

## Medical Princess 811

### Chapter 811 The Daring Duke Xing's Mansion

After Shao Jing returned to the mansion, he was called over by Old Madam in a hurry. As soon as he entered her door, Old Madam asked with a livid face, "Do you know how many dowries of Qinghua's have been taken away by your wife?"

"Mother, I don't know at all!" Shao Jing said with a frown. Madam of Duke Xing had been in charge of the affairs in the inner courtyard, and he had never cared about these things in the past.

"She is so bold that she has pocketed more than half of Qinghua's dowries. Does she really think that all these things belong to her?" Old Madam was so angry that she raised her eyebrows. She knew that Madam of Duke Xing had pocketed some of Qinghua's dowries, and in fact, she herself had pocketed some as well.

Madam of Duke Xing would give a part of the dowries she got from Qinghua to her. The two knew it tacitly. Old Madam never asked about it, and Madam of Duke Xing never told her about it either.

Old Madam didn't expect that Madam of Duke Xing would deceive her and pocket more than half of the dowries, even though Madam of Duke Xing was so cautious and respectful at the mention of Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

She even hinted that since Rui'an Great Elder Princess was still alive, they could only pocket Qinghua's dowries little by little. Otherwise, if Rui'an Great Elder Princess checked Qinghua's dowries someday, she would find about it.

Old Madam didn't expect Madam of Duke Xing to be so bold as to lie to her. She was so angry that the blue veins on her forehead bulged. Now, if they didn't give those dowries back, Rui'an Great Elder Princess wouldn't let it go easily.

"More than half?" Shao Jing also took a deep breath. He didn't expect his wife to be so bold. "Did you check what has been pocketed?"

"Yes, she pocketed a lot. I asked her servants about it and they told me that some of the dowries have been given to others as gifts, and some were burned when Hua'an's courtyard was decorated, and your wife still keeps some in her hands. I also have some. She didn't tell me they were Qinghua's dowries when she gave them to me."

Frowning, Old Madam put all the blame on Madam of Duke Xing.

"Mother, collect all the dowries that are still in our mansion first. For those missing ones, we can compensate Rui'an Great Elder Princess with money. After so many years, it's natural that some dowries have been damaged. When Qinghua married into the mansion, she also gave some of her dowries to others on her own. Rui'an Great Elder Princess can't put all the blame on us!" Shao Jing said decisively.

Old Madam was very worried. It seemed that she could only do as her son said. However, after checking, she found that they couldn't make up for some of the missing ones even if they wanted to.

"Some of Qinghua's dowries are made by the royal palace and are recorded in the album."

"Well, objects made by the royal palace could be burned. We could say that when Wanru moved into that courtyard, it had been prepared long ago. We thought she was the daughter of the Qin's Mansion, but it turned out she was not. Thus, we burned the stuff inside the courtyard. We could do nothing about it," Shao Jing thought for a moment and replied.

That courtyard was decorated extremely gorgeously, and his wife had taken him to see it once. It could be said to be the most gorgeous courtyard in the whole mansion. After it was burned, his wife felt it was such a pity and even got sick. Now it was reasonable to say that some of Qinghua's dowries made by the royal palace were burned away there.

When that courtyard was on fire, many people in the capital saw it.

"Then let's do as you say!" The matter gave Old Madam a headache. She reached out to massage between her eyebrows and continued, "I'll make up for it with something of mine, and I also will return all the things given by your wife. But there are some things that your wife has to compensate herself. After all, it was her fault back then. All of her dowries should be used to compensate them."

"Mother, we have to consider Ru'er and Hua'an for this matter!" Shao Jing was not satisfied with his mother's words and reminded her that his wife's things would belong to his children.

"Ru'er has entered the imperial palace now, and it seems things won't go well on her side either. As for Hua'an... you can compensate him. Originally, your wife doesn't have many dowries, and she wanted to give them to Ru'er," Old Madam said with a gloomy face. She had originally placed all her hopes on Shao Yanru, but now the latter failed her. Thus, at the mention of Shao Yanru, she was in a bad mood.

The greater her hope was before, the more disappointed she felt now.

"Mother, Ru'er may still have a chance. It doesn't seem to be a bad thing for her to stay at that secluded place," Shao Jing said implicitly. "She didn't really get together with His Majesty before!"

"Are you still unwilling to give up?" Old Madam stared at Shao Jing in surprise and asked.

Shao Jing stood up and looked at Nanny Yu, the only outsider in the room, cautiously. Nanny Yu sensibly walked away from behind Old Madam, left the room, closed the door slightly, and guarded it for them outside the door.

As they were talking in a low voice, she could not hear them clearly though she was at the door. She could only hear that the duke was talking to Old Madam.

Nanny Yu sighed in her heart. In fact, she had wanted to leave the room a long time ago. She didn't want to know what Old Madam and the Duke talked about at all.

If it were an ordinary secret, Old Madam would not hide it from her, but what they were talking about now was obviously very important. Thus, the Duke did not want others to hear it. Even though she was Old Madam's trusted maid, he still wanted to hide it from her, judging from the cold glance he cast her.

This reminded Nanny Yu of the last time when the duke showed such an expression as he talked with Old Madam in the room; it had been more than ten years.

Not long after that talk, there came the news that the heir of Duke Xing's Mansion had an accident. When Infanta Qinghua came back, she was almost crazy. Thinking of this, Nanny Yu felt a chill in her

heart and hurriedly walked a few steps away to ensure that she could not hear the conversation in the room. She was just a servant, even though she was favored by Old Madam. As a servant, she shouldn't know too much about her master's secret.

In the room, Shao Jing approached Old Madam and whispered in her ear, "Mother, since there is nothing going on between Ru'er and His Majesty, there may be an opportunity for her in the future!"

What he meant was clearer than before. Old Madam was stunned by the words and looked at him in astonishment. Her lips immediately trembled.

If such words were to spread out, it would bring disaster to the entire Duke Xing's Mansion.

"What are you talking about?" Old Madam calmed down and scolded.

"Mother, I'm not talking nonsense. Think about it, both Prince Zhou and Prince Yue are nice to Ru'er. Although they felt unpleasant about something that happened before, they would let it go after some time. The more miserable Ru'er is now in the palace, the more they would care about her. In the future, no matter who Ru'er will marry, he will have more sympathy for her."

Shao Jing's bold idea made Old Madam tremble all over. She said in a trembling voice, "My son, your... words would get you beheaded!"

"Mother, I'm just talking about it with you in private," Shao Jing said disapprovingly. "You spent a lot of time and energy raising and teaching Ru'er, we can't give up on her so easily. I have already had a plan. As long as she behaves herself when she stays in the palace, she still has a chance!"

Shao Jing didn't tell anyone about the matter related to Prince Cheng, including Old Madam.

As for what to do next, he would send someone to discuss with Shao Yanru in secret. He wouldn't give up on her anyway. Except for her, he didn't have any other good candidate.

"But she is His Majesty's concubine!" Old Madam replied in a low voice. She was so shocked that her face turned pale. Despite that, she was kind of convinced by Shao Jing's words. She brought up Shao Yanru personally and had high hopes for her. She wished that she could become the queen, but now, it seemed impossible, and it made her feel heartbroken.

"Mother, don't worry about it. As long as the future emperor likes Ru'er and Ru'er is still a virgin, then there is no need to worry about anything else. Ru'er has always been smart. She knows what to ask for by then. Even if the future emperor couldn't give her a title, she can still enter the palace with another identity. It is also possible for her to enter the palace as the daughter of the branch family of our mansion!"

Shao Jing was quick-witted enough to come up with an idea.

However, this idea was too bold. Not only did he plot against the current emperor, but he also plotted against the future emperor. Old Madam lost her composure, and her cheeks trembled as she said, "Do... do you think it's possible?"

In fact, Old Madam was tempted by the idea. If Shao Yanru married the future emperor as the daughter of a branch family of Duke Xing's Mansion, she could still use the surname Shao. Even if people found that she, with a new identity, looked like Shao Yanru, it wouldn't matter. People wouldn't see her often

as she was in the Cold Palace, and after some years, they would be unfamiliar with her. By then, she could tell a lie that she was Shao Yanru's cousin and dress in a totally different style. In this way, people would no longer suspect that she was Shao Yanru.

Moreover, with the protection of the future emperor, she would be fine.

"Of course, it's possible. Mother, don't worry. Prince Yue and Prince Zhou are still very polite to me now. They should have thought of this," Shao Jing said confidently.

"Okay... We'll do as you say, but you have to be careful now!" Old Madam was still a little worried and said.

"Mother, don't worry. I will be careful. I will find a way to send a message to Ru'er and ask her to behave herself in the palace and not to show herself in front of His Majesty. It's not bad for her to be a Secondary Consort with the lowest status. She wouldn't be eye-catching or hateful. People would only feel pity and sympathy for her. No matter how angry they were with her, they won't go hard on her," Shao Jing said.

The reason why he was so confident was that Shao Yanru had given him the message before. She repeatedly indicated that Prince Yue and Prince Zhou were loyal to her and wanted to marry her.

Back when Prince Zhou and Prince Yue fought with each other, they both looked grave whenever they saw Shao Jing and their attitudes toward him were no longer as warm as before. After that, Shao Yanru stayed in the palace, and these two princes ignored her, which caused Shao Jing to have a hard time in the imperial court.

Fortunately, the two princes changed their attitudes these days and had a warm attitude toward him again. "It seems that they had gotten over it," Shao Jing thought happily.

As the saying goes, it is upon bad fortune that good fortune leans, and upon good fortune that bad fortune rests.

After figuring this out, Shao Jing was not as depressed as before, but he pretended to look worried in front of others and waited for his opportunity to come.

After discussing with Old Madam, Shao Jing decided that he would continue to keep an eye on Shao Yanru's affairs and try to send a message to her, while Old Madam was responsible for dealing with Rui'an Great Elder Princess, settling the dowry matter by making up for the missing ones or finding a good excuse.

Three days passed quickly. Early in the morning, Rui'an Great Elder Princess entered Duke Xing's Mansion and met Old Madam, who seemed to be much calmer than before.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess thought she would win, with her granddaughter's advice. Old Madam thought she would win as well since she had gotten a piece of advice from his son. They both took a sip of tea calmly and smiled coldly at each other. Then, they put down their cups together.

They both had a good plan against each other.

## **Chapter 812 Old Madam at a Disadvantage**

“Great Elder Princess, these are part of Infanta Qinghua’s dowries that she left behind, please count them,” Old Madam said with a smile.

Nanny Yu took out a list from her sleeve and handed it to Great Elder Princess respectfully.

Great Elder Princess looked at the list but did not take it immediately. She lifted the corners of her mouth and said with a sneer, “What do you mean by part of?”

“You may not know this, but when Infanta Qinghua married into our mansion, she got along very well with everyone in the mansion and gave some of her dowries to us as gifts. She also gave some to her friends and relatives as gifts during all kinds of festivals. As for those gifts, I don’t think there is any need to record them on the list, and we don’t need to ask those people to return those gifts, do we?” Old Madam answered unhurriedly.

“Some dowries are not on the list because they were burned in the fire. When that courtyard was on fire, you saw it, right? It was Wanru that lived in that courtyard, which had been prepared for the main branch. All those decorating objects in the courtyard were from Infanta Qinghua’s private storehouse. It’s such a pity that those objects were burned down. However, it was an accident, and there is nothing we could do about it,” Old Madam sighed as she said.

She took the list from Nanny Yu, placed it on the table, and pushed it to Great Elder Princess. “Great Elder Princess, please have a look. If there is anything else missing, our mansion is willing to compensate you for it.”

Great Elder Princess was so angry that she almost laughed. She had never seen a person as shameless as Old Madam. The list was so short, so she knew at a glance that many things were still missing. When Qinghua married into Duke Xing’s Mansion, she had so many dowries that the lists were bound into a booklet. However, now, the list was so short.

“Old Madam, if my memory serves me right, when that courtyard was on fire, Zhuozhuo was just temporarily living in that courtyard. She had just known her true identity, how could the courtyard have been prepared long ago? Besides, I heard that the courtyard was prepared by Madam of Duke Xing for First Young Master of your mansion. Is it true?”

Great Elder Princess sneered and did not take the list.

“That’s just a rumor!” Old Madam smiled to cover her embarrassment, retracted her hand, leaving the list there on the table.

“Well, more than one person said it was prepared for First Young Master of your mansion. Do you need me to invite some ladies that were introduced by Madam of Duke Xing to come over and verify if what I said is true or not? Let them tell us if the courtyard was prepared for First Young Master of your mansion or for Zhuozhuo, who had just entered your mansion for one day back then.”

Great Elder Princess sneered and continued with an angry face, “The first day Zhuozhuo moved in, there was an accident that night. Someone framed Zhuozhuo at first and then, suddenly, the courtyard was on fire. If Zhuozhuo had not been lucky, she would have lost her reputation or even her life at that time. I want to ask you, Old Madam, why did such a terrible thing happen to Zhuozhuo as soon as she entered

Duke Xing's Mansion while the mansion had been in peace for so many years and all those ladies in the mansion had been fine?"

Great Elder Princess didn't intend to go easy on Duke Xing's Mansion this time. She thought that Duke Xing's Mansion went too far this time, and she was ready to fall out with them.

It had been decided that Zhuozhuo would marry Chu Liuchen, and Hao'er was still young, so it wouldn't have a big impact on him even if she fell out with them.

She slammed the table so hard that the teacup on the table shook.

In fact, Old Madam was very depressed when that courtyard was on fire. She had even suspected Madam of Duke Xing of setting the courtyard on fire, but she didn't think that Madam of Duke Xing would be so stupid as to do such a thing. After all, that was the courtyard Madam of Duke Xing carefully prepared, so she had no reason to burn it down just to take Shao Wanru's life. However, Old Madam could not think of any other people who might be the person behind this.

Even if she racked her brains, she would never expect that it was Shao Wanru that planned the whole thing for the purpose of not falling into Madam of Duke Xing's trap.

"That fire was just an accident..." Old Madam coughed softly.

"An accident? Would an accident cause one's reputation to be ruined and cause one to lose his life? There were so many ladies in your mansion, and why did they never have an accident? However, as soon as Zhuozhuo entered your mansion, someone eagerly wanted to kill her and ruin her reputation, leaving her no choice." Great Elder Princess snorted coldly and yelled.

Old Madam was so angry at Great Elder Princess's aggressive attitude that her face turned pale. If it weren't for that accident, Shao Wanru wouldn't have gone to the Yuhui Nunnery in mourning for her parents, which helped her gain a good reputation but at the same time, put Duke Xing's Mansion in the spotlight. Many people secretly gossiped that Duke Xing's Mansion was evil. Thinking of this, Old Madam felt depressed.

She was forced to suffer the loss silently back then and failed to find out who was behind it. She didn't believe that the courtyard was set on fire itself. The fire was so huge, and kerosene was found on the spot, so the fire must have been set by someone.

In the end, Shao Wanru was the only person who benefited from the matter. Thus, Old Madam had suspected Shao Wanru of being the person behind it, but after careful thought, she thought it was impossible.

Back then, Shao Wanru was just eleven years old and had never experienced such a thing, so it was impossible for her to conduct such a thing. What was more, even if she wanted to do it, she had no access to kerosene. Moreover, she went to the mansion in the company of Qin Yuru, so she couldn't have prepared kerosene in advance.

She couldn't have learned the matter related to Madam of Duke Xing either. She was just a small kid, and even if she had Rui'an Great Elder Princess's advice, she couldn't come up with such a careful plan.

After thinking over it, Old Madam turned to suspect the third branch of the mansion. After all, the third branch had suffered a huge loss, so it was possible that they did such a thing in resentment.

However, Old Madam didn't dare to dig into it as she believed that it would become a scandal of their mansion in the end. If Old Madam's third daughter-in-law was really behind it and was held accountable for the accident, then, she possibly would reveal what Old Madam's second daughter-in-law and Qin Yuru were up for and how she was implicated by them. Besides, Old Madam was not sure about her suspicion.

Her third daughter-in-law had never had a hand in household affairs. How could she have done something like this without anyone noticing? Furthermore, she had been so badly injured back then that she couldn't have been able to make any arrangements.

The case remained suspicious in Duke Xing's Mansion, and Old Madam was afraid to mention it, but now, it was brought up by Great Elder Princess. Old Madam didn't know what to say and felt very aggrieved.

"Old Madam, I don't care what you think, but your mansion has owed me an explanation for three years. Now, you tell me that the courtyard was on fire and Qinghua's dowries have been burned away. Well, it seems like your mansion were so lucky to have gained all the benefits while my daughter and granddaughter were so unlucky to have had an accident. If you insist that what you said is the truth, then let's go to His Majesty and let him judge the matter." Rui'an Great Elder Princess snapped.

"I'll ask Her Majesty the Empress Dowager to ask those ladies who had visited your mansion back then to come over and tell us what Madam of Duke Xing had said. I'll ask them why Qinghua's dowries were moved to that courtyard. After that, let's talk about why the people of your mansion wanted to hurt Zhuozhuo again and again just as she entered your mansion."

The more Rui'an Great Elder Princess said, the angrier she became. Thinking of her daughter who had died young, her granddaughter who had lived in other's family for so many years, and her grandson who was almost taught into a good-for-nothing, she was so furious and couldn't suppress her anger.

Shao Wanru had told her that she could say whatever she wanted and do whatever she wanted with no scruples.

Anyway, she didn't like Duke Xing's Mansion; there was no need to show them respect.

Seeing that Rui'an Great Elder Princess mentioned the Empress Dowager again and seemed to be prepared to fall out with them, Old Madam felt afraid. Duke Xing's Mansion would be found to be in the wrong if they dug into the matter, and it might cause more secrets of the mansion to be exposed. Thus, Old Madam did not dare to argue with Great Elder Princess in terms of this matter.

"Great Elder Princess, don't be angry. Even if it's for the sake of Hao'er and Wanru, you should hold your temper. No one wanted the misfortune to happen. Forget it, I'll take it as our being unlucky. How about we compensate you for the missing objects at their original prices?" Old Madam softened her tone as she said.

"At their original prices? Can you afford it? Among them, many objects were made by the royal palace. You say that you will compensate me according to their original prices, then I want to ask, do you know their prices?" Rui'an Great Elder Princess mocked.

Old Madam blushed. The objects made by the royal palace were certainly much more precious than ordinary ones.

"What else can we do? As I said, no one wanted the misfortune to happen. We can't really fall out with each other just because of those objects, can we? We'll try our best to compensate you. Wanru is going to marry Prince Chen, so I don't think it's good for us to make a fuss over the matter at this time."

Despite her soft tone, Old Madam was trying to threaten Great Elder Princess with Shao Wanru's marriage.

Great Elder Princess sneered. Zhuozhuo had expected Old Madam to say those words, and fortunately, Great Elder Princess had prepared for this.

"Well, it's Her Majesty the Empress Dowager who intends to let Zhuozhuo marry Prince Chen. If you think Her Majesty won't get angry even if you ruin the marriage, then you can try to do it. At most, I'll take care of Zhuozhuo if you kick her out," Great Elder Princess said.

These words were like a slap in the face to Duke Xing's Mansion. Everyone in the city knew that the people of Duke Xing's Mansion had a hard time not long ago. After the Empress Dowager decided to let Shao Wanru marry Prince Chen, Duke Xing's Mansion saw the hope of a better life. Therefore, Old Madam didn't want to see anything ruin the marriage even more than Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

"Great Elder Princess, what do you think we should do? Those objects made by the royal palace have been burned into ashes. We can't find the same objects in the world." Old Madam was angry and full of resentment. She clenched her fists but had to soften her attitude first.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess also knew that she couldn't push her too hard. She sat down with a cold snort and ordered Nanny Gao beside her. "Take out what we brought over!"

Nanny Gao nodded and took out a list from her sleeve. Old Madam took the list and she was furious after reading its content. However, she was at a disadvantage now, so she had no choice but to agree to it. She could only offer compensation according to the list Great Elder Princess gave her, even though Duke Xing's Mansion would suffer a loss that was 20% to 30% larger than she had expected.

Shao Wanru would get married, and became a part of other's family. Old Madam's heart ached when she thought of the loss their mansion would suffer this time. However, since Great Elder Princess had a hold on her, she could only do as she said despite her unwillingness.

After "negotiating" with Old Madam, Great Elder Princess specially went to the Piaoyun Courtyard.

Seeing Great Elder Princess coming in with a bright smile on her face, Shao Wanru knew that her grandma had won the battle against Old Madam this time. She walked to the door with a smile and greeted her. "Grandma."

"Let's get in and talk!" Great Elder Princess took Shao Wanru's hand and said with a smile, seeming to be in a good mood.



## Chapter 813 I Won't Return the Child I Raised

When they entered the room, Great Elder Princess took out two lists from her sleeve and handed one to Shao Wanru with a sneer, "How dare she only take so little?"

Then she pushed the other list to Shao Wanru and said, "This is the compensation from her. There are a few more properties in it, as well as some other things. Grandmother will negotiate with her about these shops and your mother's shops. They will be registered under your name."

"Grandma, I don't want so much. Give it to Brother Hao!" Shao Wanru shook her head and said. She had her own shop and didn't need so many shops.

"Your brother has enough, and I only have you two. You take these first, and I will give all my things all to Hao'er in the future. I won't mistreat him. What's more, there is Duke Xing's Mansion. It's not easy for them to drive you and Hao'er away!" Great Elder Princess said coldly.

Shao Wanru thought for a moment and suggested, "Grandma, let my brother come back. He is the son of Duke Xing's Mansion after all."

She had wanted to bring it up anyway, but since her mother had brought it up, she might as well just say it.

Hao'er was now ten years old. When she visited him before, she always felt that he was much more sensible than ordinary children at his age.

Perhaps it was because he didn't have parents. Even if he was doted on by her maternal grandmother, it was still different for him.

"Hao'er is still young. I will be worried about him if he returns to the mansion at this time!" Great Elder Princess shook her head and refused, "You may not be able to let Hao'er grow up well in your mansion. You have just been acknowledged, but they still can't tolerate you!"

"Grandma, I'm afraid that they will bring this matter up!" Shao Wanru reminded Great Elder Princess. Shao Yuanhao lived in Great Elder Princess's Mansion for three years, so it was somewhat improper.

Because so many things had happened when she came in before, so Duke Xing's Mansion didn't mention it. Now it could be said that her loss had been compensated, so it was inevitable that this matter would be mentioned. In truth, three years was enough for her brother to live in her maternal grandparents' home, and her maternal grandmother had no reason to continue to keep Hao'er here.

Even if this matter was brought to Empress Dowager, her grandmother would not be supported.

"Then what should we do?" Thinking of this, Great Elder Princess couldn't help frowning. She was really worried and reluctant to leave her grandson.

In the past three years, her little grandson, who had been raised by her, had made her much happier and gradually eased the pain of losing her daughter. At present, she was unwilling to send her little grandson, who had been raised well, back to Duke Xing's Mansion.

"Grandma, how many more years do you want to spend with him?" Shao Wanru asked softly.

"Three years, at least three years. After three years, He will be 13 and able to make judgments on his own!" Rui'an Great Elder Princess thought for a while. At first, she hesitated, and then she said with certainty, "No less than 3 years. The people in that mansion have no good intentions. Hao'er is still so young. It's really worrying me to raise him here!"

In fact, in the past three years, Chu Liuchen had been helping raise Shao Yuanhao. Shao Yuanhao was not as gentle as he looked, but Great Elder Princess was still worried.

"Grandma, if you have to choose between giving up the title or raising Hao'er, which one will you choose?" Shao Wanru looked at Great Elder Princess's distressed expression and said with a smile.

Great Elder Princess hesitated for a moment and said decisively, "Hao'er can give up the title of nobility, but he can't give up his life. And this title must not be given to Duke Xing's Mansion. It belongs to your father and your brother has the right to take it. Your Second Uncle stole your father's title of Duke Xing."

Shao Wanru was not surprised by Great Elder Princess's thoughts. She also considered Hao'er's safety first and then the title of nobility. No matter how good the title was, it was not as important as Hao'er's life. In Duke Xing's Mansion, she was sure that someone would definitely hurt Hao'er.

There was always a knife hidden in their smile, and Shao Wanru didn't like Duke Xing's Mansion at all.

"Grandma, there's still a way to keep him beside you," Shao Wanru said with a smile.

"What's the way?" Great Elder Princess became anxious. Unconsciously, she had developed complete trust in her granddaughter.

"Grandma, listen to me..." Shao Wanru leaned over and whispered in Great Elder Princess's ear. Great Elder Princess nodded while listening.

After Shao Wanru finished speaking, Great Elder Princess looked at Shao Wanru kindly with slightly reddened eyes. Compared with her, her granddaughter was an unloved child, so she was shrewd and considerate. For a moment, she blamed herself and felt sad.

Speaking of which, it was Duke Xing's Mansion's fault and her daughter's fault. Why did her daughter leave Duke Xing's Mansion just like that? She thought her daughter should really send a letter to her if her daughter could not pull it together. Not only did she lose her life for no reason, but she also left her son and daughter alone and asked no one to take care of them.

"Zhuozhuo, when you get married in the future, you will be the princess of Prince Chen's Mansion. Although Prince Chen is a little arrogant and cold-hearted and I have never seen him care about a girl. Since he treats you like this now, I am afraid that he really cares about you. With Prince Chen's protection, I will... be relieved."

As she said that, Great Elder Princess was about to cry. Her granddaughter was going to get married before enjoying the happiness of the reunion. Even though she knew Chu Liuchen would take good care of this girl, Great Elder Princess still couldn't help crying.

"Grandma, I'm fine. I... I'll come to see you again in the future. It may be more convenient than here!" Shao Wanru reached out to shake Great Elder Princess's hand and said coquettishly.

“Okay, okay!” Great Elder Princess wiped her tears with a handkerchief and nodded repeatedly with joy and sadness in her heart.

“Grandma, just go find someone to check the account book as I said. They won’t leave mother’s stuff for so many years!” Shao Wanru comforted Rui’an Great Elder Princess and said with her heart aching. She hurriedly lowered her head. In her last life, her grandma must have lived in despair. She was frustrated again and again and had been plotted against by others, so this woman couldn’t even live a normal life.

In this life, with Hao’er and her, her grandma finally pulled herself together.

After talking with Shao Wanru for a while, Rui’an Great Elder Princess put away the list and left with Nanny Gao. These lists were only a piece of paper now. It was not suitable to give it to Zhuozhuo before seeing the things with their own eyes. Old Madam of Duke Xing’s Mansion had always been a cunning person, and she would not give up so easily.

In fact, this was also what Shao Wanru had guessed. As she had expected, not long after Great Elder Princess left, Old Madam sent someone to summon her. After dressing herself up, Shao Wanru followed the servant girl who summoned her to Old Madam’s courtyard and met Shao Hua’an on the way.

After meeting Shao Wanru, Shao Hua’an stepped forward and greeted her politely with a smile, “Fifth Sister.”

Then she looked at the old maid who led the way in front and asked, “Fifth Sister, are you going to see grandma? What a coincidence! I’m going there too!”

“Yes!” Shao Wanru bowed her head and answered.

In fact, Shao Wanru had never been able to see through the First Young Master of Duke Xing’s Mansion. In the last life, the two of them didn’t have any disputes with each other, as if he didn’t know that she was here. Both Second Uncle and this elder brother of Duke Xing’s Mansion didn’t care about the affairs of the inner courtyard.

But was he really ignorant of her existence? Shao Wanru was sure that the current Duke Xing definitely knew about her. Then what about Shao Hua’an, who looked equally innocent and kind?

In this life, they hadn’t met much. Shao Hua’an looked like a kind elder brother. Although they hadn’t seen each other often, he was very polite every time they met. No matter what disputes there were between the second branch and her, this elder brother seemed to be natural. But who knew what kind of a person this man really was?

Shao Hua’an and Qi Rongzhi had an unusual relationship, but Shao Wanru couldn’t tell whether it was because of Qi Rongzhi or Qi Tianyu.

Moreover, was there really no grudge between the two of them? Madam Jiang was still in the nunnery. The reason why she ended up like this had a lot to do with her. She did not believe that Shao Hua’an really knew nothing about it.

“I heard that Great Elder Princess is here. Fifth Sister, have you seen her?” Shao Hua’an asked as he walked, as if he did not notice Shao Wanru’s indifference.

“Yes, grandma had just come to see me just now!” Shao Wanru said.

“Did they talk about Brother Hao? Brother Hao has lived in Great Elder Princess’s Mansion for so long, but he doesn’t come back often. Before, Grandmother was still talking about him and said that she missed him very much!” Shao Hua’an sighed and reached out to pinch his glabella. “Great Elder Princess and Grandmother are so old, but they are still arguing with each other. It makes things difficult for us!”

His words were extremely peaceful and there was intention of blaming either of them at all. It sounded like he was smiling, which made Shao Wanru unable to figure out his meaning at the moment.

“Hao’er is still young. She is reluctant to part with him!” Shao Wanru said vaguely.

“Hao’er is still young. In the past, he followed me out to play. Now when I think about it, it has been three years. He should be much older. Every time she thinks of it, she feels that she had neglected the boy!”

Shao Hua’an said with a gentle smile, and then stopped asking about Shao Yuanhao. On the contrary, he was very concerned about Shao Wanru’s affairs. He asked her about life in detail, and he said if there was anything she didn’t like, she could tell her third aunt or her grandmother, and she could also tell him about what had happened outside.

Before understanding Shao Hua’an’s meaning, Shao Wanru nodded and answered Shao Hua’an’s questions occasionally. Although she sounded indifferent, she answered his questions all the time.

The two of them seemed to be talking and laughing when they arrived at Chuntang Courtyard. Someone had already gone to remind Old Madam. Although Old Madam was full of resentment against Shao Wanru, it was improper for her to show it on her face and she asked someone to invite them in.

After entering the room, they bowed to Old Madam together. Old Madam nodded and asked them to sit down.

After they sat down, Old Madam asked with a smile, “Hua’an, what brings you here?”

Shao Hua’an put down the teacup in his hand and answered with a smile, “My father asked me to tell my grandma about the item we bought last time. It’s gone. The shop said it was similar, but my father didn’t know if my grandma liked it or not, so he specially asked me to come over and ask for your opinion!”

“That thing is gone?” Old Madam pondered for a moment and frowned. Her face darkened. She glanced at Shao Wanru subconsciously and then turned back.

Her eyes turned towards her unconsciously, but they turned away consciously..

#### **Chapter 814 Fifth Sister, Help Me!**

“Yes, but there is something similar to it and it seems to be very good. That’s what my father suggests. So what do you think, grandma?” Shao Hua’an said.

Madam Dowager pondered again. This time, she did not answer directly. After a long time, she said, “Then let’s check which house bought it first.”

she meant that she still wanted the original one.

"Okay, I'll tell my father now!" Shao Hua'an stood up and said with a smile.

"Go!" Old Madam said.

Shao Hua'an bowed to Old Madam, nodded to Shao Wanru, and then turned to leave.

Shao Wanru's eyes fell on him. This man seemed to be really decent and kind. If it weren't for Shao Yanru's example, she might really believe it. Her watery eyes involuntarily became deep.

"Your elder brother is also busy now. Some of your mother's belongs were given to others and were still out there. I will try my best to get them back for you. If I really can't get them back, there is no other way." Old Madam sighed and her face darkened.

Shao Wanru lowered her head and said softly, "Thank you, grandma!"

However, she didn't say that she didn't want to collect them. She suppose it was her grandma forced Old Madam to do it. At this time, she couldn't say anything to involve her grandmother into this.

Seeing that Shao Wanru accepted the truth calmly, Old Madam felt a mouthful of blood suppressed in her heart and she really wanted to spit it out. She had not expected that this girl would agree so soon as if it was something she ought to do. Old Madam was angry, but she had to suppress the anger in her heart.

"Of course it's the best if it can be taken back. I'm afraid that it can't be taken back in a short time. Your second aunt... lost some of them before. I'm afraid that it can't be found even if we try to find it. I want to send someone to ask your second aunt about it, but..." Old Madam paused here and seemed to be very hesitant.

Shao Wanru thought quickly and stole a glance at Old Madam's expression. This woman seemed to be in a dilemma and she frowned tightly as if she didn't know how to deal with it. With such an obvious expression and Old Madam's words just now, Shao Wanru understood that Old Madam intended to take advantage of her.

She did not say anything. She lowered her head and pinched the handkerchief in her hand, as if she did not understand what Old Madam meant, and waited quietly for Old Madam to finish her words.

There was silence in the room for a while, and Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion felt depressed in her heart. "Sure enough, I didn't raise her since she was a child. She will never be thoughtful. If she were my eldest granddaughter, she would definitely take the initiative to continue the topic. How could she wait for my answer?"

She coughed again. Since this girl answered, she had to say it.

"I'm old and don't have the energy to ask your Second Aunt about it. Your Third Aunt is in poor health. Why don't you choose a sister to go with you and directly ask your Second Aunt where these things are? Only your Second Aunt knows!"

Old Madam said.

Pick another sister?

The only ones who could be chosen were Second Miss Shao Yujie and Fourth Miss Shao Cailing. Thinking about the difference between the two, Shao Wanru knew that Old Madam must have suggested her to choose Second Miss Shao Yujie.

This matter was related to the main branch and the second branch, and it had nothing to do with the third branch. Moreover, now the madam of third branch was injured and sick, so Shao Cailing was unwilling to leave.

At this time, Old Madam asked her to take Shao Jie'er to visit Madam Jiang. She was confused in her heart, but she didn't show it on her face. She raised her cleareyes to look at Old Madam and nodded in agreement. "Grandma is right. I will do as you say!"

Seeing that Shao Wanru was being clever, Old Madam smiled and said, "The Fourth Girl is in a good mood after coming out of the palace and has to take care of the Third Girl and her mother, so she must stay. The Second Girl has nothing to do now, so you can go with her. You two can look out for each other. Otherwise, I will be worried."

Old Madam's words were very euphemistic and concerned. She did not mention what had happened to Rui'an Great Elder Princess before, as if she really did not care about it.

"Will it disturb Second Aunt's seclusive cultivation if we go to Yuhui Nunnery now?" Shao Wanru asked.

In fact, everyone knew that the Jiang family was being punished instead of cultivating. If something happened to the wife of a rich and powerful family, this wording would be the most direct and dignified.

Shao Wanru had been cultivating to mourn for her parents, and there were all kinds of rumors that Duke Xing's Mansion did not like her. That night, the fire startled half of the city. Therefore, everyone thought that she was really mourning for her parents. At the same time, because of the hostility of Duke Xing's Mansion, she specially went to the nunnery.

But for Jiang family, it was different. All kinds of rumors before were harmful to her and even related to the palace. Then she was sent to the Yuhui Nunnery to cultivate in seclusion and to recuperate.

The wife of the master of the house went to cultivate in seclusion and recuperated in such a situation. Who didn't know that Madam Jiang was actually exiled?

"No, your Second Aunt is actually... I won't hide it from you. She deserves it now. If it weren't for your Big Sister and Big Brother, her punishment would have been much worse!" Old Madam said, "You can go up the mountain and ask her. If she goes against you maliciously, you don't have to pay attention to her. I will definitely make her pay for her viciousness!"

Old Madam became increasingly kind and expressed her thoughts sincerely, and said that she would support Shao Wanru.

Looking at Old Madam being like this, Shao Wanru silently lifted the corners of her mouth and then covered the sarcasm in her eyes. Old Madam was really a "merciful" Old Madam. But the other Old Madam— Old Madam Qin, her kindness to Shao Wanru was sincere instead of this Old Madam's hypocritical act.

"Thank you, grandma. Can Second Sister and I go tomorrow?" Shao Wanru asked gently.

"In fact, it's better to do it as soon as possible, but you've just returned to the mansion, so you have to rest first." Old Madam nodded and then said, "It's up to you. If you feel that you can go there, inform me. I'll ask someone to prepare carriages and manpower for you!"

"There will be other people?" Shao Wanru looked up and asked in surprise.

"Of course I have to prepare a few people for you. They are all my people. Your second aunt will not talk nonsense when she sees them!" Old Madam said.

That was to say, Old Madam will send someone to follow her. What did she mean? Does she really want Shao Wanru to go up the mountain to ask Madam Jiang for her mother's dowry?"

If this was the reason, why didn't Old Madam just send Nanny Yu up the mountain? Wasn't it better than her making such a big fuss to ask her to go up the mountain to ask for items from Madam Jiang? What would others think of her?

She was going to marry Prince Chen and would soon be his concubine. Did Old Madam want others to think that Prince Chen's newly married concubine would not even make it easy for her aunt, who was being punished up in the mountain?

Most of the people could only see what was on the surface. How many of them could tell if it was true or false?

Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion made a good move. If she succeeded, others would blame Shao Wanru for bothering her aunt, who was cultivating up in the mountain, for her dowry. If something else happened, it would be really shameful.

But now her reputation was also the reputation of Duke Xing's Mansion. How could Old Madam keep Shao Wanru's reputation while making her grandma compromise? That was the key.

And what was the key to this key?

Thinking carefully about the key point of this matter, Shao Wanru walked forward while pondering all the way. Unexpectedly, she met Shao Jie'er on the way. The two of them looked at each other.

"Fifth Sister!" Shao Jie'er did not look well. After seeing Shao Wanru, she was stunned for a moment and said in a low voice.

"Second Sister!" Shao Wanru nodded casually and continued to walk forward.

When they were about to miss each other, Shao Jie'er suddenly said, "Fifth Sister, please wait!"

Shao Wanru turned her head and looked at Shao Jie'er in surprise. Seeing that this girl seemed to be begging, Shao Wanru's long eyelashes fluttered twice. She stood still, raised her eyebrows, and said in confusion, "Second Sister?"

"Fifth Sister, can I talk to you?" Shao Jie'er said in a low voice.

"Second Sister, what's the matter? Let's talk about it here." Shao Wanru looked around and found no one else.

"Fifth Sister, it won't take long. Don't stay here. Can we talk behind the rockery?" Shao Jie'er also looked up and reached out to point at a rockery beside.

The rockery was on the side of the road. On one side, there was an empty courtyard, and on the other side, it faced the road. No one would see them when they turned to the back of the rockery. However, she had nothing to say to Shao Jie'er and didn't feel that they were so close.

"Second Sister, do you want to say something or not? We can talk about it here. We don't have to hide. We are sisters in Duke Xing's Mansion. No one will say anything about it!"

Shao Wanru shook her head and refused with a smile.

"Fifth Sister, I... I really have something to tell you!" Seeing that Shao Wanru would not do it, Shao Jie'er suddenly pinched her handkerchief and cried.

This scene surprised Shao Wanru too much. She really didn't know when she became so close to Shao Jie'er that they had to hide behind a rockery and whisper under each other's ears.

Frowning, she pointed at the rockery and said, "Second Sister, since you insist, let's go there!"

After that, she turned around and walked to the rockery, followed by Shao Jie'er. When they turned to a corner of the rockery together, Shao Wanru looked up at the attic diagonally to the right. It was also a little far from here, but one could see them clearly in the balcony. If someone was in it, it would be a coincidence.

In the attic, the curtains were half-rolled, and the gauze was on the ground. No one could be seen from the girls' perspective.

"Second Sister, what's so urgent that we have to take about it here!" Shao Wanru turned to look at Shao Jie'er and asked slowly, waiting for Shao Jie'er to give her an explanation. Her clam eyes fell on Shao Jie'er coldly, and her deep eyes seemed to be able to see through all of Shao Jie'er's thoughts.

Shao Jie'er panicked, hurriedly reached out her handkerchief to wipe her tears, and then knelt down in front of Shao Wanru's surprised eyes and cried, "Fifth Sister, please help me!"

### **Chapter 815 The Trade Between Second Branch and Third Branch**

"Second Sister, what's the matter?" Shao Wanru looked at Shao Jie'er with her calm eyes. Yujie came over to pull Shao Jie'er's sleeves and said anxiously, "Second Miss, what happened? Did you hit something? Please stand up first and talk to our Miss nicely."

She was so strong that Shao Jie'er had to stand up. Seeing that things were not going well, the servant girl beside Shao Jie'er also helped Shao Jie'er.

Shao Jie'er couldn't kneel anymore since she stood up. She only covered her face with a handkerchief and just cried.

There was a trace of deepness flashing through Shao Wanru's eyes.

"Second Sister, what do you mean? Did you especially ask me to come here just to see you cry?" At this time, she was also a little angry. Shao Jie'er helped Shao Yanru plot against her. In the past, Shao Jie'er



did not have good intentions whenever she saw her. At this time, Shao Wanru did not expect that Shao Jie'er would pretend to be bullied and even kneel down to her just now.

If others saw this, they would think that he had done something to this girl.

"Fifth Sister, please help me, please help me. I can't find anyone else except you!" Shao Jie'er cried, wiping her tears with a handkerchief while grieving.

"Second Sister, if you can't explain it, then I'll leave first. We can talk about it after you think it over!" Shao Wanru's face darkened and she was about to leave.

"Fifth Sister, father is going to give my fiancée to Third Sister," Shao Jie'er cried and said.

Shao Wanru paused for a moment. She had just returned to Duke Xing's Mansion and really didn't understand what Shao Jie'er meant at the moment.

Seeing Shao Wanru stop walking, Shao Jie'er said again, "Fifth Sister, that man is my betrothed. Even if Third Sister's face is ruined, it's still my marriage. Why should I give him to Third Sister!?"

"Third Sister wants your fiancée? Commandery Prince Qing's?" Shao Wanru asked in surprise, almost unable to believe those words, "Did Second Uncle tell you about it?"

"No, he didn't tell me. I overheard it secretly. I heard my father and Third Uncle say that my Third Sister's face is disfigured. So it will be hard for her in the future. They say that I'm fine at least, and there will be a good marriage for me in the future. But how can there be a good marriage for me? I... I'm 17 years old, and I'm a concubine's daughter..."

Shao Jie'er complained tearfully.

Shao Wanru's eyes darkened and blinked silently. Her long eyelashes covered the suspicion in them. Would her Second Uncle really give his daughter's fiancée to her Third Uncle?

Speaking of her Third Uncle, Shao Wanru had only seen him once or twice. This Third Uncle was very low-key and not very promising. He held a nominal post in the government office and had a lot of contact with his evil companions. Old Madam did not like him very much, but he was her biological son after all, so she could not ignore him.

It was also because he didn't work hard. Hence, the third branch declined in the mansion. She didn't expect that this man would speak about this marriage in front of her second uncle.

"Did Third Uncle ask for it or did Second Uncle take the initiative to mention it?" Despite her doubts, she asked calmly.

"Third Uncle came to ask for it. I... I happened to be picking flowers behind my father's study. I heard that Third Uncle came to ask for this marriage. He said... said that Third Sister's face got ruined because she entered the palace. He said for the sake of the mansion, Third Sister should get married to my fiancée!"

Shao Jie'er wiped her tears hard.

"Is her face really ruined?" Shao Wanru frowned slightly and asked.

"Yes, I heard that she's not in good condition. Although she has recovered now, I'm afraid that there will be scars on her face. Several imperial physicians have come to the palace, and all of them said that the poison is very toxic... and her face will remain damaged in the future," Shao Jie'er said with anger and hatred. She now wished that Shao Caihuan would die in the palace.

A dead person would not take away her fiancé.

"Did Second Uncle and Third Uncle say anything else?" Shao Wanru said. She had no sympathy for Shao Caihuan at all. If she had not been smart at that time, she would have been the one that got poisoned.

Although Shao Caihuan didn't do it directly, she knew it but she pretended that she knew nothing about it and secretly set up a trap for Shao Wanru. She deserved what happened to her and she couldn't blame others.

The poison was so toxic that Shao Caihuan had no chance to recover, and she even intended to steal Shao Jie'er's fiancé. It could be said that Shao Jie'er's face had been disfigured extremely.

Since she returned to the mansion, she had been busy here and had not seen Shao Caihuan to know how her face was.

"I can't hear the rest clearly. They seemed to have talked about something else. I think that my father didn't agree at first, but later, they talked so softly that I didn't dare to get too close to them. I only heard something about decades ago and about their big brother... I want to go over there, but I saw my father's two guards turn around so I ran away in a hurry."

Shao Jie'er said.

Shao Wanru's heart bumped. She was now particularly concerned about what had happened more than ten years ago. When thinking about it, she wondered if it was not only her Second Uncle but also her Third Uncle who had intervened in the matter of her father.

Or it could be said that her Second Uncle directly intervened in it, and her Third Uncle merely had knowledge of it. Just like what happened in the palace that day, Shao Wanru should have intervened directly, and Shao Caihuan stood there and watched and this woman even took advantage of the opportunity to help them at the right time? A surge of anger burst out in her heart, and she clenched the handkerchief in her hand tightly. She almost couldn't help wanting to ask these people how they could be so evil!

Therefore, the so-called kinship was the tool of their calculation. This time, they used what they knew to threaten the other in exchange for their daughter's marriage. He was a kind and righteous father, but not a good brother.

She bit the corner of her mouth hard, and her eyes were almost burning with flames. She wanted to burn down the entire Duke Xing's Mansion. This was really the dirtiest place she had ever seen.

"Miss, Miss!" Seeing Shao Wanru's fierce and bloodthirsty eyes, Yujie was shocked and hurriedly called out.

Shao Jie'er was also shocked. She took a step back and looked at Shao Wanru blankly. At this time, Shao Wanru looked overwhelmed with hatred, as if she was going to devour people.

"Fifth... Fifth Sister..." Shao Jie'er was so scared that she couldn't even cry out.

Shao Wanru took a deep breath to suppress the smell of blood in her heart. The red faded from Shao Wanru's eyes and she seemed sane again. "Second Sister, you also think that this marriage is not good?"

Chu Qing had been silent for so long because he didn't want Shao Jie'er to dwell in the mansion, and it was impossible for him to make Shao Jie'er his legal wife.

"I know, I know... but that's my marriage..." Shao Jie'er cried out. She had thought about it a lot recently and did not dare to think about the position of someone's legal wife, but at least she thought she should be a concubine. Since she was from Duke Xing's Mansion, Commandery Prince Qing would accept her.

Especially when she thought that this marriage was about to be canceled, she felt more and more strongly that this was a good marriage. If she lost this marriage, who would make a good marriage for her? Madam of Duke Xing was locked up in the Yuhui Nunnery and Old Madam didn't care about her.

No matter how bad Commandery Prince Qing was, he was still a member of the royal family. He had the royal blood in his veins. If she married him and got pregnant, her future would still be promising.

But now, Shao Caihuan had seized this opportunity. How could she not hate this woman?

"Second Sister, are you willing to be a concubine?" Shao Wanru looked at her and knew that she understood what she meant, so she didn't hide it and asked directly.

"I'm willing to be a concubine of Commandery Prince Qing!" Shao Jie'er cried again with a grievance.

"Has Second Uncle told Second Sister about it?" Shao Wanru asked again. It seemed that these two had not discussed it.

"No. I just heard it not long ago!" Shao Jie'er shook her head hard.

"When did you hear that?"

"Yesterday. I heard it yesterday. Fifth Sister, go and tell father that it's good for you if I marry Commandery Prince Qing's. If you say so, father will definitely listen to you," Shao Jie'er said in a daze and her words were a little incoherent.

She didn't want to deal with Old Madam, and she didn't want to talk to Third Madam either. She and her aunt had been discussing for the whole night, but Shao Wanru was the only one who seemed to be reliable. Now Shao Wanru's marriage brought honor to the whole Duke Xing's Mansion. Her words must weigh heavier than others' now.

Shao Jie'er had to ask her father to change his mind before the matter was officially settled! This was also the reason why she deliberately came to see Shao Wanru today.

"Fifth Sister, help me. I will definitely repay you in the future!" Shao Jie'er was willing to do anything Shao Wanru said at this time, only hoping that Shao Wanru could help her.

"I heard that Second Sister is going to accompany me to meet Second Aunt?" Shao Wanru changed the topic, raised the corners of her mouth slightly, and said unhurriedly.

"There is such a thing. Old Madam asked me to accompany you to the Yuhui Nunnery to look for Madam and ask for the dowry left by Infanta Qinghua."

Shao Jie'er nodded. Thinking of this, she couldn't help feeling jealous. As a Miss who had been raised in Duke Xing's Mansion for more than ten years, she couldn't compare with a Miss who had been wandering outside. She was brought up by the servants who taught her the courtesies of the nobles and was the most well-behaved girl. Why didn't such a good thing happen to her?

With the Empress Dowager's decree, she would also rise to power even if she was just the daughter of a concubine?

Although Prince Chen was a little sick and weak, his future was still bright. She wished if only he had chosen her!

"Old Madam said that? When did she say that?" Shao Wanru asked again.

"Just now. Before you went over, I heard from Old Madam that someone asked you to come over, so I waited here. I saw someone leading you here with my elder brother next to you, so I didn't come out to stop you. I stayed here to wait for you to come back!" Shao Jie'er explained. She now still needed Shao Wanru's help, so she told the truth.

"In addition to this, did Old Madam tell you anything else?" Shao Wanru said after thinking for a while. If that was the case, it seemed that she should not have specially summoned Shao Jie'er. In the past, when Shao Jie'er was needed, Madam of Duke Xing or Old Madam, or Shao Yanru would not especially tell Shao Jie'er the reason why she was summoned.

Then why did Old Madam tell her the reason this time?

Shao Jie'er blinked her eyes and couldn't remember anything for a moment. After a long while, she said hesitantly, "She said that some men will escort us. Is that worth mentioning?"

## **Chapter 816 Encountering the Acquaintance of Last Life**

"Who is going to escort us?" Shao Wanru asked sensitively.

"She didn't make it clear. She just said that it's a long way to Yuhui Nunnery. Old Madam is worried about us, so she will find some people to escort us!" Shao Jie'er stammered. At that time, she had not cared about these things at all.

Originally, this matter had nothing to do with her. Now she was merely concerned about her marriage, so how could she care about other things?

"Fifth Sister, can you help me?" Shao Jie'er turned to the previous topic.

"You want to enter Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion? Have you ever asked Second Uncle's opinion? Or he has a better choice for you?" Shao Wanru blinked and asked.

This question made Shao Jie'er fall silent for a while, and then she said uncertainly, "But... it's impossible!"

Suddenly, she remembered something, and her eyes widened. Her father did come to see her two days ago and give her several gifts. He also cared about her health, which had never happened before.

At that time, she was so excited that she thought that Commandery Prince Qing's marriage had been settled. Unexpectedly, it was not mentioned even in the end. Other things were mentioned back then. At that time, she didn't pay attention to it. Now that Shao Wanru mentioned it, she immediately thought of some trivial details.

"I..."

"What did Second Uncle say?" Shao Wanru blinked and asked softly.

"He said, Prince Cheng... Prince Cheng..." Shao Jie'er's mouth was wide open and she was in a panic. She remembered that her father had mentioned Prince Cheng the most that day and had also mentioned a few more things about Prince Cheng. He had repeatedly reminded her that Prince Cheng was a good person, and there seemed to be a deeper meaning in his father's words.

"Fifth Sister, I have something else to do, so I won't disturb you!" And the more Shao Jie'er thought about it, the more panicked she became. The more she thought about it, the more confused she became. After saying this in a hurry, she turned around and left.

"Miss, what's wrong with the Second Miss? How could she run away after making such a big fuss?" Yujie, who was confused, asked.

Shao Wanru shook her head and walked out. Did "Prince Cheng" mean what she thought?

Prince Cheng, who hated marriage the most, had caused such a big scene before. Did he mean that he intended to marry Shao Jie'er now?

This man might have reached an agreement with her Second Uncle so that her Second Uncle would have such an idea. With her Second Uncle's personality, if he had not told the truth in front of Prince Cheng, he would not have revealed it to Shao Jie'er.

Third Uncle's idea should coincide with Second Uncle's. That was why Shao Jie'er heard the changes in her marriage, but she didn't know if Chu Qing was satisfied with it.

It was obvious that Chu Qing was scheming. It was not a good thing for him to marry the Miss who got her face disfigured.

It was not that easy to deal with such a complicated matter. What would her uncles do to satisfy him?

She didn't expect that she could go to the Yuhui Nunnery so soon. Old Madam especially sent someone to tell her that they go up the mountain with the family members of Lord Zhao, the minister of the Ministry of Works.

Because they happened to be going to the Yuhui Nunnery to worship Buddha, so Old Madam asked Shao Wanru and Shao Jie'er to go with them.

Shao Wanru and her sister dressed up early in the morning. After saying goodbye to Old Madam, they sat in the carriage of Duke Xing's Mansion and waited at the city gate, waiting for the carriage of Zhao's Mansion to come over, and then they would leave the city together.

They got up early, but it was already very lively at the gate of the city. After the city was opened, people kept coming in from outside the city. Shao Wanru felt that it was too lively, so she asked the sedan bearer to carry them to a corner facing the city gate, and then she sent a family member to wait at the gate. If he saw the carriage of the Zhao's Mansion, he would immediately come to inform her.

Shao Wanru and Shao Jie'er sat in the big carriage in the front, and the two servant girls were in the rear carriage in which there were incenses. On the surface, they were also going to worship the Buddha. Since they had to go to the Yuhui Nunnery, they could worship Buddha.

Shao Jie'er was full of worries. She sat there and lowered her head, thinking about something. She was in turn happy and sad, which made Shao Wanru frown secretly. It seemed that Shao Jing really had other plans. Shao Jie'er also thought of something, so she was not in a panic as she was that day.

It was true that Prince Cheng had more power than others. After Chu Qing was recognized, he basically did nothing, and he was not favored by the Empress Dowagers as others had imagined, even though he was the son of the former emperor.

The Empress Dowager seemed to have given all her love to Chu Liuchen. Even though Chu Qing was also the son of the former emperor, he held no special position in Empress Dowager's heart. Moreover, he had not been raised by Empress Dowager since he was a child so she had no special feelings for him. She treated him as an ordinary family member.

Prince Cheng was different. Empress Dowager was really concerned about Prince Cheng. She had intended to grant this man a marriage before. Although he was unwilling to do so, in the current situation, since he didn't become a monk, He was ought to get married. If he took a fancy to a woman, the Empress Dowager would be extremely happy.

Not only would that woman win Prince Cheng's favor, but she would also solve the big problem of Empress Dowager and the Emperor. From this point of view, the Empress Dowager and the Emperor must also like her.

Shao Jie'er's current behavior was quite thought-provoking. It seemed that what Shao Wanru thought was true?

Shao Wanru hesitated between Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou, but Shao Jing was interested in Prince Cheng. Prince Cheng, who had always been quiet and had no ambition, actually had such an intention to take Shao Jie'er in as his concubine. It could be seen that he had great ambitions hidden in his mind...

Although it was just a marriage thing between women in the family, the complication inside surprised Shao Wanru. She leaned against the window of the carriage and no longer paid attention to Shao Jie'er. She raised her shimmery eyes and looked out of the window.

The heavy curtain outside the window was lifted high, leaving only a light gauze curtain. The person sitting inside could see the scenery outside the window through the gauze curtain.

Although it was a remote corner, Shao Wanru's window was facing a relatively quiet street. She was thinking about the possibility of Shao Jie'er entering Prince Cheng's Mansion and Shao Caihuan entering Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion. Suddenly, someone appeared in the corner of her eyes. Her eyes widened and her body immediately stiffened.

"Fifth Sister, what's wrong with you?" Shao Jie'er looked up and asked in surprise. Maybe her reaction was too strong. Now she had regained her calmness and was no longer helpless as before. She raised her chin slightly and looked noble again. She was indeed like Shao Yanru, since they were sisters.

"I'm fine. Second Sister, have you thought it over?" Shao Wanru glanced at her indifferently, reached out to pull down the curtain gently, and asked in an extremely bored tone.

Shao Jie'er didn't know how to answer this question. Now she couldn't figure out whether it was true or not. Happiness came so suddenly that she still couldn't come to her senses. She had to separate the words one by one and ponder on them.

Of course, she would not tell Shao Wanru her true feelings at this moment. She even regretted that she had cried to Shao Wanru in a panic that day. She had been so flustered before that she just wanted to show her weakness to Shao Wanru. Now that she thought about it, it was really shameful.

Even if Shao Wanru would be the future Princess Chen, she thought was still not inferior to Shao Wanru. If she married Prince Cheng, she would be superior to Shao Wanru and become Shao Wanru's elder. So she didn't really care that Shao Wanru getting married to Prince Chen.

Thinking of this, she felt regretful and ashamed. It was her aunt's idea for her that made her lose face in front of Shao Wanru.

She snorted indifferently. "What's there to think about? As a daughter, of course, I have to listen to my father. I'll do as he says!"

After saying this, she closed her eyes and leaned against the carriage wall to continue thinking about something. She didn't intend to pay attention to Shao Wanru.

Shao Wanru smiled slightly and didn't care about Shao Jie'er's despicable behavior. She had long known what kind of person Shao Jie'er was. When she needed you, she could trample her dignity under her feet and beg for anything by crying. Once she gained power, she would be arrogant and ignore her relatives.

In the past, she had been loyal to Shao Yanru like a dog. As soon as her master fell, she had done anything to survive. She was just like a typical hypocrite.

Her calm eyes glanced out of the window again, and she could no longer see the previous figure. The face was somewhat similar to the one in her memory, or it should be that person, but now she had entered the courtyard over there. The door was closed, so she could not see the person entering the courtyard from the position of the carriage. She could only see the dark blue clothes that flashed through her eyes.

She closed her eyes and hid the coldness and sarcasm at the bottom of her eyes. That person finally came, and it was indeed time.

The courtyard at the city gate seemed to be not small. She was heard that the man was living in an inn. Why did he come here?

The bloody truth of her last life was in front of her, but it was not hers. It was another woman. The woman jumped down from the tall building to prove her virtue. After her death, she was grieved. The

imperial court even made a memorial tablet for her and demoted this talented scholar back to his original identity and asked him to live the rest of his life with the memorial tablet for his wife.

Shao Wanru didn't know anything about what had happened later. In her last life, she had only seen this person from a distance. It was Mrs. Di who brought him here. That woman pointed at him from a distance. He looked gentle and handsome back then. Shao Wanru nodded at that time. But she didn't expect such a thing to happen.

After that, she had never seen this man called Yanxi again.

She didn't know why when she saw him again in this life, she would recognize him at once. It was really hard to think that such a person was not good. Although he was not very good-looking, the smile on his face looked very sincere without any falseness. Would such a man really abandon his wife and children?

Madam of Duke Xing's distant nephew? Did it have anything to do with the Jiang family?

"Second Miss, Fifth Miss, Minister Zhao's carriage has arrived!" A servant suddenly reported from outside the carriage door.

"Follow them!" Shao Wanru gave an order lightly.

#### **Chapter 817 The Miss of Minister Zhao**

The carriage moved slowly. Shao Wanru opened her eyes again and suddenly saw that the gate of the courtyard was opened. A man donned in deep blue clothes appeared at the door, and a woman sent him out. When the carriage passed by, Shao Wanru suddenly widened her eyes and looked at the woman in the courtyard in disbelief.

"Isn't she the woman who jumped off the tall building?"

On that day, the woman was about to jump off the building while stating the crimes of a man. Shao Wanru happened to come out that day and saw this woman. She even saw the girl's determination to jump off the building in her eyes. At that time, she not only felt sorry for herself, but also for this extremely determined girl.

But why was this woman here at this time? Didn't they say that the man entered the capital city only after passing the imperial examination? Now the Spring Metropolitan Examination had not yet begun, so why was she here? Moreover, her clothes didn't that of an ordinary woman, but like that of a servant girl.

Shao Wanru stared at the carriage almost with panic. In the end, she lost the woman's trace. She clenched her gauze scarf tightly and almost couldn't help asking the carriage to stop. She wanted to see what had happened before. What did it mean? Why was it different from what she had imagined?

Wasn't it said that Master Yan had abandoned his wife and children? Then what was the scene she just saw? Or was it mistaken?

Her heart inexplicably trembled, and her hands and feet were cold. She could no longer see the two people in front of her. She leaned back and gasped heavily. Her heart and lungs seemed to be burning, and there was an indescribable depression inside.



"Fifth Sister, what's wrong?" Shao Jie'er had been alerted by her sister's behavior. She looked at Shao Wanru and asked unhappily.

She was thinking about a good thing just now, but she was bothered up by Shao Wanru so she was in a bad mood.

"Nothing. I'm a little uncomfortable!" Shao Wanru covered her chest and said with a frown.

"If you are not feeling well, you should have said it earlier. We have already gone out at this time. What can we do?" Shao Jie'er said coldly and closed her eyes again. She was thinking about what would happen if she married Prince Cheng in the future. If she was lucky, she might become the Empress, which was the title Shao Yanru had been longing for. She did not dare to expect that this opportunity would fall on her.

At that time, the entire Duke Xing's Mansion would curry favor with her, and no one would dare to look down on her. No matter Shao Yanru or Shao Wanru could be compared with her.

"So what if I'm not the legitimate daughter? My mother is a concubine, but I could be superior to all of the other girls in the future..." She thought inwardly.

Shao Wanru slowly calmed down. She rolled her clear eyes and looked at Shao Jie'er. Seeing Shao Jie'er smile proudly, she knew that the girl was in her reverie, so she didn't decide to bother this girl. She still leaned against the window and thought about what had happened just now carefully.

What she saw just now was a great blow to her. It changed her view of the things that happened in her last life. There seemed to be something wrong. It was not only about her. She surmised that that young master called Yan must also be a victim.

Was he Madam Jiang's distant nephew? She heard it from Madam Di. She didn't know whether it was true or not!

Since he might not have abandoned his family, then the identity of the so-called distant nephew might also be fake. She didn't know how this Yan Xi offended Duke Xing's Mansion or Duke Yong's Mansion so when they asked them to deal with her, they also dealt with him.

Was there anything that she didn't know? Was it because of political reasons or something else? It was said that he was just an ordinary public servant, but why did they go against him like this? Was it because of her or because of him?

Shao Wanru only remembered at the end that the woman had jumped, and the fall made both her and Yan Xi end miserably.

He had abandoned his wife and child? This woman was dressed like a servant girl. How could she have children?

Her smile was as cold as ice!

"Fifth Sister, what are you laughing at?" Shao Jie'er's voice came to her ears. Shao Wanru turned to look at Shao Jie'er and saw that this girl was looking at her in surprise. She knew that she had aroused Shao Jie'er's suspicion.

"I'm fine. I just find it strange. Why do the female members of the minister's mansion accompany us? We don't have to bother anyone when we go to the Yuhui Nunnery," Shao Wanru said lightly.

Shao Jie'er raised her eyebrows and said, "I'm afraid you don't know. Zhao Xiran, the eldest daughter of the minister of the Ministry of Works, is the one our brother wants to marry!"

"Marry her?" Shao Wanru looked at her and asked.

"Of course. It's basically settled. If my mother hadn't gone to the Yuhui Nunnery to recuperate, the two families would have begun to prepare for it."

Shao Jie'er smiled. From this point of view, it seemed that the people of Zhao's Mansion would never like to see Shao Wanru.

Shao Wanru was silent for a moment and also understood Shao Jie'er's implication. Shao Hua'an was going to marry the eldest daughter of the minister of the Ministry of Works. She didn't know that woman was also going to the nunnery.

"The two families have tacitly agreed before, but I didn't expect that my mother would get into trouble again and again. Fifth Sister, if you see First Miss Zhao later, you have to be careful to deal with her, lest you offend her and annoy my grandma. My grandma is preparing for my eldest brother's marriage recently. My mother is not in good health now, so only my grandma can help!"

Shao Jie'er sounded like she took pleasure in Shao Wanru's misfortune.

Shao Wanru was not surprised by Shao Jie'er's mean words. Truth be told, Shao Jie'er and Qi Rongzhi were somewhat similar.

"What kind of person is Miss Zhao?" Shao Wanru asked indifferently.

"Miss Zhao is the eldest daughter of the minister of the Ministry of Works. She is a very good person. When she came to the mansion in the past, she used to play with us. She is a kind person, and so is my eldest brother. They are a good match. However, Miss Zhao is the daughter of the minister after all. Don't offend her later."

Shao Jie'er seemed to be reminding Shao Wanru, but in fact, she would love to see what would happen if Shao Wanru really offended that woman.

"Miss Zhao and Big Brother have known each other for a long time?" Shao Wanru asked calmly as if she didn't hear the hidden meaning in Shao Jie'er's words.

She didn't know anything about First Miss Zhao before. Now when Shao Jie'er was willing to tell her, she should ask more. She had a feeling that she would meet this First Miss Zhao after entering the Yuhui Nunnery.

In the carriage of the minister's mansion, First Miss Zhao should be in there. Shao Jie'er thought highly of this woman. This First Miss Zhao seemed to know how to conduct herself, just like Shao Hua'an?

She was not afraid of this minister's daughter. Now she and Chu Liuchen had been engaged. No matter who saw her, they would not be so stupid to deliberately make things difficult for her. First Miss Zhao

seemed to be very good at dealing with people. She surmised that this woman would not deliberately make things difficult for her.

"Big Brother knew First Miss Zhao long ago. I heard that he took the initiative to find my mother and for this marriage. He is very fond of her," Shao Jie'er said proudly.

They were all the Misses of Duke Xing's Mansion. Shao Wanru didn't know it, but she did. In this respect, she was much better than Shao Wanru.

"They have known each other for a long time?" Shao Wanru's suddenly thought of something.

"Of course they have known each other for a long time. I heard from my mother that Big Brother liked First Miss Zhao very much and forbade us from offending her. When she came to our mansion to play, he asked us to play with her." Shao Jie'er proudly told her what she knew, which seemed to have made her feel proud.

"First Miss Zhao had been to our mansion?" Shao Wanru blinked her eyes and asked with a smile.

"Of course, and she has come more than once. In fact, this matter was brought up three years ago. But at that time, Big Brother's yard was burned. Mother was so angry that she didn't mention it for the time being. This delay lasted for three years. Big Brother is getting older now, and he can't wait any longer, so the two families decided to pick up the pace!"

Shao Jie'er squinted at Shao Wanru and said, "Speaking of which, you were also there when the yard was burned. Madam had put in a lot of effort in it."

Thinking of this, Shao Jie'er felt a little distressed. She had seen the objects in the courtyard. At that time, she was envious and jealous. She didn't expect that the courtyard would be burned in the end.

She still felt distressed at the thought of it now. Of course, she didn't care much about Shao Wanru, who had almost been burned to death at that time.

The house prepared for her marriage was burned down. This time, she went up the mountain to ask Madam Jiang for her dowry, and Madam Jiang used a lot of her dowry. If it was not enough, she would use that woman's own things to compensate for it, and her own things were originally going to be left to her son.

After thinking about it for a while, Shao Wanru found that it seemed to be difficult to get along with First Miss Zhao!

The carriage stopped in front of the Yuhui Nunnery. The two servant girls got out of the carriage behind early and waited in front of the carriage.

Shao Jie'er got out of the carriage first and warmly said to a woman who came down from another spacious carriage, "Miss Zhao, you are really here. That's great!"

"Second Miss!" Zhao Xiran, who had just gotten out of the carriage, smiled slightly and answered very warmly. Then she looked at Shao Wanru, who had just gotten out of the carriage.

This was the first time she had seen the Fifth Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion.

She had heard of the Fifth Miss. When she went to Duke Xing's Mansion before, although the Misses who accompanied her didn't say anything bad, she could tell that they didn't like the Fifth Miss Shao very much, but the rumors outside were different. However, the fact that her grandma was Rui'an Great Elder Princess was something that no one could ignore!

She seemed to be amazed when she saw Shao Wanru.

There were many beauties in the capital city, and every one of them had her own features. Among them, Shao Yanru was the most outstanding. Zhao Xiran didn't expect that the Fifth Miss Shao was so beautiful. Her long and curly eyelashes fluttered, and her sparkling eyes looked misty. It seemed that they could talk. Anyone would be tempted once they looked at those eyes.

The cherry lips on her beautiful face were dazzling and made this innocent-looking girl seem seductive, but it was not her intention. She seemed both bewitching and innocent, which made her really attractive. Zhao Xiran suddenly understood why Prince Chen, who had always been unwilling to get married, agreed to this marriage!

### **Chapter 818 The Smooth-Talking and Clever Miss Zhao**

What a beautiful girl! She should not have appeared in the world, but she was standing in front of me in good condition. Her attitude seemed to be respectful and polite, and there was nothing wrong with her behavior. Seeing that Miss Zhao looked at her, she bowed sideways, smiled, and lowered her head slightly.

"She was not familiar with me, and no one introduced her. It was normal for her to be so polite."

Madam Zhao got out of the carriage and saw Shao Wanru nearby. She looked her up and down, then mentioned Zhao Xiran, "Go with the Second Miss Shao and the Fifth Miss Shao!"

"Yes, mother!" Zhao Xiran nodded with a smile and said to Shao Jie'er. "Is this the Fifth Miss of your mansion?"

"Yes, it's my Fifth Sister!" Shao Jie'er said, and then raised her voice to Shao Wanru, "Fifth Sister, come here!" Shao Wanru walked over slowly.

"Fifth Sister, this is Miss Zhao of the Minister's Mansion!" Shao Jie'er introduced Miss Zhao and then said to her, "Miss Zhao, this is my Fifth Sister. When you came to Shao's Mansion before, she was not there. What a coincidence! We can go together this time!"

"Fifth Miss!" Zhao Xiran smiled slightly and bowed to Shao Wanru. Shao Wanru replied gracefully and then bowed to Madam Zhao who was standing aside.

Madam Zhao looked Shao Wanru up and down again and marveled in her heart. The Fifth Miss Shao in front of her was so beautiful that she had thought that Shao Yanru was outstanding enough but now she found that the Fifth Miss Shao was the most outstanding one. She could be considered peerlessly beautiful.

"Fifth Miss, you don't have to be so polite. Your grandma has entrusted you to me, you two will come with us. If there is anything wrong, send someone to tell me!" Madam Zhao smiled and said politely.

Shao Wanru was not only the granddaughter of Rui'an Great Elder Princess but also the future Princess Chen.

"Sorry to trouble you, Madam!" Shao Wanru smiled and said softly.

This attitude satisfied Madam Zhao. She nodded at once, turned around, and went inside first.

"Second Miss, Fifth Miss, let's go together!" Zhao Xiran smiled and said to them.

The two of them nodded and followed Zhao Xiran inside. After a few steps, Zhao Xiran slowed down and said to Shao Wanru beside her, "I heard that the Fifth Miss has lived on the mountain for three years. Have you ever known the beautiful scenery there? We can enjoy the scenery later."

"That's great!" Shao Jie'er's eyes lit up and were very interested.

Shao Wanru blinked her eyes in embarrassment and said, "I'll ask the nuns in the nunnery later. I've basically been cultivating in my courtyard during the three years. So I am unfamiliar with other places in the nunnery!"

"Well, let's ask the nuns in the nunnery later!" Zhao Xiran nodded in agreement and did not embarrass Shao Wanru anymore.

Shao Jie'er complained discontentedly, "Fifth Sister, Big Sister lived here for a period of time before. After going back, she was very clear about everything in the Yuhui Nunnery. Why do you know nothing after staying here for so long?"

"Big Sister went here to learn painting, so she could go to all the elegant places in the nunnery, but I am here to observe mourning for the dead. I'm different from her!" Shao Wanru answered with a good temper.

"If I also know everything about the beautiful scenery in the nunnery, what would others think of me?" Shao Wanru rolled her watery eyes and she seemed to say that intentionally or unintentionally.

"Fifth Miss, you have been observing mourning for your parents on the mountain for three years, and your filial piety is very strong. My mother once used you as an excuse and said that you were filial at such a young age, and could cultivate on the mountain for three years. At the age of you, I only knew to play with other unmarried Misses and was very ignorant." Zhao Xiran praised Shao Wanru in a soft voice.

These words made Shao Jie'er unhappy, "Miss Zhao, don't praise Fifth Sister too much. She had to come up the mountain because of the special situation at that time. Speaking of filial piety, you are the real filial one. I heard that you specially embroidered a big screen for Old Madam Zhao's birthday, which is said to have taken more than a year."

Shao Wanru smiled slightly and did not answer her. It seemed that the derogation in her words was not talking about herself at all.

Zhao Xiran's eyes fell on her delicate little face, "I couldn't help but admire her again. It was a kind of blessing that a girl could be so pretty. In addition to her good family background, she was really blessed."

Now she found that Shao Wanru was still so generous. If she didn't answer, it would seem that Shao Jie'er was at a disadvantage.

"Second Miss, you flatter me. These are all small tricks and can't compare with the Fifth Miss's." Zhao Xiran shook her head and smiled. Then she turned to Shao Wanru and said, "I heard from Old Madam of your mansion that you are going to see Madam of Duke Xing. Why don't we go there now?"

"Miss Zhao, aren't you going to accompany Madam Zhao?" Shao Wanru asked. At this moment, Madam Zhao had already walked to the front.

"She is going to worship the Buddha first, and don't need my company. I will follow you to see Madam of Duke Xing first. I was going to visit Madam, it's just right for me!" Zhao Xiran smiled slightly, looking very gentle, and she did not deliberately hide the special relationship between her and Madam Jiang.

Although the agreement between the two mansions had not been officially decided, the people in the two mansions knew something.

If she were really about to marry Shao Hua'an, she should go to meet Madam Jiang when arrived Yuhui Nunnery. It was suitable for them to go together.

Madam Jiang lived in a very remote place, neither her past courtyard nor Shao Yanru's. It was a very small courtyard, the most ordinary kind in the nunnery. Hearing someone knocking on the door, an old maid came over to open the door.

It was an old maid Shao Jie'er didn't know. She was stunned and asked, "Does Madam of Duke Xing live inside?"

"There's only the Madam Jiang here!" The old maid looked them up and down and answered.

"Yes, it's Madam Jiang. We are from Duke Xing's Mansion and want to see Madam, it's okay?" Shao Jie'er didn't know what was going on. She poked her head out and looked inside, but didn't see anyone.

"Who let you come here?" The old maid looked at them and then looked at the servant girls behind them and asked.

"It's Old Madam who asked us to come and see Madam. I wonder if it would be convenient, we just ask her a few questions and leave!" Shao Wanru guessed that the old maid not only served Madam Jiang, but also had the responsibility of monitoring her. So she immediately said with a smile.

"Wait a minute!" The old maid closed the door in front of them. In a second, she opened the door and came out, letting them in.

After entering the room, they found that it was indeed small. There was only one main room with wing rooms on the side, and they were all very shabby. At first glance, they knew that it was not the courtyard specially chosen.

Zhao Xiran looked at the courtyard and frowned slightly. "My mother was right. Madam Jiang was locked up."

When they entered the main room and saw Madam Jiang in coarse clothes, not only Zhao Xiran but also Shao Jie'er was stunned.

Shao Jie'er had always been nervous and panicked in front of Madam Jiang. Now when she saw the thin and lean woman sitting there, who seemed to be more than ten years old, she could not recognize her for a while. She almost thought that she had recognized the wrong person and wanted to leave the room.

"What are you doing here today?" Madam Jiang looked like a different person, compared with when she was in Duke Xing's Mansion. She had lost her previous tolerance, gorgeous clothes, and dignity of Madam of Duke Xing. She was lying in bed with a gloomy face. Seeing them come in, her face darkened.

"Madam Jiang, my mother took me to the Yuhui Nunnery. I heard that you are recuperating, so I come here to visit you and brought some medicinal herbs for health. I hope you can accept them!" Zhao Xiran took a step forward and said respectfully to Madam Jiang.

Only then did Madam Jiang look at Zhao Xiran and recognize her. The cold expression on her face receded a little, revealing a trace of a smile. Originally, she wanted to show her kindness, but in this case, she really couldn't show it. Her smile looked very dry and stiff. "Thank you for your mother. I'll thank your mother after I recover!"

"Madam, you're too polite!" Zhao Xiran said. The maid behind her came over and put a few boxes of medicine on the table. Then politely retreated behind Zhao Xiran. She did not look around and behaved in good rules.

"Madam, I won't bother you chatting with family affairs. I'll wait outside!" Zhao Xiran said again. After bowing to Madam Jiang, she looked at Shao Jie'er and Shao Wanru gently and said, "Second Miss, Fifth Miss, please talk first. I'll wait for you outside."

Of course, she knew that Shao Wanru and Shao Jie'er need to do something on this trip. With her as an outsider, some things are inconvenient to say. It was both gentle and decent to leave actively.

Seeing Zhao Xiran leave, Madam Jiang said coldly, "What are you doing here? I am already like this. I don't need you two to come here."

Without Zhao Xiran around, Madam Jiang didn't have to pretend to be gentle anymore. She looked at Shao Wanru coldly as if a viper had swept over her. Yujie took a step forward and stood in front of Shao Wanru, for fear that Madam Jiang would go crazy and hurt Shao Wanru.

Shao Wanru pulled Yujie's sleeves, indicated that she was fine and asked her to retreat behind her. She said bluntly to Madam Jiang lying on the bed, "There is indeed something today. Old Madam made us come here and ask Second Madam for my mother's dowry. I heard that most of my mother's dowry is in Second Madam's hands."

Shao Jie'er shrank her neck. She had always been timid in front of Madam Jiang. At this time, she did not dare to speak. She lowered her head and looked at herself, pretending not to hear the questions of Madam Jiang and Shao Wanru. She was here for nothing but making up the numbers. She did not dare to really offend Madam Jiang. No one knew if Madam Jiang would return to Duke Xing's Mansion in a few years. After being raised by Madam Jiang for so many years, Shao Jie'er was like a mouse in front of a cat when she saw Madam Jiang and did not dare to say a word.

**Chapter 819 I Didn't Have Any Dowry and Would Never Return to You!**

"It's empty in my hands now. Where are the dowries? If anything here takes your fancy, you can take it!" Madam Jiang sneered. She looked around and reached out to point at somewhere, indicating that Shao Wanru could take whatever she liked. She was so tart that she was completely different from the image of a dignified Madam she had used to show.

"Second Madam, this is Old Madam's order. If you can't explain it clearly, all your things will become the compensation. If you don't have enough dowry, you can pay with other things left in the courtyard. This is Old Madam's order, so if you have any dissatisfaction, just go to tell Old Madam!"

Shao Wanru said with a slight smile.

"What nonsense are you spouting? That's mine!" Madam Jiang was furious.

"I don't know whether this is Second Madam's stuff. Old Madam means that you should take out as much as the amount that you have lost. So use all your things to make up for it first," Shao Wanru told this truth calmly.

"You dare to touch my things. Those are the things I left for Ru'er and Hua'an... Ahem..." Madam Jiang rebuked harshly, and her eyes were almost spitting fire. She suddenly began to cough violently for speaking too fast.

The old maid standing aside walked over and gently patted her on the back. It took so long for Madam Jiang to recover.

Shao Wanru watched these calmly. Looking at Madam Jiang uneasily, Shao Jie'er gritted her teeth and lowered her head again.

After Madam Jiang finished coughing, Shao Wanru said slowly, "If Second Madam wants to give these to Big Sister, it is unnecessary to do so. Big Sister is now the Emperor's Secondary Consort, so she has no need to get Madam's dowry. As for Big Brother, his marriage hasn't been settled yet, so you don't have to prepare for him early."

"You... you are talking nonsense. How could Ru'er..." Madam Jiang did not believe this and roared in a hoarse voice.

"Second Madam, if you don't believe me, you can ask Second Sister." Shao Wanru took a step back and made way for Shao Jie'er, who was hiding behind her.

"Tell me!" Madam Jiang stared at Shao Jie'er fiercely and said.

Shao Jie'er was so timid that she wanted to move behind Shao Wanru, but she had to raise her head and say timidly under the vicious gaze of Madam Jiang, "Madam, Big Sister... is now the Emperor's Secondary Consort. She has... entered the palace!!"

"What?" Madam Jiang suddenly sat up straight. She stared at Shao Jie'er fiercely and scolded, "You are talking nonsense!"

"I... I'm not talking nonsense... Big Sister has really entered the palace... Now she is the Emperor's Secondary Consort!" Maybe because she had stood for a long time and found that Madam Jiang was no longer as powerful as before, Shao Jie'er was not so flustered in her heart. She finally looked straight at Madam Jiang and stutteringly said everything.



"You both are talking nonsense!" Madam Jiang picked up her teacup nearby and flung it at them.

Yujie reacted the fastest because her eyes were steadily fixed on Madam Jiang. Seeing that Madam Jiang took action, she hurriedly pulled Shao Wanru aside. But Shao Jie'er was not that lucky and the teacup smashed on her forehead. This not only made her head fully wet but also made a big bump immediately appear on her forehead.

The teacup fell to the ground and it broke into several pieces.

The old maid screamed "Madam" and squatted down to pick up the broken porcelain pieces on the ground.

Although Shao Jie'er was afraid to see Madam Jiang, she was a little angry now after being smashed with a teacup. In addition, it was said that Madam Jiang would probably not come out in her current situation. At this time, she felt pain and anger. New hatred piled on old hatred had surged up. She shook off the tea foam on her forehead and shouted at Madam Jiang, who was lying on the bed, "What are you doing? Big Sister is indeed the lowest-level Secondary Consort in the palace. If you don't believe me, you can go to have a look by yourself!"

The servant girl hurriedly came over to cover her forehead with a handkerchief. Fortunately, Shao Jie'er did not bleed, but there was water and tea stain on her head, as well as a bump, making her look in a mess.

Shao Jie'er swung her sleeves hard and glared at Shao Wanru angrily, also blaming this on Shao Wanru. Then, she turned to go out with her servant girl.

Zhao Xi was outside the door in the yard. She had already been surprised when hearing Shao Jie'er's voice inside. Then, when she saw Shao Jie'er coming out in a mess, she stepped forward in surprise and was about to say something. However, Shao Jie'er glared at Zhao Xiran and left the yard angrily with her servant girl, just ignoring Zhao Xiran.

Zhao Xiran hesitated and then walked towards the main room.

"Miss!" Her servant girl grabbed her and shook her head silently.

Zhao Xiran stopped and helplessly looked at the door of the main room. Now, it was quiet in the room and there was only faint sound coming out, which did not seem to be someone quarreling again.

After thinking for a while, she stepped back to the courtyard. In this position, as long as the person inside did not speak loudly, she could not hear clearly what was going on inside.

In the room, Shao Wanru raised her eyebrows and looked at Madam Jiang with deep eyes. She slightly lifted the corners of her lips and said, "Second Madam, now Second Sister is not here, so you don't have to pretend. Don't you know what happened to Big Sister? Many people must have sent this message to you, so let's speak frankly. You must return my mother's dowries."

What Madam Jiang had done just now was to make such a big noise on purpose. Even if her Second Uncle hadn't sent a message to the mountain, Shao Hua'an would definitely have sent a message to her. How could Madam Jiang pretend as if she had just heard such shocking news? So she definitely did all these on purpose.

When she saw Shao Wanru's cold eyes, the hatred in Madam Jiang's eyes almost overflowed. She reached out to tightly grip the corner of her quilt and said with hatred, "What does your mother's dowry have to do with me? She sent it away by herself. Why do you come to ask me? If you really want it, I don't have this even you kill me!"

What she meant was that she would definitely not give the dowry back!

This indirectly admitted the meaning in Shao Wanru's words. Madam Jiang did know this, but she was also sure that Shao Wanru couldn't do anything to her. If Shao Wanru really forced her to death, Shao Wanru, who had not married to become the official Princess Chen, couldn't afford it. The royal family wouldn't accept a vicious daughter-in-law who wanted to kill someone.

After the old maid picked up the porcelain pieces on the ground, she put them on the table and then retreated aside to make another cup of tea for Madam Jiang.

Shao Wanru was so angry, but this speechless situation made her want to laugh. It turned out that Madam Jiang was waiting for her here. Old Madam now blamed it on her, but Madam Jiang had determined to break her promise, which indicated that she knew Shao Wanru dared not to really do something on her. Madam Jiang looked so miserable and now Shao Wanru was also in trouble, so she was in an unstable mood now. Something terrible might easily happen.

Madam Jiang had figured that Shao Wanru couldn't do anything to her, so she acted in this way today. Moreover, Zhao Xiran was in the yard. Even if Madam Jiang really made trouble, it was impossible for her to be harmed. But Shao Wanru would have the fact that she once forced her aunt to death.

With such an established fact presented to her grandma, her grandma could only give in. For the sake of Shao Wanru's reputation, her grandma did not dare to push Madam Jiang too hard.

As for outsiders? That didn't exist, because Zhao Xiran was Shao Hua'an's future wife. Even if Zhao Xiran knew something, she would not speak it out casually. This could be regarded as a piece of evidence that they could use against Shao Wanru, but it had not been exposed. It had no impact on Duke Xing's Mansion's reputation, but it had a deterrent effect on Shao Wanru.

If that was the case, then Shao Wanru would be in trouble now. In this room, except for the servants of Madam Jiang, there was only her servant. She rolled her watery eyes and her eyes fell on a place in Madam Jiang's sleeve. That was the shining porcelain piece. Those porcelain pieces had not been cleaned just now, and they were put back on the table in front of Madam Jiang. If Shao Wanru had not been paying attention to them, she would not have seen that Madam Jiang had secretly taken a piece of porcelain.

When the two were quarreling fiercely, no one would pay attention to such a small thing. Additionally, Madam Jiang's action was quite covert.

The broken porcelain pieces had not originally been there but were smashed by Madam Jiang in anger. The old maid picked them up, poured water, and put the pieces away casually. Everything seemed to be very real as if there was no flaw.

Looking at the furious Madam Jiang, Shao Wanru suddenly turned around and said, "Second Madam, wait a minute. Miss Zhao said that she wanted to give you something just now, and she especially said that she would give it to you after Second Sister left. I will go to call Miss Zhao now."

The moment she finished her words, Shao Wanru had already reached the door.

Shao Wanru left so decisively that this made Madam Jiang stunned. She held a piece of broken porcelain in her hand and did not know whether she should cut it on her hand. Zhao Xiran brought something for her and she had to avoid Shao Jie'er seeing this. Could it be that Old Madam had a new idea?

Madam Jiang hesitated. During the period of her hesitation, Shao Wanru walked out of the room.

Shao Wanru stood in the corridor and waved to Zhao Xiran, "Miss Zhao."

Seeing Shao Wanru call her, Zhao Xiran came over and smiled to ask in a soft voice, "Fifth Miss, what's the matter?"

"Miss Zhao, can I bother you to go in with me? Second Sister was with me just now, but now there is no one else... I..." Shao Wanru bit her lip and said with nervousness and uneasiness.

Zhao Xiran understood when she thought of Shao Jie'er's head and face being smashed just now and then looked at Shao Wanru. She nodded and walked up, "Okay!"

Originally, she should not have gone in. Even though the two mansions were discussing their marriage, she should not have gone in with Shao Wanru at this time. But just now, Shao Jie'er had come out in a panic with her hand pressing on her forehead. It was understandable for Shao Wanru to feel flustered when she was alone.

She didn't have to go in and just stood at the door to embolden Shao Wanru. In fact, she was also shocked when she saw Madam of Duke Xing again. The woman in front of her was no longer the extraordinary, noble, and dignified Madam in her memory.

Shao Wanru entered the room again. She just stood at the door, far away from Madam Jiang. Standing at the door, Zhao Xiran looked at Shao Wanru and then looked at Madam Jiang on the bed. Suddenly, she felt that something was wrong. When she wanted to leave, she saw Shao Wanru reaching out to hold her hand intimately.

"Miss Zhao, I will leave right away. Wait a minute for me!"

After saying that, Shao Wanru turned to Madam Jiang, who looked skeptical, and said softly, "Second Madam, Second Sister, and I came here today to pass on Old Madam's message. It was Old Madam who asked you to write down what had been sent out and to whom those had been sent. Those are my mother's dowries, and Old Madam wants to redeem these things."

As for who used the money to redeem them, both Shao Wanru and Madam Jiang knew clearly. Old Madam would not spend her own money, so, of course, she wanted to spend Madam Jiang's money.

After Shao Wanru finished her words, she bowed to Madam Jiang before Madam Jiang could say anything, and then she left with Zhao Xiran. She didn't show any anger in the whole process, as if she was just coming to pass on a message on behalf of Old Madam. As for the other things, those had nothing to do with her.

Anyone who heard this would not think much of it, nor would he commit suicide at the moment. With Zhao Xiran as a witness, even if Madam Jiang really committed suicide at this time, it still had nothing to do with Shao Wanru, and she would not bear the reputation of wanting to force her aunt to death!

### **Chapter 820 Touched by the Identity as the Legitimate Daughter?**

Seeing Shao Wanru pulling Zhao Xiran, who was confused, away, Madam Jiang came to her senses. She was so angry that she smashed the porcelain shard in her hand to the ground and almost spat blood. If she had moved faster, she would not have been so passive that the b\*tch had escaped again.

"Madam, you moved too slowly just now!" the old maid said coldly.

"I... I didn't expect that this b\*tch would react so quickly and take advantage of Zhao Xiran to escape!" Madam Jiang gritted her teeth with hatred. How could she not realize it now? Shao Wanru felt that something was wrong and called Zhao Xiran up before she took action. Shao Wanru's words were extremely gentle and not forceful at all. Even if she did something extreme, Zhao Xiran could be the witness and she could not blame it on Shao Wanru.

"Madam, you haven't thought of too many things, or you wouldn't be here!" the old maid satirized her coldly and glanced at her with a little disdain, not like a servant who served a master at all.

Madam Jiang patted the edge of the bed with great anger and said with hatred, "When she comes next time..."

The old maid interrupted her impolitely and said, "Madam, you're wrong again. When she comes next time, it seems that the Fifth Miss won't be plotted so easily!"

If she came next time, she would never stay alone in the room and be used and plotted by others!

"She will definitely come for her dowry!" Madam Jiang repeated, "she will definitely come, definitely come!"

As long as she came here, she still had a chance. If she was given a chance to be alone with that b\*tch Shao Wanru next time, she would take action directly without hesitation and push all the blame to that b\*tch. The crime that she forced her aunt to commit suicide was enough to make the b\*tch suffer a lot.

At the very least, she would not give her all those things in her hands.

Madam Jiang planned so. She thought that Shao Wanru would inevitably interrogate her again. Old Madam had made it clear that she was now in charge of this matter. She did not believe that Shao Wanru would be willing to give up Infanta Qinghua's dowry.

As long as she came, Madam Jiang would have a chance!

For her, such a scheme was reasonable. But for Shao Wanru, since she had experienced it once, she would not give Madam Jiang the same chance.

"Fifth Miss, was there something that happened just now?" Zhao Xiran looked at Shao Wanru and asked softly.

The two of them were walking back. Thinking of what had happened just now, Zhao Xiran asked her for more. After that, she smiled apologetically and said, "Fifth Miss, don't mind it. I saw that Second Miss Shao was angry just now. Something seems to have happened!"

Shao Wanru shook her head and said helplessly, "Miss Zhao, it's not a secret. Second Aunt poured all the water on Second Sister and smashed the cup on Second Sister's head. Second Sister... was so annoyed and angry that she left!"

Shao Jie'er was a concubine's daughter who lived under the control of Madam Jiang. Now Madam Jiang was in the Yuhui Nunnery to recuperate, but she still beat and scolded Shao Jie'er, even directly beating Shao Jie'er like this.

Along the way, Shao Jie'er had lost her temper, and many people had seen it.

Shao Wanru sneered in her heart. If Madam Jiang committed suicide in her room when Shao Wanru was in her room alone, Shao Jie'er's thing would be a small matter. Compared with Madam Jiang's nearly death, this small matter could be easily forgotten, especially for a fence-sitter like Shao Jie'er. With a little profit, she would immediately betray the truth.

She would even say that Shao Wanru was the person who beat her.

At that time, she would have no way to defend herself.

If it really came to that time, for the sake of her reputation, her grandmother could only compromise again and again and try to solve this matter as much as possible. It was obvious that who would benefit from it because it had little impact on the entire Duke Xing's Mansion.

This was the plot of Old Madam and Madam Jiang. She did not expect that they would plot against her when they were not together. It seemed that she had underestimated Old Madam and Madam Jiang.

"Madam of Duke Xing... has she always been like this?" Zhao Xiran took a deep breath and said in panic. If she really married into Duke Xing's Mansion, she would be Madam Jiang's daughter-in-law. If Madam Jiang was really such a person, it would be very difficult for her to be her daughter-in-law.

"Uh... I don't know. But I was really scared just now, so I asked Miss Zhao to be a witness. I'm afraid that my second aunt will make trouble again. It's hard to explain it!" Shao Wanru said apologetically and explained her unusual behavior that she deliberately called Zhao Xiran over just now.

"It's... it's ok!" Zhao Xiran said softly and shook her head, but she was a little scared. Anyone who saw her future mother-in-law so ferocious would feel a little uncomfortable.

"Miss Zhao, you could go back first. Madam Zhao should be worshipping the Buddha now. I won't bother you to be with me anymore!" Shao Wanru stopped at an intersection and said with a smile.

She was not speaking ill of Madam Jiang in front of Zhao Xiran. Since she and Shao Jie'er came here with the carriage of Zhao's Mansion today, the engagement between the two mansions had basically been settled. How could she be persuaded by her a few words?

It was said that the marriage had been settled early. It had been discussed for a long time, and now it was Old Madam who was in charge of it. It should be decided soon. Moreover, she could not understand and trust this Miss Zhao in front of her for the time being.

"I'm fine. My mother has servants to serve her. It's okay to walk with Fifth Miss!" Zhao Xiran said.

"Miss Zhao, I'm afraid that I have to go back. Second Sister was smashed like this and her clothes were wet. She should be waiting for me in the carriage at this time. I have to go back quickly." Shao Wanru said apologetically.

"Are you leaving now?" Zhao Xiran asked.

"Yes, we will go down the mountain now. I don't know how Second Sister was injured, and we really can't wait any longer." Shao Wanru sighed helplessly.

"You came up the mountain with us. If you leave like this, how can my mother and I explain it to Old Madam of your mansion!"

Zhao Xiran hesitated for a moment.

"How about I go down the mountain with you? I can't let you two go down alone."

"Thank you for your kindness, Miss Zhao, but it's really okay. I've been here several times before, so I'm familiar with this road. I have to find a doctor to treat my Second Sister later. It's not very convenient!" Shao Wanru shook her head and refused Zhao Xiran.

It was reasonable, and Zhao Xiran could not say no for a while. She was not sure about Shao Jie'er's injury. She could only agree with Shao Wanru, "In this case, be careful when you go down the mountain."

"Okay, I see!" Shao Wanru nodded and turned back to leave with Yujie.

Zhao Xiran watched Shao Wanru leave with a smile, and then her face slowly darkened. Was Madam of Duke Xing really such a person? Her heart sank...

In the carriage, Shao Jie'er's face was full of anger. The tea leaves and foam had been cleaned up, but her clothes were still wet. She didn't come up the mountain for a banquet, so it was impossible to prepare another set of clothes. She had been seen by a lot of people along the way. Fortunately, most of them were women, otherwise, her reputation would be ruined.

She pressed her forehead, but when she saw that Shao Wanru came in without any injuries, she couldn't help sneering and saying, "Madam is very kind to Fifth Sister. She let Fifth Sister come back just like this!"

"Madam treats you better. You are Second Madam's daughter!" Shao Wanru said casually and then sat down in the carriage.

It was really ironic to say that at this time. Shao Jie'er raised her eyes and her eyes became sharp. "Fifth Sister, what do you mean by saying that?"

"Nothing. I just feel a little emotional. Even if Second Madam comes to the Yuhui Nunnery, she doesn't know how to restrain her temper. How can she handle the things in the future?" Speaking of this, Shao Wanru looked up at Shao Jie'er. Although Shao Jie'er's forehead was covered with a handkerchief, the red and swollen parts could still be seen clearly. "Second Sister, don't be angry. After all, Second Madam

is the legal wife. If Second Sister's mother is also the legal wife, Second Sister can also be favored like Big Sister."

Her words were casual, but Yujie's heart beat faster when she heard them.

Shao Wanru didn't seem to see Yujie suddenly pursing her lips tightly and continued to say casually, "Third Aunt is powerless now even if she wants to. She is in poor health. If there is someone else to share her burden with, it will be good. In fact, an elder should have been enough to deal with the matter today, but she asked us to do this. There is no one to be used in the mansion!"

There was indeed no one to be used in the inner courtyard of Duke Xing's Mansion now. The Madam of the second branch, Madam Jiang, had always been in charge of the inner courtyard. The other concubines were suffering under her control so they did not dare to have any other thoughts. As for the third branch, there was no one to be used, too.

"Fifth Sister, do you think Third Aunt needs any help?" Shao Jie'er suddenly looked better and even asked Shao Wanru with a smile on her face.

"She must need. You know Third Aunt's health condition, and Third Sister is in such a situation now. If someone can help her, she will definitely be willing to accept. Second Sister, if you are willing to give the marriage to the Third Sister, I think Third Aunt will be very grateful to you!"

Shao Wanru squinted at Shao Jie'er with a faint smile on her face.

The meaning of her words made Shao Jie'er's heartbeat faster involuntarily, and her eyes were full of excitement. In fact, she had already thought about this marriage clearly. She had already had a better marriage here, so she should give up this marriage. Third Aunt and the others did not know the reason for this matter. When they saw that she gave up this marriage, they would inevitably thank her. If she put forward some conditions at this time...

Shao Jie'er didn't think in this way at first, but she couldn't stand Shao Wanru's advice. At this time, her heart was boiling. If her mother could really manage the inner courtyard, could she be promoted? She didn't dare to ask her father to treat her mother as the legal wife. All she wanted was that her mother could be a wife like Madam of Duke Xing.

As long as she was like Madam of Duke Xing, she could be regarded as the legitimate daughter. If she married into Prince Cheng's Mansion in the future, it would be easier for her to get a high position. Thinking of this, Shao Jie'er breathed faster and her eyes were emotional. She was no longer as cold and angry as before. In fact, she could still take advantage of the injury this time...