Prince Zhou's Mansion, so she couldn't treat her lightly.

Nanny Zheng glanced at Shao Yanru and said nothing.

"Nanny Xi, I heard that you serves as the Empress's personal servant. I want to ask you what kind of candidate the Empress likes." Shao Yanru lowered her head and said with a blush on her white and tender face, looking extremely attractive and beautiful.

Although it was a little inappropriate to ask that, it was not a big deal with no one else in the room at this time. Moreover, on hearing her words, Shao Caihuan and Shao Cailing turned their heads and looked at them.

Shao Wanru picked up the teacup at hand and took a sip, glancing at Shao Yanru's blushing face with her deep eyes.

"First Miss, please sit down and listen to me!" Nanny Xi was happy to solve Shao Yanru's doubts. Of course, she intended to solve Shao Wanru's doubts at the same time. After Shao Yanru sat down, she called the other three Misses over, since she was supposed to tell them about the taboos in the imperial palace.

Nanny Zheng was about to stand up, but Nanny Xi stopped her politely and pulled her to sit down beside her.

"Nanny Zheng, since you are an etiquette instructor as well, you don't have to stand behind Fifth Sister. I believe Fifth Sister won't blame you!"

Shao Yanru said with a soft smile and then turned to Shao Wanru, "Fifth Sister, do you agree with me?"



Shao Wanru smiled slightly and nodded with deep eyes. Shao Yanru was showing kindness to Nanny Zheng. By comparing Nanny Zheng with Nanny Xi, she suggested that Shao Wanru, who treated Nanny Zheng as an ordinary servant and let Nanny Zheng stand behind her, didn't show enough respect for Nanny Zheng.

Shao Yanru intended to drive a wedge between them. It seemed that Shao Yanru thought highly of Nanny Zheng as well as the person behind Nanny Zheng.

Shao Wanru smiled silently, did not reply and only nodded her approval.

"Nanny Zheng, since Fifth Sister has agreed to let you sit down, you may sit down now. Otherwise, Nanny Xi also has to stand. It's inappropriate for us to let both of our etiquette instructors stand. What will the Empress think of our Duke Xing's Mansion if we do so?"

Shao Yanru said with a smile and an increasingly gentle look. She was not only generous, but also quite a talented talker.

If Nanny Zheng was not willing to stand behind Shao Wanru, her words would definitely arouse Nanny Zheng's dissatisfaction.

Compared with Shao Wanru, Shao Yanru was really kind and considerate!

"Nanny Zheng, please sit down. As my etiquette instructor, you don't need to stand behind me." Shao Wanru blinked and spoke.

"Thank you, Fifth Miss! Thank you, First Miss!" Nanny Zheng thanked them seriously and then sat down.

Seeing her strictly act as rules required, Shao Yanru sensed a strong desire for this etiquette instructor. She didn't expect that Shao Wanru had such a brilliant etiquette instructor around her. If she had known this earlier, she would have dragged Nanny Zheng to her side long ago.

"Nanny Zheng, you are too polite. If you can also give us a few advices, our Duke Xing's Mansion will be very grateful!" Shao Yanru said these words on behalf of the whole Duke Xing's Mansion.

As the eldest among the four Misses here, she was indeed qualified to speak on behalf of Duke Xing's Mansion.

"First Miss, you are too polite. I will tell you everything I know." Nanny Zheng had to reply.

"Nanny Zheng, you are too polite!" Shao Yanru said softly with a bright and gentle smile. At first glance, one could tell that she was a nice master. Compared with her, Shao Wanru, who was sitting on one side indifferently, didn't seem to be so easy to get along with.

"The First Miss is indeed worthy of her identity as the First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion. She's excellent in dealing with people and affairs." Nanny Xi praised Shao Yanru, and then turned to ask Nanny Zheng, "Nanny Zheng, do you think so?"

"All the Misses of Duke Xing's Mansion present are excellent!" Nanny Zheng gave a flawless answer. Shao Yanru was very dissatisfied with Nanny Zheng's answer, but she knew that this kind of thing could not be rushed.

Since Nanny Zheng had attracted her attention, she would try all she could to drag her to her side. It didn't mean anything that Nanny Zheng had been Shao Wanru's etiquette instructor for three years. It seemed that Shao Wanru did not care much about this etiquette instructor, which gave her a chance. She decided to show her kindness to Nanny Zheng in all respects from now on and drive a wedge between the two of them later. In this way, she could finally drag Nanny Zheng to her side.

Dragging Nanny Zheng, who came out of the imperial palace, to her side could make her grow like winged tigers. Meanwhile, Shao Wanru would certainly be no match for her in the future after losing Nanny Zheng's support.

Shao Yanru firmly believed that Nanny Zheng was the person who helped Shao Wanru defeat her in their secret battles before, so she paid great attention to Nanny Zheng.

"First Miss, bad news, bad news..." An old maid rushed in and shouted. When she passed the threshold, she stumbled on the ground in a panic.

### **Chapter 725 Something Serious Happens to Madam!**

"What's the matter?" Shao Yanru asked with a frown, displeased with her plan being disrupted at this time.

"First Miss, please... please save Madam... Something... happened to Madam!" The old maid said anxiously with a look of panic as she got up.

"What?" Shao Yanru stood up in a hurry and said with her face changing dramatically in shock.

"Something happened to Madam... First Miss, please go and have a look. Hurry up... Someone intended to hurt Madam!" The old maid wiped the sweat off her head and said anxiously.

It could be seen that she was really in a panic.

"Let's go and have a look!" As Shao Yanru said, she picked up the lower of hem of her clothes and went out. How could she sit still on hearing that something had happened to her biological mother?

What was more, the two etiquette instructors were also present.

"Let's also go and have a look!" Nanny Xi stood up and said to the rest.

Since she was sent to check on the situation in Duke Xing's Mansion, how could she not go?

Nanny Zheng stood up and replied lightly, "Let's go!"

Hearing the two nannies say so, the remaining three Misses naturally had no objection. A large group of people followed Shao Yanru to the ancestral hall.

On a simple couch in the ancestral hall, Nanny Sheng held Madam of Duke Xing in her arms and sweated profusely in a fever of anxiety. When she saw Shao Yanru come over with a group of people, she screamed anxiously, "First Miss, come and have a look. Something happened to Madam. Is she... poisoned?"

Poisoned? With their faces changing, those, who followed Shao Yanru here, took a few steps forward hurriedly and looked at Madam of Duke Xing.

Madam of Duke Xing, who was half lying there, looked horrible. Her face was unusually pale, looking dark and ashen at the same time. At first glance, one could tell that she looked unusual.

She lay there with her eyes closed, and there was a trace of black blood at the corners of her mouth.

"Mother!" As Shao Yanru said, she rushed over and took Madam of Duke Xing from Nanny Sheng's arms and burst into tears.

"First Miss, don't worry. We should send for a doctor first!" Shuqi, who was behind her, hurriedly reminded her.

"Yes... yes, we should send for a doctor first. Shuqi, go and ask a doctor to come here. Be quick!" Shao Yanru looked up at Shuqi blankly and said helplessly.

"Yes, Miss. I'll go right away!" Shuqi said, and then turned around and went out in search of a doctor.

Shao Yanru pulled herself together and looked at Madam of Duke Xing, who was still closing her eyes tightly. Everyone could tell that she was trembling all over, but she still tried hard to grit her teeth and calm herself down.

"First Miss, take it easy. Don't worry!" Nanny Xi couldn't help stepping forward to comfort her.

"Nanny... what... what should I do?" Shao Yanru grabbed Nanny Xi's hand tearfully and choked with sobs.

"First Miss, take it easy. You have to deal with things here and inquire about what happened. If you are also panic-stricken, how can you deal with things?" Nanny Xi reminded her.

Shao Yanru lowered her head and wiped off her tears with a handkerchief. After pulling herself together, she raised her head, looked at Nanny Sheng with calm eyes and said, "Nanny Sheng, why happened to my mother? Did she eat anything by mistake?"

Seeing that Shao Yanru managed to calm herself down and deal with things so quickly in such a situation, Nanny Xi nodded secretly and approved of Shao Yanru's starting with the questions.

"This First Miss Shao is quite capable, and the Empress has chosen a good candidate." Nanny Xi thought.

"First Miss, I don't know why happened to Madam. Madam didn't eat much today, and then she became like this. I fetched the dishes from the big kitchen. How could there be anything wrong with them? Otherwise, since plenty of people have also eaten the dishes from the big kitchen, Madam wouldn't be the only one who suffers from it."

As Nanny Sheng said, she burst into tears.

"Did she become like this after finishing her meal?" Nanny Xi, who had a good impression of Shao Yanru, asked on the side.

"Yes, she became like this after the meal, but... but I also took a bite of the meal and I'm fine..." Nanny Sheng said and beat herself hard to prove that what she said was true.

"You also took a bite? Did you do that before or after Madam had meal?" Nanny Xi asked another question. It was obviously a fight in the backyard. This kind of things happened all the time in the

imperial palace. It was said that there were only the second branch and the third branch in Duke Xing's Mansion now. Could it be that the third branch was behind the scene?

Glancing at Shao Caihuan and Shao Cailing, who followed her here, she secretly wondered if the Madam of the third branch did this to clear the way for her two daughters.

Thinking of it, she found it possible!

She curled her lip secretly. With the First Miss and the Fifth Miss around, how could the Third Miss and the Fourth Miss stand out? The third branch was obsessed with ambition.

"The doctor is here. Step aside. The doctor is here!" There came Shuqi's nervous voice from behind. She met the doctor halfway.

As the crowd got out of the way, the doctor came in.

Shao Yanru stepped back to the side of Nanny Xi and looked at Madam of Duke Xing with tears in her eyes. She looked nervous and anxious, holding her handkerchief with trembling fingers.

Meanwhile, she tried hard to keep her composure. Seeing this, Nanny Xi couldn't help sighing and thought, "The First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion has a deep affection for her mother and is calm when dealing with things. Although she lost her sense of propriety just now, it was because her mother is the victim. She just needs a little more training!"

"What happened?" Someone outside the crowd asked. Everyone turned around and found that it was Old Madam. All of them stepped aside.

"What's going on?" Old Madam walked into the crowd with Nanny Yu's help. When she saw Madam of Duke Xing lying on the couch with an ashen face, she asked with her face changing dramatically.

"Old Madam, Madam is poisoned!" The doctor put down Madam of Duke Xing's hand, stood up and spoke.

"Can... can you save her?" Shao Yanru asked in a trembling voice.

The doctor shook his head and said with a sigh, "Fortunately, you discovered it in time. Moreover, it's slow poison, which will harm her health rather than kill her at once."

"Since, it's slow poison, why did it suddenly take effect?" Nanny Zheng asked after thinking for a while.

Generally speaking, a slow poison would not be discovered. By the time it was discovered, the patient was doomed.

"It's true that a slow poison can't be discovered at once. Is there much poison in Madam of Duke Xing's body?" When Nanny Zheng asked this,, Nanny Xi, who tried every means to make friends with Nanny Zheng, spoke in support of her on one side.

Old Madam looked at Nanny Xi and then looked at Nanny Zheng, who was impressive in bearing beside her. Although Nanny Zheng was only dressed in ordinary clothes, with her bearing she didn't look like an ordinary old maid. This nanny should be the etiquette instructor Nanny Zheng Shao Wanru brought to the mansion and she had never seen.

“There is not much poison in Madam’s body, and now she has spat some out. There should be nothing serious. Madam is lucky. This slow poison has little effect on most people, so more and more poison accumulate in their bodies before they discover it. But there are also some people who are born with a natural resistance to some poisons, so the slow poison has more effect on them. Although the poison is not strong, it will be discovered immediately.”

The doctor explained.

The maids present did not understand this, but most of the masters understood. Everyone had a different constitution. Although the slow poison was not easy to discover, some people were born with a strong reaction to this poison, so it had a noticeable effect on them.

Of course, this possibility was very rare, and most people had a strong reaction to slow poisons. It was an extremely accidental thing, that was unlikely to happen. But now it happened on Madam of Duke Xing, so the doctor could only exclaim how lucky Madam of Duke Xing was.

Since someone had poisoned her, definitely intended to kill her and prevent others from discovering that she was poisoned.

“Who ever heard of such a thing? Who dare to hurt someone in my mansion!” Old Madam said with her eyes burning with anger. Such a thing happened in the mansion in front of Nanny Xi. What would the Empress think of her and Duke Xing’s Mansion?

“Look into it. Don’t miss any clue. We must find out who poisoned her!”

Old Madam slammed the cane in her hand on the ground and said in a harsh voice.

Shao Wanru came forward and said, “Grandma, let’s start from here. Since the target is Second Aunt, the culprit might have left some traces in the other parts of this room. Now that it happened so suddenly, the person behind the scenes must have neglected something.”

The target was Madam of Duke Xing. Since Madam of Duke Xing lived in the ancestral hall, it was very likely that the culprit had left some traces in the ancestral hall. Judging from this, they should search this room indeed.

Madam of Duke Xing, who was lying on the couch, moved her eyes. Shao Wanru, who had been watching her, raised the corners of her eyes slightly and sneered in her heart. As she expected, Madam of Duke Xing couldn’t bear to keep pretending.

“Search the room now!” Old Madam said with a gloomy face.

“What about my mother?” Shao Yanru, who was now a filial daughter, stepped forward, looked at Madam of Duke Xing with concern and asked.

“Take Second Aunt back so that the doctor can make a diagnosis and give a prescription. Let Nanny Sheng stay and help us investigate into the matter!” Shao Wanru seemed to say that for the sake of Madam of Duke Xing.

Old Madam nodded, thinking it a proper way to deal with things.

“Come here...”

"What... what's going on..." Madam of Duke Xing opened her eyes, looked around weakly and asked, as if she still didn't know what had happened.

"Madam, Madam... you are poisoned. You... almost died... If you really die... I... I can hardly absolve myself from the blame even if I die ten thousand deaths!"

Nanny Sheng rushed over, grabbed Madam of Duke Xing's sleeve, and cried loudly.

Madam of Duke Xing sat up with Nanny Sheng's help, coughed hard and looked up at Old Madam. She pressed her hand on her chest and said in a low and hoarse voice, "Old Madam... I..."

"Stop talking. You're still in poor health. Go back and have a rest first." Old Madam frowned and spoke.

"Old Madam, let's begin the investigation after Second Aunt goes back. We can't let anyone hurt Second Aunt without being punished!" Shao Wanru reminded Old Madam.

"Come on, take..." Old Madam raised her hand and intended to instruct some servants to carry Madam of Duke Xing back.

"Wait a minute, mother, wait a minute!" Madam of Duke Xing was anxious and said hurriedly. How could she let them search the ancestral hall, where there was some stuff that would expose her scheme?

"What's wrong? Since you are in poor health, just go back for a rest!" Old Madam said discontentedly. She had made two attempts to send Madam of Duke Xing back, but she was interrupted by her every time.

"Mother, actually... I know something about this matter... I'm just wondering if my guess is right..." Madam of Duke Xing looked around and said in embarrassment.

## **Chapter 726 Nothing in the Ancestral Hall?**

There were many people on the spot. Not only the people of Duke Xing's Mansion but also the people from the Palace were gathering here. When it came to her family's internal affairs, Old Madam didn't want others to interfere or inquire, even if those were the Empress's subordinates.

Old Madam nodded knowingly, ordering, "Send her to my yard first. Everyone else, leave!"

She didn't want others to watch the drama. But she hadn't been able to think of a way to drive Nanny Xi away. Now She finally found a good excuse.

Before Madam of Duke Xing could breathe a sigh of relief, someone said, "There may be evidence in the ancestral hall where Madam lives."

Madam of Duke Xing looked up subconsciously and saw a beautiful woman in her thirties. Although she was wearing the clothes of a servant, she looked imposing. She was staring at Madam of Duke Xing without fear.

"Madam is living in the ancestral hall?" Nanny Xi's expression changed. She looked at the ancestral hall in surprise and then at the plainly dressed Madam of Duke Xing, who was not dressed like the wife of a

Duke. She had come in a hurry and had got no time to think about it before. It seemed that Madam of Duke Xing had made a mistake and been locked up in the ancestral hall by Old Madam.

She remembered the rumor that the Empress Dowager had whipped Madam of Duke Xing, and it seemed to be true!

Madam of Duke Xing had annoyed Empress Dowager and been punished. And the people of Duke Xing's Mansion had locked her up, hoping Empress Dowager would forgive her.

Nanny Xi's eyes flashed slightly. This matter must be reported to the Empress. The Empress had always shown respect to the Empress Dowager. Now that Madam of Duke Xing had offended the Empress Dowager, there seemed to be a risk in Miss Shao's matter.

"She does live in the ancestral hall," Old Madam replied awkwardly. Everyone knew this matter.

"Let's search it!" Nanny Xi suggested. Since she wanted to befriend Nanny Zheng, she would naturally follow Nany Zheng's proposal. And she couldn't just go back without figuring out the truth.

If the young lady of Duke Xing's Mansion was marrying Prince Zhou in the future, the Empress would have to know her well. And this kind of thing would be difficult to investigate afterward.

"No need... There is nothing in it... The food basket is from the kitchen..." Madam of Duke Xing coughed again, having difficulty talking.

She was anxious. She turned her eyes to her daughter standing next to Nanny Xi and winked at her, implying that they couldn't let people search the ancestral hall.

Shao Yanru's met the eyes of her mother, and she understood her meaning immediately. But a wave of anger surged in her heart.

Thinking of her being poisoned and looking at the situation right now, she got quite annoyed. She had been harmed so severely that she was almost infertile now. Even though she was now under the treatment of Doctor Qiu, her health had been damaged. It would be difficult for her to conceive in the future, and even if she got pregnant, the risk of miscarriage would be high.

How could Shao Yanru not hate Madam of Duke Xing? And that was why she hadn't cared about her mother when she had been locked up.

Shao Hua'an had once come to her and asked her to help Madam of Duke Xing, but Shao Yanru had directly rejected. As a mother, when Madam of Duke Xing had plotted against Shao Wanru, she hadn't thought about what would happen if her daughter got poisoned. And Shao Yanru had originally been unwilling to deal with Shao Wanru in person at the time.

But her mother had repeatedly persuaded her, saying that things were well in hand and there would be no accident. So, Shao Yanru had agreed in the end.

She hadn't expected her decision would almost ruin herself.

Shao Wanru was the main culprit, but the poison had been prepared by her mother and Honored Consort Shu. How could she not hate them?

Originally, she had wanted to make use of Madam of Duke Xing's current state to show her filial piety to Nanny Xi, but now she didn't want to intervene anymore.

She had known at a glance that this was another scheme. If she rashly intervened now, she might be implicated.

Shao Wanru had Nanny Zheng helping her. Nany Zheng was from the Palace, and she had seen all kinds of people, so these tricks of her mother would not work in front of her.

Shao Yanru was harboring resentment in her heart, and she knew that Nanny Zheng was powerful. After exchanging glances with Madam of Duke Xing, She softly comforted her, "Mother, don't worry. They will search quickly. I won't allow them to delay the treatment of your injury. If you're not feeling well, you can go back to rest first. I will supervise the investigation with Grandmother!"

Madam of Duke Xing's face stiffened, and she looked at Shao Yanru incredulously. She felt that her daughter had understood her hint. Why hadn't she helped her? Why had she asked her to go back? What did she mean?

Madam of Duke Xing couldn't leave now because Nanny Sheng was not able to stop those people alone.

"Old Madam, since my sister said so, let them search. We must find out the truth before the evil backstage manipulator notices!" Shao Wanru chimed in with Shao Yanru, smiling.

Madam of Duke Xing's face became ugly. She reached out and squeezed the corner of the quilt, breathing quickly. Why? Why did she see hatred in her daughter's eyes?

Hadn't Shao Yanru forgiven her? Why was there still such hatred!

"Search the ancestral hall! Let's see whether there is any abnormal thing in it!" Old Madam orderly coldly. Since everyone else had agreed, Old Madam couldn't reject it anymore.

The maids began to rummage in the ancestral hall.

Madam of Duke Xing showed the white of her eyes and seemed to be about to faint again.

"Madam...Madam..." Nanny Sheng yelled anxiously.

"Ru'er...Ru'er..." Madam of Duke Xing choked while calling her daughter.

"Mother, are you OK? Let me take you back first, okay?" Shao Yanru hurried forward and took her mother's hand, her face full of care.

Madam of Duke Xing firmly grasped Yanru's hand, used the cuffs to block the sight of others, stretched out her finger, and wrote the words "take them away" in Yanru's palm!

She stared at Yanru eagerly, suggesting that she must take these people away.

Shao Yanru gently shook her head, looking back at Nanny Xi, Old Madam, and Nany Zheng on one side. If she stepped up at this time, she would definitely be implicated. She would not speak for her mother at this time.

Needless to guess, this was another conspiracy of her mother and Honored Consort Shu.



She had never heard of such poison from her mother before, so it should have been obtained from Honored Consort Shu. Thinking of the fact that she had also been poisoned with her drug and suffered so much, Shao Yanru hated Honored Consort Shu to the core.

“Mother, don’t worry. We will find out the truth soon, and no one will dare to harm you in the future!” She gripped her mother’s hand tightly to prevent her from moving, but her expression remained sad and anxious as if she were really worrying about Madam of Duke Xing’s health.

Madam of Duke Xing thought maybe she didn’t take her hint, so she struggled hard to break away from her hand, but Shao Yanru suppressed her movement violently.

“Old Madam, there is nothing!”

“Old Madam, we didn’t find anything either.”

“There is nothing here.” There were few things in the ancestral hall. After searching it for a while, the maids came to report that there was nothing suspicious one by one.

Shao Wanru’s gaze fell on Madam of Duke Xing’s face, and she saw a relieved expression. But the next moment, she began to pretend to be weak again as if the relief Wanru had just seen were an illusion.

Shao Wanru narrowed her watery eyes slightly. There must be evidence, but it was not in the ancestral hall.

If it was not in the ancestral hall, where was it?

“Mother, since nothing was found, let’s go back first... I have something to tell you!” Madam of Duke Xing looked at Old Madam. It looked as if she had a secret to confess, but she was afraid the people here would overhear.

Old Madam kept silent for a while. She looked around and confirmed there was indeed nothing suspicious. She then nodded to Madam of Duke Xing and was about to take her back.

Just then, Nanny Zheng raised her eyes and said calmly, “Wait!”

“Who are you? Where did you come from? How dare you intervene repeatedly when the masters are talking? Take her down and flog her!” Madam of Duke Xing glared at Nanny Zheng.

She remembered that this woman was the one who had suggested searching the ancestral hall, and it was really hateful that she tried to interfere again now.

When she rehabilitated one day, and she would flog this bold old maid to death.

Nanny Zheng didn’t know what she said had made Madam of Duke Xing want to kill her. At this time, her eyes still fixed on Madam of Duke Xing’s face, and she said coldly, “Madam, I am the etiquette instructor of Fifth Miss. I entered Duke Xing’s Mansion together with Fifth Miss. I used to have an official title in the palace!”

Official titles made a great difference between the maids in the palace.

Madam of Duke Xing froze for a moment, and then she looked at Shao Yanru subconsciously. How could Shao Wanru have an etiquette instructor from the palace with an official title? Why hadn't she known this before?

Shao Yanru nodded silently at Madam of Duke Xing, secretly despising her mother. After fighting with Shao Wanru for such a long time, she didn't even know that she had an etiquette instructor with powerful backing. Shao Yanru had thought her mother was very clear about everything about Shao Wanru.

If Shao Yanru had known this earlier, how could she have taken it lightly last time?

"Old Madam, we haven't searched the back of the ancestral hall." Nanny Zheng ignored Madam of Duke Xing and turned to Old Madam.

"What do you think there is?" Old Madam said irritably.

"Maybe something shameful is hidden there!" Nany Zheng pointedly said.

These words reminded Nanny Xi, so she agreed, saying "It is true that we should go search the back of the ancestral hall. This kind of place is the most prone to be used to hide evidence. When I was in the palace before, I have encountered this kind of thing. Finally, the evidence was found in the least noticeable place!"

Madam of Duke Xing's lungs were about to explode. These idiots were ruining her plans again and again, and now, even Nanny Xi, the henchman of the Empress, had interfered. This really irritated her.

But no matter how angry she was, she could do nothing now. she could only shake Shao Yanru's hand vigorously, hoping she could find a way.

But Shao Yanru didn't say a word as if she hadn't even noticed it.

"Go and search the backyard!" Old Madam ordered.

## **Chapter 727 The Drug**

"Old Madam..." Seeing that Old Madam was about to send someone to search again, Madam of Duke Xing became very anxious. She rolled her eyes and pretended to faint again. At a glance, she had noticed that Old Madam had brought only four or five maids here. If Old Madam ordered them to carry her back, there would be few people left here.

If there were no people to search the yard, she would have time to find a solution.

"Madam...Madam, are you OK?" Nanny Sheng, who had been hinted by her, hurriedly shouted, and turned to Old Madam, saying "Old Madam, can you let someone carry Madam back first? If she stays longer, I'm afraid her illness would deteriorate!"

"Lift the couch and send her back!" Old Madam frowned and ordered.

The maids who were going to rummage in the backyard all stopped. This couch looked quite heavy.

Although it was a simple couch, the maids who had come over all looked skinny. There had to be two or three of them on each side in order to lift it.

"Old Madam, the couch looks too heavy. How about putting her on the wide bench over there? It will be easier to carry the bench, and it will take less time." Shao Wanru pointed to the bench in the corner.

The wide bench was sometimes used as a small altar. It was a bit wider than normal benches and big enough for a person to lie on it. And it was much smaller and lighter than a couch. It would only need two persons to lift it on both ends and another person to protect her in the middle. There should be no problems.

Old Madam took a look and nodded, thinking this was a good way. She ordered, "Come on, put her on the bench!"

Nanny Sheng looked at the bench anxiously, but at the moment she was at a loss, not knowing what to do. She could only stretch out to pull Madam of Duke Xing's hand.

Madam of Duke Xing, who kept her eyes closed while listening carefully, bit her teeth in hatred. It was Shao Wanru again that had wrecked her plan.

Two old maids had come over. They carefully wrapped her in the quilt and lifted her onto the bench.

Madam of Duke Xing wanted to pretend to accidentally fall off the bench, but the quilt was fixed firmly. She wanted to roll but failed.

"Old Madam, how about let Nanny Sheng take Madam back? If so, you can stay here and supervise the investigation!" Shao Wanru's voice was soft and gentle, but when it fell in the ears of Madam of Duke Xing, she almost lost control of herself. She wished she could open her eyes and bite Wanru hard.

Old Madam nodded and order two people to continue the search.

Yujie stood by the bench, wrapped Madam of Duke Xing tighter in the quilt, and then retreated to the side. Madam of Duke Xing was "fainted" now, so if they flatted the bench, she would not fall off.

Two old maids walked forward, carrying the bench, and Nanny Sheng hurriedly kept up while crying. The doctor followed behind to prescribe the medicine. Without a pen and paper, he couldn't prescribe on the spot.

Although Madam of Duke Xing, who was lying on the bench, wanted to find an excuse to stay, now, she had to leave. Feeling the bench was moving farther and farther, Madam of Duke Xing was anxious and helpless.

"Old Madam, here is a thing!" An old maid yelled and came out with a piece of oiled paper from the backyard.

The oiled paper seemed to have been used to wrap something, with mud stains on the outside and white powder on the inside. It must have been used to hold some white powder.

"Where did you find it?" Old Madam asked with a cold face.

"I found it under a tree. When I went to the backyard, I saw the mud under a tree had been turned over. So, I dug a hole there and found the oiled paper underneath."

As the old maid spoke, she shook the oiled paper in her hand, and a strange smell came out in the air.

Shao Wanru took a step back and reached out to block her nose with her handkerchief.

“Miss, will we get poisoned by smelling it?” Yujie whispered. Her voice not loud, but Shao Yanru still heard her.

Shao Yanru hurried to step back, covering her mouth and nose. She was too weak to stand any poison now. She didn’t know what vicious trick her mother and Honored Consort Shu had played, but she must protect herself.

Seeing the two sisters step back, Shao Caihuan and Shao Cailing looked at each other and also retreated. They were not stupid. At first glance, they know the oiled paper had been used to hold something bad, otherwise, it would not have been buried.

It seemed that their aunt was making trouble again!

Nanny Zheng did not retreat but looked at Nanny Xi, saying, “Do you know what this is? Have you seen such a thing in the palace?”

Her tone was extremely provocative, with a bit of arrogance, as if she would like to teach Nanny Xi if she didn’t know.

Nanny Xi frowned unhappily. Although she wanted to befriend Nany Zheng, it was just an order for the Empress. How dared Nanny Zheng imply that she had little knowledge? She was a trusted subordinate of the Empress. If she did not know the drug, it was not only just her but also Empress would be disgraced.

Nanny Xi stepped forward, looked at the oiled paper, and then smelled it. After she thought for a while, Nanny Xi’s expression changed drastically. She looked at Nanny Zheng and said in a trembling voice, “This is...that drug?”

She suddenly remembered a past event in the palace. A chronic poison drug had been used to murder a favored concubine in the palace. At that time the Empress had been still a princess, and Nanny Xi had been a maid in the Prince’s Mansion.

The reason she remembered it was because the Empress had been involved in this murder back then. She had been suspected as the murderer and locked up in the Cold Palace for a while. At that time, she had almost been discrowned. Even if it had been a long time, Nanny Xi could not forget it.

That concubine of the former Emperor had been poisoned by this very drug.

“This drug... The concubine the former Emperor died of this drug!” Nanny Zheng murmured, which meant that she also knew about that event.

“However, why is there such poison in Duke Xing’s Mansion?” Nanny Zheng asked in confusion. The meaning of her words was obvious.

“Old Madam, why is there this poison in Duke Xing’s Mansion?” Nanny Xi turned around to looked sullenly at Old Madam.

“Is this poison?” Old Madam was taken aback.

"Madam of Duke Xing must have been poisoned with it. But Who buried it? Who put the poison in her food? This poison... has something to do with the palace!" Nanny Xi stared closely at Old Madam.

Although that matter back then had been resolved, and the murderer had been found. But the reappearance of this poison after so many years had alerted Nanny Xi.

Old Madam's heartbeat quickened, and her expression changed drastically. Looking at the paper containing the poison and then at Nanny Xi, she gritted her teeth and said bitterly, "Please come with me!"

Madam of Duke Xing had already left, so she couldn't ask her now even if she wanted to.

Shao Wanru took a glance at Shao Yanru and saw her lowering her head and covering her nose without saying a word. Shao Wanru's eyes flashed with hatred.

As she had predicted, Shao Yanru would protect herself wisely and never take any additional risks for her mother.

This was originally within her calculations. She had to deal with them one after another. Now she would break off one of Madam of Duke Xing's arms first, and she would then tie her feet.

It had been three years, and she had waited for three years. It was time to do it! Old Madam took them to the Chuntang Institute where she lived. Before, she had asked the maids to carry Madam of Duke Xing here because she had found her actions very strange and wanted to ask her about it in person. Even if she didn't want Nanny Xi and others to follow, she couldn't say it now. Nanny Xi had just stated that the poison had something to do with the palace.

Therefore, even if that event had passed for a long time, Old Madam must take it seriously. She only hoped that Madam of Duke Xing could be smart enough to disassociate Duke Xing's Mansion from it.

Madam of Duke Xing had already woken up now and was resting in a wing-room. Hearing the sounds from the courtyard gate, she looked at the window and saw a crowd of people coming to her. When Old Madam shot a sharp and cold look at her, she immediately panicked.

Holding Nanny Sheng, who was also panicked and untenable, she tried to calm down and said, "Nanny Sheng, don't worry. Your family will be treated well. I will find a decent job for your younger son, give your newly born grandson a golden longevity lock. Both of your sons will have a new house!"

"Madam!" Nanny Sheng knelt in panic, her face pale.

"You can rest assured, I will never go back on my word. If I break my promise, I will die miserably. But if you don't do what I ask you to do... You should know that if something happens to me, your family... I'm afraid they won't survive!" Madam of Duke Xing looked at Nanny Sheng coldly with threats in her eyes. At this moment, she couldn't think of any other way.

"Madam...I...I..." Nanny Sheng burst into tears, panicked. She really regretted it now. She should never have brought that thing back and asked Madam of Duke Xing to take it. Now Madam wanted her to be a scapegoat, and she couldn't refuse.

Her younger son was still young and had not married yet, but he was already engaged. She couldn't help worrying about him. Her grandson had been born recently. He was so chubby and cute, and she wanted to earn more money for him. But now she had to agree with Madam's plan.

If she rejected her, Madam would also pass the buck to her, and her family might lose their lives. Nanny Sheng couldn't take the chance. She couldn't risk her family's lives. How dare she!

"Madam... I hope you will not forget what you said today!" Nanny Sheng said bitterly, wiping tears off her face.

She has no other choices this time.

"Don't worry, I will never break my promise. Your younger son will follow An'er. He needs a smart henchman now!" Madam of Duke Xing promised her.

"Madam, I will do whatever you want me to do!"

"If you can frame Shao Wanru this time, I will not only give your children and grandchildren decent jobs, but I will also reward them with a huge sum of money. They will have nothing to worry about for the rest of their lives!"

Nanny Sheng shed tears again, but she wiped them away, stood up by the bed, and looked at the door.

Soon, the door was pushed open heavily. Old Madam stood at the door and looked at Madam of Duke Xing angrily. Madam of Duke Xing saw the chill in her eyes clearly.

## **Chapter 728 The Deal before Death**

"Madam, you're awake! That's great. We found the oiled paper buried in the backyard of the ancestral hall. Do you know what it was used to wrap? Where did it come from? Why do you have this kind of thing in your house?"

Seeing Madam of Duke Xing awake, Nanny Xi stepped forward quickly and asked the questions before Old Madam could speak.

She couldn't help feeling worried. This matter was related to the palace and the Empress, so she had to report it. If she couldn't find out the truth, she would definitely be reprimanded after she went back to the palace.

If what she had discovered just now had been an ordinary chronic poison drug, she wouldn't have been so eager to ask the questions. But now, she must take it seriously.

Seeing Nanny Xi so anxious, Shao Wanru looked at Nanny Zheng who was standing calmly, and she then slowly lowered her head.

She had prepared this drug on Nanny Zheng's proposal and replaced the chronic poison prepared by Honored Consort Shu with it. Sure enough, Nanny Xi was very concerned. It was best to have Nanny Xi spearhead the attack.

Even if Old Madam was irritated, she would only be angry at Nanny Xi. Shao Wanru only needed to watch the show. What Nanny Zheng had said had already attracted people's attention. Fortunately, she

was an etiquette instructor with an official title from the palace. Otherwise, Old Madam would not spare her for the words she had said just now.

Old Madam looked at Madam of Duke Xing with a gloomy face, and there was a mood in her eyes that others could not understand. Madam of Duke Xing had been raised by Old Madam since she had been a child, so she knew that Old Madam was very furious. But it was not the time for her to care about Old Madam now. Nanny Xi's words made her notice the crisis.

"Well... I... I don't know what you are talking about..." She looked at Nanny Xi weakly, with a pale face, pretending not to understand Nanny Xi's words.

"Madam, this matter is huge. This kind of poison has appeared in the palace before. At that time, a concubine of the former Emperor was murdered. We had only found out who administered the poison, but we don't know how the poison entered the palace till now! Just now, we found the same drug behind the ancestral hall where you live!" Nanny Xi snapped, and her face was sullen.

Madam of Duke Xing was at a loss, and then she seemed to think of something. Her face was instantly stiff, and she turned to Nanny Sheng in disbelief. She cast a sad look at Nanny Sheng, her lips trembling, and sad, "Nanny Sheng...you... Why did you do this to me?"

The oiled paper had been dug out from the backyard of the ancestral hall. The only possibility was that the poison had been administered there, and someone had buried the paper in fear of being discovered. There had been only two people in the ancestral hall. The poisoned one was Madam of Duke Xing, so Nanny Sheng was the prime suspect.

Shao Wanru sneered. Madam of Duke Xing was quite ruthless to herself. If she had poisoned Nanny Sheng instead of herself at that time, she would not have been able to justify herself.

Shao Wanru took a glance at Old Madam and saw the look on her face was less ugly than before. Shao Wanru's eyes flashed with a hint of mockery.

"Madam... I... I..." Nanny Sheng knelt in front of Madam of Duke Xing with a thump, crying in sorrow and despair.

She was really desperate because there was no way for her to survive right now. "Nanny Sheng, how did I treat you? You're Duke Xing's wet nurse. I always give you the best I can and trust you the most. Since Old Madam designated you as my maid, you have been serving me for years. I didn't expect Old Madam's maid would hurt me! But you, you... How could you betray Old Madam and me like this?"

Madam of Duke Xing burst into tears weakly and tried hard to pull Nanny Sheng's hand. It seemed that she wanted Nanny Sheng to explain. But after reaching out her hand, she fell back heavily on the bed, and her hand dropped weakly. She looked at Nanny Sheng with tears in her eyes, unable to speak a single word.

She had dragged Old Madam into this matter.

The corners of Old Madam's eyes raised, and she stared at Nanny Sheng fiercely. She remembered it was indeed she that had given Nanny Sheng to Jiang Wanyan. At that time, Jiang Wanyan had just married Duke Xing and her maid had been gluttonous and lazy. Old Madam really couldn't stand it, so

she had sent her second son's wet nurse to her. On the one hand, Nanny Sheng could take care of her better, and on the other hand, she had expressed to others that she valued her niece very much.

The reason why she had sent her second son's nanny to Jiang Wanyan was that he had two nannies, and the two nannies couldn't get along with each other well. Through this way had she saved her son from being bothered by their conflicts.

Over the years, Nanny Sheng had always behaved properly. She had always trusted her that she could take good care of her daughter-in-law. She hadn't expected her to betray and poison her Jiang Wanyan with the drug relating to the palace. Old Madam was quite furious.

If Duke Xing's Mansion was involved in the poisoning incident in the palace, the consequences would be too ghastly to contemplate!

Thinking of her kindness leading to such a big deviation, Old Madam became angrier at Nanny Sheng. If she had known she was such a malicious b\*tch, she would have killed her early.

She must have Nanny Xi to confess. Even if she was upset, she must interrogate her fully.

"Say, who asked you to frame your madam?" Old Madam asked.

"Old Madam...Old Madam...I can't say...I can't say..." Nanny Sheng cried loudly while searching among the crowd with her eyes.

Nanny Zheng took a step forward and stood in front of Shao Wanru. She was taller than Shao Wanru and blocked her completely.

"Nanny Sheng is the most trusted subordinate of Madam of Duke Xing. If that person could give orders to her, he or she must be very powerful in Duke Xing's Mansion. Otherwise, Nanny Sheng wouldn't have betrayed her madam!" Nanny Zheng said slowly with a calm expression.

When Nanny Sheng had been looking for someone in the crowd just now, Nanny Zheng had known they were still trying to play dirty tricks. So, she stood in front of Shao Wanru and threw these words out.

Both she and Shao Wanru who was standing behind her understood that Nanny Sheng wanted to frame Wanru before she died. Nanny Sheng and Madam of Duke Xing must have made a deal before they had come in.

Hearing Nanny Zheng's words, Nanny Sheng stared at her fiercely. She was now a dying person, so she was afraid of nothing.

"She looks really fierce," A little servant girl muttered, frightened.

"Who the hell are you working for? Why do you want to kill Madam of Duke Xing?" Nanny Xi was furious because she had been ignored by them. She walked in front of Nanny Sheng, trying to pull her up.

Nanny Sheng shook her hands off hard, even pushed her away rudely, and turned to look at Old Madam, saying "Old Madam, I was forced by Fifth..."

Shao Wanru's heartbeat quickened, and she got nervous. If Nanny Sheng said it was Shao Wanru who had given her the order, after Nanny Sheng died, she wouldn't be able to clear her name.



"How dare you push Nanny Xi!" Nany Zheng stretched out her hand and pushed Nanny Sheng hard. Nanny Sheng was shoved back several steps and almost fell.

"You're just a nasty traitor! How dare you be so arrogant! How dare you!" Nanny Xi had not expected that the old maid who had been caught on the spot would dare to push her. At this time, she was fuming with anger. Hearing Nanny Zheng speaking for her, she felt even more furious.

Since when did she need others to stand up for her?

Rushing in front of Nanny Sheng, Nanny Xi slapped her hard in her face. The face of Nanny Sheng immediately became swollen. But the slaps didn't let off Nanny Xi's steam, and she couldn't help but kick Nanny Sheng to the ground.

"Nanny Xi, calm down. Judging from the evidence, she might be involved in a conspiracy against the Emperor. If so, her entire clan will be put to death. No one can save her!" Both Nanny Xi and Nanny Zheng were etiquette instructors, and they had been getting along well before. Nany Zheng stepped forward to stop Nanny Xi, pulled her back a few steps, and tried to calm her down.

Nanny Sheng had been kicked and fell to the ground. She was struggling to look at Madam of Duke Xing, her face full of begging.

Her entire clan to be put to death? She had never thought of the possibility. Not only she was going to die, but her children and grandchildren might also face the death penalty? No! She couldn't admit the guilt now.

She hesitated!

"Nanny Sheng, you are also a mother, how could you do such a thing? You...you were trying to murder me, your madam. I am always kind to others. Who asked you to harm me? Tell Me!" Madam of Duke Xing cried loudly to Nanny Sheng, and she seemed to have finally fetched her breath.

Shao Wanru sneered secretly. This was a very good statement. She was telling Nanny Xi this matter would not be escalated to the level of treason and it would be dragged back to the women's inner court dispute. This gave Nanny Sheng confidence and let her know that this was only a battle in the backyard and she was the only one who would die.

"Madam..." Nanny Sheng wailed. She really didn't want to wait for death, but she did understand the meaning of Madam's words. She must do what Madam had ordered.

Gritting her teeth and scanning the crowd, she was still looking for Fifth Miss, but she was not attempted to frame her now. When she was dying, she suddenly became sober. If Fifth Miss could be easily framed, Madam would not have got into such a plight!

She knew the crime of treason even if she had always worked in the inner court. If she were convicted of treason, her entire clan would be put to death. Since she must die, she had to make it snappy. She couldn't give people any ground to suspect. Otherwise, her family would not be able to survive.

Fifth Miss could not get involved, otherwise, things would become complicated. Even if she was dead, his family might get in trouble!

"Madam... Madam...Please don't..." Nanny Sheng stood up with tears streaming down her face, but no one sympathized with her now. A maid who had betrayed her madam must end up miserable.

"Take her to interrogate! I must know where the poison came from and who ordered her to poison Madam of Duke Xing," Old Madam said angrily.

Madam of Duke Xing looked as if she were too sad to look at Nanny Xi, and she raised her sleeves to block her face.

Shao Wanru had always been paying attention to her movements, so she saw that she clenched her fists in her cuffs fiercely. Shao Wanru's watery eyes flashed with mockery. She had not expected to defeat Madam of Duke Xing all at once, and she would remove her henchmen first...

Two old maids went over to take Nanny Sheng to interrogation but were pushed away severely after she stood up.

"No, stop her!" Nanny Xi exclaimed immediately. She was experienced.

But before the two old maids could react, Nanny Sheng banged her head against a cabinet hard, covering her face. Her head immediately began to bleed, and she slowly slipped down the cabinet...

## **Chapter 729 Oops, I Also Have a Quick Tongue**

The whole room fell into a strangely dead silence. Everyone was dumbfounded, watching Nanny Sheng lying on the ground with blood all over her head.

"Nanny Xi, go and listen to what she was saying!" Nanny Zheng came back to her senses and immediately reminded Nanny Xi.

Nanny Xi had been taken aback, and she immediately understood what Nanny Zheng meant. Seeing Nanny Sheng's mouth was still moving weakly as if she was still talking, Nanny Xi wanted to go to her side immediately.

"Nanny Xi, don't go, this... this is too frightening!" Shao Yanru stretched out her hand and grabbed Nanny Xi, looking terrified. She was shaking all over, pulling Nanny Xi's sleeves tightly, and looking at Nanny Sheng blankly as if she were really frightened and pulling Nanny Xi's sleeves subconsciously.

Shao Yanru was afraid that Nanny Sheng would say something unconsciously at this time, exposing the secret of Madam of Duke Xing.

Her voice was not high but awakened the others in the room.

"Go check if she's dead!" Old Madam calmed down and ordered sternly. If Nanny Sheng died like this, she could not find out the truth. How could she settle for that?

A bold old maid walked over, reached out her hand under Nanny Sheng's nose, felt it for a moment, and said, "Old Madam, she is out of breath!"

"Nanny Sheng...Nanny Sheng, you... why did you do this..." Madam of Duke Xing on the bed also returned to her senses. She burst into tears and wanted to get out of bed, but she was suppressed tightly by a servant girl beside the bed. She could only look sadly at Nanny Sheng lying in a pool of blood.

"Look at yourself! How can you still pity her? She had betrayed you..." Old Madam cursed, wishing Madam of Duke Xing could be more hardhearted.

Madam of Duke Xing lowered her head and wept, "Mother, she has been my servant for many years. I don't know why she suddenly betrayed me. Someone must have ordered her to kill me!"

"Suddenly" meant it was something that had happened recently, "Someone must have ordered her to kill me" meant that someone was at odds with her. On every point, it would lead people to think of Shao Wanru. Shao Wanru sneered and walked slowly in front of Nanny Zheng. It seemed that Madam of Duke Xing hadn't given up yet and still wanted to pass the buck on Shao Wanru.

Sensing the sullen and suspicious gaze of Old Madam, Shao Wanru looked up calmly, saying, "Old Madam, Nanny Sheng has always been serving Madam of Duke Xing. Now that she dared to make such a fuss here, the person behind her must have contracted with her at ordinary times, and he or she must be very powerful in Duke Xing's Mansion. We should investigate her old acquaintance!"

Nanny Sheng was not a nobody in Duke Xing's Mansion. She had not only worked here for many years but also had a high position of power. She couldn't have been bought over by ordinary people.

Old Madam looked at Shao Wanru solemnly, her eyes cold.

Shao Wanru met Old Madam's without fear, looking very open and forthright.

"Did Nanny Sheng just say...fifth...fifth?" Shuqi said after taking Shao Yanru's hint.

"Fifth Sister?" Shao Yanru murmured, taking a step back in surprise.

The words of Nanny Sheng just now had been heard by everyone present. But most people hadn't got it at that time. They hadn't known what Nanny Sheng meant. Hearing Shao Yanru's words, all people turned to look at Shao Wanru immediately. What she had tried to say might be "Fifth Miss"!

Was it possible?

Seeing people's gazes, Shao Wanru said calmly, "Sister, although you and I are at odds, it's because of the estrangement between us. After all, we barely spend time together. But how could you say such words on this occasion? Are you harboring a grudge against me all the time?"

Smiling calmly, Shao Wanru didn't panic when hearing Shao Yanru's accusation. Seeing this, Nanny Xi got a little confused.

She moved her gaze between Shao Yanru and Shao Wanru and decided to reserve her judgment for the time being.

These two people were not old maids, they were the ladies of Duke Xing's Mansion. Judging from their behavior, they were both powerful.

"Why do you try to mislead people to suspect me?" Shao Wanru said the last sentence slowly after a while, with a trace of coldness in her tone, and her beautiful watery eyes were looking at Shao Yanru coldly. Without the slightest intention of avoiding it, she mercilessly revealed to Nanny Xi, the Empress's trusted subordinate, that the love and respect between her and Shao Yanru were just a charade.

Shao Yanru was taken aback. She hadn't expected that Shao Wanru would dare to say such things in front of so many people, breaking the illusion of their good relationship. Her face flushed in an instant.

She gritted her teeth and stared at Shao Wanru, breathing heavily. She had made a lot of efforts to gain a good reputation, and she was known as a dignified, decent, and magnanimous lady now. She had done all this for the position of the Empress in the future, but now Shao Wanru had slapped her in the face. How dare she say that to her!

Shuqi pulled Shao Yanru's sleeves from behind, acting a little anxiously.

Shao Yanru grasped the last shred of her sanity, slowly calmed down, forcefully suppressed the irritation and resentment in her heart, and slowly gave an innocent, gentle smile.

"Fifth Sister...sorry. You know I have a quick tongue. Maybe I heard it wrong!" She had acted quite well as if she were really regretting it. In an aristocratic family, some shady things could not be talked about on the table, especially in front of outsiders like Nanny Xi. So right now, everyone was intended to keep the secret.

"Sister...I'm sorry. I also have a quick tongue. Maybe I misunderstood your kindness!" Shao Wanru suddenly smiled, her dimples blooming like flowers.

Her remarks corresponded to Shao Yanru's remarks. Shao Yanru's previous remarks made people feel that she had not deliberately mentioned the word "fifth", but Shao Wanru's remarks immediately made people feel suspicious. They felt that what Shao Yanru had said before sounded insincere.

She had not only said the words insincerely but also deliberately!

Shao Yanru got so furious that she wanted to reach out to scratch Wanru's beautiful smiling face. But she clenched her fists firmly in her cuffs, and her smile became softer, "Fifth Sister, I was panicked just now, I'm sorry. In fact, we still have to ask mother about this. The matter started from mother."

After speaking, she turned to Madam of Duke Xing lying on the bed, walked over, and held her cold hand, "Mother, who do you think had bought over Nanny Sheng? You are living in the ancestral hall and couldn't meet any other people. Why would Nanny Sheng poison you?"

Madam of Duke Xing's face suddenly stiffened, and she looked at Shao Yanru incredulously, trembling with anger. Her good daughter brought the attention back to her in order to avoid her own trouble.

If there had not been so many people in the room at this time, she would have given her two slaps. She had raised and loved her daughter, but her daughter did not care about her at all. She had used her mother as a shield. Madam of Duke Xing had wanted to make full use of Nanny Sheng and make a fuss. But after Shan Yanru had intervened, it would be difficult to frame Shao Wanru now.

Holding Shao Yanru's hand firmly, Madam of Duke Xing thrust her long nails into Shao Yanru's palm fiercely. She was very annoyed, but she had to show a sad expression, saying, "I... I don't know, I was reciting scriptures and worshipping ancestors in the ancestral hall all the time, but I don't know why... why she betrayed me!

After speaking, she pushed Yanru away fiercely, turned inward, and started crying with sobs, showing the deep friendship between her and Nanny Zheng.

Shao Wanru looked at her with a bit of sarcasm and coldness in her eyes. Shao Yanru had been panicked because Shao Wanru had revealed her true face under the mask of hypocrisy. Therefore, she had deliberately transferred people's attention to Madam of Duke Xing. Shao Yanru wanted to cover up the fact that she was at odds with her sister, and she didn't want the Empress to know that she was not as kind to her sisters as people said.

Shao Yanru's goal had always been the supreme position of the Empress, so Shao Wanru could offend her openly, but Shao Yanru couldn't do it. She had to work hard to maintain her dignified and generous public image as the young lady of Duke Xing's Mansion.

"Check whom she had contacted and where she had been in the past few days!" Old Madam said with a sullen expression.

"Old Madam, if you find anything, please tell me. The Empress would also want to know how the poison case in the palace back then get related to Duke Xing's Mansion!" Nanny Xi said.

Old Madam gave Nanny Xi an angry look but still had to agree.

Now that Nanny Sheng was dead, they couldn't find any new clue for the time being. Old Madam dismissed the crowd. The ladies were not in the mood to learn the rules anymore, so she asked them to go back respectively. Nanny Xi said goodbye to Old Madam because she must go back to the palace to report this matter to the Empress.

Old Madam didn't want Nanny Xi to tell the Empress about it, but she couldn't stop her. She could only say it implicitly and gave a big gift to Nanny Xi, hoping that Nanny Xi could talk more about the good thing of Duke Xing's Mansion in the palace.

Since something like this had happened and Nanny Sheng had died, everyone was not in the mood to say anything now. The young ladies dispersed at the gate of the courtyard.

Shao Yanru had originally wanted to say more to Shao Wanru. But seeing Nany Zheng behind Wanru looking at her with a faint smile, she hesitated and could only watch Shao Wanru leave.

Her palm hurt dully in the cuffs. It had been pinched by Madam of Duke Xing just now. It hurt, but she felt as if her face hurt more. The last few words that Shao Wanru had said today in front of Nanny Xi were like slaps in Shao Yanru's face. But she couldn't argue with Shao Wanru. Even if she won the argument, there would be no benefit.

"Miss..." Seeing her watching Wanru's leaving back in a daze, Shuqi called her in a low voice.

"Let's go!" Shao Yanru retracted her venomous gaze and headed to her yard. She couldn't act rashly. She couldn't spoil her big plan. She was about to take part in the wife selection of the Prince soon. At this critical time, she couldn't confront Shao Wanru head-on. She must endure it for the time being. She would have to wait for a good opportunity to kill Shao Wanru.

For the sake of the future, she could bear anything. Fortunately, she hadn't participated in her mother's scheme this time. Even if the conspiracy was exposed, it would have nothing to do with her. She had no plan to help her mother now. She forced herself to endure all the disgrace now because she wanted to tramp Shao Wanru hard to death in the future!

She was going to tramp her into the mud and make her miserable...

### **Chapter 730 Help!**

When Duke Xing, Shao Jing returned home, he went directly to Old Madam's Xinning Pavilion directly. Hearing that Madam of Duke Xing had already returned to her own Yingyue Pavilion, he then went directly there.

Madam of Duke Xing was lying on the bed in her room. Only after taking the medicine did she feel better, and then she began to think about the things that happened today.

Nanny Sheng was her henchman like her arm. She could be said to be the most trusted person around her. Now she had been forced to sacrifice her, how could she feel comfortable?

She had always contacted Honored Consort Shu in the palace through Nanny Sheng. Now that Nanny Sheng was dead, who else should she use?

The poison from Honored Consort Shu had something to do with what had happened before in the palace? Madam of Duke Xing frowned, complaining about Honored Consort Shu in her heart. She had just wanted a common and effective chronic poison, which was not easy to be noticed. How could Consort Shu have given her such a special poison?

Didn't she push her to in the teeth of the storm?

The current situation was very difficult for her to handle. She had originally thought if something happened to her after she had the meal, people would inevitably check the food, so it was impossible for them to suspect herself immediately.

In her plan, as soon as she had a chance later, she would ask Nanny Sheng to find another place to destroy the oiled paper.

Unexpectedly, when they had checked her directly instead of the kitchen. And they had even rummaged the back yard of the ancestral hall so that she had been attacked by panic. She had been forced to push the buck to Nanny Sheng. She had had no other choices.

Although the crisis had passed, she couldn't get in touch with Honored Consort Shu. Their plan had been spoiled, but she was not able to notify her. She became very anxious.

Next, Madam of Duke Xing must find herself another trusted subordinate to deal with these extremely secret things. She couldn't think of a suitable person for the time being.

Suddenly, Shao Yanru's performance came across her mind, and she felt annoyed. Her own daughter hadn't helped her at all. If she had said a few more words to imply Shao Wanru might be the person behind Nanny Sheng, maybe she could have thought of a way to set that b\*tch up.

What should she do right now?

She was really unwilling to let Shao Wanru go. She had come out of the ancestral hall and was regarded as the victim. As she had expected, Duke Xing's Mansion couldn't send her back to the ancestral hall again and watch her being murdered.

But her health was impaired, and she had felt very uncomfortable just now. This was one of the main reasons why her face had been as pale as ashes.

After taking the medicine, she felt a little better, but she still felt cold all over. She had a choking sensation in the chest and a vomit sensation in the throat. But she could neither vomit nor swallow. She felt so dizzy that she could not think of a plan.

The door was kicked open suddenly, and the chubby Duke Xing rushed in with a cold and angry face.

The servant girl standing by the bed turned pale with fear, and she came forward to greet Duke Xing.

"Get out!" Duke Xing waved his hand. The servant girl didn't dare to say more, ran out, and closed the door for them.

Duke Xing walked to the bed and looked at his wife with cold eyes. Involuntarily avoiding his gaze, Madam of Duke Xing murmured, "Good evening, Duke Xing!"

It seemed to have wakened up Duke Xing. He reached out and grabbed her by the collar, directly dragged her out of the bed, and slammed her to the ground.

Madam of Duke Xing hadn't expected him to hit her. She was thrown out and hit one of the legs of the table hard. She then shrank in pain.

The cups and the teapot on the table were knocked down. One of them broke beside her. The fragments flew over and scratched her face. She subconsciously covered her face because of the pain.

When she put down her hands and saw the blood, she screamed in fright.

Duke Xing pretended not to notice her injury. He stared at her with a cold look like a poisonous snake. There were no outsiders now, and he did not intend to pretend. "Well Done! How dare you poison yourself! Do you want to die? If so, you should just tell me, and I can strangle you right now!" Duke Xing stretched out his hand to drag her up and pushed her to the edge of the bed. With both of his hands, he squeezed her neck fiercely.

Madam of Duke Xing struggled to hit him frantically with both hands and feet, with anger in her eyes. The feeling of suffocation made her not only speechless but also unable to breathe, and she almost fainted.

She saw the murderous intent in Duke Xing's eyes, unconcealed killing intent!

She was struggling hard to get rid of this predicament. She naturally wanted to survive, and she couldn't die like this. Her daughter was going to be the Empress. She would be the Empress's mother and look down upon all the other madams of the aristocratic families.

Later, Duke Xing let her go. She gasped for breathing. Her throat and her chest hurt badly like being pricked, but all this made her know clearly that she was not dead yet.

Tears fell one after another. She tried to calm down and then looked up at Duke Xing, who was staring at her with a sullen look.

This was her husband, but right now he was looking at her suffering coldly, and he had almost strangled her to death just now.

She felt choked, and then a mouthful of blood was vomited out, ticking down on the clean carpet in front of her, and the carpet was immediately contaminated.

"Jiang Wanyan, do you think you are very smart? Do you think no one else knows what you have done? You poisoned yourself! Nanny Sheng died for you!" Duke Xing sneered, seeming not to notice the blood on the corners of her lips.

"I... I have no other choices! If I could think of other ways, how would I have done this? I hurt myself with poison. My health was impaired!" She burst into tears. She had been pretending to cry in the courtyard of Old Madam before. But now she was really crying, full of grievances.

"I was locked up in the ancestral hall, and it was not good for Ru'er. She is about to enter the palace take part in the wife selection of the Prince. If people know that her mother is prisoned in the ancestral hall, how will they think of her? How will the Empress regard her? How can she become the legal wife of the prince? I have to get out of the ancestral hall to help her, but you...but you were blind to me. If I hadn't been forced to this point, how could I have treated myself like this!"

Madam of Duke Xing coughed while crying. The blood was still dripping down the corners of his lips, and she looked extremely miserable.

But in Duke Xing's eyes, but she was nothing but disgusting. They had been married for so many years, how could he not know that she was quite good at acting?

Duke Xing felt regretful to have married this cousin. He had felt good about marrying her back then. Now he realized anyone else would have been better than her, at least others would not have dragged him down.

"Why didn't you kill yourself? If you die, Ru'er may have a mother of good reputation!" He curled his lips mockingly.

This smile was full of chill, and Madam of Duke Xing's hair was standing up. She knew that Duke Xing was really angry. Even if she was quite bold at ordinary times, she didn't dare to annoy him anymore.

"If I die, Ru'er will lose the qualification to take part in the competition for the position of the prince's wife, and she will have to observe mourning for me for three years. If it were not for Ru'er, I wished I could die."

Madam of Duke Xing cried while talking.

What she said was true. If she had died at this time, both of his daughters would have to observe mourning. Time had changed. If they were grounded at home for three years, no one knew what would happen.

"Stop making trouble!" Duke Xing knew that she was right. But the more time he spent with her, the angrier he got, so he flicked his sleeves and turned to stride out. He did not care about her at all, leaving her lying on the ground and covered in blood.



This incident was not just a poison case within his home. The people from the Ministry of Justice had come to ask questions. He had to deal with them now in case they would discover other secrets in his house!

“Help! Somebody, come in! Are you all dead? Why don’t you come in soon...” After Duke Xing left, Madam of Duke Xing yelled in the room with a bit of hysterical craziness, scaring the maids outside. They looked at each other and didn’t dare to go in.

In the end, two high-ranking servant girls who were more trusted by her walked in cautiously...

The red plum blossoms in the yard were blooming now. Shao Wanru asked Yujie to carry an empty long-necked vase, and they went to the garden together, wanting to pick some beautiful red plum blossoms.

But she had seen few flowers she liked all along the way.

Fortunately, there were no other people in the garden, so Shao Wanru walked around among the plum trees freely, looking at the flowers from different angles!

Only when she felt the flower looked good from all angles, would she pick it.

By this time, she had only collected two flowers.

After the incident of Madam of Duke Xing, it seemed that everyone became quiet all of a sudden. Nanny Xi had not returned yet. She should have been asked to stay in the palace by the Empress. Without the etiquette instructor, the ladies would also stay in their own rooms, and no one was in the mood to go out to walk in the garden after such a big incident.

Shao Wanru was quite happy about it. She really didn’t want to see Shao Yanru. She had always put on a false hypocritical face, and it would spoil Shao Wanru’s good mood.

“Miss, can’t we find out the truth about Nanny Sheng?” Yujie saw that Wanru was really focusing on picking plum blossoms, and she finally could help but ask her. “No, we can find out some clues, but I don’t know how many!” Shao Wanru said leisurely. All she could do was to lead people to investigate in the palace. She could not control what would happen next in the palace.

“How will things develop?” Yujie asked worriedly.

“How? I heard that person’s illness is severe, and she has seen several doctors before. Even the imperial doctors in the palace were invited!” Shao Wanru said calmly. Inviting imperial doctors meant Madam of Duke Xing was not pretending to be ill this time.

“Will she find out we changed the poison?”

“Yes, they will. The person who provided her with the poison will find it, but it’s hard for her to recover now!” Shao Wanru smiled slightly and tiptoed to pick a plum blossom that she liked.

Although the poison was chronic, and Madam of Duke Xing hadn’t taken much, the toxicity was actually very overbearing. It would not be easy to detoxicate her, otherwise, the poison would not have been used in the palace.

The plum blossom was picked, and she looked at it from different angles. It looked really good. She turned around and inserted it into the vase in Yujie's hand. Suddenly she saw a figure from the corner of her eyes, and she turned her head to look at the pavilion deep into the plum forest. Was there someone watching her?