

Medical Princess 791

Chapter 791 Who's the Mastermind Behind All of This?

Shao Wanru got to her feet and stood aside with her head down. She looked extremely meek and she didn't take another look at Shao Yanru, who was kneeling on the ground while crying relentlessly.

"Fifth Miss Shao, I heard that you brought some medicinal materials that are used to ease the pain for First Miss Shao. So you put them in First Miss Shao's own medicine materials and mixed them together for her to drink?" the Empress asked.

Shao Wanru answered calmly, "Your Grace, there is indeed such a thing. This morning, my Big Sister said that she was in poor health and couldn't fall asleep because of the pain at night, so she asked me to go to the Imperial Institute of Medicine. She sent someone here, and the people in the Chuxiu Palace should also have known it!"

Although Han Dan came early, the people of the Chuxiu Palace had also been early at work in recent days. Someone must have seen her.

"You can't fall asleep because of the pain at night?" The Empress looked at Shao Yanru and asked coldly, "the medicine from the imperial physician didn't work?"

"Your Grace, First Miss Shao has been taking the medicine I prescribed these days, and her injury is much better than before. It is unlikely that she can't fall asleep because of the pain at night," the imperial physician said hurriedly. Just as he entered the palace, he sensed something wrong when he saw they were all here. In this palace, even the imperial physician must have an acute sense to help him know the situation better.

If nothing serious had happened, the Empress wouldn't have come to such a remote hall. She didn't even send anyone to ask about First Miss Shao's health a few days after she got injured, let alone come here in person.

"She's much better now. So it's unlikely that the pain would make her toss and turn?" The Empress repeated his words with a sneer on her face.

Shao Yanru's expression changed. She wiped her tears and said in a sad voice, "Your Grace, I... it really hurts. I don't know why, but last night the pain suddenly became much stronger, so I sent someone to ask my Fifth Sister to go to the Imperial Institute of Medicine."

She braced herself to say that it hurt.

Hearing her words, the imperial physician hesitated. Everyone had different body conditions. And the scale of the pain of the same kind of wound ranged among people. It was something understandable.

"Maybe... some people will feel differently about the pain..." The imperial physician hesitated and had to explain.

"Fifth Miss, you went to the Imperial Institute of Medicine. Which imperial physician gave you the medicine?" Asked the Empress, no longer insistent on the trivial matter.

"When I went there, there happened to be no imperial physician on duty. It was a little eunuch that asked me to get the medicine," Shao Wanru said calmly.

It was as if she didn't know that she had already become the biggest suspect since she was the one who fetched the medicine.

"Fifth... Fifth Sister, did you take the medicine yourself? Didn't the imperial physician give it to you... Could it be that... you took the wrong medicine?" Shao Yanru looked at Shao Wanru and sobbed with tears all over her face. It seemed that she was still defending Shao Wanru.

If it weren't for that thing about the Emperor, the Empress might also think that Shao Yanru was a kind person. But at this time, the more she looked at her, the more she felt that Shao Yanru was scheming.

The Empress didn't look at Shao Yanru at all, as if she didn't hear her at all. She asked Shao Wanru, "What do you think?"

Shao Yanru felt embarrassed and uncomfortable, so she could only bite her lip and lower her head. She had some pre-planned words, but now the Empress ignored her, so she couldn't say those words at this moment.

Fortunately, she had planned it in advance, for fear of what would happen if it was exposed. Now it seemed that her original decision was very effective. No matter where it might go, she would still remain innocent. So that everyone would believe that Shao Wanru was the one who intended to hurt her and started everything.

Now even the Emperor was involved in this. She was even curious about how Shao Wanru was going to defending herself. Although her grandma was Rui'an Great Elder Princess, it would not do her much good in front of the Emperor.

Shao Wanru glanced at Shao Yanru coldly. Shao Yanru, who looked aggrieved and sad, was still wiping her tears. At this time, this woman still thought she would win.

"Your Grace, I didn't take this medicine myself. Although there was no imperial physician there, there was a little eunuch. He took it for me!" Shao Wanru said slowly. She had been prepared for this, so she answered without any hesitation.

"The little eunuchs in the Imperial Institute of Medicine are basically illiterate. How could anyone of them get the right medicine for Fifth Miss?" The imperial physician asked in confusion.

It was not a secret in the palace.

The Empress stared at her face, hoping to see a trace of worry and panic on her face.

Shao Wanru's face was still as calm as water, without the slightest ripple. After the imperial physician finished speaking, she said, "The little eunuch does not know how to read, but this medicine is common and needed by many imperial physicians. The little eunuch led me there to check it. I confirmed it back then. I didn't touch the medicine!"

"Even if you know the medicine, it's impossible for you to know that it's used to ease the pain. The function is not written on the cabinet!" The imperial physician said in surprise. Ordinary ladies from

aristocratic families didn't know what these names mean. So they didn't have the guts to ask the little eunuchs to fetch the medicine. "Fifth Miss, are you sure you didn't get the wrong medicine?"

The imperial physician felt that he knew some shreds of the truth. The little eunuch couldn't read and only took Fifth Miss Shao to the medicine cabinet. The Fifth Miss Shao didn't know medicine and mistook the powder for medicine. Then she took the powder and put it in First Miss Shao's medicine. After that, something seemed to have happened, which startled the Empress.

"Your Grace, I didn't get the wrong medicine. I know some medical knowledge and have treated my grandma once!" Shao Wanru shook her head and denied the wrong answer given by the imperial physician.

She knew about medical skills. Even if she didn't reveal this secret, Shao Wanru would do it today.

If she didn't know medical skills, she wouldn't be blamed for the powder.

Shao Wanru lowered her head and listened to Shao Wanru's words quietly. Feeling that Shao Wanru's speech was rational, she felt inexplicably uneasy. She believed that Shao Wanru's reaction should not be like this.

How could she not panic? How could she remain calm when such a big thing happened and even the Emperor was involved?

Wrong, something must be wrong! But what exactly was wrong?

She felt uncontrollably worried.

"You said you know medical knowledge, so you know those medicinal materials. Do you know the smell in this room?" The Empress said with a gloomy face.

Shao Wanru sniffed and shook her head. "There is a smell of traditional Chinese medicine, which is the same as the one often used by my Big Sister. When I went out before, the decoction has not been served yet. Your Grace! Is there anything wrong with this medicine? The little eunuch brought me the medicine and left in a hurry. Your Grace, if you don't believe me, you can check it out!" Shao Wanru said.

Even though she knew some knowledge about medicine, she was not proficient in it. After all, she only learned it for a short period of time. Besides, when she left, the bowl of decoction hadn't been served yet. Even if there was something wrong with it, she would not know.

Hearing her words, the Empress frowned. She believed that it was true since Shao Wanru dared to say so. Even though no imperial physician was there, she was not the one who fetched the medicine, so it was impossible for her to get any other material. So the Emperess thought that the aphrodisiac was not taken by Shao Wanru.

But someone must have done something. The Empress did not believe that the aphrodisiac was given by the imperial physician.

The imperial physician suddenly asked the palace maid kneeling on the ground, "Is the wrapping paper still here?"

"Yes, yes, it should still be there. It was there when I came here just now!" The palace maid nodded repeatedly and almost cried with joy. She didn't know how to prove her innocence. It would be great if the paper was still there.

A eunuch went out. After a while, he came back with a pile of paper and put it on the table. The imperial physician picked up and smelled the paper piece by piece. After a while, he picked out a small piece of paper.

"Your Grace, this is the wrapping paper for that medicine." It was not convenient for him to speak bluntly, so he could only say implicitly.

"For that medicine?" The Empress asked.

"Yes, it's the wrapping paper for that medicine!" The imperial physician nodded.

Shao Wanru stood at the side and looked at the paper. There were creases on it. She could tell that the medicine pack was not big.

"Your Grace, I have never seen such a small pack. If I saw such a small pack before, I would have definitely noticed that it is different. First Miss Shao's medicine is not like this."

After the palace maid said that, Shao Yanru was on the verge of collapse. She covered her chest and looked at Shao Wanru with tears all over her face and astonishment. The look in her eyes was full of disbelief, anger, and grievance. It could be told that she was silently blaming Shao Wanru.

Shao Wanru's eyes met Shao Yanru's. There was no trace of warmth or cowardice in her cold eyes. After a long while, she said to the Empress, "Your Grace, where do you think this medicine came from?"

"If it was not there before, someone must have put it in the decoction." The Empress's sharp eyes fell on Shao Yanru's face. She still felt that Shao Yanru was very likely to be the one who had done it. No matter how she thought of this incident, Shao Yanru was the one who got advantages. It was obvious that she had plotted against the Emperor, but now she claimed to be innocent.

If it were in the past, she might think that Shao Yanru was a good person and should have been framed. But now she hated Shao Yanru every time she looked at this woman. How could she believe that Shao Yanru was innocent?

Shao Wanru had a bad relationship with the whole Duke Xing's Mansion and had an ordinary relationship with Shao Yanru. How could she help Shao Yanru do such a thing?

"Have you left while decocting the medicine?" The general steward of the Phoenix Palace glanced at the Empress, trying to guess her intentions as he asked the palace maid.

"I haven't left. I was there the whole time. It was only when First Miss asked for water that I left for a while, but I asked Shuqi to stay there for me. I stayed there for the rest of the time... Later, Fifth Miss came in and sat for a while, and then left," the palace maid said timidly.

If what she said was true, both Shao Wanru and Shao Yanru's maid should be suspected.

Shao Wanru understood, and a trace of sarcasm flashed in her eyes. She could explain it clearly. "Your Grace, I merely went inside to have a seat and see how long would it take for the medicine to be ready.

After that, I stayed far away from the medicine pot. I could never tamper with the medicine in front of the palace maid!”

Chapter 792 Shuqi's Death

Shao Wanru was not afraid of being questioned because she really had not touched any medicine.

“Tell me, what happened after Fifth Miss came in?” The general steward’s face darkened.

The palace maid stammered in a hurry, “Yes... the Fifth Miss didn’t touch my... medicine jar. She just... just glanced at it and then left after sitting at the table for a while. She didn’t touch my medicine jar and I... didn’t leave either!”

“Miss Shao, why did you let your servant girl ask the palace maid to get some water instead of directly asking your servant girl to do this?” The general steward turned to look at Shao Yanru coldly and said.

He asked this on behalf of the Empress.

“I... I don’t know... I don’t know about this...” Shao Yanru covered her face to cry again.

“Bring that servant girl in!” The general steward sternly said.

Shuqi was brought in. She had been kneeling outside before, and her whole body was trembling for being cold and scared. After she came in, her feet went weak, and she knelt on the ground with a pale face.

“Tell me why you didn’t go to find water yourself but asked the palace maid who was boiling the medicine to do that?” The general steward looked at Shuqi, who was scared out of her wits and asked.

Shao Wanru looked down at Shuqi’s expression. Shuqi was almost numbed and her eyes were full of panic. Hearing the general steward’s question, she answered in a hurry, “I... just arrived in the palace, so there is something I don’t know clearly. Miss... needs a pot of hot water, and this palace maid has done this before, ... not the first time today.”

“You used to get the hot water too?” The general steward asked the palace maid.

“Yes... yes... it was the same in the past, but only today she came to ask me to get it... when I was boiling medicine!” The palace maid said in a trembling voice.

Shao Yanru and her servant lived in the Phoenix Palace of the Empress. Even though they lived in a remote side hall, it was still in the Phoenix Palace. The master and servant were quite sensible. They asked the people in the palace to help do things that were inconvenient for them to do so as not to cause unnecessary trouble.

With a gloomy face, the Empress turned her eyes from Shao Wanru’s face to Shao Yanru’s face and felt that Shao Yanru was good at bewitching by cajolery. Why had not she noticed before that the First Miss Shao was a seductive girl like a siren? It was said that she was dignified and decent, but if true, she wouldn’t be dressed like this.

She had been badly hurt like this, but she didn't wear more clothes to keep warm or dress to be comfortable. Now she even tied her waist so thin to show her good figure, which didn't seem that she was recuperating.

A cold smile appeared on the Empress's lips. It was not that difficult for Shao Yanru to enter the palace because the Empress would let her enter the palace, but Shao Yanru's status in the palace would not be guaranteed.

Those who came to the imperial palace might not be able to become the Emperor's favorite concubines, because there was no shortage of beautiful women in the imperial palace. Even though Shao Yanru had an outstanding appearance, she could not necessarily be favored by the Emperor, not to mention her ambiguous reputation.

It was quiet in the room. "Your Grace, I have something to report!" The imperial physician suddenly said. He had been paying attention to the wrapping paper.

"Speak out!" Said the Empress. She would not leave until something was found out.

The Emperor's intention just now was to ask her to investigate it clearly, which meant that he was suspicious of this. Originally, she had been wondering why the Emperor suddenly got involved with Shao Yanru. Now that she knew that there was an aphrodisiac powder in the room, how could she not understand?

After the imperial physician had come, the curtain at the door had been lifted high and the powder had spread out a lot.

But even so, the Empress still felt much dryness-heat in her body, which meant that the powder had been used a lot in this room.

"Your Grace, this medicine paper bag doesn't seem to be newly wrapped. It seems to have been wrapped for a long time because the folding marks inside are very clear. I remember that the medicine was brought here yesterday, so it's impossible to have clear folding marks. That's why it seemingly has been wrapped for a long time!"

Finding such a big problem, the imperial physician immediately felt comfortable.

It was not difficult for him to find this. In fact, it was because he had seen Shao Wanru keep looking at the wrapping paper in his hand and muttering to herself, "This folding mark..."

She said in a very low voice, but the imperial physician had been paying attention to Shao Wanru and standing beside her. After hearing what she said to herself, he immediately understood.

As an imperial physician, he had always dealt with medicine. Even if he was not quite familiar with folding marks, he could still speculate something from this. The medicine was obviously not taken today, and it must have been prepared a long time ago.

Shao Yanru's heart was in a mess, and she lowered her head in a panic, lest her fear would be discovered by others. She was really scared!

She only felt that the wound on her chest was burning, making her breathless. Her wound had not been fully recovered yet, and she forced herself to stand up this time. At this moment, she only felt desperate with cold limbs. Could it be that the things she did had really been discovered?

“Come on, take this servant girl away for interrogation.” The Empress had coldly made this decision. This servant girl named Shuqi was the only person who had the possibility to add the powder, and she worked for Shao Yanru.

“Your Highness, it is impossible for Shuqi to hurt me. Your Highness...” Shao Yanru had to cry loudly and plead with the Empress for mercy, but the Empress ignored her!

Two eunuchs came over to pull Shuqi, one on each side and were about to leave and interrogate her.

“First Miss, I really didn’t hurt you. I was wronged!” Shuqi was pulled up and she suddenly cried loudly at Shao Yanru.

“Be careful. Grab her!” The Empress said sharply.

But it was too late. Shuqi shook off the hands of the two eunuchs fiercely and slammed into a pillar on one side. Immediately, blood splashed all over the ground, just like thousands of peach blossoms blooming.

Shao Yanru only had time to exclaim, “Shuqi!” Then her body went limp and she fainted to the ground.

There was a strange silence in the side hall. Shuqi was the only clue, but she died now!

The Empress frowned tightly. This matter suddenly came to an end, but she couldn’t find any clues. The only thing she was sure of was that there must be a plot behind it. This servant girl named Shuqi was the most suspicious one, but she couldn’t find more since the clues stopped here.

The Empress felt wronged and angry. Looking at Shao Yanru, who had fainted there, she could not vent her anger on Shao Yanru, but could only gnash her teeth secretly!

“Ask someone to clean up here!” The Empress stood up. She couldn’t find out anything here.

The dead Shuqi was taken away, and Shao Yanru was helped to lie in bed. Shao Wanru respectfully watched the Empress leave, and then her eyes fell on Shao Yanru, who was in bed.

Shao Yanru looked very miserable. Her face was red and swollen, and there was blood at the corner of her mouth, but no one helped to clean it up. Her clothes had already been in a mess. The bandage around her chest had been torn apart, and there was a faint trace of blood on it. Obviously, she had torn her wound.

Her beautiful face was no longer as adorable as it had been before because the Empress had slapped Shao Yanru quite hard. Honestly, no one could suppress the anger in this situation. Any woman, the Empress included, could not help beat the one who seduced her husband under her nose.

This meant that the Empress hated Shao Yanru very much. Otherwise, according to her previous manner, she would not really have done this. Even though she might do, she would not slap Shao Yanru’s face so obviously that anyone would notice this at a glance.

In the last life, Shao Yanru had been quite favored by the Emperor and had a good relationship with the Empress. No one knew whether it was because of the Empress' good temper or Shao Yanru's excellent means.

However, in the last life, Shao Yanru had officially entered the palace as an imperial concubine and had no conflict of interest with the Empress. The two of them had gotten along very well, but now it was different. Shao Yanru entered the palace again, but this time she did this in the way of humiliating the Empress. So, even though she entered the palace, she would not have a good relationship with the Empress.

The Empress would no longer stand behind Duke Xing's Mansion or support all actions of Duke Xing's Mansion.

Shao Wanru raised the corners of her mouth silently with sarcasm and indifference. So this life was different from her last life. Even though Shao Yanru still entered the palace, the Empress would not allow her to become a high-ranking imperial concubine in the current situation. Although Shao Wanru did not know what had happened in the hall just now, she supposed the injuries on Shao Yanru's face were 99% likely to be caused by the Empress.

Since the Empress, who had always been well-behaved, had beat Shao Yanru, she would definitely not let Shao Yanru get away with it later.

The Emperor might also be weary of competing with his son for a woman. Otherwise, he would not have left just now. Obviously, he knew that Shao Yanru would not have a good result once he left.

"Fifth... Fifth Miss..." There was a timid voice coming from the door.

Shao Wanru looked up and found Han Dan. No one knew where Han Dan had hidden just now, but now she stood out again after the Empress had left.

"Come in and help Big Sister clean up," Shao Wanru said.

"Yes, I'll come in right away!" Han Dan said and staggered in with weak legs. She was really afraid that she had secretly knelt in a corridor before. When seeing the Emperor and the Empress, she had had a bad feeling and then dared not to come over. Then she had only seen the Empress leaving and Shuqi being carried out with blood all over her head, scarcely breathing.

How could she not be afraid? She had served First Miss Shao with Shuqi before, but just in a second, Shuqi was in such a poor condition and it was unknown whether Shuqi was dead or alive.

She looked up at the First Miss Shao, who was like a drowned mouse on the bed. If it weren't for the Fifth Miss's explanation, she really couldn't believe that the person lying in the bed with a swollen face was the beautiful First Miss Shao. This... this was unbelievable.

"Fifth Miss, how is Shu... Shuqi?" Han Dan asked wearily and trembled all over. The only person in the room that could comfort her was the Fifth Miss Shao, who was still so calm and elegant as if the matter between the Empress and the Emperor did not affect her at all.

Compared with First Miss Shao, Fifth Miss Shao was the real mainstay!

"Something is found out to be related to her, but Shuqi didn't dare to say anything. So she directly ran into the pillar to death!" Shao Wanru glanced at Han Dan lightly and said, "Big Sister has no servant around her. You will serve Big Sister from now on!"

"First... First Miss will leave the palace, but I am the servant from the palace!" Han Dan said. She felt that she didn't want to serve First Miss Shao at all. First Miss Shao couldn't even protect those around her, which implied her poor capability.

"Big Sister will enter the palace. She has no servant around her, so you'd better follow her!" Shao Wanru calmly described this fact!

Chapter 793 Bring Her into the Palace!

Han Dan almost screamed subconsciously. After taking two steps back, she suddenly came to her sense and knelt down to Shao Wanru. "Fifth Miss, please, please save me. I don't want to..."

"You don't want to?" Shao Wanru raised her eyes and looked at Han Dan's face coldly. "Big Sister will enter into the palace. If you stay with her, you will get rid of your former identity. If Big Sister is favored in the future, you will be her personal palace maid. Isn't that great?"

In her last life, the two of them were the master and the servant. They colluded with each other.

"Fifth Miss... Fifth Miss..." Han Dan cried. She really just wanted to find a good master. She didn't want to gain anything else. She didn't want to follow an imperial concubine with no future. It was better for her to stay in the Chuxiu Palace. At least, she would have chances three years later.

People in the palace could not bear to see their masters being neglected or sent directly to the Cold Palace. Although the servants did not dare to talk about the master who was favored, they dared to talk about the imperial concubines in the Cold Palace. They talked about what had happened when they were favored. After hearing these things many times, she at least knew something.

Shao Yanru didn't seem to be in a good situation anyway. Even though Miss Shao was extremely beautiful and smart, she couldn't get the Emperor's appreciation and the Empress's protection. There was no future for her.

"Han Dan, there is no shortage of smart people in the palace. You served my Big Sister before, but now she has no one to serve her. If you don't stay, she has to find someone else to serve her. If my Big Sister knows that you are unwilling to serve her, she may kill you directly!"

Shao Wanru paused and then said coldly!

Han Dan trembled and looked at Shao Yanru, who was lying on the bed in horror. Although Shao Yanru was lying there quietly as if she was harmless and in a mess, it did not stop Han Dan from thinking of Miss Shao's schemes. At first glance, it was obvious that she was a scheming woman.

"Don't worry about what will happen to Big Sister in the future. I'm relieved that you stay with her today. In the future... there will always be a way to save you!" Shao Wanru looked at Han Dan and said.

Her words were vague, but Han Dan understood them. Her eyes immediately lit up. She kowtowed to Shao Wanru heavily three times, and said in a choked voice, "Fifth Miss, I understand. I will definitely serve First Miss well as you say."

The reason why she served Shao Yanru was because of Shao Wanru's words. It could be seen that the servant girl really understood what Shao Wanru meant.

Shao Yanru was not in a good condition at the moment. The imperial physician came to see her again. After that, she had been in a half-awake state intermittently and struggled to shout from time to time, "Forgive me! Forgive me!"

Shao Wanru couldn't understand her struggle, so she just stood by the table with her and waited for the Empress's order. After calculating the time, she knew that the empress should make a decision.

"There is aphrodisiac powder in the medicine?" The Emperor asked the Empress in a deep and low voice.

All the other people in the imperial study were driven out. Even the general steward besides the Empress was waiting outside the door, leaving Derong to serve the most distinguished couple in the imperial study.

"I found out that Miss Shao's servant girl named Shuqi did it. But when the servant girl was taken away for interrogation, she hit her head and died. So Miss Shao passed out and hasn't woken up yet. I asked the imperial physician to treat Miss Shao there."

The Empress said gently and did not mention that she could not control herself and gave Shao Yanru two slaps at that time. At this time, she was the Empress and the mother of the country, so she had to behave herself.

"Did she do it to Duke Xing's eldest daughter?" The Emperor had an intuition that something was wrong, and he was also affected inside.

"It seems to be like that. But I asked the imperial physician. He said that when this medicine is placed in hot water, it will also emit an aphrodisiac smell!" The Empress paused and said, "In the early morning, the First Miss asked the Fifth Miss Shao to go to the Imperial Institute of Medicine to get some painkillers and said that she didn't sleep well last night."

"When Fifth Miss Shao went there, it happened that no one was on duty in the Imperial Institute of Medicine. Recently, because of the shift of imperial physicians in Chuxiu Palace, the headquarters of the Imperial Institute of Medicine would have a gap during the shift of imperial physicians. Fifth Miss Shao happened to go there at this time. First Miss Shao meant that Fifth Miss Shao might also catch some aphrodisiac powder to hurt her. The relationship between the two has never been good, and Fifth Miss Shao knows some medical skills!"

What the Empress said was true, and she did mean it. However, if her words were connected together, it seemed that Shao Yanru wanted to take the blame for Shao Wanru. The Empress implicitly meant this, and the Emperor understood.

His expression suddenly turned sharp and serious.

If Shao Yanru really wanted to frame Shao Wanru and had plotted against the Imperial Institute of Medicine and even calculated the shift situation of the Imperial Institute of Medicine well, there must be someone who was helping her secretly, and this person was from the imperial palace. The shift of the

imperial physicians in Chuxiu Palace had only been implemented recently. Who had calculated it so clearly?

Such a person was definitely a hidden danger in the imperial palace.

“Who has contacted with Shao Jing’s eldest daughter?” The Emperor asked coldly.

Seeing the Emperor’s cold eyes, the Empress breathed a sigh of relief and frowned, “I can’t figure it out even if I want to. The First Miss Shao is usually obedient and basically did not cause trouble except what happened between her and Yue’er and Zhou’er. Her servant girl has contacted many people. I don’t know who is suspicious. It’s a pity that the servant girl is dead. Otherwise, I can find out a lot of information!”

The Empress seemed to say according to the Emperor’s meaning but in fact, she added more. She really hated Shao Yanru and wished that the Emperor would kill her now. However, she also knew that it was impossible. Before there was any evidence, the identity of the eldest legitimate daughter of Duke Xing’s Mansion could save her life.

But this identity could only save her life. She would not let Shao Yanru be favored!

“Find out every person who has contact with her servant girl,” the Emperor said.

“Yes, I will secretly inquire about this matter, but Your Majesty, now... how should we deal with her? Since such a thing has happened, we have to give an explanation to Duke Xing’s Mansion. Otherwise, it will be bad if it is spread out. What’s more, it’s also related to Prince Xin. Consort Ming also wants Your Majesty to make a decision as soon as possible!”

The Empress was indeed a good Empress. At this time, she was still thinking for the Emperor wholeheartedly. The message revealed that she wanted the Emperor to bring Shao Yanru into the palace, but she also mentioned Chu Liuxin and Consort Ming. Her words made the Emperor could not say anything. Shao Yanru intended to plot against his youngest son. By accident, he himself was plotted. No one facing this could have no grudge in his heart.

In particular, it seemed that Consort Ming also knew this, which made him feel weary.

“Take her into the palace!” The Emperor waved his hand impatiently and said. He really didn’t want to talk about Shao Yanru. This woman was not only not a good one, but also dissolute. He would find an opportunity to deal with her later. But now it seemed that he couldn’t find any evidence against her, so he could only let her stay in the palace.

“Yes, I also have the same idea, but I don’t know what title I should give her. Originally, as the eldest legitimate daughter of Duke Xing’s Mansion, she could be directly entitled as a consort, but as for Consort Ming...” The Empress said with a difficult expression. Consort Ming also equaled to Chu Liuxin, which would remind the Emperor of what had happened before.

She didn’t mention Consort of Virtue. When she mentioned Consort of Virtue, she would think of the scandal between Chu Liuyue and her son. This was also because of Shao Yanru. This kind of thing would hurt both the enemy and herself. The Empress didn’t want the Emperor to feel weary when he thought of her own son.

"From the Ninth-class Secondary Consort!" The more the Emperor listened, the more annoyed he became, and he thought more about that he was also plotted against.

The Ninth-class Secondary Consort was the worst title of the Emperor's women. The Empress finally felt relieved. She smiled and looked virtuous and advised, "Your Majesty, isn't this not good? After all, she is the eldest legitimate daughter of Duke Xing's Mansion. She can't enter the palace in such a low position!"

"What else can she get? She plotted against me. Do I have to invite her to the palace to be an imperial concubine?" After saying that, the Emperor waved his hand and said, "You can leave now. I will explain it to Shao Jing. It's because of the reputation of Duke Xing's Mansion for so many years that his daughter is not punished."

Seeing that the Emperor was annoyed, the Empress was overjoyed, but she still pretended to be calm and gentle. "Yes, I will listen to your arrangement, but now where should Secondary Consort Shao live?"

"Anywhere. Just let her stay where she is. Don't come strolling around when she has nothing better to do, and there's no need for her to greet you and mother."

The Emperor said this impatiently.

This time, the Empress didn't dare to say anything more. Since she had achieved her goal, there was no reason for her to stay here. She bowed obediently to the Emperor and slowly left.

When she got out of the imperial study, she looked up at the sky with a cold smile on her lips. Then she slowly tidied up her sleeves and returned to Phoenix Palace with all the servants.

The Emperor's intention was very clear. He wanted Shao Yanru to enter the palace, but she could only stay in the palace and could not go around.

Even though it wasn't the Cold Palace, it was almost similar to the Cold Palace. She was only a ninth-grade Secondary Consort!

She could not be put into the Cold Palace. After all, she had done nothing wrong on the surface. Then she could just be put into the palace near the Cold Palace. There were a few large palaces there, which were far away from the main palace. No one wanted to go there. They all felt that it was remote and unlucky. Just let her go there so that she would not be an eyesore to the Empress.

After the Empress returned to Phoenix Palace with satisfaction, it didn't take long for her to issue an order and ask the supervisor eunuch to send it to the side hall. She was unwilling to let such a bitch stay in her side hall.

Shao Yanru was carried out of the Empress's Phoenix Palace. There were a total of two decrees for her to enter the palace, one for Duke Xing's Mansion and the other for herself. Before she woke up, she had become Secondary Consort Shao...

Chapter 794 Why Am I Just a Secondary Consort

"No... no... Please... forgive me... I won't dare to do it again. I won't..." A shrill scream suddenly came. Shao Wanru looked at Shao Yanru, who was sweating. Shao Yanru seemed to be frightened by something, or she was having a nightmare.

Shao Wanru came to this remote and cold palace with Shao Yanru and she would leave soon. It was also the idea of the Empress. Shao Yanru's status was different from before, so Shao Wanru didn't have to stay here all day long. It would be terrible if she offended the Emperor!

Han Dan hurriedly stepped forward to help Shao Yanru breathe smoothly and said in a low voice, "Secondary Consort, wake up, wake up!"

Shao Yanru, who was sweating profusely, suddenly woke up and stared fixedly at something in the air. She was in a daze, looking gloomy and weird.

"Secondary Consort, what's wrong with you? I'm so scared!" Han Dan hastily shook her lightly as she spoke.

Shao Yanru seemed to be a little sober. She rolled her eyes slowly and let out a deep sigh of relief when she saw Han Dan. It seemed that Han Dan should have been with her. Then she said in a slightly hoarse voice, "Give... give me a glass of water..."

"I'll serve it right away!" Han Dan let Shao Yanru lean against her nimbly. Then Han Dan turned to the table, poured half a cup of warm water, and brought it to her lips.

Shao Yanru drank it up in a hurry. Because she drank it so quickly, some of the water spilled on her. After finishing it, she said, "Get another one!"

Han Dan poured another cup of water, and Shao Yanru took it and drank it up this time.

After drinking two cups of warm water, she felt as if she had come back to life. She looked up at the surroundings and asked slowly, "Where... am I? Why... is it not where I live..."

"Secondary Consort, this is where you live. Her Grace ordered you to live here. She said that this would be the place where you and I live. Though it looks bad somewhere, I'll clean it up later. Then it will look much better!" Han Dan said with a gloomy face.

She didn't expect to follow Shao Yanru to such a remote palace.

Was there such a palace in the imperial palace? She didn't know it before. Not only was it remote, but it also looked old. Some parts of it were a little dilapidated. She didn't believe that this place was really for the imperial concubines to live in.

"Isn't this place really the legendary Cold Palace?"

She just wanted to follow a potential mistress so that she could have a bright future. Unexpectedly, the current situation was not as good as before. However, she had no choice, so she had to endure it.

"Secondary Consort... Her Grace... This is where I live..." Shao Yanru murmured to herself and reached out to press her head, only to feel that the situation was different.

She thought that she shouldn't be just a Secondary Consort. Getting such a low-ranking title made her shocked!

Shao Yanru had been dreaming just now. She couldn't remember all the complicated things in her dream clearly, but she still vaguely remembered some. She was the Emperor's Zhaoyi. How could she be

a Secondary Consort? How could she get such a low-ranking title? Moreover, she lived in such a remote and dilapidated place. After all, she was the eldest legitimate daughter of Duke Xing's Mansion.

When she touched the bed and was about to sit up, she suddenly met a pair of deep eyes. The cold and sharp eyes made her weak for a moment, and her body fell heavily again.

After being stunned for a moment, she hurriedly turned her head and saw Shao Wanru sitting in front of the table. For a moment, she covered her chest with her hands, widened her eyes in disbelief, and said in horror, "You... Why are you still alive... You... are still alive!"

Seeing that Shao Yanru finally saw her, Shao Wanru raised the corners of her mouth slightly and asked with a sneer, "Big Sister, what do you mean? Why can't I live?"

"Are... are you a human or a ghost..." Shao Yanru shrank back desperately with panic and fear in her eyes as if she had really seen a ghost.

"Big Sister, do you want to touch me? You can check if I'm... a human or a ghost!" Shao Wanru said with a smile. Then she stood up and walked slowly to Shao Yanru. Her bright watery eyes were mysterious as if something in her eyes was dragging Shao Yanru into them.

"Don't come over. Don't come over!" Shao Yanru screamed in horror. "It has nothing to do with me. I didn't kill you... Don't come to me. It's Prince Yue's order... It's not me... It's not me..."

Shao Wanru stood still and looked at Shao Yanru carefully with a trace of suspicion flashing across her eyes. It was not like something that Shao Yanru would say.

"Qin Wanru, you have nothing to do with me... and have nothing to do with Duke Xing's Mansion... Don't come over... People of the first branch all died... You... you..." The look in Shao Yanru's eyes was elusive, and she lost control of her expression as she screamed in a sharp voice.

"Qin Wanru? Prince Yue killed me?" Shao Wanru's eyes became colder and colder. She was killed in her last life. So Shao Yanru now realized that she and Chu Liuyue conspired to kill her in the last life.

Shao Wanru sneered, lowered her head slowly, and whispered in Shao Yanru's ear in a low and grim voice, "First Miss Shao... did you hear that if someone who was cut in half at the waist was wrongly accused, she would haunt you for the rest of your life!"

Shao Yanru burst into tears and smashed the cushion in her hand hard on Shao Wanru's body. "It's not me. It's really not me. You're in our way... Your death is good for many people... Anyway, you won't be able to get better in that state... You... you'd better die..."

Her words were incoherent, but Shao Wanru heard some other meanings. She couldn't help sneering. Because she had lived a miserable life, Shao Yanru wanted to take her life. Shao Yanru was unreasonable thoroughly.

There was no more disgusting excuse than this.

She threw the cushion back to her, and her eyes were as cold as a sharp dagger.

Shao Yanru, who was lying on the bed, seemed to have woken up at this time. She reached out to rub her head, looked at Shao Wanru, and then looked around. After that, she looked at Han Dan, and some frightening scenes that had just happened in her dream were slowly fading away in her mind.

She slowly recalled what had happened before.

She really passed out. She had told Shuqi about it before and threatened Shuqi with the lives of her family. If something out of control happened, Shuqi would commit suicide to apologize and take the blame for her.

However, she didn't expect that the plan would fail. In panic and fear, she fainted. When she woke up, she only felt that she had a nightmare. In her dream, she was a Zhaoyi and killed Qin Wanru. But she couldn't remember anything else.

After all, it was just a dream, and everything in front of her was real. Qin Wanru had changed her name to Shao Wanru. If possible, she was really unwilling to let Shao Wanru return to her ancestral home.

Shao Yanru took a deep breath, held the quilt, and asked, "Fifth Sister... did I have a nightmare?"

Seeing the clear look in Shao Yanru's eyes, Shao Wanru knew that she really got sober at this time. She straightened up, looked at her, and said, "Congratulations on entering the palace, Big Sister. From now on, you are a Secondary Consort. I have something else to do, so I won't accompany you. I'll go back to the Chuxiu Palace!"

"What did you say? I... I'm just a Secondary Consort?" Shao Yanru asked in disbelief. Just now, she should be a Zhaoyi in her dream. Why was it such a low-ranking title?

"Madam, you truly are a Secondary Consort!" Han Dan muttered on one side.

"Why... why... It shouldn't be like this... I am the eldest legitimate daughter of Duke Xing's Mansion..." Shao Yanru said in a panic and reached out to hold Han Dan's hand. It seemed that she wanted to know the answer from her.

After the Emperor left, she had guessed that she would enter the imperial palace. Although it was not what she had in mind, she could accept it unwillingly, but why was she in such a low position?

"Secondary Consort, this is Her Grace's order. You have already moved out of the side hall of the Phoenix Palace!" Han Dan replied carefully. If possible, she was unwilling to come here, but she had to come. Besides her, the palace maid who decocted medicine for Shao Yanru and the palace maids who were in charge of cleaning the side hall before also came here. It seemed that the Empress was very generous.

However, all the palace maids who followed Shao Yanru here blamed her. No one was willing to live in such a place, like the Cold Palace.

Shao Yanru suddenly stood up and said, "I don't believe it. I don't believe it. I'm going to see Her Grace. No, I'll go to see His Majesty..."

Shao Wanru, who was standing aside, looked at Shao Yanru coldly and said, "Big Sister, I advise you to give up the struggle. Maybe Duke Xing has been implicated. You were really scheming and asked me to

go to the Imperial Institute of Medicine early in the morning, but there are many smart people in the world. Don't you understand what I mean?"

"What... what do you mean?" Shao Yanru said in a trembling voice and stared at Shao Wanru fiercely as if Shao Wanru had made her get into trouble.

"I have no implied meaning. I just want you to recognize your current situation. You are now a Secondary Consort, the ninth-class title. You are not favored by His Majesty and are detested by Her Grace. It's unknown how long you can stay in the imperial palace. I guess that Old Madam will not give you any support in the future. An abandoned catspaw is useless."

Shao Wanru mercilessly dealt a blow to Shao Yanru's confidence. Then she turned around.

"Shao Wanru, is it you? Is it you?" Shao Yanru suddenly pounced on Shao Wanru and seemed to try to pull Shao Wanru's clothes. Shao Wanru stepped aside and happened to avoid Shao Yanru's grip.

Shao Yanru fell heavily by the bed, which made her wound hurt again. She couldn't help groaning with her hands covering her chest.

"Shao Yanru, you hurt others in scheming ways. You are very smart, but some people can be convicted without evidence. Everything in the imperial palace is complicated, and you will enjoy your life in the palace from now on. No one will support or dote on you. Disgust will linger around you. Maybe next time we meet, you'll just be a skeleton!"

Shao Wanru looked down at Shao Yanru, who was in a mess, and destroyed her confidence with her words. Then she didn't give Shao Yanru a chance to argue. She only glanced at Han Dan, who was standing aside, turned around, and strode away with Yujie.

No one saw the gloom in the corners of Shao Wanru's eyes. As long as Duke Xing was still her uncle, Shao Yanru would not stop. She was patient before the truth was exposed...

Chapter 795 What Big Brother Is Coming for?

The sedan stopped outside the door. Shao Wanru got in the sedan, and Yujie guarded her aside. They went to the Chuxiu Palace.

It was a long way, and many things happened today. Sitting in the sedan, Shao Wanru slowly closed her eyes and thought of Shao Yanru's crazy move just now.

Did Shao Yanru remember what had happened in Shao Wanru's last life?

What she said at that moment lingered in Shao Wanru's mind, however, after Shao Wanru thought about it carefully, she thought that Shao Yanru didn't seem to have recalled it. Her words were more like nonsense after she woke up from a nightmare.

Shao Wanru thought back to how Shao Yanru looked when she fainted.

She thought that Shao Yanru had a nightmare, which was related to her last life. In the last life, Shao Yanru seemed to be fine when she died, but why did it sound that someone wanted to kill Shao Yanru and she kept begging for mercy? It was quite different from what she remembered.

She massaged her glabella and wondered if she had forgotten something important.

After thinking about it carefully, she realized that she had forgotten something about Chu Liuchen. Could it be that Chu Liuchen knew that Shao Yanru had killed her and wanted to kill Shao Yanru to avenge her?

It was very strange and impossible. After all, Shao Yanru was the Emperor's Zhaoyi at that time. A third-class Zhaoyi was a high-ranking imperial concubine who couldn't be killed by others so easily, even if Chu Liuchen was the crown prince. At that time, he couldn't kill Shao Yanru directly.

But for some reason, she felt that it was very likely to be true.

She reached out to rub her glabella. It was sore. After everything that had happened today, she couldn't come to her senses in a while.

The sedan suddenly stopped, and Shao Wanru's hand stayed on her glabella for a moment.

"Is it Fifth Miss Shao of Duke Xing's Mansion in front?" A sharp voice came from a eunuch.

"Yes. Your Highness Prince Yue!" Yujie saw Chu Liuyue at the intersection and hurried forward to salute him.

Hearing that it was Chu Liuyue outside, Shao Wanru couldn't help sighing softly. As expected, Shao Yanru and Chu Liuyue were good partners. Even if they didn't cooperate with each other openly, they would get involved in the end. She didn't believe that Chu Liuyue really passed by. The way to the Chuxiu Palace was not large like that served for officials.

How could it be such a coincidence?

Shao Wanru gently knocked on the door of the sedan. Knowing that Shao Wanru was going to come out, Yujie hurriedly turned around to lift the curtain for her and then helped her get out of the sedan.

After standing in front of the sedan, Shao Wanru graciously bowed to Chu Liuyue and said, "Greetings, Your Highness!"

"Fifth Miss Shao, where did you go just now? That's not the direction of the Chuxiu Palace!" As Chu Liuyue said that, he looked behind her. It was indeed not the direction of the Chuxiu Palace.

"I'm going back to the Chuxiu Palace!" Shao Wanru did not believe that Chu Liuyue didn't know anything about it. She lowered her head and spoke respectfully, waiting for Chu Liuyue to reveal his purpose.

Sure enough, Chu Liuyue asked, "Does your sister live there now?"

Shao Wanru lowered her head respectfully again and said, "Yes."

Chu Liuyue looked at her and asked, "Why did such a thing happen to your sister all of a sudden? Did someone harm her on purpose?"

Shao Wanru shook her head and said, "I don't know what happened either. It's up to Her Grace to decide!"

Chu Liuyue said, "With First Miss Shao's temperament, it's impossible for her to do such a thing. Fifth Miss Shao, don't you think there's something wrong with it?"

Shao Wanru raised her head and looked at him mysteriously. It seemed that she was looking at him, but it also seemed that she was looking at another person through him. Although his smile was gentle, it was inexplicably ironic. "Your Highness, do you mean that you want me to go to beg Her Grace for mercy and ask her to check if my Big Sister has been framed?"

Chu Liuyue frowned and looked at her unhappily. He didn't say anything for a long time and thought in his mind, "Unexpectedly, she is a sharp-tongued person."

After a while, Chu Liuyue asked unhappily, "You and First Miss Shao are sisters from the same mansion. Shouldn't you care for each other?"

Shao Wanru said, "Care for each other? Do you really mean it, Your Highness? Today, I almost took the blame for Big Sister. If this is the so-called care, I would rather not have it!"

The objection in her words was obvious, and she did not hesitate to break the illusion of friendship between her and Shao Yanru. After being stunned for a moment, Chu Liuyue immediately became angry. He originally wanted to say it nicely, however, his attitude became tough since she was so impolite.

When he was about to speak, a gentle voice suddenly came behind him. "Brother, what are you doing here? Are you also going to visit the new Secondary Consort?"

Being gentle and casual, it was Chu Liuchen's voice. Chu Liuyue looked back and saw Chu Liuchen getting out of his special wheelchair. Chu Liuchen lifted up his beautiful eyes. Although he looked gentle, he inexplicably made people feel a chill. Others might not be clear about it, but Chu Liuyue did.

On the surface, the two seemed to be very respectful to each other, but in fact, they didn't get along well with each other in private. Chu Liuchen used to hurt him with words unscrupulously. Anyway, he would die at any time, so he didn't care who he would offend.

At least, those people would not do anything to him when Empress Dowager and the Emperor were present, even if they didn't like him.

Now Chu Liuchen had restrained himself a little during this period, but even so, Chu Liuyue did not dare to talk offensively in front of Chu Liuchen. He was not a person who followed the rules. Nobody knew what kind of crazy behavior and trouble he would make in the next moment.

But Chu Liuyue was very clear about one thing. No matter what trouble he made in the end, his father and Imperial Grandmother would be partial to Chu Liuchen and let him suffer losses. His poor health became his excuse for being presumptuous.

A trace of maliciousness flashed in his eyes. He wanted to see how long this invalid would run amuck. This invalid, who had no chance to ascend the throne, kept courting death, but just pushed himself to get close to death faster.

Chu Liuyue's expression quickly returned to normal, and he said lightly, "Third brother!" Then he looked at Chu Liuchen and continued to say, "Where are you going?"

"I'm going to the Secondary Consort's residence. My uncle asked me to see how she is. If she feels good, I won't go!" Chu Liuchen said casually and then glanced at Shao Wanru. Seeing that she was fine, he was relieved. Of course, if Chu Liuyue really hurt Shao Wanru, he wouldn't let him go.

If he drew Zhuozhuo over to his side, he would naturally support Zhuozhuo openly. At present, it was still inappropriate for him to do that.

Shao Wanru bowed to him sideways.

Chu Liuyue frowned and didn't understand what he meant. Chu Liuchen couldn't be involved in this kind of thing anyway.

Chu Liuyue asked, "Since you were asked to go there, is there anything wrong with the palace?"

"There's nothing wrong with it. It's just that our uncle is going to see Shao Jing, Duke Xing later. The matter about his daughter should be declared in detail. I happened to have nothing to do, so I volunteered to come here to help uncle!" Chu Liuchen said more and more casually and raised his eyelids to look at Shao Wanru.

"Since I happen to meet Fifth Miss Shao, I won't go there. I'll ask her about it."

Shao Wanru looked at Chu Liuchen speechlessly. How could the matter of an insignificant Secondary Consort disturb the two princes? No matter how she thought about it, it was weird. In fact, it was not a big deal. A little eunuch could do it!

Chu Liuchen looked up at Chu Liuyue and said with some provocation, "Brother, what are you doing here? Did you also run an errand for our uncle?"

"I had nothing to do and I just walked around. I heard that there was an accident in the palace. I didn't expect to meet Fifth Miss Shao!" Chu Liuyue said lightly with a gloomy look in his eyes.

"Well, brother, do as you please. I have something to talk to Fifth Miss Shao." Chu Liuchen spoke with a natural smile and said goodbye to Chu Liuyue, obviously intending to drive him away.

After looking at Shao Wanru, who lowered her head respectfully, and Chu Liuchen, Chu Liuyue felt very upset and his face became colder. He turned around and strode away.

"Fifth Miss Shao, tell me what happened today. My uncle is still waiting for me to report it to him. This matter is related to the imperial harem, so I have to report it to my Imperial Grandmother," Chu Liuchen said with a serious face. Then he reached out his hand to lead the way. "Fifth Miss, come with me, and let's talk about it!"

After saying that, he walked forward casually.

"Yes!" Shao Wanru nodded and followed him.

The others followed them from a distance.

Shao Wanru looked at the people behind her who were far away and asked in a low voice, "Prince, why are you here?"

"I can't let Chu Liuyue bully someone on my side!" Chu Liuchen said casually. He smiled and his beautiful eyes glinted as he continued, "Since Shao Yanru's matter has been settled, our matter can also be settled."

Hearing this, Shao Wanru was stunned and asked subconsciously, "Is it so soon?"

"Soon? Why don't I think so?" Chu Liuchen raised his eyebrows and said with a leisurely look in his bright eyes, "In fact, my Imperial Grandmother has been looking for an opportunity to issue an order, but it's not convenient for her to do so for the time being because the Consort Selection is not over. Now the chance comes. After Shao Yanru's incident is solved, the royal household should show some favor to Duke Xing's Mansion for compensation."

Shao Wanru understood what he meant. Shao Yanru's matter was in such a situation. Even if there was no evidence, Duke Xing's Mansion would definitely be implicated. Shao Yanru's title as a Secondary Consort showed the Empress' anger.

No matter how capable Shao Jing was, the Empress' anger was enough to destroy him.

A favor should be given after the punishment. Shao Yanru's matter was the punishment for Duke Xing's Mansion, and the matter between her and Chu Liuchen was the favor.

Without enough evidence, the Emperor couldn't go too far with the meritorious family. Moreover, the princes and Emperor were involved in Shao Yanru's matter, so the royal household would inevitably cover up a lot of things. Even if Shao Yanru's affairs were spread out, there would be no obvious mistakes. The only thing that made people criticize her was that she and the Emperor behaved improperly in the Empress's Phoenix Palace.

It was obviously a disgrace to the Empress. As the Emperor, he needed to deal with the matter fairly at this time. The title of Secondary Consort was enough to show the problem and it was also a comfort for the Empress.

"Prince, do you know that there will be a break for the change of shift in the Imperial Institute of Medicine?" Since this matter had come to this, Shao Wanru wanted to put it aside for the time being. She had another thing to inquire about and it seemed to be very important.

Chapter 796 He Wanted to Get Shao Wanru!

"I don't know. We'll know it after inquiring about it!" Chu Liuchen narrowed his eyes. His eyes were shining brightly, which looked really moving. Compared with Shao Wanru, his lips had always been light-colored and too pale. He was really a quiet handsome young man.

Although Shao Wanru had long known that he was extremely handsome, she couldn't help being stunned at the moment. Then she came to her senses, blushed, and hurriedly lowered her head.

Chu Liuchen raised the corner of his mouth in a good mood and said, "You want to ask who can inquire so clearly about this matter, which happened only recently?"

Shao Wanru nodded, tried hard to calm down, and said, "Doesn't everyone in the palace know it, right?"

"Few people know about it, but I can inquire about it!" Chu Liuchen said meaningfully. Shao Wanru fell silent because she knew that she could not find any clues in this way.

"If you must investigate it, you can actually do it." Chu Liuchen suddenly smiled and reached out to pull Shao Wanru's hand.

Shao Wanru was shocked. She hurriedly looked around and said in a low voice, "Someone will see us!"

"What are you afraid of? Imperial Grandmother has even written an edict. You are my fiancée. Will people gossip when they see me holding your hand?"

Chu Liuchen raised his eyebrows gloomily. In fact, he could achieve his goal in another way. Although it was bloody, the effect was obvious.

The method was either useful or not. For him, in fact, he never avoided the more effective method.

"But..." Shao Wanru was not only blushed this time but also flushed with anger. She struggled uneasily and tried hard to get rid of his grip.

"Don't worry, no one will see it!" Chu Liuchen didn't let go of her hand but put it down. His wide sleeves happened to cover their hands which were holding together.

Feeling the texture of the cloth in her hand, Shao Wanru breathed a sigh of relief and calmed down. Then she shook her head, refused Chu Liuchen, and said, "You don't have to investigate it. I will do it."

"Really?" Chu Liuchen asked casually.

"Really. It's not in a hurry now. Besides, it's not okay to get to the bottom of it!" Shao Wanru said decisively.

If she wanted to investigate it, she would definitely investigate it slowly without using Chu Liuchen's power. Many people in the palace had intervened in it. She was afraid that any slight movement of Chu Liuchen would cause the whole situation to change.

There was one more thing that Shao Wanru did not say clearly, but she believed that Chu Liuchen would understand it. One should not be too faultfinding. It was just the beginning. If she found out everything at this time, it would be more difficult to find out if the enemy moved in the dark.

Shao Wanru had something on her mind. What she wanted to investigate was actually about her parents. It was not so easy to dig up a story of more than a decade ago.

She had to be calmer and more patient in order to figure out all the things that had happened in the past bit by bit.

She should handle this matter slowly. Now she just found clues from Shao Wanru's matter, so it could not be cut off. She wanted to find out everything slowly through the clues.

Shao Wanru had a hunch that it was related to the past.

"You really don't want me to intervene?" Chu Liuchen, who had always been gentle, said with a trace of gloom in his eyes. He tilted his head slightly to look at Shao Wanru and asked that. In front of her, he did not intend to hide his joy and anger, nor did he need to pretend to be gentle. He had always lived in the darkness and had never intended to let himself leave it.

In front of her, he was different. It seemed that she was an exception to him at the beginning!

He was inexplicably moved. She allowed him to hold her slender and little hand obediently, which made him feel indescribably satisfied. Only when he was with her did he feel that he was a living person. At this time, he could express his own joys and sorrows, no longer as gentle and elegant as he showed according to the different scenes.

Chu Liuchen was never a gentle and elegant person.

"There is really no need." After saying that, Shao Wanru felt that her hand was held tightly by Chu Liuchen, so she continued to say hurriedly, "At least I don't need it for the time being. I may have to trouble you next!"

As soon as she finished speaking, she felt that the strength exerted on her hand reduced.

"Come to me if you need anything," Chu Liuchen said in a light voice.

"I know!" Shao Wanru nodded and turned to look at him. Seeing him pursing his lips tightly and looking displeased, she couldn't help smiling.

"Prince, can you go back now? The Emperor may be waiting for you!" She shook her hand gently, which attracted Chu Liuchen's attention.

"He won't wait for me!" Chu Liuchen said casually, "In fact, I'm here for a walk. It's impossible to let me do that. It's not a good thing!"

"So... the Emperor didn't ask you to come here?" Shao Wanru widened her watery eyes and looked at Chu Liuchen in front of her speechlessly.

She thought in her mind. "What a bold man! He even dared to deceive the Emperor and did it so naturally. Wasn't he afraid that the Emperor would punish him?"

"Are you worried about me?" Chu Liuchen smiled. His smile was indescribably gentle, like a spring breeze warming the whole frozen country, as if all the gloom in his eyes had turned into ashes, which made her heart beat wildly unconsciously.

"Your highness!"

"Well, I will be fine and won't be punished," Chu Liuchen waved his hand and said with a smile.

"Your highness, you'd better go back first. You just met Prince Yue. It'll be terrible if he says something when he goes back!" Shao Wanru said with some worry.

Others naturally did not dare to offend him, but Chu Liuyue was an exception. Moreover, Chu Liuyue looked weird today. It was possible that he would go to the Emperor to complain.

"Don't worry. He doesn't dare to say anything. Not only does Shao Yanru have something to do with the emperor, but she also has something to do with him. If he shows his interest in Shao Yanru's affairs at this time, what will the emperor think? Maybe the emperor will think that Chu Liuyue wants to compete with him for a woman!" Chu Liuchen said calmly.

His words made Shao Wanru fall silent for a while. What he said was reasonable. Chu Liuyue did not dare to nag in front of the Emperor in order to avoid arousing suspicion.

But she still felt strange that Chu Liuyue appeared in front of her at this time, which was a little abnormal.

Xiao Xuanzi suddenly took a few steps forward and whispered something to Chu Liuchen. Shao Wanru didn't hear it clearly, but only saw that Chu Liuchen's face immediately became solemn. Although the smile on his face was still gentle and elegant, it inexplicably made people feel that it was cold and gloomy.

"If you have something to do, go ahead!" Shao Wanru stood still and looked at the sky. "I can't go any further at this time. I have to go back to Chuxiu Palace as soon as possible. If I go back late, it will inevitably arouse suspicion!"

Chu Liuchen didn't stop her this time, let go of her hand, and said, "Okay, you can go back first!"

Then she stepped aside. Two eunuchs who carried an empty soft sedan hurried forward.

After Shao Wanru got into the sedan, the two eunuchs carried her out of sight. The smile on Chu Liuchen's face immediately disappeared, and there was a cold gloom and cruelty in his eyes. Xiao Xuanzi knew that his master had never been a gentle person, so he became more and more cautious.

"What's the matter? Did he go to the Empress's palace?"

"Yes, it's true. It's said that Prince Yue went to the Empress's palace in a hurry! It seems that he has something important to discuss with the Empress."

Xiao Xuanzi reported in a low voice.

"Let's go. I also want to see the Empress. I haven't been to the Phoenix Palace of the Empress for a long time!" Chu Liuchen said and sat in a wheelchair. Xiao Xuanzi pushed the wheelchair and turned a corner towards the direction of the Phoenix Palace.

In the Phoenix Palace, Chu Liuyue sat upright in front of the Empress. He picked up the tea in his hand, took a sip, and then slowly put it down. His movements were extremely elegant and natural, without any anger or other meanings, as if he had not met Chu Liuchen and wasn't bullied before.

"I heard that something happened in your palace and it has something to do with the First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion," Chu Liuyue raised his head and asked with a light smile and concern.

He did not ask it deliberately, nor did he pay much attention to it. It seemed that he just talked about a trifle after he heard it.

The Empress put down the teacup in her hand, wiped the water from the corner of her mouth with a handkerchief, and said with a gentle smile, "It's not a big deal. The Emperor married the First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion and bestowed her the title of Secondary Consort. I heard that you were friends when you were young, but her seniority will be different in the future."

The words were actually painful. A few days ago, Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou just fought for Shao Yanru. Later, Chu Liuzhou also told the Empress about it in detail. At that time, he was a little reckless. He directly rushed in after hearing ambiguous words of Chu Liuyue. Later, he thought carefully and found that Shao Yanru did not say anything about joining forces with Chu Liuyue to plot against him.

Chu Liuzhou felt a little regretful and thought that he shouldn't have made such a scene at that time and almost forced Shao Yanru to commit suicide to apologize. However, the Empress didn't think so. As a woman, she intuitively felt that Shao Yanru was definitely not innocent in this matter, just like what had happened today. It was weird that Shao Yanru seemed to be the victim in the end.

Shao Yanru couldn't be innocent. She was just a scheming woman, but now she couldn't do anything even if she had any plot!

"In fact, Secondary Consort is noble enough. It is... First Miss's blessing to get the favor of my father!" Chu Liuyue said calmly. He came to see the Empress today, not for Shao Yanru. Shao Yanru was just a tool. At this time, it was impossible for him to have any other thoughts about Shao Yanru.

"It's good that you think so. Your father is also gratified!" The Empress did not intend to let him go. She continued to say something painful for him as if Chu Liuyue was originally going to compete for a woman with the Emperor.

Knowing that the Empress wasn't happy with the fight between him and Chu Liuzhou, Chu Liuyue didn't get angry and let her take it out on him again and again.

He could tolerate such a trifle. Moreover, he really didn't have any affection for Shao Yanru now, so he didn't think it was hard to accept the result. He didn't care who Shao Yanru married but he cared about Shao Wanru. He wanted to get Shao Wanru!

Chapter 797 Unsaid Candidate

Shao Yanru had little chance to make a comeback unless she could win the favor of the Emperor. However, Chu Liuyue thought it almost impossible.

There were a lot of lineal daughters of Duke Xing's Mansion and only one daughter of non-lineal descent. Without Shao Yanru, he could take advantage of others. If Chu Liuyue wanted to obtain the support of Duke Xing's Mansion, he could choose other daughters of Duke Xing's Mansion.

Shao Wanru was not the biological daughter of Shao Jing, the Duke Xing, but after all, if Shao Jing, who had lost his biological daughter, wanted to support one of his nieces, Shao Wanru was the best choice. Shao Wanru, who originally had Rui'an Great Elder Princess as her backing, became more honorable and even more noble than Shao Yanru in the past.

After thinking it through, Chu Liuyue decided that he couldn't wait any longer, otherwise, more people would find that Shao Wanru's value was different from that of the past, so he had to beat them to it.

Originally, he planned to use Shao Yanru's incident as an excuse to see Shao Wanru to court her favor. Unexpectedly, his plan was disrupted by Chu Liuchen, which also made Chu Liuyue become alarmed.

He didn't feel too frustrated after losing Shao Yanru. On the contrary, he felt relaxed. At present, in order to get the support of Duke Xing's Mansion, he couldn't lose Shao Wanru. He felt very anxious now.

"Mother, what does my father think of the beauties of Chuxiu Palace?" Chu Liuyue raised his eyelids, looked at the Empress who was a little thirsty, and asked, as if he didn't hear the Empress's sarcasm.

Seeing that he was so calm, the Empress changed her mind and immediately calmed down. She thought that she had gone too far just now. The reason why she lost her composure was Shao Yanru's incident before.

"Prince Yue, do you mean that you are interested in someone?" The Empress put down the teacup in her hand and asked with a smile. She looked calm and composed, with the temperament of the Empress.

"I have indeed fallen in love with a lady. I hope you can help me!" Chu Liuyue stood up, lifted the hem of his robe, and knelt down to the Empress.

"Which lady do you fancy?" The Empress said in surprise. She really didn't expect that Chu Liuyue would be so forthright and even beg her. Shouldn't he beg the Emperor now?

But when she thought about what had happened to the Emperor, she knew that the Emperor was not in the mood to grant marriage to his son, so she understood Chu Liuyue's thought. He really fancied a Miss and was afraid that she would be taken by others, so he came here to beg her. Thinking of this, she could not help feeling complacent.

No matter what, he was still a son of a concubine, even if he was a prince. At this time, he had to come here to beg her, not Consort of Virtue.

"Tell me, which one do you like? If it is appropriate, I will make the decision for you!" The Empress reached out to help Chu Liuyue up.

As long as the lady he fancied was not the person she chose, it didn't matter. It was not a difficult thing to grant marriage to Chu Liuyue. What was more, the daughter-in-law she selected was not among the beauties of Chuxiu Palace, so she didn't worry that she would be chosen by Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue smiled bitterly and said helplessly, "Mother, in fact, I don't mean to marry a certain person. There are always disputes in the backyard, so I just want to marry a powerful person who can help me manage the people in the backyard."

"A powerful person? Which family do you mean?" The Empress thought in her mind. It meant that the person's family was influential. She secretly thought of the influential candidates this year. She was a little wary of what Chu Liuyue said.

There were indeed a lot of women in the backyard of Prince Yue's Mansion, but most of them were insignificant and couldn't make any big trouble. How could a low-ranking woman dare to make trouble? In fact, the Empress really didn't hope that the backyard of Chu Liuyue was peaceful. More importantly, she didn't want Chu Liuyue to marry a powerful woman in case it would affect the future of her own son.

"Mother..." Chu Liuyue smiled slightly and was about to say it bluntly. He knew clearly what the Empress was thinking. At this time, it was better to speak bluntly than to beat around the bush. Chu Liuzhou must have no idea to marry Shao Wanru. Or he hadn't figured out the value of Shao Wanru. Shao Wanru was not a suitable candidate for Prince Zhou's wife.

"Your Highness, Prince Chen is here!" A eunuch came in in a hurry and reported in a sharp voice.

His voice disrupted Chu Liuyue's words. At this time, it was inconvenient for him to speak out his idea in a hurry. Inexplicably, he had a bad feeling. When he talked to Shao Wanru before, Chu Liuchen appeared. But now, when he talked to the Empress, he appeared again!

The Empress said, "Ask Prince Chen to come in!"

Chu Liuchen appeared in the main hall and walked over slowly. He bowed to the Empress casually, and the Empress politely invited him to sit down.

"What a coincidence, brother is also here!" Chu Liuchen raised his eyebrows with a smile in his handsome eyes.

"Third brother, it is indeed a coincidence. I met you before, and now I meet you again. Have you finished dealing with the matter for the Emperor?" Chu Liuyue was annoyed in his heart, but he had to show a smile on his face.

He had always had a cold expression on his face. A smile like that was very rare to see.

"What did His Majesty ask Prince Chen to do?" The Empress figured out some implied meaning, so she turned to ask Chu Liuchen.

Chu Liuchen sat down on a chair and raised the corners of his eyes, revealing a trace of evil coldness in his eyes. "It's not a big deal. I was just assigned to see where Secondary Consort Shao lives and what she needs!"

The Empress was anxious and she asked subconsciously, "What does the Emperor mean?"

Could it be that he wanted to ask Shao Yanru to come back?

"Uncle doesn't mean anything. He just asked me to inquire about it clearly, so that he can tell Duke Xing about it directly. Speaking of this, Duke Xing took responsibility for his lax discipline of his daughter. If the Emperor can tell him in detail, Duke Xing won't have objection!" Chu Liuchen said casually. He did have the most right to speak about Shao Yanru's matter because he had no relationship with Shao Yanru.

No matter if it was Chu Liuyue or Chu Liuzhou, or even Chu Liuxin who was related to today's incident, they more or less had a relationship with Shao Yanru.

From this point of view, he was indeed the most suitable person to investigate Shao Yanru.

The Empress's eyes twitched, and her eyelids twitched a while. She clasped her hands in front of her body with a dignified look. "Duke Xing really should take the blame for Secondary Consort Shao's incident."

In the past, the Empress was always partial to Duke Xing's Mansion. It was the first time that she had expressed her disapproval of Duke Xing's Mansion in public.

"Your Highness, you are right. My uncle also has the same idea." Chu Liuchen nodded. Then he turned his head to Chu Liuyue who was sitting aside in silence, and said, "Brother, do you also come here for Secondary Consort Shao?"

Chu Liuyue's face became colder and colder. He didn't want to have any relationship with Shao Yanru at all now. He looked at Chu Liuchen coldly and controlled his emotions after a long time. "The matter of Secondary Consort Shao has nothing to do with me."

Chu Liuchen said with an indifferent face, "I am wrong. I thought you pleaded for Secondary Consort Shao."

Chu Liuyue's face was flushed with anger, and he felt annoyed in his heart. "This invalid was really haunting. He actually came here when I visited Empress. Even if I had a lot of ideas on my mind now, it was not appropriate to talk about them at this time."

"Brother, with regards to Secondary Consort Shao's identity, we can't discuss her at will now." Chu Liuyue reminded Chu Liuchen in a cold voice.

"Brother, you are right. Secondary Consort Shao has higher seniority now, so we can't talk about her casually, but the Emperor asked me to investigate her, so I talked about her unconsciously just now." Chu Liuchen nodded and explained as if he didn't know that he had provoked Chu Liuyue.

The rage in Chu Liuyue's heart almost went out of control.

When the Empress said it just now, he could bear it. However, when Chu Liuchen said the same words now, he felt them distasteful, not only because of Chu Liuchen, but also because of Shao Yanru. This woman was really disgusting and shameful.

How could there be such a disgusting woman in the world!

Not only did she seduce him, but she also had a relationship with his second brother. Now, she did not even let his fourth brother go and finally threw herself into the arms of his father!

Although he didn't know the details of what had happened in Phoenix Palace, he still heard something. Seeing that Shao Yanru only obtained the title of Secondary Consort now, he knew that there was Shao Yanru's plot in this matter, and it was discovered by the Empress. Otherwise, she wouldn't have been thrown to that dilapidated palace far away.

"Mother, I still have something to do, so I have to leave now. I'll visit you tomorrow!" Chu Liuyue felt so disgusted that he couldn't sit still and suddenly stood up. He didn't have a chance to speak out his ideas in front of Chu Liuchen here, so he decided to say it tomorrow. He was afraid that if he stayed any longer, he would lose control of his emotions.

The Empress understood what he meant. Knowing that he would talk with her tomorrow, she nodded at once. She was not in a hurry to deal with the marriage of Prince Yue. No matter who he loved, it had nothing to do with her.

After saying goodbye to Chu Liuchen, Chu Liuyue flicked his sleeves and strode away, as if there was really an urgent matter.

Watching Chu Liuyue leave, Chu Liuchen picked up the teacup in a good mood and took another sip. Then he slowly put it down and asked the Empress with a smile, "Brother came in a hurry. Is there anything important to tell you? Why didn't he continue to say it when he saw me?"

"Your elder brother took a fancy to a beauty and wants me to arrange a marriage for him!" The Empress replied with a smile. She didn't want to hide Chu Liuyue's matter.

"He took a fancy to a beauty? Which family does this beauty come from?" Chu Liuchen smiled more gently as if he was just asking casually. Only Xiao Xuanzi shrank back after feeling his master's obvious gloomy atmosphere. It was obvious that his master was provoked, otherwise, he would not have infuriated Prince Yue.

"I don't know who he is talking about. When he was about to say it, you came here!" The Empress explained decently. She didn't want to care too much about this matter. After thinking about it just now, she thought that the person he loved couldn't be the person she selected.

She chose a lady to be Prince Zhou's consort among this group of beauties. According to her identity, it was not suitable for her to be Prince Yue's wife.

"That's a coincidence. I also fancy a lady. I don't know if we want to marry the same person," Chu Liuchen said with a smile and raised his eyebrows.

Hearing this, the Empress's face darkened and she thought of Shao Yanru's incident.

Shao Yanru was originally the person chosen by the Empress, but because of the relationship between her and Chu Liuyue, the Empress gave her up. Thinking of this, the Empress thought that Chu Liuyue was really suspected of competing with others for a woman, or he wanted to ruin others' wedding.

The Empress changed her expression and said kindly, "Who do you fancy, Prince Chen? Tell me, and I will beg the Emperor to grant the marriage for you!"

Chapter 798 Chu Liuxin Blocking the Way

"Thanks for your kindness, Your Grace. My Imperial Grandmother has already drawn up the decree and will soon issue it!" Chu Liuchen said with a smile.

"The Empress Dowager has even drawn up the decree?"

The Empress was stunned for a moment and immediately asked, "Which family is she from?"

She felt scared. If Chu Liuyue begged the daughter of this family just now, she would inevitably provoke the Empress Dowager and the Emperor if she granted his request. Suddenly, cold sweat appeared on her back.

"Have I almost fallen into Chu Liuyue's trap just now?"

"So that's why Chu Liuyue didn't ask His Majesty for marriage but came to me instead." The Empress wore a long face and her eyes showed anger.

If she rushed to issue the decree, it would be hard for her to explain it to the Empress Dowager and the Emperor. Chu Liuchen seemed to be satisfied now. Otherwise, he would have opposed it long ago.

This person was unlike her well-behaved son. If he didn't like the lady, he would make a scene. So he liked her. If she ordered the lady he liked to marry Chu Liuyue, the Empress could almost foresee her next situation.

Not only did a cold sweat break out on her back, but also on her forehead. She clenched the handkerchief with her fingers twitching.

"The Fifth Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion has been taking care of Secondary Consort Shao here these days. Your Grace should have seen her before," Chu Liuchen said lazily. Since the matter had been settled, he was not afraid that someone would hurt her secretly.

He'd better report it to the Empress lest she should make a wrong marriage arrangement and cause unnecessary trouble.

The Empress moved and asked slowly, "The granddaughter of Rui'an Great Elder Princess?"

"Yes, my Imperial Grandmother thinks she is nice, and so does my uncle. Originally, my Imperial Grandmother wanted to give an order after the Consort Selection, but she said it was the right time now. There should be an edict to Duke Xing's Mansion in two days!" Chu Liuchen narrowed his eyes and said lazily and casually.

It was hard to know if he was satisfied with this marriage, but one thing was certain, he did not object.

The Empress suddenly felt that everything was clear. She had heard that the Empress Dowager liked Shao Wanru three years ago, but had not taken any action since then. Moreover, she felt that Chu Liuchen did not seem to like anyone, so she did not take it seriously.

Now it seemed to be true!

However, when she thought about it carefully, she found that it seemed to be the case. Compared with others, Shao Wanru had come into contact with Chu Liuchen several times and seemed to be not bad in the Empress's eyes. The invalid was such a casual person that she could get along well with him.

The Emperor and the Empress Dowager had always doted on him, so they thought it was not a big deal.

"It is indeed a good marriage and she is a nice lady, but now Duke Xing's Mansion..." the Empress said tentatively. She paused for a while as if she didn't know what to say.

Chu Liuchen replied naturally, "I know what you are worried about, Your Grace. But this kind of thing has nothing to do with Fifth Miss Shao. She didn't grow up in Duke Xing's Mansion and has an estranged relationship with them. I heard that those in Duke Xing's Mansion have always disliked her and treated her worse than the daughter of a concubine!"

Chu Liuchen spoke casually with the corners of his eyes raised slightly. It was hard to see through his feeling, and he even smiled gently. He picked up the teacup elegantly and took a sip, and then slowly put it down. He looked up at the Empress and said with a smile, "Your Grace, please don't order Fifth Miss Shao to others again."

The Empress nodded and said, "I understand!" She had already cursed Chu Liuyue in secret and almost made a big mistake.

Having achieved his goal, Chu Liuchen stood up, cupped his hands, and said, "Thank you, Your Grace. I have something else to do, please excuse me!"

"Prince Chen, do whatever you want!" The Empress was very polite and smiled gently.

Chu Liuchen nodded, turned around, and strode away.

When the Empress saw him leave, the smile on her face gradually faded. With a cold look, she picked up the teacup and heavily threw it to the ground. She scolded uncontrollably, "You guys don't take me seriously and are fooling me!"

One of her trusted maids hastily called out in a low voice, "Your Grace!"

"One wanted me to oppose His Majesty and the Empress Dowager so that he could reap the benefits. The other's marriage is not up to me, and I didn't intend to meddle in it. But I know nothing after the edict has been made. Wouldn't it be my fault if I married the lady to someone else?"

The Empress was so angry that she felt tightness in the chest. Chu Liuyue trapped her, and Chu Liuchen's marriage was related to the Emperor and the Empress Dowager.

"For so many years, I have been managing the harem for His Majesty and have been filial to the Empress Dowager. I don't like what she doesn't like. Moreover, I must find someone she'll like and send her to her. But now, I have been regarded as an outsider..."

The Empress's eyes turned red when she spoke. She picked up a handkerchief to wipe her tears and felt more and more wronged.

"I'm the Empress. It's normal for me to arrange a marriage for the princes. But now it seems that I can't decide the marriage."

"Your Grace, don't be angry. It might be decided by the Empress Dowager, and His Majesty didn't have time to tell you about it. He's not in a good mood after what happened today. You can't bother him for Prince Chen!" The palace maid advised while ordering someone to serve tea again.

It was obvious that the Emperor was in a bad mood now. Whoever ran into him would be unlucky.

"I know, and I won't bother His Majesty at this moment, but I can't swallow my anger!" The Empress wiped away her tears and said with hatred, "Since he has entered the ranking, he can be considered the son of His Majesty, so he should at least address me respectfully when seeing me. Look at him, he seems to be very polite but has never regarded me as a decent elder. It must be because of Prince Yue that he came to me at this time!"

Considering what had happened, how could the Empress not understand that the two were here to make trouble for her?

"Your Grace, please watch your words!" The palace maid was shocked. She waved her hand and drove the others out of the hall.

After they had left, the palace maid said in a low voice, "Your Grace, you'd better not talk about Prince Chen in the future!"

The palace maid was a Nanny brought by the Empress from her home. Since the Empress entered the palace, she had been following her, so she knew something about her and grew cautious.

Suddenly, the Empress felt wronged and waved the handkerchief impatiently. "If I were not careful enough, I would have shouted out the matter over there. Look..."

“Your Grace, how could you talk about that! I beg you not!” The Nanny’s face changed as she hurriedly reached out to cover the Empress’s mouth.

The Empress pushed her away and said angrily, “I know. I can’t tell anyone about it. Others only know that I am the mistress of the harem, but they don’t know who His Majesty really cares about. He’s been protecting her for so many years, but I can’t even take a look at her. I’m forbidden to visit her on the grounds that she’s grounded. It’s just because His Majesty is afraid that I will do something to her!”

The Empress got angrier and angrier. She began to lose her temper.

“My good Empress, please stop saying that. If His Majesty... His Majesty knows...” The old Nanny knelt in front of the Empress and shook her hand with both her hands. Her face turned pale, and she was trembling in panic.

She was really scared, and her teeth were chattering. This reminded the Empress of what had happened back then. She felt humiliated and angry. She gritted her teeth and made cracking sounds.

How could she forget that she was almost deposed because of a few more words...

Shao Wanru didn’t expect to meet Chu Liuxin when returning to the Chuxiu Palace. He stood behind a tree at the corner of the Chuxiu Palace. If Yujie hadn’t noticed him, Shao Wanru wouldn’t have noticed him in the shadow.

Chu Liuxin was completely different from before.

In the past, he was free-spirited. As the youngest prince, he looked innocent despite the fact that his mother was scheming. Even if he was about the same age as Shao Wanru, she took him as a younger brother like Hao’er.

But Chu Liuxin was different now. He was gloomy and his eyes were empty and dark. He stood under the tree and watched Shao Wanru get out of the sedan chair. Then he walked over and stopped in front of her.

As they stood close to each other, Shao Wanru saw Chu Liuxin clearly. He did not look good. His face was as white as a sheet, just like Chu Liuchen’s sick face. His clothes were wrinkled. Although he was still him, he was completely different from before.

If he looked about the same age as Hao’er before, he now looked like a real prince, with the unique indifference and even darkness of the royal family. His clear eyes now were gloomy.

“Greetings, Your Highness!” Shao Wanru lowered her head and bowed.

“Shao Yanru... how is she?” Chu Liuxin asked in a hoarse voice that he never had before. It could be seen that he hadn’t spoken for a while.

Eunuch Liu looked at his master uneasily. Since they came out of the Phoenix Palace of the Empress, his master looked weird. What was more, he had been waiting at the door of the Chuxiu Palace. Did he deliberately come to block Fifth Miss Shao?

Chapter 799 Forced to Grow Up

If it were in the past, Eunuch Liu would have told his master some nonsense to get them out of the situation, but today he didn't dare to do that. He could only carefully follow his master and wait there for more than two hours.

For such a long time, his master just stood there with a gloomy face, so he didn't dare to move at all.

Shao Wanru didn't know what Chu Liuyue meant at the moment, so she hesitated for a moment and asked, "Big Sister is fine now. She is now designated as the Secondary Consort bestowed by the Emperor. Prince Xin, do you want to... know the place where she lives?"

Although she didn't think it was likely, she had to ask.

"She didn't die? Duke Xing's Mansion has a lot of power!" Chu Liuxin said with a sneer.

It was hard for Shao Wanru to continue this topic. She lowered her head and looked at the hem of her skirt. For a moment, she didn't know what to say.

"Why isn't that woman dead?" Chu Liuxin looked at Shao Wanru and asked in a sharp voice. He looked at Shao Wanru aggressively as if he wanted Shao Wanru to tell him everything.

"Your Highness, this... is not something I can make any judgment about!" Shao Wanru sighed and said helplessly.

Chu Liuxin stretched out his hand as if he was intending to grab Shao Wanru's hand. Yujie pulled Shao Wanru aside quickly and happened to avoid Chu Liuxin's hand.

"You shall testify for me and say that I was framed!" Chu Liuxin failed to catch Shao Wanru and didn't step forward to pull her. He just said with a pair of gloomy eyes.

Shao Wanru sighed in her heart. She knew that what had happened today had shocked Chu Liuxin so much that he still couldn't accept it. However, how could someone be that innocent when he was born in the royal family? In her last life, she didn't know how Chu Liuxin died specifically. Was it also because of his innocence?

In this life, they had known each other for a long time. Chu Liuxin had never done anything bad to her. "Your Highness, it's over. Both the Emperor and the Empress know that you have been wronged!"

Shao Wanru comforted him softly as if she was comforting her younger brother Hao'er.

She raised her watery eyes to look at Chu Liuxin, and there was a hint of tenderness that could be sensed in her gentle voice.

Chu Liuxin's eyes turned red, and he felt that his nose was sour. Inexplicably, he felt that his heart seemed to be pulled hard by something. It was very painful and saddening, and he felt like crying.

When he was scolded and punished by his mother, he didn't feel so wrong. But now when he looked at the mild girl in front of him, he somehow wanted to hold her and cry.

He took a step back and suppressed the urge in his heart. He knew that he couldn't be impulsive at this time, and he shouldn't bring her any trouble.

Nothing more should happen to Duke Xing's Mansion again.

Shao Yanru had smeared the reputation of the entire Duke Xing's Mansion. If something happened to her again, no one would be able to protect her.

"Your Highness, please go back. It's okay now!" Shao Wanru comforted Chu Liuyue. She could see that Chu Liuyue was very sad and almost lost control of himself. She sighed inwardly. She had no malice toward Chu Liuyue and hoped that he could let go of everything that had happened today.

"I... I'm leaving..." the young man turned around in a panic. He waved his sleeve, wiped away the tear in the corner of his eyes, and strode back.

It was as if someone was chasing after him.

Eunuch Liu looked at Shao Wanru and then looked at his master. He hurriedly cupped his hands toward Shao Wanru and chased after his master hurriedly. It was not easy for his master to calm down. He had to keep an eye on this man at all times so that nothing could happen to him.

Shao Wanru frowned slightly and looked at Chu Liuyue's back. She was speechless for a while. This incident had hurt Chu Liuyue a lot.

But it might be a good thing because Chu Liuxin could learn from it and grow up and would not have to experience the deadly situation in the last life again.

The imperial palace had never been a peaceful place. With so many women fighting for one man's favor, it was destined to be bloody. It was just that Chu Liuxin had been too naive to notice it in the past. Now that she had fallen into it, so how could she not be clear about it? Naturally, she could not be the same as before.

Since he let go of her and left just now, she knew that he had controlled his temper.

She surmised that this should be a good thing. But it was also sad. Being forced to grow up was not something anyone would crave.

For example, Chu Liuchen and herself...

"Miss." Yujie gently pulled her sleeve.

"Let's go!" Shao Wanru turned around and entered the gate of Chuxiu Palace.

"Miss, did Prince Xin come here to ask about First Miss? He must hate First Miss very much!" Yujie looked back with sympathy, then chased after Shao Wanru and whispered.

"It's not the First Miss, it's the Secondary Consort!" Shao Wanru had calmed down at this time and corrected her maiden.

"I know. That woman has done a lot of harm to others!" Yujie nodded and couldn't help cursing. Prince Cheng was such an innocent young man, but he had been ruined by that woman. She felt that woman was really hateful.

Shao Wanru remained silent. She was very clear about Shao Yanru's character in the last life. To achieve her purpose, Shao Yanru viciously wiped out all the people standing in her way. In her last life, she had become one of the people Shao Yanru must get rid of, so she got such a miserable ending.

"First Miss, will Prince Xin..." Speaking of this, Yujie looked around and saw that no one noticed them. Then she lowered her voice and said, "Will Prince Cheng ask for marriage?"

Prince Xin specially came here because of the First Miss Shao, but Yujie had seen that he wanted to hold her Miss's hand while he was out of control just now. It seemed that he was looking for Shao Wanru's support, which was not a good sign. Prince Xin had always been in love with Miss, so she didn't want him to make any trouble.

Prince Xin was never a calm person. It would be bad if he did such a thing on impulse.

The First Miss Shao had caused the fight between the two brothers. If Prince Cheng went to ask for marriage, he would put her Miss in an awkward situation.

"He won't!" Shao Wanru shook her head and said with iron certainty as she thought of Chu Liuxin's look just now.

If it were in the past, Shao Wanru would not know if he would do it or not. But at present, she assumed that he probably wouldn't do it. After this incident, Chu Liuxin was much calmer than before. Even if he couldn't control his emotions, he would leave by himself and come back after stabilizing his emotions.

When she returned to her residence, it was getting late. She stood in the corridor and looked at the four rows of rooms. They used to be the residence of the four Misses of Duke Xing's Mansion, but now she was the only one. She had an inexplicable feeling that she should stand still in the corridor and instead of entering the room immediately.

Yujie had already opened the door. Seeing that Shao Wanru stood in the corridor with a serious look, she knew that Shao Wanru must have thought of something unhappy. So she fetched a stove, handed it to Shao Wanru, and asked her to hold it in her arms.

The little stove was very warm. Holding it in her arms, Shao Wanru slowly used it to warm her tired body and mind. She chose a place where there was no wind and sat down. Leaning against the railing, she began to recall what had happened today.

Han Dan came in early in the morning and told her that Shao Yanru didn't sleep well at night. She knew that it had been carefully arranged step by step.

She was sure that Shao Yanru, who lived alone in the Fengyi Palace, could not have such power.

It was certain that someone was helping her secretly. Then there was another question. She either poured out the aphrodisiac herself or asked Shuqi to pour it. It was true that someone did it when Shuqi asked the palace maid who decocted the medicine to fetch water. From the creases on the medicine pack, it was certain that it had been prepared for a long time.

Who gave her this medicine? Or did she prepare it before she entered the palace?

After thinking for a while, Shao Wanru felt that it might be the latter. Shao Yanru was determined to win after entering the palace. If she failed, she would naturally have other means. This aphrodisiac was one of them.

Who was most likely to meet and help her in the palace? There were many people in the palace, but Shao Wanru couldn't figure out who it was at the moment. She felt that there was no clue, but at the

same time, she felt that there seemed to be thousands of clues. It's just that she had not found them yet.

"Miss, let's go in. It will be cold!" Seeing that her master had been silent, Yujie lowered her head slightly and spoke worriedly. Although it was not windy here, it was getting late. Even if there was a little sun, it was not as warm as before. It was just cold light.

"I'm not cold!" Shao Wanru shook her head and still held the stove tightly. She raised her head and looked at the door opposite her. It happened to be the room where Shao Caihuan had lived before.

"Miss, do you want to go to Third Miss's room to have a look?" Yujie misunderstood her master and advised her, "Miss, you'd better not go. That room may still smell. When I went in that day, there was a little smell left."

Both the master and the servant knew what the smell was like. Shao Caihuan had been sent out with a face full of pus because she had been trapped and the trap was meant to hurt Shao Wanru.

"The amulet?" After staring at Shao Caihuan's door for a while, Shao Wanru's eyes suddenly lit up and she suddenly sat up straight.

Yujie looked at Shao Wanru in confusion and asked subconsciously, "Miss, what amulet?"

Suddenly, she came to a realization. "You're talking about Third Miss, right? Third Miss's incident is related to the amulet. Didn't you already know about this?"

Yujie didn't understand why Shao Wanru mentioned it at this time. Wasn't it over for so long?

Shao Wanru suppressed the excitement in her heart, took a deep breath, pondered on her impulsive words just now, stood up, shook her head at Yujie, and said, "That's not what I meant! Sis, I suddenly remembered another important thing. Let's go to Third Sister's room!"

Han Dan had stolen the key and given it to Yujie. Now it was in Yujie's hands!

Although Yujie did not understand what Shao Wanru meant, she still took out the key and went to open the door of Shao Caihuan's room.

Shao Wanru was about to go to Shao Caihuan's room when she suddenly saw a familiar figure standing at the corner of the wall. She couldn't help stopping and turning to that person. She didn't understand why this woman was here at this time!

Didn't they pretend not to know each other even if they met before?

Chapter 800 The Relationship Between Pushan Nun and Shao Yanru?

"Sister Wanru, can I have a word with you?" Qi Rongzhi, who was standing in the corner, noticed that Shao Wanru saw her, so she came out, took two steps forward, looked at Shao Wanru, and said.

Shao Wanru cast a cold glance at Qi Rongzhi.

She already knew that Qi Rongzhi's plate was chosen. Seeing this woman appear in the etiquette-learning team several times but stay far away from her each time, she knew that Qi Rongzhi was trying to avoid her.

This time, she took the initiative to come forward, which was really surprising for Shao Wanru. Because Qi Rongzhi seemed to be afraid that she would have something to do with her, judging by her behaviors in the past few days.

“Miss Qi, you’d better call me Fifth Miss Shao. So what brings you here, Miss Qi?” Shao Wanru asked lightly. Under her long eyelashes, there seemed to be no beam of light in her calm eyes.

Qi Rongzhi pulled her sleeves uneasily. Every time she saw Shao Wanru, she always felt that this woman was changing and becoming more dignified. She somehow felt panicked.

“Miss Qi, if there is nothing else, you can go back!” Seeing that Qi Rongzhi remained silent for a long time, Shao Wanru turned around and intended to leave.

“Fifth Miss Shao, please wait for a moment,” Qi Rongzhi pondered on it again and said in a low voice, “I heard that something happened to the First Miss Shao... is it true?”

Shao Wanru paused, suddenly turned around, looked at Qi Rongzhi coldly, and said with a sneer, “Miss Qi, what do you want to know? What do you want to pry? This is the business of our Duke Xing’s Mansion. I won’t tell you. Miss Qi is no longer a member of Duke Xing’s Mansion!”

Since Qi Rongzhi escaped from Duke Xing’s Mansion, she had nothing to do with it anymore.

“I... I didn’t mean that. I just want to know...” Qi Rongzhi stammered, “I just want to ask if First Miss Shao is okay. If... if...”

“Miss Qi, who do you think you are to ask this question? If it’s just this question, it’s really unnecessary. Those who are too curious will die soon!” After saying that, Shao Wanru turned around and went back to her room, ignoring Qi Rongzhi.

Qi Rongzhi originally wanted to stop her, but in the end, she bit her lip and endured the urge. There was some unwillingness in her eyes as she watched Shao Wanru disappear from her sight.

In fact, she didn’t come for Shao Yanru. She was here merely to send a message by the order of Chu Liuyue, which was to ask if Shao Wanru was interested in being Princess Yue’s concubine. which was to ask if Shao Wanru was interested in being Princess Yue’s concubine.

Chu Liuxin met Chu Liuchen at the Empress’ place before and he had to leave. After leaving, he felt worried about this matter, so he asked Qi Rongzhi, whom he happened to encounter, to send a message.

Qi Rongzhi didn’t mention it at all, but only mentioned Shao Yanru, which successfully made Shao Wanru leave with anger. At this time, she took a deep breath and told herself that it was not that she didn’t want to send the message and it was because Shao Wanru didn’t give her the chance. Hence, she thought Prince Yue couldn’t blame her even if he wanted to.

Thinking of this, she felt relieved and turned back...

“Miss, what does Miss Qi mean? Why did she come all this way to say something we don’t understand?” Yujie was puzzled by Qi Rongzhi’s appearance and asked after entering the room.

Qi Rongzhi had been trying hard to avoiding them before, for fear that she would get involved with them, but today she came here and said those words intentionally. Anyone who heard these words would be in a bad mood. They wondered if she come here to make trouble on purpose?

“It should not be her idea.” Shao Wanru put down the stove in her hand and shook her head. Qi Rongzhi looked reluctant before.

“Who asked her to come here just to say these words to provoke the nobles in Duke Xing’s Mansion?” Yujie became more and more curious.

Shao Wanru shook her head. It was not easy to find this person. She might be a beauty who entered the palace with Qi Rongzhi, a noble lady from other palaces, or her “good” elder brother.

But there was one thing that she was sure of: Qi Rongzhi didn’t want to come, and she should have said more than that. However, no matter who sent her and what she wanted to say, it had nothing to do with Shao Wanru. She didn’t want to waste her time on Qi Rongzhi now.

“Ignore her for the time being!” Shao Wanru shook her head and stopped paying attention to Qi Rongzhi. “Yujie, go and inquire about some things about the amulet tomorrow. If someone doubts you and asks about the reason, just tell him that the mansion feels that there is something wrong with this matter and wants to clarify it.”

“There is something wrong with the amulet?” Yujie was not stupid, so she immediately understood Shao Wanru’s meaning.

Shao Wanru pondered for a moment and touched the stove on the table unconsciously. There was a trace of doubt in her clear eyes. She indeed suspected the amulet, but she suspected another person more—Pushan Nun.

The incident involving the amulet had just happened recently, and it seemed that it had something to do with the Beauty Contest. And it was such a coincidence because this woman was also familiar with Shao Yanru. As for Shao Yanru, she seemed to be more familiar with Pushan Nun than any other concubines in this palace.

After all, there was a master-disciple relationship between the two of them. From this point of view, Pushan Nun was different from others in Shao Yanru’s perspective.

On the other hand, Shao Wanru had always felt that Pushan Nun was very strange. In the past three years when she had been in the Yuhui Nunnery, but she had rarely seen this woman. It seemed that Pushan Nun was really an otherworldly Buddhist who devoted herself to cultivation. However, if it was true, Pushan Nun would not have entered the palace, or she could have just rejected the invitation.

Now Pushan Nun lived in the Buddha Hall in the palace. There was even such a thing that was called the good luck amulet. Shao Wanru didn’t think it was the Empress who begged this nun to stay.

Pushan Nun had been in the Yuhui Nunnery for a long time. For so many years, the Empress had never asked for anything from this woman. This time, it might be Shao Yanru who mentioned it. Shao Wanru remembered the time when she invited Pushan Nun to enter the palace. It happened to be the time to send the religious paintings drawn by Pushan Nun to the palace.

Old Madam asked Nanny Yu to go up the mountain and forced her to send the “stained” album to the palace.

At that time, she had been prepared for it, which made Shao Yanru and Old Madam’s plan fail. Then the Empress summoned Pushan Nun to the palace. Shao Wanru would never believe that there was no connection between these two things.

Did it mean that Shao Yanru had planned it for a long time and was just looking for an opportunity to mention Pushan Nun? Shao Wanru suddenly thought of this possibility. Shao Yanru and Pushan Nun seemed to have no contact with each other, but there seemed to be faint connections everywhere.

If her assumption was true, this Pushan Nun was definitely not simple and she must have other plans. The imperial palace was the place with the most power. In fact, it was easy for her to figure out what this nun wanted, but this was just the matter on the surface. There must be a way for this nun to get what she wanted. How could she, a nun, get it?

She slowly cleared her watery eyes and thought about the details of the past.

Shao Yanru was a person seeking fame and reputation, while Pushan Nun seemed to be an enlightened nun. Since Pushan Nun had accepted Shao Yanru as her disciple, how could she not doubt her? However, she still got along well with Shao Yanru, which showed that there was something else behind it.

When she went up the mountain, Pushan Nun’s disciple made it difficult for her. Before going down the mountain, she also felt this nun was behind Shao Yanru’s plot against her. However, Pushan Nun was always seemed innocent and always gave people the impression that she was an otherworldly cultivator, which made people feel that it was blasphemy to suspect her.

“Yujie, you grew up in the nunnery. Have you ever seen a person like Pushan Nun?” Shao Wanru blinked, slowly opened her eyes, and asked Yujie with her calm eyes.

Yujie was stunned at first and then shook her head after thinking for a while. “Miss, Pushan Nun is like the kind of hermit in the clouds, and there is no one as otherworldly as her in Jiangzhou. Even Abbess of Jingxin Monastery is not as aloof as her.”

“Do you also think that Pushan Nun is very aloof?” Shao Wanru said with a smile.

“Of course, she seemed well-cultivated. I remember when I first arrived at the Yuhui Nunnery, Pushan Nun’s disciple made things difficult for us wholeheartedly and wanted to drive us down the mountain. In fact, Pushan Nun’s disciples are not very good!” Yujie recalled the past and said indignantly.

“How about the Yuhui Nunnery?” Shao Wanru changed the topic with a smile.

“The Yuhui Nunnery is too mysterious!” Yujie thought for a while and used two words to describe the Yuhui Nunnery, which was her conclusion in the past three years.

“Why?” Shao Wanru asked with interest.

“Miss, the Yuhui Nunnery is indeed mysterious. You see, so many things have happened in the Yuhui Nunnery. All of them are very mysterious. one day, a group of black-clad men came in to kill people, and then the Buddha Hall was set on fire, and the imperial concubine of the former emperor suddenly

appeared. It's a miracle that these secrets could stay undiscovered for such a long time! Someone has been watching outside the door. I can't get close to them even if I want to during those three years."

Yujie curled her lip and said.

Her words reminded Shao Wanru that she had seen more things than this maid.

Yuhui Nunnery was indeed mysterious, and so was Pushan Nun. She had an unfathomable intention. Regarding Shao Yanru, Pushan Nun was most likely the one who had been helping her secretly.

"Try to inquire more about Pushan Nun's affairs in the palace, and just say that it's because of the amulet." After thinking for a while, Shao Wanru made up her mind.

"Don't worry, Miss. I understand!" Yujie nodded and said.

Before the Beauty Contest was over, Shao Yanru had become an imperial concubine of the Emperor. As the eldest legitimate daughter of Duke Xing's Mansion, she was merely designated as a Secondary Consort, which was a surprise for everyone.

Previously, Shao Yanru was a popular candidate for several princes' first concubines. Everyone was guessing that since she would not be Princess Yue's concubine, she must be Princess Zhou's. Unexpectedly, she not only did not enter the princes' mansion but also entered the palace at this time and became the imperial concubine of the lowest level. No matter how they looked at her, she was mysterious.

Because of the Emperor's order, Duke Xing's Mansion seemed gloomy. The sensitive servants didn't even dare to speak loudly, for fear of provoking their master.

Everyone outside the mansion wondered what First Miss Shao had done to make her enter the palace as the lowest-leveled concubine at this time.

Some people thought it might be because of this, and some thought it was might because of that. Of course, none of the reasons was good. Some people dug up some old stories of Miss Shao. At first, they felt that it was not true, but this time, it was overwhelming. Everything showed that the First Miss was not a good person.

They all began to believe all her reputation in the past was fake and Miss Shao was not a kind-hearted lady and her behavior was wrong and she was just looking for fame. It was also said that the Emperor had given her a good position for the sake of Duke Xing. Some even said that Miss Shao was so restless that she wanted to hurt a pregnant imperial concubine, which made her became a Secondary Consort, the lowest among the concubines...