

Medical Princess 801

Chapter 801 I Heard You Have Another Daughter?

When they had been in the Yuhui Nunnery, there had already been some rumors about Shao Yanru. However, at that time, Shao Yanru had been so famous with her good reputation that not many people had believed the rumors. They had all thought that it was because one's jealousy of her reputation that there had been various rumors about the First Miss Shao. Now the imperial edict was issued. Taking previous rumors into consideration, no one had doubt about this.

This rumor even spread to the beauties in the imperial palace.

After Shao Yanru's matter had been settled, Shao Wanru also returned to the group of the beauties. Other beauties gathering in groups pointed at Shao Wanru with a look of disdain. All the messages that Yujie heard were that they were talking about Duke Xing's Mansion and Shao Yanru and that Fifth Miss Shao was also taunted by them.

Yujie was so angry that she wanted to argue with them, but she was stopped by Shao Wanru. Shao Wanru did not care about such kind of discussion. Originally, this news had been deliberately spread out, otherwise how could the beauties in the palace really know about this?

Shao Yanru had an extraordinary identity, but she only got the title of Secondary Consort. This was too abnormal. There must be something strange about things going wrong and have a reason for it. Since the Emperor still wanted to use Duke Xing's Mansion, the reason could only be found on Shao Yanru.

Since Shao Yanru officially worked against Shao Wanru, many things about her bad reputation had been found out, but these had been suppressed in the past. Once it spread a little, a man of intention would fight back. The most important thing was that Shao Yanru had had a good reputation for her beauty and talents at that time.

The title of the First Beauty and being the disciple of Pushan Nun in the Yuhui Nunnery suppressed all the rumors and made Shao Yanru's reputation rise again and again.

Now that her reputation was collapsed, it was easy to dig out all the rumors in the past. What's worse, these things proved to be true after careful investigation, so Shao Yanru's reputation would definitely be ruined. Having such a position of Secondary Consort could be said as the Emperor's grace to Duke Xing's Mansion.

The beauties in the palace were talking about this, and Shao Wanru became the target that they pointed at, while the discussion outside the palace was even more heated. Originally, the topics discussed most in the capital city were which beauty would win this time and who would become the wives of several princes. However, such a thing had unexpectedly happened, and it was infinitely magnified by someone's propaganda with intentions.

"Does Duke Xing come here again?" In the quiet mountain temple and the beautiful lake with ethereal colours, Prince Cheng stood by the lake with his hands clasped behind his back and asked.

"Yes, Your highness!" Xiqi replied.

Prince Cheng didn't look back. After thinking for a while, he said, "Ask him to leave. I can't save his daughter!"

"Yes, I'll reply to him now!" Xiqi said respectfully and turned around to pass on the message outside.

After a while, Xiqi came back and said, "Your Highness, Duke Xing begs you to meet him in any case. He has something important to report to you."

"Something important?" Prince Cheng raised the corners of his lips sarcastically. He didn't have any interest in Duke Xing's daughter. He had thought that she could be married as a decoration in his mansion and a girl born to be the Empress would anyway be good for him. But he didn't expect that she was a girl like this.

He had already heard the rumors outside. Originally, he had thought that it was just an excuse from the imperial palace, but those rumors turned out to be true after he had asked someone to secretly investigate. Unexpectedly, the First Miss Shao, who had used to be virtuous, gentle, and dignified, was actually a vicious and mean woman in private. Even if such a woman was sent to him, he would not want her.

Born to be the Empress? If it was the fate that she would enter the palace and marry his Imperial Brother, he would not have any interest in her.

This reminded him of another disgusting woman a few years ago, the eldest daughter of Qin Huaiyong, Ningyuan Army General. He also felt disgusted by that woman. Originally, he had thought that she was only one woman like that in the world. Unexpectedly, it happened that now there was a similar case on Shao Yanru.

If all the women were like this, he would not be interested in them at all.

"That's what Duke Xing said, Your Highness... I think he doesn't refer to the matter of Secondary Consort Shao." Xiqi said cautiously and secretly glanced at his master. Seeing that his master was not angry, he breathed a sigh of relief. As Prince Cheng's personal eunuch, he naturally knew about his master's affairs.

"Let him come over!" After thinking for a while, Prince Cheng raised his lips with sarcasm and said slowly.

"Yes!" Xiqi left and led Duke Xing Shao Jing in after a while.

Seeing Prince Cheng, Duke Xing stepped forward and bowed deeply to him. Prince Cheng waved his hand and then Xiqi stepped back to stand aside.

"Duke Xing, you are too polite!" Prince Cheng turned around and said to Shao Jing with a faint smile.

After seeing Prince Cheng, Shao Jing lowered his head and said, "Your Highness, I have something to report to you!"

"What do you think of the matter of your daughter?" Prince Cheng glanced at him leisurely and said without hurry or bustle, but did not mention the so-called "important" topic.

This made Shao Jing feel a twinge in his heart. Thinking of his daughter, he couldn't help but feel ashamed. The Emperor had asked him to go to the palace and scolded him severely, and then he had been pulled aside by Derong to vaguely talk about the matter of Shao Yanru. Hearing that his daughter had set a trap on the Emperor, Shao Jing had been so angry that he had almost rushed to Shao Yanru and beat her hard.

How could he have such a stupid daughter? She had repeatedly said that she would either marry Prince Yue or Prince Zhou in the future, but now she even plotted against the Emperor and wanted to be his imperial concubine. Had she thought that the Emperor was old and the throne would either belong to Prince Yue or Prince Zhou, or even Prince Yue, in the future?

After this matter had happened, not only had the Emperor been furious, but also Duke Xing lost his face.

"I... I don't know what happened. When I sent the letter to the imperial palace before, she should have understood this. Ru'er has always been smart, but I don't know why she..." Shao Jing lowered his head and said. In fact, he was still not very clear about it and felt that there was something else behind it. But now it was impossible for him to meet Shao Yanru and ask her clearly about this.

"In the letter you sent to her before, did Duke Xing say anything to hint at her? I treat Duke Xing with sincerity, but Duke Xing has other plans. You really disappoint me." Prince Cheng's face turned cold, and he looked at Shao Jing with cold eyes.

Shao Jing had asked Prince Cheng to help him deliver the letter and it had taken Prince Cheng a lot of effort to send it to the palace. However, it was unexpected that it would end up like this, which was really beyond Duke Xing's expectation.

"Your Highness, it is not what you think. I didn't say any misleading words. You..." Shao Jing gritted his teeth and wanted to ask if Prince Xin had sent another message. But after thinking for a while, he didn't dare to ask again, "Do you think there is something strange behind it?"

"I don't know if there is anything strange, but I only know that the First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion has got what she wants. She enters the palace as she wishes, and this is an auspicious start. The fortune-telling is true that she was born to be the Empress!" Prince Cheng walked forward slowly with a slight smile, and said casually.

Hearing this, Shao Jing, who was following behind, felt frightened and hurriedly lowered his head and said, "Your Highness, I think there must be something else. But I can't see her now, so I don't know what happened at that time. My daughter has always been ambitious since her childhood, but how could she... how could she do such a thing? Before..."

"It was this First Miss's intention to lead Prince Yue and Prince Zhou to a fight before. Duke Xing, you really have a good daughter. Not only was she born to be the Empress, but she also made several princes fight with each other. Now she even made my Imperial Brother take her. She is very scheming, so it is really hard to say what the end will be. Maybe she will be the Empress in the future because the current Empress can't compare with her!"

Prince Cheng's words seemingly sounded ironic, which made Duke Xing's blood run cold.

Many people had seen the matter of Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou, so it was very easy for Prince Cheng to inquire about it. However, Prince Cheng couldn't inquire clearly about the matter that Shao Yanru lured the Emperor in the Phoenix Palace. After all, that was the Empress's Phoenix Palace, which was not accessible to anyone at will.

"Your Highness, I'm afraid!" Shao Jing lowered his body and said hurriedly. He was also annoyed with his daughter in his heart. He had originally thought that this daughter was promising and could revitalize the family, but he didn't expect such a thing to happen.

"You are afraid, but I am even more afraid!" Prince Cheng twitched his mouth and said helplessly.

"Your Highness, I've been following you for several years and I really dare not to have any other delusions. Your Highness, please believe that I never dare to be disloyal to you, let alone think about attaching to the Emperor!" Shao Jing panicked with cold sweats on his forehead.

Prince Cheng squinted at Shao Jing, who was one step behind him, and said, "You dare not to attach to my Imperial Brother, but you seek connections with the two princes of Imperial Brother. I heard that First Miss Shao is not only beautiful, but also has a good relationship with the other two princes. It is said that they have built friendship since their childhood, like childhood sweethearts!"

He had not known this before investigating it, which was beyond his expectation. This was also the reason why Prince Cheng thought Shao Yanru was disgusting and shameless.

How could an unmarried Miss be so shameless and mean to this extent? This was really beyond Prince Cheng's understanding. Moreover, it also made him doubt Shao Jing's loyalty. If Shao Yanru really married one of his imperial nephews, would he stand against him in the future?

As Shao Yanru's father, would Shao Jing really stand on his side at that time?

"Your Highness, these are all deliberately spread by someone. You also know Ru'er's current situation. If there are no rumors, it will be difficult to convince the public with what she has done in the palace!" Shao Jing said in a panic, with his fingers trembling slightly. He knew that Prince Cheng was not only talking about his daughter, but also about himself.

"The truth won't be fake, but the fake can't be true either! I heard that you have another daughter?" Prince Cheng had said enough sarcastic words to Duke Xing, and suddenly looked at him and asked.

"Yes... Yes, I have another daughter of non-lineal descent." Shao Jing said quickly.

"Has she been engaged to anyone?" Prince Cheng asked indifferently.

"No... not... not yet..." They had been waiting for Commandery Prince Qing to come, but Chu Qing seemed to have forgotten this and had not come at all. So, Shao Jing didn't dare to talk nonsense now.

"Since she has not been engaged to someone, send her to my mansion!" Prince Cheng glanced at Shao Jing casually and said.

How would Shao Jing dare say no? He nodded repeatedly, "Ok, ok. I will go back and prepare now."

"You have no need to be hurried. After everything is settled here, send your little daughter here. Tell me about the important things you want to report to me first!" Prince Cheng slowly changed the topic to the previous one. After suppressing Duke Xing enough, Prince Cheng could talk some business now.

Chapter 802 Your Highness, I Heard You're Looking for Some Calligraphy

"Yes, yes!" Shao Jing nodded repeatedly. Now he would agree with whatever Prince Cheng said. He didn't dare to disagree. She was just his youngest daughter. It was better for her to marry Prince Cheng rather than Commandery Prince Qing. Compared with Commandery Prince Qing who did not have any power, Prince Cheng owned power.

"Your Highness, I heard that you want to find some calligraphy?" Shao Jing wiped the cold sweat on his forehead and quickly changed the topic.

Prince Cheng's face immediately turned cold. He suddenly stood still, turned his head around, and looked at Shao Jing coldly with gloomy eyes, "What do you know?"

Prince Cheng did not believe in Shao Jing, and Shao Jing should not know some of his things.

"Your Highness, I also knew it by chance. I just saw you send someone to find calligraphy and paintings!" Shao Jing panicked and hurriedly explained.

Prince Cheng stared at Shao Jing. When he saw the sweat rolling down Shao Jing's forehead again, he snorted softly, turned his head, and said with a gentle expression, "I do want to find some calligraphy. I like this kind of calligraphy with a powerful style of writing. Duke Xing, do you have any good calligraphy and paintings?"

Without Prince Cheng's gaze, Shao Jing breathed a sigh of relief, followed Prince Cheng quickly, and said cautiously, "Your Highness, I have got a piece of calligraphy, but I don't know if it's what you're looking for. It seems to be written with great strength, but it doesn't look like the work of a famous craftsman. I heard that you like it, so I brought it here!"

Shao Jing didn't dare to say that he had spared no efforts to find it. He had been hiding it and waiting for a better opportunity, but now he had to use it to please Prince Cheng.

That Shao Yanru entered the palace as a Secondary Consort not only ruined her own business but also ruined Shao Jing's business. Without Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou by Shao Yanru's side, Shao Jing had no other choice but to follow Prince Cheng closely and not dare to be disloyal.

"Is there any seal on that?" Prince Cheng clenched his hands tightly in his sleeves, suppressed the anxiety in his heart, and asked slowly.

"Yes, but I can't see it clearly. Your Highness, do you want to have a look?" Shao Jing lowered his head and said with earnest sincerity.

"Since you brought it here, just show it to me later!" Prince Cheng slowly loosened his grip and said with a smile on his face, without the gloominess and anger before.

"Yes, yes, I'll present the calligraphy to you later, Your Highness!" Shao Jing knew that it was time to stop and said goodbye. Since Prince Cheng was unwilling to tell this to him, he could never express that he knew it.

"Just go. Your eldest daughter is of little use, but don't you still have a younger daughter? In the future... I will certainly treat your younger daughter well. Although her status as a concubine's daughter is a little low, I don't care about it. Maybe your younger daughter would be the one born to be the Empress!"

Prince Cheng joked.

His words made Shao Jing rest assured. He relaxed a little from his nervous mind. Although the legitimate daughter and the daughter of a concubine had different statuses, they were both her daughter, so they were the same for him. Since they were both daughters and Prince Cheng meant that, although his younger daughter might have lower status in the mansion, everything was possible in the future.

"Thank you, Your Highness. I understand. Once you instruct, I will send my youngest daughter to your mansion!" Shao Jing patted his chest and promised.

Prince Cheng nodded with a slight smile and said to Xiqi beside him, "Go and see Duke Xing off!"

Xiqi understood and hurried forward to lead Shao Jing. "Duke Xing, please!"

He sent Shao Jing all the way out of the door. Seeing Shao Jing get into the carriage, he hinted at the guard in the dark corner, and the secret guard understood and followed Shao Jing.

After getting on the carriage at the gate of the temple, Shao Jing wiped off the cold sweat on his forehead and felt fear afterward. He had no choice but to come up with this idea.

He didn't dare to let Prince Cheng know that the painting was gained illegally. At present, it was better to go back home. He was afraid that Prince Cheng would set his eyes on him first.

If Shao Yanru hadn't had such a serious accident, he would never expose himself at this time. The only calligraphy in his hand was worth more. Thinking of this, he was really disappointed in his eldest daughter.

He didn't bring this daughter up well!

Shao Jing's guess was right. There was indeed someone watching his carriage, but what he guessed wrong was that not only Prince Cheng's people but also Chu Liuchen's people were watching on him. Chu Liuchen got the news at noon that day.

"Calligraphy and painting?" Chu Liuchen raised his eyebrows, and his handsome eyes were cold and gloomy.

"Yes, it should be calligraphy and painting. It's a long roll. Duke Xing held it tightly and waited for a long time outside. Prince Cheng didn't ask him in. Later, he asked someone to call him in. When Duke Xing came out, Prince Cheng was very polite. Xiqi beside Prince Cheng specially sent him out of the door and watched him get on the carriage."

"My uncle seems to be really interested in calligraphy and painting!" Chu Liuchen raised the corner of his mouth and said sarcastically, "He is still in the mood to appreciate calligraphy and painting at this time. It can be seen that this calligraphy and painting is really extraordinary."

After such a big incident, it was certain that Shao Jing was going to show his loyalty to Prince Cheng. In fact, Chu Liuchen had always known that Prince Cheng had other intentions. However, at that time, Chu Liuchen didn't even care about his own life, so how could he care about anything else? He just wanted to have some fun. When he was in a bad mood, he wanted to be fun, so he had always sent people to keep an eye on Prince Cheng.

He didn't expect that he can use it now.

The last time when what Prince Cheng did was exposed in front of everyone, Prince Cheng lost a lot of opportunities and drew the attention of his uncle. Compared with the past, Prince Cheng was in a much worse situation in front of his uncle. He didn't dare to act rashly for fear of arousing suspicion.

Shao Jing had been close to Prince Cheng for a long time. He was in the party of Prince Cheng, and Chu Liuchen also knew it long ago.

Xiao Xuanzi rolled his eyes and reminded him, "Master, could it be something particularly important and will arouse Prince Cheng's interest? Considering the thing happening to Secondary Consort Shao, the entire Duke Xing's Mansion is in trouble. Do you think it's... that calligraphy and painting?"

"It should be that calligraphy and painting!" Chu Liuchen said with certainty.

"Master, what are you going to do? Are you going to grab it?" Xiao Xuanzi was eager for having a try excitedly. This was a good thing!

"No hurry. Let's wait until uncle finds a few more!" Chu Liuchen smiled slightly and immediately looked gentle and elegant.

"Yes, master. You are right, but what about Prince Cheng..." Xiao Xuanzi nodded and answered.

"Keep an eye on him first. If you can't find anything about Shao Jing, don't worry. Since he could suddenly take out this piece of calligraphy to deal with the emergency, it can be seen that he has prepared for it long ago. But he didn't take it out early!" Chu Liuchen said with a lazy and evil smile. He sat down in front of the chair and flicked the table in front of him with his slender fingers. This matter was getting more and more interesting.

He was determined to get those pieces of calligraphy! Since Prince Cheng was willing to collect them, he would let him collect them first! Moreover, he felt that it was uneasy for Shao Jing to gain this calligraphy. Otherwise, with Prince Cheng's strength, he couldn't have found it for so many years. No matter how powerful Shao Jing was, he was not as powerful as Prince Cheng.

Moreover, Shao Jing had never left the capital city. It was said that these pieces of calligraphy were sent out of the capital city at that time, but Shao Jing had never left the capital city. When did he send people to find them? Or had he secretly left the capital city?

When the Empress Dowager's decree came, Shao Wanru and the beauties were learning etiquette from the Nanny in charge. Nanny in charge was not strict to Misses from aristocratic family who learned the etiquette well before. She would let them take a rest beside and did not force them to do anything.

But because of Shao Yanru's incident, Nanny in charge had also been scolded and did not dare to show any mercy. No matter these Misses behaved well or not, they all needed to learn. Shao Wanru was also

influenced by this and faced many supercilious looks. For this reason, Yujie had been indignant for a long time.

On the contrary, Shao Wanru was very calm. She said and did nothing and just learned the palace etiquette from the Nanny in charge. She ignored those Misses from aristocratic families with malicious look.

Zhang Qilan was sick, seriously ill. After being sent out of the palace, Shao Wanru had been on her own. Although she had no friend to talk with deeply, she did not bother to deal with people with insincerity.

Qi Rongzhi avoided her as before. Every time Shao Wanru approached her, she felt very nervous, as if nothing had happened that day. So, Shao Wanru ignored her.

There were some meanings in those inexplicable words, but she didn't want to deal with Qi Rongzhi. No matter what purpose she had, it had nothing to do with her.

A few peaceful days later, there was a rumor among the candidates that Shao Wanru could not be selected. That the Misses of Duke Xing's Mansion entered the palace to participate in the beauty selection had been a big thing at first. But they were sent back one by one. It was really a shame. The one who left even become the Secondary Consort, the consort with lowest status. All the Misses from aristocratic family felt it very funny.

So what if the Fifth Miss Shao in front of them was beautiful and outstanding? If she married any prince, her seniority would be wrong. Could it be possible for her to get married to them?

This was also one of the most important reasons why all the candidates neglected Shao Wanru. Everyone felt that she had no hope. At this time, the Empress Dowager's order came and asked Shao Wanru to go over, which immediately caused a stir among the candidates. They all watched Shao Wanru leave in surprise and discussed it. What did the Empress Dowager mean? Did Shao Wanru really have a chance?

Under the complicated gazes of all the candidates, Shao Wanru got on the soft sedan chair waiting outside the palace and followed the people sent by the Empress Dowager to the Palace of Benevolent Peace where Empress Dowager lived.

This was not the first time she came here. Unlike the first time, the Empress Dowager's palace was very quiet this time. There were no other concubines' laughter, which indicated that there were no other concubines here. After stepping forward and bowing respectfully to the middle position, she stood up and stood aside respectfully under the Empress Dowager's gentle words.

She lowered her head slightly and did not look at the Empress Dowager directly. Although she still looked a little childish, she made people feel that she was steady and decent without any panic. Her expression looked very calm.

Empress Dowager remembered that a palace maid had come to report to her about the reactions of the candidates and Shao Wanru. She nodded slightly for Shao Wanru. After such a big thing happened to her sister, she could still remain calm. In this respect, she was indeed worthy of her Chen'er.

Chapter 803 Holding Hands for the First Time, Finally!

"Sit down!" Empress Dowager said gently.

A servant had already brought a chair over. Shao Wanru lowered her head and said, "I don't dare to make any offense!"

"None taken. Sit down and talk to me!" Empress Dowager was very kind. Her purpose today was to see Shao Wanru's reaction.

She had sent someone to inquire about Shao Wanru's behavior recently and was very satisfied with this girl.

"Yes!" Shao Wanru answered softly and sat down on a chair by the side. She straightened her back, put her hands on her knees, and still lowered her head slightly. The palace maid served tea in front of her table, and then bowed her head and stepped aside carefully.

"How is your life in Chuxiu Palace?" Empress Dowager asked with a smile.

"Your highness, it is good!" Shao Wanru said calmly.

"Did anyone say anything?" Empress Dowager asked again.

Shao Wanru looked calmer and calmer without any resentment. "The beauties are all fine and they didn't say anything inappropriate. There's nothing serious!"

"What do you think of your Big Sister's matter?" Empress Dowager said bluntly while looking at Shao Wanru's reaction.

"It's her own fault!" Shao Wanru's face was full of shame, but she didn't try to hide it. There was a blush on her pink face. If she really told the truth at that time, the whole Duke Xing's Mansion would be involved. "But thanks to his and your highness's kindness!"

Others all assumed that Shao Yanru had been wronged. In fact, Shao Yanru did not feel wronged at all. Since she dared to do such a thing, she already had been prepared that it might be exposed.

"Your Big Sister is now living in the imperial palace, but she can only stay like this now. From now on, she will be in that cold palace, and it is basically impossible to see her again." The Empress's face turned cold. When thinking of Shao Yanru, she turned really unhappy. "Was Shao Yanru the granddaughter whom Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion appreciated from time to time?" She wondered.

Shao Wanru didn't know why Empress Dowager would say such words to her. It was hard for her to answer. She lowered her head, bit her lip, and hesitated.

Fortunately, Empress Dowager did not intend to let her answer. She looked at her and said, "You and Chen have known each other for a long time. What do you think of him?"

Although Empress Dowager was satisfied and her grandson also came to ask for marriage, she had to know Shao Wanru's reaction. She couldn't let her grandson marry a woman who didn't love him.

Chen's had been in poor health, and now he had finally recovered. So she thought it was not allowed that his newly married granddaughter-in-law to make any trouble. Shao Yanru was from Duke Xing's Mansion, and she was a troublemaker.

Although Shao Wanru did not grow up in Duke Xing's Mansion, Empress Dowager still was worried about that matter.

"Prince Chen... is fine!" Shao Wanru blushed and lowered her head. Her hands that were on her knees moved unconsciously, and she looked very timid.

Seeing her being like this, Empress Dowager was very satisfied and nodded slightly. "Chen and you have been friends since childhood. He saved you at the gate of the palace a long time ago. Do you remember that?"

"I will never forget it!" Shao Wanru said softly.

"That's good. You two should live a good life together in the future. Don't make me worry. Chen is not in good health. If there's anything you need, just tell me. Don't bother him!" Empress Dowager warned her.

Her words were very straightforward and almost confirmed Shao Wanru's future identity. Shao Wanru felt inexplicably shy but also felt relieved. She bit her lip and just nodded with her face reddened.

Since the marriage was still unsettled, she couldn't continue to talk about this topic.

"Imperial Grandmother, what funny thing are you talking about? Let me have a good laugh!" A leisurely voice came from the door, and Chu Liuchen, who was donned in a light blue brocade robe walked in slowly. He was handsome, followed by Xiao Xuanzi, who was smiling. Both of them seemed to be very likable.

He walked up to Empress Dowager and bowed to her. After that, he turned to look at Shao Wanru, who was blushing, with an increasingly elegant and leisurely smile. Sensing Chu Liuchen's gaze, Shao Wanru almost felt her face burning. She hurriedly stood up and bowed to him. Chu Liuchen waved his hand and said with a smile, "Don't bother!"

He lifted her robe and sat down on a chair. "Imperial Grandmother, tell me about it."

"Child, you are joking with Imperial Grandmother again. Which eye of yours saw that Imperial Grandmother was talking about something funny?" Empress Dowager, who was amused by his intimate attitude, reached out her finger to gently tap Chu Liuchen's forehead and answered with a smile. After that, she looked at Shao Wanru, who was shyer and shyer.

"You didn't come here directly after hearing that I brought her here, did you?"

After saying that, she looked at Chu Liuchen's forehead and really saw some sweat drip. She couldn't help feeling distressed for a moment and complained to Xiao Xuanzi, "Why didn't you keep an eye on your master? Look at how tired your master is. If you do this again, you will be punished!"

Xiao Xuanzi complained, "Empress Dowager, I did try to stop him by saying that nothing will happen. But my master is worried, so he just comes over. I can't stop him even if I want to. If Empress Dowager continues to punish me, I will be really wronged!"

After saying that, he wiped away the tears that didn't exist at the corners of her eyes, which made Empress Dowager laugh.

Chu Liuchen joined in the fun and scolded with a smile, "You are so persuasive. You put all the blame on me!"

Hearing his words, everyone laughed, and the whole atmosphere immediately relaxed.

Shao Wanru's straight shoulders also relaxed a little, and she secretly let out a long sigh of relief. With Chu Liuchen around, she was indeed much more relieved.

"As expected, a servant must be like his master. Look at what you said. I can't hit you anymore because of your words. Since you care so much about your master's affairs, I won't punish you this time but give you a reward first!" Empress Dowager wiped away her tears that came out of the laughter and said with a smile.

A palace maid came over and handed Xiao Xuanzi a big purse. Xiao Xuanzi was so happy that he knelt down and kowtowed several times, and then stepped aside happily.

"Imperial Grandmother, I thought you were going to give the imperial edict, so you ran so fast. If I had known earlier, I would not have come!" Chu Liuchen said disdainfully.

"Okay, okay, I shall issue the imperial edict soon!" Empress Dowager looked at the man and the woman beside her. Both of them looked like a pair of golden children coming out of a painting. She was very happy and nodded with a smile at the moment.

"Imperial Grandmother, please hurry up. I am afraid that the Empress will not like it and try to stop it." Chu Liuchen said with a frown in distress.

Shao Wanru just sat there in silence, imagining herself as a wooden sculpture. However, the nervousness could be sensed since her hands were intertwined.

"Why would the Empress object? What does it have to do with her?" Empress Dowager sounded not happy.

"I heard that there is something wrong with the seniority. It seems to be about Secondary Consort," Chu Liuchen said.

His words reminded Empress Dowager. She immediately understood Chu Liuchen's meaning. She snorted and said with her face darkening, "Secondary Consort's affairs happened later. If there is a mistake in seniority, it's Secondary Consort's own business. How you be involved in this? Three years ago, I made a decision for you. It doesn't matter even if Secondary Consort has something to do with you. What's more, Secondary Consort is just Secondary Consort. She won't come out and be an eyesore in the future!"

"It's good that Imperial Grandmother thinks so!" Chu Liuchen said with a smile and looked at Shao Wanru with undisguised love in his eyes.

Seeing that her grandson was really satisfied with Shao Wanru, Empress Dowager liked Shao Wanru more and more. At the same time, she couldn't help feeling sad because her grandson had not been found the right one for so many years, but the one in front of her seemed to be a little different. Not to mention that it was not Shao Wanru's fault in terms of seniority, even if it was Shao Wanru's fault, Empress Dowager would not care about it.

Chu Liuchen chatted with Empress Dowager for a while. Seeing that it was getting late, Empress Dowager asked them to stay for lunch. After lunch, they left together.

The sedan chair waited at the gate of the Palace of Benevolent Peace, but Chu Liuchen walked forward slowly with Shao Wanru without a sedan chair. After having walked a large distance from the palace gate, Shao Wanru asked in a low voice, "Your Highness, why are you here at this time?"

"I'm afraid Imperial Grandmother will scare you. I can't let anything go wrong with my future princess!" Chu Liuchen teased. He squinted at her with his beautiful eyes and smiled elegantly.

Shao Wanru's heart beat wildly. She actually felt at a loss, which was an indescribable feeling. In the memory of her last life, she had always been disliked. Even if she was not disliked, no one had treated her like this. Even Wen Xichi, who had always been gentle to her, had never cared about her so much.

It was true that there would be no danger in Empress Dowager's place. Empress Dowager cared about Chu Liuchen. He would not hurt her at this time, but it could not be said that nothing would happen in Empress Dowager's palace. Just now, Empress Dowager's meaning was very clear. She was testing her. If she could not pass the test, then she might not be able to become his first concubine. Although she might still marry Prince Chen, she was not the person who could accompany him in name and truth.

In the past, she didn't care about it. She just regarded herself as a shield, but now she cared about it.

The Empress Dowager's meeting seemed to be ordinary, but in fact, it was very important! Her heart was soft, and the hard fortress had been removed unconsciously.

She glanced at him, and her long eyelashes fluttered. Her eyes were as clear as two clear springs. Chu Liuchen tilted his head and happened to see that his reflections were in her clear eyes. He couldn't help but smile. He liked the feeling that she devoted herself to him.

"Don't worry. Imperial Grandmother's decree will come to your mansion today. You go back to pack up, and perhaps you can leave that palace soon!" Feeling his surging affection, Chu Liuchen softened his voice, which was not as hoarse as before. "It's not peaceful in the palace recently. You'd better go out of the palace as soon as possible."

Shao Wanru blinked her eyes and then blinked again. Inexplicably, she had an impulse in her heart. She reached out her hand from her sleeve and boldly shook his hand outside the sleeve.

His hand was no longer as cold as snow. It was a little warm. However, she was so nervous that her hands and feet were cold. After holding his hand, she turned around and walked forward quickly, not daring to look at him again. This was the first time that she took the initiative to hold Chu Liuchen's hand.

At that moment, she saw Chu Liuchen stunned, and then his handsome eyes became bright and vivid.

A low and muffled laugh came from behind her ear. Her hand was held by a slender big hand and pinched tightly. It hurt, but it also brought a kind of numbness, which made her intoxicated...

Chapter 804 Fifth Miss Shao, Can I Have a Word with You?

Shao Wanru didn't come back with Chu Liuchen because they had said what they should say. If they really accompanied each other all the way back, it would be troublesome. There was no shortage of

people gossiping in the palace. If too many people saw it, their words would not be pleasant to the ear. After all, the Empress Dowager had not issued the edict yet.

Chu Liuchen didn't have so many scruples, but when he saw that Shao Wanru was really shy and unwilling, he didn't insist. He asked someone to find a sedan chair and Shao Wanru got on it and returned to Chuxiu Palace.

She didn't expect that someone would knock on the door soon after she sat down in her room. At this time, the nanny in charge would allow the beauties to have some free time.

Yujie went to open the door and saw Chu Liuyue standing outside. After being stunned for a moment, she hurriedly bowed her head and said respectfully, "Your Highness!"

"Fifth Miss Shao, are you here? There is one thing that involves Fifth Miss Shao. I'm afraid that I have to ask Fifth Miss Shao to make it clear!" Chu Liuyue said with a hint of coldness.

"She is inside," Yujie said, and then added, "She just came back from the Empress Dowager's palace!"

Chu Liuyue nodded and entered the room with his servants. Only then did Yujie see that Qi Rongzhi was also there. She couldn't help widening her eyes and casting glances at Qi Rongzhi. "Isn't this First Miss Qi afraid of being close to Miss now? She always hid in a place where Miss couldn't see. What did she mean by following Prince Yue today?" She wondered.

Shao Wanru, who was in the room, had already heard the movements. She came out and bowed respectfully to Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue looked her up and down and found that she was wearing a plain pleated skirt embroidered with butterflies. Except for a few colorful butterflies on the skirt, the rest was lake-colored, which was not a brilliant choice. But she looked beautifully timid in this skirt.

The long eyelashes that were like butterfly wings fluttered to hide the clamness in her eyes, and her pink cherry lips were quite attractive even if they were closed.

He did not want to miss such a woman! When was he attracted to her? When he first met her in the palace or later?

According to Qi Rongzhi's words, she ignored the rumors about herself and deliberately came to Shao Wanru's door to talk to her in person with the excuse of Qi Rongzhi's affair.

Not anyone can be Prince Yue's concubine! In fact, Chu Liuyue surmised that Shao Wanru was not qualified to be that person.

Please sit!" Chu Liuyue waved his hand and sat down in the middle seat. Shao Wanru hesitated for a moment and sat down in a chair that was a little farther away from him.

"With Your Highness here, I don't dare to sit down!" Qi Rongzhi lowered her head and said softly.

"Sit down with me!" Chu Liuyue waved his hand impatiently.

Only then did Qi Rongzhi sit down carefully without hesitation and then smiled gently at Shao Wanru. She really didn't look like the arrogant and domineering Qi Rongzhi.

Yujie served tea and then stood behind Shao Wanru.

After Chu Liuyue took a sip of tea, Shao Wanru raised her watery eyes and asked, "Your Highness, what brings you here?"

"Miss Qi has something to do with Fifth Miss Shao, so I specially came here!" Chu Liuyue coughed in a low voice. If it weren't for the Empress suddenly agreeing to his request, he wouldn't have come straight to Shao Wanru.

At the very beginning, when she mentioned that she had chosen a beauty, the Empress seemed to be very willing to do this. But after that, she kept talking about other things and did not want to intervene.

"Miss Qi, what does she have to do with me?" Surprised, Shao Wanru cast a glance at Qi Rongzhi, who was sitting next to Chu Liuyue. Her eyes kept roaming on the man and Qi Rongzhi, and she seemed to understand something.

Shao Wanru was inexplicably displeased with Shao Wanru's tacit gaze, so he coughed in a low voice and said, "I heard from her that when you were in Jiangzhou, you had a good relationship with Miss Qi, because you two grew up together."

Shao Wanru's face turned serious. She put away her tenderness and said with a little indifference, "Your Highness, I don't know what First Miss Qi said to you, but I have no friendship with the people of Qi's Mansion. In other words, I not only have no friendship with them but also have a lot of hatred towards them. Because they almost have destroyed my life!"

Shao Wanru was very straightforward and didn't deliberately save grace for Qi Rongzhi.

Qi Rongzhi blushed and seemed to want to say something, but she didn't say anything in the end. She lowered her head aggrievedly and wiped the corners of her eyes. She looked very sad.

If Shao Wanru really had a deep relationship with her, she would probably feel sorry for hurting her old best friends because of what she had said just now.

"Fifth Miss Shao, why do you still care so much about what happened at that time?" Chu Liuyue frowned and said. He liked generous women, and he believed that vindictiveness would not make a good wife.

Shao Wanru was so angry that she almost laughed because Chu Liuyue made it sound so easy. He was not the one who was almost destroyed at that time, so he said that with ease, "Your Highness, what happened at that time is over. I don't want to say anything more. I just don't want to hear people say that I have a good relationship with Qi's mansion!"

Except for Qi Baiyu, she didn't want to have anything to do with anyone in the Qi Family, and it was not the right time to mention him.

"Fifth Miss Shao, it was my elder brother's fault at that time. I... I was immature at that time. I was mean to Fifth Miss Shao from time to time because I thought that my elder brother was framed by you." Qi Rongzhi suddenly stood up and apologized sincerely.

Shao Wanru looked at Shao Wanru, who showed approval on his face, and then looked at Qi Rongzhi, who was obviously aggrieved but still pretended to be generous and decent. She felt bored in her heart.

She really didn't know what these two people were doing here. She wondered what Qi Rongzhi's affairs had to do with her, and that even made Prince Yue come here.

Ignoring Qi Rongzhi's affectation, Shao Wanru looked at Chu Liuyue and said, "Prince Yue, please tell me clearly what I am involved in today."

She didn't want to deal with Chu Liuyue or look at Qi Rongzhi's pitiful face. She was used to Qi Rongzhi's arrogance. She really didn't think there was any difference between the Qi Rongzhi in front of her and the one in the past. She just felt that her acting was a little too lame.

Qi Rongzhi was embarrassed and looked at Chu Liuyue.

"Sit down!" Chu Liuyue said coldly.

Qi Rongzhi sat down aggrievedly.

"I want to check what happened in Jiangzhou at that time. I heard that the former Heir of Duke Xing had an accident in Jiangzhou. I have some questions about it, so I came to ask Miss Qi first. Miss Qi's father is the magistrate of Jiangzhou and knows a lot of things. Miss Qi mentioned the Fifth Miss Shao just now, so I came to ask the Fifth Miss Shao."

Chu Liuyue acted as if he was just his business.

"Your Highness, do you think... something is wrong?" Shao Wanru's voice trembled unconsciously. She had always suspected this matter and wanted to find out the truth.

Her eyes were no longer calm, and she pursed her lips tightly.

Chu Liuyue was very satisfied with Shao Wanru's reaction. He knew that Shao Wanru would not care about this kind of thing, and it was best to start with it.

"There is indeed something wrong, so I want to ask Miss Qi and Fifth Miss Shao about something. Fifth Miss Shao, please answer my question clearly," Chu Liuyue said.

"Your Highness, please ask!" Shao Wanru took a deep breath and said.

"Fifth Miss, when you were in Jiangzhou that day, did you feel that General Qin treated you and First Miss Qin differently?" Chu Liuyue asked lightly.

Shao Wanru thought for a while and shook her head. "General Qin didn't care much about those trifle things at that time, but isn't this kind of thing very common? Those affairs are under the charge of Madam Di."

"Even if those things were managed by madams, can't the Fifth Miss feel it at all?" Chu Liuyue looked at her and asked again.

Shao Wanru shook her head.

Chu Liuyue waved his hand, and Qi Rongzhi stood up and walked out obediently, leaving Chu Liuyue alone. Shao Wanru's face became serious as she had a bad feeling.

"Fifth Miss Shao, can we talk in private?" Chu Liuyue looked at Yujie, who was standing behind Shao Wanru and said.

"Your Highness, this is my trusted maid. I trust her with all my heart. If you need anything, you can tell me directly!" Shao Wanru refused.

It was not good now. If Yujie went out again, she would not be sure of what would happen.

Chu Liuyue might not necessarily ask Yujie to go out. Hearing Shao Wanru's words, he did not insist. He picked up the teacup at hand, took a sip, and said lightly, "Fifth Miss Shao, do you want to find out what happened at that time? Why didn't something happen to others? Why did it only happen to your parents?"

"Your Highness, do you know something?" Shao Wanru's eyes fell on Chu Liuyue's face and her expression slowly calmed down.

She was natural and graceful, without any shyness of a woman, and her eyes were cold. Although there were some emotions in them, it was because of the words she heard, not because of this man in front of her.

This kind of understanding made Chu Liuyue very uncomfortable. "Aren't those Misses from aristocratic families all shy when they see me?" He wondered.

"I do know something, but I can't tell the Fifth Miss Shao for free," Chu Liuyue said in a deep voice.

"Your Highness, what do you want?" Shao Wanru said. She knew that Chu Liuyue wanted something, but she didn't know what he wanted. He had gone through so much trouble to bring Qi Rongzhi here. He must want to ask for a lot!

"When the former Heir of Duke Xing left the capital city with Infanta Qinghua, they didn't go to the border. Instead, after picking up a letter on the way, they suddenly changed their direction. The previous direction should be the countryside with mild weather, which is almost the opposite of the direction of the border. Who made him make such a decision that was contrary to the former one?"

Chu Liuyue put down this astonishing news and gazed at Shao Wanru.

Shao Wanru's heart throbbed and her eyes turned red. She bit her lip and swallowed the bitterness in her heart. No matter in the last life or this life, she didn't know about it, and no one had mentioned it to her.

After her rebirth, was she really going to find out the truth about what had happened to her parents?

Chapter 805 Throwing Out Such a Big Bait

"Your Highness, do you know anything?" Shao Wanru bit her lip, suppressed the countless thoughts in her heart, and asked.

Chu Liuyue had been staring at her. Having noticed the slightly reddened eyes under her long curly eyelashes, he realized that he was right about her. He couldn't help softening his face and said, "I do know something."

"Your Highness, what can I do to make you willing to tell me that?" Shao Wanru raised her eyes and asked with a smile on the corner of her mouth. There was a hint of coldness in her smile, but she didn't intend to hide it.

Since Chu Liuyue mentioned it at this time, he must have his own purpose. He came all the way here and he found the softest spot in her heart. So he must be up to something.

Chu Liuyue didn't say anything, but his eyes fell on her beautiful little face. Her face was slightly pale, but the rims of her eyes were red. She was extremely beautiful, and her cherry lips were slightly pursed, which made people feel that she was gentle and stubborn. But her words were trenchant, which was completely inconsistent with her gentle appearance.

But this made her even more pitiful.

She had a poor family background. Her parents had died and she had been homeless for many years. She was adopted but she had not been treated as their biological daughter by her step-parents and had even almost been destroyed by others. Although she had found her roots in Duke Xing's Mansion, she had not been acknowledged by the people in it. So she had been living on the edge of this family.

Everyone knew that Fifth Miss Shao was the most unfavored one in Duke Xing's Mansion.

A hint of pity inexplicably rose in his heart, and the corners of his eyes softened. "Fifth Miss, you don't have to be so hard on yourself!"

She was the only one supporting the eldest branch of Duke Xing's Mansion, and her biological younger brother was raised in Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion. After Chu Liuyue finished speaking, his deep eyes fell on Shao Wanru's porcelain-white face. Since he saw her in the palace last time, he often dreamed about this woman.

In the past, when he had a good relationship with Shao Yanru, he had never seen Shao Yanru in his dreams. But now, he had not expected that he would think of Shao Wanru and couldn't help pulling her into his arms.

"Your Highness, please tell me your conditions!" Shao Wanru frowned and said. She didn't like the way Chu Liuyue looked at her, as if she was something that belonged to him.

Looking into her cold eyes, Chu Liuyue's face gradually turned cold. "Fifth Miss, if you are willing to dwell in my mansion, I will definitely protect you and help you find out what happened in the past. I will also avenge your parents!"

Chu Liuyue didn't intend to beat around the bush anymore. He said bluntly with a faint smile at the corner of his mouth. Although he sounded could, his attitude was very clear. He wanted Shao Wanru to marry him.

Shao Wanru was stunned for a moment, then her eyes became colder and colder with a trace of disgust in them. She really hated Chu Liuyue more than anyone else. In her last life, she died in the hands of Chu Liuyue. Now, he said that he wanted her to marry him. She didn't know why he was so confident that he believed that she would obey him.

"Thank you for your kindness, Your Highness, but I won't step into that mansion!" Shao Wanru raised the corners of her mouth and said sarcastically.

He wanted her to live in his place instead of marrying her as his legal wife. Was it because he thought she really had no status in Duke Xing's Mansion? Besides, even if he asked her to be his legal wife, she would not agree, let alone move into his palace.

"Why? You don't have a good life in Duke Xing's Mansion. With my help, people in Duke Xing's Mansion will no longer look down on you. I can even help your brother get the title of Duke Xing?" Chu Liuyue really felt strange. He felt that the offer he made was so alluring that at least she wouldn't refuse if she needed time to think it through.

"I won't lower myself for the sake of my brother's title!" Shao Wanru said coldly. She really didn't understand why Chu Liuyue was so confident that she had to rely on him.

"How is this degrading yourself? Fifth Miss, I really want you to live with me. But as you know, although you have a high status now, you don't have the power to let My mother give us her consent to the marriage. There will definitely be another powerful Miss from an aristocratic family in this pageant. But you don't have to be afraid. The position of the legal wife will still end up with you in the end!"

Chu Liuyue's voice became softer and softer, but it also made Shao Wanru more and more disgusted.

He felt that this woman would definitely be moved after hearing his words. He had made his intention very clear. She was the only one in his heart, so he would not let her be wronged. The current grievance she felt now was only temporary, and in the end, he would watch the world with his hand in hers.

Shao Wanru smiled sweetly and shook her head gently. "Thank you for your kindness, Your Highness. I'm afraid I have to let you down!"

"Why?" Chu Liuyue didn't understand and frowned.

"Your Highness, do you mean that I should settle down in your Mansion first, and then drive the legal wife away and sit on that chair myself?" Shao Wanru tilted her head slightly, which made her look like an innocent child. Her eyes, which seemed to be able to speak, were so charming that they calmed Chu Liuyue's anger when he saw her.

She nodded and he said: "You can think of it that way!"

"Your Highness, I don't have the ability to drive away your legal wife, so you'd better marry someone else." Shao Wanru shook her head again.

Chu Liuyue didn't understand what she meant. After thinking for a while, he thought that maybe this woman didn't believe that she was able to outwit his legal wife, so he said bluntly, "Don't worry. If you can't do it, I will help you to drive away the woman who has occupied the position of my legal wife."

Her words were very straightforward and clear. Chu Liuyue felt that Shao Wanru would definitely be moved, so he relaxed a little and waited for Shao Wanru to agree.

"Your Highness, I don't have the ability to agree with this matter, nor will I drive your legal wife away from her current position. Grandmother will never agree to let me be a concubine." Shao Wanru said in

a low voice without any hesitation, "As for what you have in your hand, if you can tell me, I will certainly thank you. But if you are unwilling to tell me, I'm afraid I have to ask you to leave!"

After saying that, Shao Wanru stood up and bowed sideways to Chu Liuyue, who was sitting in the first seat. She said respectfully but indifferently, "If there is nothing else, please go back, Your Highness. Miss Qi has been waiting outside for a long time."

Was he rejected? There was a hint of coldness in Chu Liuyue's eyes and his face darkened. He slapped the table, suddenly stood up, took two steps forward, and approached Shao Wanru. "Fifth Miss, do you know what you are doing?"

He didn't expect that she would refuse him. Even if he mentioned Rui'an Great Elder Princess, he couldn't ignore the fact that she refused him. Chu Liuyue had never been so humble before a woman, so he became furious.

Shao Wanru took a step back, lowered her head, and said gently but firmly, "Thank you for your kindness, Your Highness. My grandma is in charge of my marriage. I'm afraid that I can't promise you anything!"

It was impossible to ask Rui'an Great Elder Princess to agree to let her granddaughter be a concubine. Although Rui'an Great Elder Princess did not have real power, she had a good relationship with Empress Dowager. If she went to Empress Dowager to complain, Shao Wanru would be utterly disgraced in the end.

Chu Liuyue gnashed his teeth, and his eyes were almost burning with anger. Looking at Shao Wanru's long curly eyelashes, he was full of hatred and annoyance. He felt that women were so unreasonable. There was obviously a better way, but she insisted on going against him in this way. He thought was really too much.

He wanted to leave, but she was reluctant to do so. He subconsciously reached out to touch her pink little face, but when his hand was about to touch it, Shao Wanru took a few steps back.

"Your Highness!"

"Okay, I promise you. I'll marry you as my legal wife directly. That's enough, isn't it? Shao Wanru, you should know that I compromised because I truly love you. If it were any other woman, in your current situation, she would at most be a concubine!"

With his hands behind his back, Chu Liuyue scolded Shao Wanru with a cold face.

Shao Wanru was so angry that she almost laughed. How could Chu Liuyue be so confident that she was eager to be his legal wife? It seemed that she deliberately rejected him for that position.

She laughed. Although her laughter was light, it was still audible. She slowly raised her head, looked at Chu Liuyue, and said with her eyes slowly turning cold, "Your Highness, don't you like my Big Sister? Why did you turn to me now? I heard from my Big Sister that you and my Big Sister used to be affectionate to each other. Now my Big Sister doesn't want you anymore, so you turn to me?"

Her words were merciless and exposed the love affair between the two and Chu Liuyue's hypocritical behavior in front of everyone.

The corners of her lips curled into a mocking smile.

Chu Liuyue was stunned and his face stiffened. Then he glared at Shao Wanru fiercely and said, "Fifth Miss, do you know what you have just said?"

He had never expected that Shao Wanru would suddenly say such words and that Shao Wanru would know what had happened between him and her. For a moment, he was ashamed, angry, and ashamed after being exposed. All kinds of emotions were mixed together, and that he was so angry that his face turned blue.

After he finished saying those words, he waved his sleeve, turned around, and left.

There were plenty of beauties in the world, and many of them knew their places. He didn't believe that he couldn't find a woman more suitable for him except for Shao Wanru.

Shao Wanru was very ignorant. He would definitely teach her a lesson. She didn't want to marry him? Then he would let her marry an inferior person and see if she still had the courage to say such words in front of him.

Chu Liuyue left angrily and took away Qi Rongzhi, who was outside the door. When the footsteps sounded far away, Yujie put down her clenched fists. Her palms were covered with sweat. At that moment, she was really afraid that Prince Cheng would take action. The fury in that man's eyes made Yujie vigilant at all times.

"Wasn't Prince Yue always interested in First Miss? Why did he fall in love with her now? Could it be because of Duke Xing's Mansion? What should she do now? Prince Yue was driven away by her!"

"Miss, will Prince Yue go against us?" Yujie was a little panicked. They were still in the palace, and no one knew if something would happen.

Chapter 806 The Anxious Wen Xichi

Chu Liuyue left the imperial palace angrily and returned to his mansion. As soon as he sat down in the study, he heard the eunuch saying that Wen Xichi was here. He calmed down a little and asked someone to invite him in. Originally, he wanted to pay a visit to Wen Xichi, but this man came at the right time.

Wen Xichi entered the room and saw Chu Liuyue sitting there with a sour face. He didn't know the reason behind this man's anger, but he didn't care. He took two steps forward and bowed, saying, "Your Highness!"

"Yuanqing, please sit down. I happen to have something to discuss with you!" Chu Liuyue restrained his anger and said.

Wen Xichi sat down, then the servant served him tea and left the study. When His Highness and Lord Wen were in a discussion, no one dared to bother them.

"Please go ahead, Your Highness!" Wen Xichi said.

"You'd better tell me first. How is the investigation going?" Chu Liuyue took a rather annoyed breath and suppressed the surging anger in his heart.

“There’s nothing wrong with the previous investigation. After all, it’s an old matter from more than a decade ago, and we can’t find the person who sent the letter. I don’t know who sent the message. Who asked the Heir of Duke Xing to change his decision to do the things we don’t know yet? Why would he make such a decision for no reason? This person should not only be an acquaintance of the Heir of Duke Xing, but also trust him.”

In the past few days, Wen Xichi had been helping Chu Liuyue investigate the past of the Heir of Duke Xing. The deeper he dug, the more mysterious he felt it was. Up to now, he still had no clue. Chu Liuyue originally sent someone to ask him to tell him about the progress of the investigation, but when he found nothing at this time, he paid this visit.

“If we can’t find any progress, let’s just stop first!” Chu Liuyue said coldly with a gloomy face. It had something to do with Shao Wanru. Thinking of Shao Wanru’s attitude just now, he became angrier and worked hard to calm down. Then he said, “Do you think there are any benefits for me to marry the Fifth Miss of Duke Xing’s Mansion?”

There was so much information in his words. After being stunned for a moment, Wen Xichi said slowly, “Your Highness, are you going to marry the Fifth Miss Shao?”

“She has Rui’an Great Elder Princess behind her. Although Rui’an Great Elder Princess has no real power, her rank is high. Besides, Imperial Grandmother likes her. Maybe she can say something nice about me in front of Imperial Grandmother,” Chu Liuyue said.

“Empress Dowager has never been concerned about who will inherit the throne. What’s more, Great Elder Princess has no real power, which is a shortcoming.” Wen Xichi’s voice was gentle. There was a trace of contemplation on his handsome face as he analyzed calmly.

These words seemed to have hit Chu Liuyue’s weak point. For a moment, he was so depressed that he couldn’t even say a word.

After a long while, he said, “She doesn’t deign to be something less than my legal wife. In fact, I have promised her the position of legal wife, but she was unwilling to wait for a while!”

Speaking of this, Chu Liuyue sounded still a little annoyed. He had made it so clear, which could be regarded as a show of his sincerity. He had never been so humble in front of a woman, but she didn’t appreciate it. As long as he thought of this, he couldn’t suppress his anger anymore.

On the way back, he was wondering if his words made Shao Wanru unhappy. Otherwise, how could such a sure thing fail? Thinking about what he had just said, Chu Liuyue felt that his previous proposal made Shao Wanru unhappy, so she said those words that embarrassed both of them.

“Is it because I didn’t promise her the position of my legal wife?”

Chu Liuyue thought it was true because he believed that his offer was very good. Not only would he help Shao Wanru’s younger brother to seize the title of nobility of Duke Xing’s Mansion in the future, but he would also help Shao Wanru find out what had happened to her parents. If someone framed her parents, he would also help her.

Even if Rui’an Great Elder Princess wanted to check it out, she didn’t have the resources.

From these two points of view, Shao Wanru had no reason to refuse. The reason why she refused at the moment was the way he spoke.

"Fifth Miss Shao wants to be your legal wife instead of a consort?" Wen Xichi frowned and asked with an enigmatic expression.

"I have talked to her before, and that's what I mean. Yuanqing, do you think it's good for me to marry her? Can I marry her?" Chu Liuyue nodded.

Wen Xichi fell silent. After a long while, he raised the corners of his mouth, which was somehow sarcastic. "Since she likes the position of your legal wife, let her get what she wants."

He paused for a moment and said, "I am afraid that it will be hard to explain to Concubine De, so is His Majesty!"

Wen Xichi reminded Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue frowned deeply. It was indeed a little difficult for him to marry Shao Wanru at once. He wanted to ask the Empress for her consent to the marriage on impulse before, but later Chu Liuchen ruined the opportunity. Later, when he went there, but the Empress seemed to be avoiding the topic deliberately. Then he slowly came to realize that he could take Shao Wanru as a consort first.

A consort was also registered in the royal family, so it was not a disgrace to her identity. And it was not possible for her to become his legal wife in the future. So he really thought there was no reason for her to refuse.

"What if I insist on marrying her?" Still, Chu Liuyue did want to give up.

"If Your Highness insists on marrying her, Concubine De will be furious and think that Your Highness has let her down. The Emperor has a better candidate from an aristocratic family. If you make the decision without his permission, the Emperor will be unhappy!" Wen Xichi calmly stated the fact.

Chu Liuyue was very clear about Concubine De's intentions. At this time, it was better for him to listen to the Emperor on the matter of his marriage. If he married Shao Wanru, who was not a good choice in the Emperor's mind, it would inevitably arouse the Emperor's anger. At such a critical moment, he could not make any mistakes in his marriage.

"But she only wants to be the legal wife... What should we do?" Chu Liuyue said.

Hearing Chu Liuyue's words, Wen Xichi felt a little angry for no reason. He raised the corner of his mouth and said with a slight disdainful smile. He thought he finally knew this woman.

She had been close to him before. When she first arrived in the capital city, she deliberately approached him, even investigated him, and reminded him of the danger surrounding him. He was grateful to her. Now that he thought about it, he realized that this woman chose him because he was the son of the Prime Minister, and she was only the daughter of Ningyuan Army General, which meant that if she could marry him, she and her family would benefit a lot.

Now since her status was high, she no longer took a fancy to him. Instead, she developed an interest in Prince Cheng and even asked Prince Cheng for the position of his legal wife.

It turned out that he misjudged her because he once thought she was a well-behaved and polite girl.

Inexplicably, there was a surge of anger in her heart. This anger came too suddenly as if he had been betrayed. And the anger must be vented.

“Your Highness, if you really want her to be your consort, you have to plan it carefully. If she can’t be your legal wife because of her own reasons, Rui’an Great Elder Princess can’t blame you. She will also think that Your Highness is a righteous person. For the Empress and Concubine De, they would also believe that you have no intention of disobeying them.”

He blurted out.

When he finished speaking, he suddenly felt that the corners of her eyes twitched. He reached out to rub the corners of his eyes, closed her eyes, and felt very tired. There was a kind of exhaustion from the bottom of his heart. He subconsciously covered his chest with his hands. At this moment, he actually felt very uncomfortable.

“Do you have any good idea?” Chu Liuyue’s eyes lit up. Of course, this was the best way if Shao Wanru was willing to be a consort. And he would also gain gratitude from Rui’an Great Elder Princess.

Wen Xichi lowered his head and clenched his hands tightly in his sleeves. He couldn’t tell how he felt in his heart. He just felt his chest stuffy and out of breath.

“Yuanqing, do you have any good idea?” Chu Liuyue asked. He had never wanted a woman so much. Since he liked this one, she could live in his mansion.

Wen Xichi suppressed the anxiety in his heart and said, “The candidates are now in the palace and I suppose the restrictions in Chuxiu Palace should not be too strict, right?”

“Although the Chuxiu Palace is the main palace in the palace, there is no master in it. Now there are beautiful girls living in it, so it is not strictly guarded,” Chu Liuyue said.

“Your Highness, do you have any way to put something that belongs to a male in Fifth Miss Shao’s room?” Wen Xichi, who had always been strong-willed, suppressed a trace of worry in his heart and continued to ask.

“Put men’s objects in her room?” Chu Liuyue thought for a moment and nodded. It was not a difficult thing. In the morning, the ladies would learn the etiquette rules of the palace together. It was indeed possible to find someone to put the things in Shao Wanru’s room. “I can find someone to do it and no one would know about it. But what should we do next?”

“Ask the nanny in charge to check the house and she will find the man’s things. If Your Highness can put the blame on yourself at this time, it will be considered settled!”

Wen Xichi said.

In fact, the first part of this matter was not difficult. It was not even difficult to bribe some people from Chu Xiyue’s palace, not to mention that they were sent by Chu Liuyue. They could just say that it was instructed by other candidates in the palace. It was impossible for them to find that Chu Liuyue was behind it. But what they should do next was not easy.

However, it was not impossible. he just needed to deal with it appropriately. If Chu Liuyue said that the things in Shao Wanru's room were his, Rui'an Great Elder Princess would even be grateful to Chu Liuyue because he saved Shao Wanru and made Shao Wanru have to enter Prince Yue's Mansion.

"That's a good idea!" Chu Liuyue patted the table and laughed, feeling that the depression in his heart suddenly disappeared. "But as for the details, please help me plot!"

"Your Highness, if you really have an idea, you can indeed make a plan, but you have to make a plan carefully and must not let others find out about it!" Wen Xichi said, feeling more and more annoyed. He stood up and cupped his hands toward Chu Liuyue and said, "Your Highness, I have something to do, so I'll go first. If you really want to do it, I'll help you after making a plan."

Chu Liuyue wanted to stop Wen Xichi, but seeing that this man was a little upset, he thought that Wen Xichi had something important in mind, so he could only nod and said, "Okay, you can go back first. If you are free tomorrow, you can come over and discuss it with me!"

Chu Liuyue didn't think it was urgent, but he didn't expect that the matter would be settled that night. The Empress Dowager's decree arrived at Duke Xing's Mansion and granted a marriage for Chu Liuchen and Shao Wanru. On that night, Shao Wanru returned to Duke Xing's Mansion from the Chuxiu Palace...

Chapter 807 The Considerate Grandmother and Granddaughter

Shao Wanru returned to Duke Xing's Mansion that night.

Since her engagement with Chu Liuchen had been settled, there was no point in staying in the palace. Empress Dowager also asked her to go back to the mansion first. That night, she went out of the palace in a small sedan chair. The carriage of Duke Xing's Mansion had been waiting outside the palace. Shao Wanru got in the carriage and returned to Duke Xing's Mansion.

When they arrived at Duke Xing's Mansion, it was late, but the gate of the mansion was brightly lit.

It was not until Shao Wanru's carriage entered the mansion that most of the light dimmed.

Shao Wanru got out of the carriage, and Nanny Yu had already been waiting outside. She stepped forward with a smile and said, "Fifth Miss, Old Madam has been waiting for you in the mansion for a long time. Please come with me!"

Shao Wanru nodded and went to the Chuntang Courtyard where Old Madam lived with Yujie. The Chuntang Courtyard was also brightly lit. When they saw Shao Wanru, all the maids and old maids seemed respectful. Four Misses entered the palace to attend the Pageant. Now, only the Fifth Miss could come back safe and sound and be chosen.

Although they looked down on the Fifth Miss in the past, they did not dare to be presumptuous at this time.

Old Madam sat in the main room with a happy face. When she saw Shao Wanru come in, her eyes turned red. She wiped the tears from the corners of her eyes with a handkerchief, nodded, and said kindly, "It's good that you're back. It's good that you're back!"

"Fifth Miss, Old Madam has been thinking about you since you left. She is afraid that something will happen to you in the palace. The four other Misses are not going well this time. If something happens to

you, Old Madam will be very worried!” Nanny Yu said with red eyes as if she was thinking about Shao Wanru sincerely like Old Madam.

“Don’t worry, Old Madam. I’m fine!” Shao Wanru said softly.

“It’s best if there’s nothing. I assume the life here is at least better than that of the palace. You look thinner!” Old Madam sighed and asked Shao Wanru to sit down beside her. “You don’t have to be so aloof all the time. Although you have been living in the Yuhui Nunnery before, you are my granddaughter after all. Don’t call me Old Madam like an outsider.”

“Yes, Fifth Miss, you should call her grandma. Don’t distance yourself from her because you have not been together for a long time!” Nanny Yu also nodded repeatedly and said with emotion.

Looking at the maid and her master, Shao Wanru only felt funny. Shao Wanru had called this woman “Old Madam” for a long time, and she had not said anything before, but now she didn’t want Shao Wanru to address her like that as if it was different in the past.

“As you wish, grandma!” Shao Wanru said gently. It was not the time to argue about it. Besides, it was just a title. When Old Madam did not care about it, she called her that. Now that she mentioned it again and again, Shao Wanru could not turn a blind eye to it.

Old Madam wiped her tears and asked, “What happened to your Big Sister? Why did she suddenly enter the palace? When did she get in touch with His Majesty?”

So this was the most important thing. Shao Wanru sneered in her heart. She rolled her calm eyes and said, “Grandma, this... actually...”

Shao Wanru said and looked around. Old Madam understood and waved her hands to suggest the servants leave. The servant girls and old maids on both sides left one by one. Only Nanny Yu and Yujie stayed.

“Tell me, what happened?” After all the servants left, Old Madam’s face darkened, and she asked.

It was said that the girl was trying to seduce the Emperor. How could such a thing happen to her eldest granddaughter whom she valued most? In the past, Madam Jiang had repeatedly said that Ru’er would either marry Prince Yue or Prince Zhou in the future. How could she took an interest in the Emperor and take the initiative to seduce the Emperor?

When these words came out of her second son’s mouth, she almost couldn’t believe it was true. At that time, she fainted. After someone woke her up, she burst into tears.

She had raised her granddaughter for so many years, yet she was ruined just like that. This was the same as breaking her heart. The pain almost killed her.

“Big Sister used drugs... She intended to drug Prince Xin...” Shao Wanru pondered for a moment and said slowly, “But she didn’t expect that the Emperor would come!”

Her words were very few, but also very direct. Hearing this, Empress Dowager’s face turned pale, and her hands and feet trembled. She originally thought that Shao Yanru was wronged, but now she thought that it was not the case. So her eldest granddaughter was not wronged. The girl did have done this, and she made a mistake.

No one was supposed to drug any member of the royal family!

“Why, why does she look for Prince Xin? No, there are still Prince Yue and Prince Zhou, right!” There was no one else in the room. Although Old Madam was afraid, she said it directly.

Shao Yanru had never fallen in love with Prince Xin. How could she be so stupid to seduce Prince Xin?

“Previously, Prince Yue and Prince Zhou fought with each other for the sake of Big Sister, and they said...” Shao Wanru paused here.

“What did they say?” Old Madam asked anxiously.

Something had happened to Shao Yanru before, and she also knew something about it. The news from the palace said that Prince Yue and Prince Zhou had a dispute over Shao Yanru, and Shao Yanru accidentally hurt herself when persuading them, so she was allowed to rest in the Empress’s palace. After she got better, someone would send her out of the palace.

Unexpectedly, they fought with each other. It was not a good thing for two brothers to fight for a woman in an ordinary family, let alone in the palace. Although Old Madam asked about her granddaughter, she had already fallen into despair. She thought her eldest granddaughter was useless now!

“Prince Yue said that Prince Zhou and Big Sister had an ambiguous relationship and had tried to plot against him together in the past. Prince Zhou said that Prince Yue and Big Sister had known each other for a long time to plot against him. The Emperor was furious and wanted to punish Big Sister, so Big Sister committed suicide to redeem herself. Fortunately, she was saved. At that time, it happened in the Phoenix Palace of the Empress. In order not to be known by others, Big Sister chose to go to the Phoenix Palace to recover.”

Shao Wanru was telling the truth.

So many things happened, and she didn’t know them at all. Old Madam’s lips trembled, and there was almost no trace of blood on them. She tried to say something, but she felt dizzy. Her eyes suddenly darkened, and she heard a voice calling her from afar.

“Fifth... Fifth Miss, please help Old Madam!” Seeing that she couldn’t wake Old Madam up, Nanny Yu hurriedly turned around to pull Shao Wanru’s hand and wanted Shao Wanru to find out what happened to Old Madam.

“Are the old medicines still there? If so, give grandma two pills of them!” Shao Wanru said calmly. Old Madam made the old medicines herself, but Shao Wanru didn’t want to fetch them. “If it’s still not working, it’s better to go to the imperial palace to ask for an imperial physician!”

Before, she had done it once for an emergency, but now she didn’t want to have too much to do with Old Madam.

Moreover, Old Madam didn’t look as sick as she used to be. She had medicine with her, so she could be better with two pills. What had happened to Shao Yanru had happened. Shao Wanru didn’t believe that Old Madam hadn’t guessed about it. Maybe she didn’t know the details, but the final result had been determined.

It was impossible for Madam Dowager, who had experienced so much, to faint because she did not know of it.

Nanny Yu hurriedly went to get the medicine and fed Old Madam with water and the medicine. Only then did Old Madam slowly recover. She opened her eyes and looked around like a sad and powerless old woman.

After Nanny Yu helped her up, she looked at Shao Wanru and felt extremely sad. She reached out to pat the edge of the bed and asked Shao Wanru to sit down.

Then she said slowly in a low voice, "I raised your elder sister since she was a child, so I treated her differently. When she was young, she liked to dress up as a man, just like your father. At that time, your father was not here, so looking at her was like looking at your father when he was young. So my hope fell on her."

Speaking of this, Old Madam shed tears. Nanny Yu hurriedly handed a handkerchief to persuade her. "Old Madam, don't be sad. I know you. If First Miss hadn't disguised as a boy and looked like the heir of a duke, you would have cried from time to time since you miss the heir of a duke so much. Fortunately, First Miss was by your side, so you could move on gradually!"

Shao Wanru lowered her head, looked at the ground in front of her, and raised the corners of her mouth silently. These words were for her to hear. Was this the reason why Old Madam was so partial to Shao Wanru?

At the moment of her rebirth, she didn't care who Old Madam favored. The bloody facts of her last life had enabled her to see clearly who Old Madam favored. What was more, after her rebirth, Old Madam showed no mercy to her. The so-called love for her father had long disappeared after repeated schemes.

"Grandma, don't be sad. It's all over!" She looked up with a gentle and tired smile. Her face was a little pale, but it was mild.

"Well, I'll listen to you. Your Big Sister was raised by my side for so many years. I just don't understand why she has done such a stupid thing in the end. However, you have never been raised by me, but you are well-behaved and sensible. In the past, grandma neglected you. But I won't do it again. Now it is your Third Aunt who is in charge of the mansion. If you need anything, you can ask someone to find your Third Aunt. If you feel reluctant to ask her, you can come to me!"

Madam Dowager looked kind and seemingly felt sorry for her.

This only made Shao Wanru feel more disgusted, but she didn't show it on her face. She still nodded, neither too enthusiastically nor too coldly.

After affectionately talking to her granddaughter for a while, Old Madam considerately asked Shao Wanru to go back to rest.

After coming out of Old Madam's courtyard, Shao Wanru returned to her own courtyard. The courtyard had already been prepared. After freshening up, Shao Wanru sat down leisurely and had the sumptuous dinner that had been prepared for her by the mansion. This was the most sumptuous meal since she entered Duke Xing's Mansion. It could be seen that it had been specially arranged by the master.

After that, she sat under the window and wrote a piece of paper. When it dried, she put the ring she “picked up” into it and wrapped it up.

Some things should be settled. What should be hers should be hers. She was not willing to give it up at all.

Chapter 808 Finally Engaged

In her past life, she was plotted against, so she had not only given up everything she had, but she had also lost her life. Now that she had returned with bloodlust, how could she leave anything behind for them?

The light outside the window flickered as if it came from far away. It was dark now, and most of the lights in the mansion had been turned off, but the lights were still on in that area. It seemed to be a tall building, and that direction should point to the outer courtyard. How could there be someone in the outer courtyard at this time?

Shao Wanru squinted at it and didn’t care about it. Duke Xing’s Mansion was strange to her. It was so strange that even she had been in Duke Xing’s Mansion for a while, she still didn’t know the layout of Duke Xing’s Mansion.

“What’s that place? Why are there still lights?” Shao Wanru casually pointed at it and said.

Yujie came over and took a look. She also shook her head and said, “It seems to be the outer courtyard. I don’t know. It seems to be the Mansion of the Prime Minister. Is the light from there?”

Shao Wanru thought for a moment and gave a self-deprecating smile.

She was neither familiar with Duke Xing’s Mansion nor the Mansion of the Prime Minister in the last life. In the last life, although she married Wen Xichi well, she merely served him in Wen Xichi’s yard and seldom went out, so she knew nothing about some places in Prime Minister Wen’s Mansion.

However, that place looked like the Mansion of the Prime Minister. The lights in the distance could not be seen clearly, and they suddenly went out. The whole courtyard was dark.

“Tomorrow morning, find a way to send this to Nanny Gao, who serves grandma, and ask her to hand it to grandma!” Shao Wanru turned her head and gave an order after restraining her thoughts.

“Miss, will Nanny Gao come tomorrow?” Yujie looked at the ring wrapped in the paper on the desk and asked in surprise.

“Yes, she will come here tomorrow.” Shao Wanru nodded and said.

There were only a few people who knew about her bestowment of marriage today. Tomorrow, everyone would know about it. Her grandmother would come to see her and support her. That woman would not let anyone look down on her granddaughter.

Although others all believed that she was not valued by Duke Xing’s Mansion, her maternal grandmother also doted on her very much. Standing behind her at this time represented her maternal grandmother’s attitude.

Duke Xing's Mansion had left the First Miss, who was said to be very likely to be the wife of the crown prince, in the palace a few days ago and turned her into a Secondary Consort. It seemed to be a favor from the royal family, but in fact, it was a clear slap in the face. As the eldest legitimate daughter of Duke Xing's Mansion, she was supposed to be more than a Secondary Consort.

It was not only a slap in Shao Yanru's face but also in the face of the people of the entire Duke Xing's Mansion.

Duke Xing felt ashamed when he was in the imperial court. Many of his colleagues, who had been close to him, became much colder to him, and even some of them mentioned this matter with a faint smirk. No matter how calm Shao Jing was, he felt extremely uncomfortable. Fortunately, his face had always been seemingly smiling. Even if he didn't smile much now, he inexplicably made people feel that he was gentle.

Many people secretly guessed that Duke Xing's Mansion would decline and Shao Jing would probably suffer a lot. Even though Duke Xing was popular in the past, he had made a lot of political enemies in secret. Many people were secretly happy about his possible declination, and some people even said some harsh words in a smirking way.

Unexpectedly, in just a few days, the situation immediately changed. Early in the morning, everyone knew Empress Dowager's decree was issued yesterday. According to it, the Fifth Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion was promised to Prince Chen.

And who was this Prince Chen?

Prince Chen's identity was the most special. He was the firstborn of the former emperor, which almost made him the crown prince of the former emperor. Later, the throne inexplicably fell on the current emperor. Although they were brothers, the current emperor was not biologically related to the late emperor. Moreover, it was not that the former emperor didn't have a successor who was his blood and flesh.

In history, there were cases that a child got coronated on the throne while sitting on the Empress's laps. Even if it was only a day after the birth, his right could not be ignored. However, the emperor took out the edict of the former emperor after his death, saying that his succession was the will of the former emperor since the former emperor did not want to see the country fall into the hands of a child who knew nothing, so he wanted to pass the throne to the current emperor.

At that time, the Emperor had already grown up. Even without this imperial edict, he could seize the throne. Now with this imperial edict, his succession became more legitimate. After killing a few officials who had insisted on opposing him, the Emperor took the throne and appointed the son of the previous emperor as Prince Chen. To show his favor, he asked Prince Chen to be ranked as the Third Prince among his sons.

The other princes, such as Prince Yue and Prince Zhou, were conferred the title of Prince after they grew up. Only he had been conferred the title of Prince early, given a mansion former Nan Palace to him.

Nan Palace was close to the imperial palace, which was located near the Eastern Palace. If it weren't for the fact that his health condition became poor, everyone suspected that the emperor intended to pass the throne to him.

Of course, everyone also thought that this was only what was shown on the surface. It sounded impossible. After that, everyone was wondering when Prince Chen would be murdered.

Prince Chen's existence was an eyesore to the current emperor. No emperor would keep the lawful son of the late emperor by his side to remind him that he was a usurper.

However, to everyone's surprise, the emperor treated Prince Chen very well and even favored him more than the other princes. Not only the emperor seemed to be nice to Prince Chen, but also Empress Dowager doted on Prince Chen wholeheartedly. So, although Prince Chen was in poor health, he was still alive and now seemed to be much better.

When he attended the imperial court back then, he would not leave until it was over. Although he was still sitting in a chair, he felt much better.

Of course, that was the best he could get. He still seemed so fragile that something could happen to him at any time. It was basically impossible for him to get married and have children. Although it was said that the Pageant was also for Prince Chen, everyone felt that it was not very likely. Prince Chen was in poor health. If he got married again, it was hard to say how long he could hold on to his life. They all believed that no woman would have a good end if she got married to this man.

But at least that woman was the concubine of Prince Chen. She would be of high status and might even be favored by the Emperor and the Empress Dowager. If she could give birth to a son or a daughter, she would live a happy life.

Of course, this was just a guess. It was even hard for Prince Chen to attend the imperial court meeting now. The so-called giving birth to children was just a thought and could not be taken seriously.

Everyone knew that Prince Chen was in poor health for a long time, but they could not deny the Emperor's concern for Prince Chen. Giving the Fifth Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion to Prince Chen showed that he attached great importance to Duke Xing's Mansion, so Duke Xing's colleagues around Shao Jing became enthusiastic towards him again.

When they left court, they asked him about it and congratulated him again and again, and they looked very happy.

Shao Jing smiled and talked to his colleagues politely. However, Prince Yue walked past them with a cold expression on his face.

Several ministers had to aside. They looked at each other and did not understand who had offended Prince Yue. After thinking about it carefully, they found nothing serious. Only Commandery Prince Qing said that he had found some affairs that day. They wondered if it was related to Prince Yue?

Prince Yue was followed by Prince Zhou. Although these two princes seemed to be harmonious on the surface, they were not. In the past, Prince Zhou often followed behind Prince Yue after the meeting, and everyone was used to it.

The last person who came out was Prince Chen. Because of his poor health, he walked very slowly. Everyone could understand him. Sometimes, Prince Chen seemed very cold, even a little gloomy, but most of the time, he looked very gentle and elegant. In addition, he was the legitimate son of the former emperor. Some of the ministers in the court still secretly supported him.

Seeing him come out, many of them stepped aside.

Chu Liuchen seemed to be in a good mood, with a gentle smile in his handsome eyes. He nodded to the ministers who gave way to him and then went out with Xiao Xuanzi, who was guarding outside the hall.

They all thought Prince Chen should like this marriage!

Everyone thought so. For Prince Chen, it had long been said that the Empress Dowager wanted to marry him a wife, either to carry on the family line or to improve the strength of Prince Chen's Mansion, but Prince Chen didn't agree to it until now, and it was natural for the sake of Fifth Miss Shao.

From this point of view, the Emperor was not completely disappointed with Duke Xing's Mansion. For the sake of Prince Chen, the Emperor would not do anything to Duke Xing's Mansion.

Thinking of this, everyone became more enthusiastic about Duke Xing, and even several ministers, who seldom talked to him, came to join in the fun and congratulated him.

The officials all laughed and chatted as they walked out of the palace.

In Duke Xing's Mansion, Rui'an Great Elder Princess came early in the morning. When she arrived at Duke Xing's Mansion, she first visited Old Madam.

Old Madam met Rui'an Great Elder Princess with a smile. This time, the tension between them seemed eased. They looked like two nice old ladies.

Since their grandchildren got married, they had been hostile to each other and seldom sat down calmly. Seeing such a peaceful Rui'an Great Elder Princess, Old Madam felt inexplicably worried. Rui'an Great Elder Princess was so kind today that she could not stop keeping her eyelids from twitching. She had a feeling that something bad would happen and became more cautious when dealing with the woman beside her.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess took a sip of tea, put down the teacup in her hand, glanced around, and asked with a smile, "I heard that the Third Madam is in charge of the mansion now. Why can't I see her?"

"Third Madam is in poor health, so I asked her to work in her courtyard!" Old Madam put down the teacup in her hand and answered with a smile.

"Zhuzhuo has been engaged to Prince Chen. We don't have much time. You only need to sort out the dowry of Qinghua at that time, give half of it to Zhuzhuo, and leave the other half to Hao'er. I'll make up the rest!" Rui'an Great Elder Princess stopped asking about the third Madam and looked at Old Madam with her gleaming eyes.

Her words made Old Madam feel uncomfortable.

Chapter 809 You Shall Be Treated as a Deserter if There Is No Contract

Infanta Qinghua had a dowry, and it was not regular-scaled at all. It was the emperor who granted the marriage, so it was natural for her to have such a splendid dowry. And even the royal members added many things to it. It could be said that it was the most extravagant dowry in the capital city.

However, after Infanta Qinghua left, the second branch became the supervisor. So old Madam didn't dare to ask how much the dowry had been left. It was not only the second branch but also herself.

After the death of Infanta Qinghua, Old Madam wantonly obtained a share of the dowry. Now there were not many left in the warehouse, and almost all the good ones were in others' pockets. Some of them were in her hands, and Madam Jiang of the second branch still had some dowry, which couldn't compare with the dowry of Infanta Qinghua. When she was married, she didn't bring many dowries.

The Jiang family was not a very rich aristocratic family. Moreover, there was a reason why she was raised in Duke Xing's Mansion.

Old Madam coughed in a low voice and said, "How can I trouble you with this matter, Great Elder Princess? The Fifth Girl is the Miss of our Duke Xing's Mansion, so she should follow the rules of Duke Xing's Mansion. What's more, she is married to Prince Chen. So it's natural for us to prepare a sumptuous dowry!"

She had intended to do so anyway. Shao Wanru was about to be married to Prince Chen and chose to help Duke Xing's Mansion at this time. Old Madam did not dare to neglect this matter.

However, it was just a luxury dowry, which was different from that of Infanta Qinghua. Old Madam meant that she would prepare a new dowry for Shao Wanru— one that would not be considered shabby. And it had nothing to do with the previous dowry of Infanta Qinghua.

Or some things once belonged to the dowry of Infanta Qinghua, but not all of them.

She thought that Rui'an Great Elder Princess would agree with what she said. After all, she had expressed her good intentions.

Unexpectedly, Rui'an Great Elder Princess darkened her face and said, "Old Madam, what do you mean? Why don't you give Zhuozhuo Qing'er's dowry? Hao'er is a boy. He and Zhuozhuo can share this dowry!"

"It's not that we don't want to give it to Wanru. I mean that we will add something to his share!" Old Madam said euphemistically. After Shao Yanru's incident, it became inappropriate for her to confront Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

"Thank you, Old Madam. Since I'm here now, please ask the Third Madam of your mansion to come over and check Qinghua's dowry. I will divide them into two parts for the brother and the sister so as not to make them hate each other in the future!" Rui'an Great Elder Princess nodded and said with reason.

Old Madam opened her mouth, suppressed the anger in her heart, and explained gently, "Great Elder Princess, what I mean is that we will give Infanta Qinghua's dowry to Wanru. If we don't give Infanta Qinghua's dowry to them, who else can we give it to? However, since Great Elder Princess intends to divide the dowry, it seems that we have done something to Infanta Qinghua's dowry. People might laugh about it!"

Her tone was completely different from the way she talked to Rui'an Great Elder Princess in the past. She sounded mild as if she didn't want to argue with Rui'an Great Elder Princess, which was not like her at all.

If it were in the past, Rui'an Great Elder Princess would not cross the line if Old Madam wanted to compromise. But when she thought of what Nanny Gao had said on the note and that ring, she felt angry.

For so many years, she had only paid attention to Hao'er's affairs, but she didn't expect that the people in Duke Xing's Mansion were so shallow that they were even greedy for their daughter-in-law's dowry. Originally, it was for Hao'er. The main branch only had Hao'er, who was raised in Duke Xing's Mansion and was also very close to Old Madam.

As long as Hao'er was happy, Great Elder Princess would not go too far. Originally, she thought that Old Madam would not touch Qinghua's dowry. She had always kept an eye on it, and Hao'er was to use it in the future, she once believed that Duke Xing's Mansion would not do such a thing.

Unexpectedly, not only did Duke Xing's Mansion do this, but they also went too far. Great Elder Princess remembered the ring because she added it on purpose when Qinghua said that she liked this ring. Unexpectedly, it was wrapped in a piece of paper and sent to her.

As long as she thought that the old woman in front of her not only hurt her daughter and son-in-law but also embezzled her daughter's dowry and even intended to ruin the future of her grandson, Great Elder Princess became furious and almost couldn't control herself.

Thinking of what her granddaughter said to her in the letter, Great Elder Princess suppressed her anger hard, but she couldn't show any joy on her face. "Old Madam, I just want to see Qinghua's dowry."

She looked as if she had no choice but to see the dowry today.

"Great Elder Princess, it's inappropriate!" Old Madam couldn't keep her smile on her face.

"Inappropriate? I just want to see the dowry I gave to my daughter and you think that is inappropriate? Have the people in Duke Xing's Mansion used the dowry?" Great Elder Princess snorted and looked at Old Madam's face sharply. "The people in Duke Xing's Mansion are reluctant to see my daughter living in the mansion but take my daughter's dowry for granted? I've never heard of such a thing like this before!"

"Even if my daughter is gone, Zhuozhuo and Hao'er are still here. It is not up to you to deal with the dowry, right?" Rui'an Great Elder Princess became angrier as she spoke. She suddenly stood up and glared at Old Madam coldly. "Let's go into the palace and talk to the Empress Dowager. I will tell Her Grace that you embezzle Qinghua's dowry and Zhuozhuo's dowry. Let's see how the Empress Dowager will deal with it!"

Seeing that she was about to drag her, Old Madam panicked, hurriedly stepped back, and said, "Great Elder Princess. Why can't we just settle this in peace?"

"If I don't do something, will your family return the dowry?" Great Elder Princess said in a sharp voice.

Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion was also angry and said to Great Elder Princess coldly, "Great Elder Princess, don't make irresponsible accuses. Don't talk nonsense without evidence. Even if I go to Empress Dowager, I will say the same thing. Is it wrong for us to add dowry to Wanru's dowry? How dare you talk that nonsense!"

Her words sounded reasonable. In front of Empress Dowager, she just needed to insist that it was true.

Madam Dowager secretly made up her mind.

“Old Madam, let me ask you again. Is my daughter’s dowry in the warehouse?” Great Elder Princess asked firmly.

“Of course it’s in Qinghua’s warehouse. Great Elder Princess, if you don’t believe me, you can ask the supervisor. When Infanta Qinghua left, the supervisor was still the servant from your mansion. Great Elder Princess should have great trust in the people in your mansion!” Old Madam said coldly.

She had prepared for some things in case that Rui’an Great Elder Princess would hear some rumors and come over to make trouble.

“Bring her here!” Rui’an Great Elder Princess said coldly and sat down again.

Old Madam breathed a sigh of relief and winked at Nanny Yu. Nanny Yu nodded and went outside to call the old maid guarding Infanta Qinghua’s private storehouse.

The old maid came quickly. After bowing to Great Elder Princess and Old Madam, she stood aside.

Great Elder Princess looked at the old maid from head to toe but did not recognize her. However, Nanny Gao whispered in her ear to let her know that this old maid was indeed the one who accompanied Infanta Qinghua. Her whole family was devoted to Infanta Qinghua, and she followed Infanta Qinghua to Duke Xing’s Mansion.

However, after staying in Duke Xing’s Mansion for so many years, she had long forgotten who her former master was. It could be seen from her indifferent face when she came up to Great Elder Princess.

“Are you at the service of Qinghua or Duke Xing’s Mansion?” Great Elder Princess’s cold eyes fell on the old maid, making the old maid feel scared. She hurriedly lowered her head and said, “Your Highness, I am the servant of Infanta Qinghua. I came here with Infanta Qinghua.”

“So, your contract is still with Qinghua?” Rui’an Great Elder Princess asked again.

This question made the old maid tremble. Of course, her contract was not with the main branch and had been taken over by the second branch. But she didn’t dare to say this and could only nod.

Rui’an Great Elder Princess ignored the old maid and turned to Old Madam of Duke Xing’s Mansion, saying coldly, “Old Madam, do you still have Qinghua’s stuff? Let’s see how many contracts of servants she has left. If not, we can treat them as escaped servants!”

The old maid’s face immediately turned pale. If she was regarded as a deserter, she would be punished. For a moment, she looked at Old Madam with pleading eyes.

Old Madam coughed in a low voice and said unhappily, “Great Elder Princess, Qinghua has been gone for so many years. Even if we look for the contracts she brought with her at that time, it is not likely to find them in a short time. Please allow us to sort out Qinghua’s belongings first. We can’t make a mess just because there is nothing for the time being!”

Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion intended to delay it for a while. After all, Rui'an Great Elder Princess was not a member of Duke Xing's Mansion. She couldn't keep an eye on her mansion all day long. If she delayed it, again and again, she assume Rui'an Great Elder Princess would forget about this.

"Are they lost?" Great Elder Princess said coldly.

"No. We just can't find them for the time being!" Old Madam coughed again.

"If so, gather the people that Qinghua brought with us. Let's go to the government to prepare the case and offer them a new contract!"

Rui'an Great Elder Princess still sounded unyielding.

If she did it, these people would certainly return to Great Elder Princess's control. By then, even Old Madam had no right to ask how Great Elder Princess would deal with these servants.

The old maid staggered and almost fail to stand. Her eyes became more and more anxious. They came here with Infanta Qinghua. After so many years, few of them were still loyal to Infanta Qinghua. Most of them had sworn fealty to Duke Xing's Mansion and became servants of the Jiang family of the second branch. How could they be willing to return to Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion?

Moreover, Great Elder Princess came aggressively. At first glance, they knew that she was here to demand justice. If Great Elder Princess knew the truth, they might not be able to keep their lives.

"Great Elder Princess, it's not that we can't find her. It's just that we can't find her for the time being. Why do you have to be so aggressive? Is it because you are dissatisfied with Yanru's marriage that you made such a big scene and let the people in the capital city laugh at her?" Old Madam said coldly and firmly.

At this time, she had to be tough. If she blindly obeyed Great Elder Princess, things would become out of her control.

Infanta Qinghua's servants were members of Duke Xing's Mansion and knew some things about Duke Xing's Mansion. If they returned to Great Elder Princess's hands, she would inevitably find many problems. So Old Madam would not let go of these people.

Chapter 810 A Promise from Three Years Ago

The atmosphere between the two of them immediately became tense.

Neither of them was willing to compromise.

Great Elder Princess suddenly smiled, took out a ring from her bosom, and put it on the table. "Old Madam, I picked this ring at the door of your yard when I came in just now."

Seeing Great Elder Princess suddenly calm down, Old Madam had a sense of foreboding. She involuntarily looked at the ring in front of her and inexplicably panicked.

It was a white-jade ring decorated with a red gem, which was surrounded by fine, delicate pearls. It looked like an elegant, beautiful flower.

She glanced at the ring but couldn't recognize it. She looked up at Great Elder Princess with a confused face. She had seen many jewels and found the ring a little familiar, but couldn't recall where she had seen it. She frowned tightly.

"Old Madam, why don't you pick it up and have a look?" Great Elder Princess sneered.

Old Madam reached out her hand, picked up the ring, and checked it carefully. When she saw the mark on the ring, her face changed greatly.

"Old Madam, can't you recognize this ring as an object made by the royal palace? When Qinghua married into your mansion, this ring should have been recorded on the picture album. I'm afraid that you might have lost the album, but it doesn't matter. I have a copy. If you don't believe me, you can go to the royal palace to check it out. There are records of this kind of object in the palace," Great Elder Princess said to Old Madam calmly.

Old Madam's hand trembled and she tried hard not to shake it. She raised her head and her face turned pale. "What do you mean, Great Elder Princess?"

"Old Madam, I want to ask you this question too. You said that Qinghua's dowries are well kept in her private storehouse, and you found an old maid saying that she used to serve Qinghua. Qinghua has been dead for so many years, and even if this maid used to serve her, she probably has submitted to you. Now, I want to open Qinghua's private storehouse to have a look. I have reason to suspect that you people of the Duke Xing's Mansion have pocketed Qinghua's dowries, and the ring is the proof," Great Elder Princess said with an imposing manner.

"Someone dropped the ring made by the royal palace at the door of your yard. It meant that Qinghua's possessions in her private storehouse have been stolen out. I'm wondering if those things have ended up in your private storehouse." Great Elder Princess's tone became firmer with the ring as the proof.

She had recognized the ring as one of Qinghua's dowries. Now Qinghua had passed away, yet the Duke Xing's Mansion dared to pocket her dowries. Thinking of this, Great Elder Princess had an urge to slap Old Madam in the face.

"This damn old woman. If not for her, my daughter would have been fine and all those troubles could have been avoided. Yet, she didn't reflect on herself and even caused more troubles. She failed to teach her grandson well and abused her granddaughter. I didn't expect her to do such a despicable thing."

Old Madam's hands dropped, and her face turned blue, then pale, and blushed at last. Instead of feeling ashamed, she was furious that there was a thief among her servants who stole Qinghua's dowries and dropped the ring at the door. "Is this thief trying to make trouble for me?" she wondered.

But now was not the time to punish the servants. Old Madam suppressed her anger and put on a smile. She was no longer that uncompromising.

"Great Elder Princess, please rest assured that I will find out the truth and give you an explanation. Give me three days. I only need three days to investigate it. When I finish, I will invite you to come over!" Old Madam had to surrender and give a deadline.

Different like before, this time, there was solid proof, so she could not avoid it.

“Good. I’ll come again in three days. Now, I’m going to see Zhuozhuo!” Great Elder Princess didn’t want to see Old Madam’s fake smile anymore, so she stood up and spoke in a cold tone.

“Send Great Elder Princess off!” Old Madam ordered, tired.

Great Elder Princess glanced at her coldly, turned around, and walked out with the old maid who led the way.

In the room, Old Madam said to Nanny Yu, “Investigate the matter! Investigate everyone in the yard and once we find out that thief, we must sell him or her away immediately.”

She thought that all the servants in her courtyard were loyal to her. Unexpectedly, such a disgraceful thing happened, rendering her in a passive position.

“Yes, Old Madam, I’ll check it right away, but what about Infanta Qinghua’s dowries? Some of them were taken away by Madam...” Nanny Yu replied in embarrassment.

As for Qinghua’s dowries, some of them were taken away by Old Madam, while some were taken away by Madam of Duke Xing, who was not in the mansion now, and it was unrealistic to get her back right away.

“I’ll ask Jing’er to find someone to check his wife’s private storehouse, take out all the things inside, and see if we can make it up. If there is still something missing, then we can only make it up first and then talk about the other things,” Old Madam said in a solemn tone. Madam of Duke Xing had been in charge of the diet of everyone in Duke Xing’s Mansion for a long time, so she must have saved some money that could be used to make it up.

Nanny Yu looked at Old Madam and wanted to say something, but stopped on second thought. In the end, she lowered her head and left without saying anything before giving orders to the servants to check the yard.

Madam of Duke Xing was not a kind woman, but if they carved up her private storehouse, what would First Miss and First Young Master think of it?

Of course, as a servant, Nanny Yu should not intervene in these things...

When Great Elder Princess arrived at the Piaoyun Courtyard, Shao Wanru had already received the news. She waited at the gate of the courtyard. Seeing the princess coming over, she smiled and came up to her. She bowed sideways to her respectfully and said in a sweet voice, “Grandma!”

Looking at her granddaughter and thinking of the aggressive expression of Old Madam of Duke Xing’s Mansion, Great Elder Princess felt pity for her granddaughter and regretted that she agreed on the marriage. If she had insisted on disagreeing at that time, her daughter would have been fine and her granddaughter would not have gone through hardships.

She reached out to take Shao Wanru’s hand and led her into the courtyard. “Are you used to living here? If you find this place not comfortable, how about spending a few days in my mansion?”

“Grandma, don’t worry. I’m fine living here, and I do want to go to your mansion to accompany you for a few days and see Hao’er, but it’s not appropriate now,” Shao Wanru said with a smile, reached out to

pull Great Elder Princess's sleeve, and pulled her to sit down with a sweet smile on her face. She looked like she was still a sweet little girl, which made Great Elder Princess feel more pity for her.

She also reached out to pull Shao Wanru to sit down beside her and said, "I know that it's not appropriate now. After the dowry matter is over, you can spend a few days at my place. It's not so convenient for you to stay at my place after you get married..."

As Great Elder Princess said that, her eyes turned tearful. Thinking of how her daughter slowly disappeared from her life after getting married, she couldn't help feeling sad and shedding tears even though she had always been a tough woman.

Shao Wanru hurriedly comforted her and said, "Grandma, don't be sad. If you can't bear to watch me get married, I won't get married."

Those childish words made Great Elder Princess laugh. She reached out to wipe her tears with a handkerchief and couldn't help lecturing her. "Marriage is an important thing, and you can't decide it on your own. What's more, Prince Chen is determined to marry you. He promised me three years ago that he would marry you."

"Three years ago?" Shao Wanru tilted her head curiously.

"Yes, three years ago, Her Majesty the Empress Dowager had such a plan. I was worried about Chu Liuchen's health condition and went to him. If he passes away at a young age, you would have to spend the rest of your life alone. You know, the royal family will not allow you to remarry," Great Elder Princess sighed, took Shao Wanru's hand and said lovingly.

Even though she was Great Elder Princess and knew that her power could not affect Chu Liuchen, who was favored by the Empress Dowager and Emperor, she still went to him with the purpose of finding out if Chu Liuchen and Shao Wanru were suitable for each other. If Chu Liuchen was in bad health, she would oppose the marriage even at the cost of her life.

"What... did he say?" Shao Wanru's face blushed slightly, but she still couldn't help asking in a low voice.

Seeing her expression, Great Elder Princess knew that she was happy to marry Chu Liuchen. For a moment, she felt both sad and happy. She felt sad because back then, her daughter was also happy to accept the marriage arrangement but ended up badly. She felt happy to see that Chu Liuchen and Shao Wanru loved each other.

His daughter had led an unhappy life, so she hoped that her granddaughter could live a happy life.

"He said that he would definitely take good care of you and would never leave you. He told me that his illness could be cured and asked the physician in his mansion to come and explain it to me." Great Elder Princess smiled and looked at her granddaughter gently. She had watched Chu Liuchen grow up into an unyielding man.

He looked gentle, but in fact, his means were very cruel. He was a cold-hearted man though he would wear a smile on his face. Everyone in the royal family knew that he had given up on himself. He didn't even care about himself, let alone others.

Great Elder Princess didn't expect that he would care so much about a girl one day. In order to let her believe him, he even made a promise and even asked the physician to explain to her. Though she didn't understand the physician's words, she could tell that Chu Liuchen was in better health. He finished up the medicine the physician brought to him without hesitation.

Thus, she agreed on the marriage, but she asked Chu Liuchen to keep his promise and asked him to recover his health in three years. Then, she would allow them to marry.

Now she thought about it again and found that he had kept his promise.

Prince Chen got better. Although he was still weaker than ordinary people, she had asked the imperial physicians in the palace about it and learned that if he nursed his health well, he should be able to live for decades and there wouldn't be big problems with his health.

Great Elder Princess originally was hesitant, but now seeing Shao Wanru's happy expression and knowing that she was willing to marry Chu Liuchen, she could not help sighing in her heart and thought Shao Wanru's life would be better than Qinghua's. Unlike Shao Jiang, Chu Liuchen would protect Zhuozhuo and wouldn't let anyone hurt her as long as he was alive.

Great Elder Princess was sure of this.

In this case, she had no reason to object the marriage.

She took Shao Wanru's hand and said in a serious tone, "In the future, even if Duke Xing's Mansion is not on your side, I will always be on your side. If you ever get into trouble, you must come to me. Don't bear it all on your own even if it's beyond your ability like your mother... and at last..."

As Great Elder Princess said that, her tears fell along her face. Seeing this, Shao Wanru also felt sad. She threw herself into Great Elder Princess's arms, and there was a trace of hostility in her slightly tearful eyes. In her previous life, Great Elder Princess was so heartbroken and desperate that she spent the rest of her life in a nunnery. In this life, she would never allow that to happen...