

Medical Princess 821

Chapter 821 The Pain Can't Be Cured?

The carriage left the Yuhui Nunnery, made a turn, and streaked off down the mountain.

Not long after they left, an old maid hurriedly ran to the parking place. Seeing that there was no carriage of Duke Xing's Mansion in the parking place, she stamped her feet in a hurry and went back to inform her Madam helplessly.

Shao Wanru and Shao Jie'er didn't know that the old maid of Minister Zhao had tried to find them and wanted to stop them from going down the mountain in such a hurry. They were sitting in the carriage, and the atmosphere was relatively peaceful.

Shao Wanru looked lost in her thoughts and didn't take the initiative to talk. On the contrary, Shao Jie'er was quite talkative at this time. From time to time, she asked about what had happened to Shao Wanru when she was in the Qin's Mansion.

Shao Jie'er had heard those things from others. At first, she didn't care about them, but now she suddenly became interested and wanted to know every detail of them.

Shao Wanru didn't seem to be in the mood to answer. Later, she was a little annoyed by the question and said impatiently, "Second Sister, be careful. You'd better rest first. We need to find you a clinic. It seems to be a minor injury. But we don't know if it would be worse."

Speaking of the wound, Shao Jie'er became nervous. She reached out to rub her forehead with a handkerchief. It was very painful, and she couldn't help feeling angry again in her heart. She now thought Madam Jiang was so hateful since this woman beat and scolded her, and she remembered that this woman once asked the old maid to punish her when she was a child. It was because she was a concubine's daughter. If she were a legitimate daughter, that woman wouldn't dare to do this to her.

Among all the Misses in Duke Xing's Mansion, she was the only daughter of a concubine, which made her have to follow Shao Yanru closely in the past and not dare to disobey Shao Yanru at all.

"Fifth Sister, how did Madam Shui of Qin's Mansion become a co-wife?" After beating about the bush, Shao Jie'er finally couldn't stand it anymore and asked bluntly.

At the moment, it was a very good opportunity. Madam Jiang was basically discarded. And the second branch had to have a capable madam. The more Shao Jie'er thought about it, the more she felt that it was possible. Moreover, she had given her finance to her third sister. For this reason, her third aunt had to help her aunt.

Moreover, her third aunt was in poor health. If someone helped her and would not look down on her, her third aunt should be willing to do so.

"It's not easy to be a co-wife. Madam Di is in poor health and has been recuperating. Aunt Shui is in charge of all the affairs in the whole mansion. In the servants' eyes, she was regarded as the legal wife, and it's Aunt Shui who is in charge of the social activities and so on."

Shao Wanru closed her eyes slightly and answered casually, leaning against the wall of the carriage.

They were both in poor health and had the same status. In the end, they have almost overthrown the legal wife. The servants in the mansion and those outside the mansion only knew that there was a Madam Shui, so no one would remember the legal wife Madam Di. Wasn't this what she wanted?

Madam Shui could do it, so could her aunt.

Shao Jie'er fell silent. She bit her lip and thought about the possibility of such a thing carefully. She didn't dare to think about it before, but now she felt that it was possible. Since others could do it, her aunt could do it. Moreover, she had her help. When Madam Shui became a co-wife, there were no children helping her.

Thinking of this, she calmed down. Originally, she didn't want to make a big scene about Madam Jiang who smashed things on her, but now she felt that it was better to make a big fuss of it. She reached out and pulled her clothes. The clothes were wet, and they had not dried yet. Although the innermost clothes seemed not wet, wearing them like this made her very uncomfortable.

Her forehead was in pain, and it was swollen with bumps. She felt very uncomfortable.

However, these were nothing since Shao Jie'er's ambition was wilder than ever at this time. Those thoughts that she once didn't dare to think about came up like crazy grass tendrils.

Shao Wanru's long eyelashes trembled. Through her long and curly eyelashes, she saw Shao Jie'er's excited and almost twisted expression. She silently raised the corners of her mouth and closed her eyes. Shao Jie'er's ambition was aroused. That was good! It was not good for her if the Jiang family remained the strongest branch in Duke Xing's Mansion.

Before Shao Jie'er arrived at Duke Xing's Mansion, she first found a clinic to treat her wounds.

Seeing that Shao Jie'er, who was in a mess, was helped down from the carriage, everyone who saw her talked about her. It could be seen that this Miss did not look good and her face was pale. The servant girl covered her head with a handkerchief, but the red and swollen parts on her head couldn't be covered completely. It was very clear. And it was obvious that her outer clothes were splashed with water.

Shao Jie'er's clothes indicated that she was a Miss from an aristocratic family and had an extraordinary status. Something must have happened to her since she was in such a mess at the moment. The clinic was at the gate of the city, and many people had seen it.

Fortunately, it was winter. Although her outer clothes were wet and she was in a mess, she was not soaked in moisture. Moreover, along the way, some parts of her clothes dried.

Shao Wanru wore a veil and helped Shao Jie'er into the clinic with her servant girl.

At the sight of their clothes, the doctor of the clinic knew that they were not normal girls. He hurriedly invited them in and looked at Shao Jie'er's wound. It looked like only a scratch, but because of the swelling, it seemed to be particularly serious. After applying the medicine to her forehead, the doctor bandaged her wound.

Yujie took the initiative to pay the consultation fee.

"What's wrong with your Miss?" It was a student collecting the fee. He looked at Shao Jie'er, who was still in the inner room, with curiosity and asked.

It was rare for a Miss from an aristocratic family to be injured like this, and she had just come in from outside the city gate. The boy was full of curiosity.

“Not our Miss, but our Second Miss. Today she went up the mountain to visit the Madam of Duke Xing’s Mansion,” Yujie said vaguely, seeming to be unwilling to say more, and handed over the money.

The student’s eyes lit up and he became more interested in it. The folks around also often talked about the rumors in Duke Xing’s Mansion from time to time. The First Miss was the most beautiful woman in the capital city, but it was a pity that she had entered the palace now. It was said that she merely became a concubine of the lowest rank. Someone had said that she was destined to be the prince’s wife, but now it was the Fifth Miss who was betrothed to Prince Chen.

Because there was much gossip about Duke Xing’s Mansion recently, even this student knew that the Second Miss of Duke Xing’s Mansion was a concubine’s daughter.

“Was your Second Miss beaten when she went to the mountain to see Madam of Duke Xing?” the student widened his eyes and asked.

“Don’t talk nonsense. What are you talking about? She was just accidentally hit by a teacup!” Yujie glared at him angrily and scolded him in a low voice. When she finished speaking, she found that she had spilled the beans. She hurriedly shook her head to signal the student not to talk nonsense.

The student nodded to show that he would not lie. He leaned over and asked Yujie in a low and excited voice, “Did Madam of Duke Xing hit her? It seems that Second Miss is seriously injured. Why is the Madam so cruel? No wonder others say that Madam of Duke Xing has a bad character, so she is punished to cultivate in seclusion on the mountain.”

Upon hearing such confidential news, the boy was so excited because he thought it was so exclusive.

“Don’t spread it out, or I... will be punished!” Yujie had told him the things she was not supposed to speak about. At this time, she couldn’t completely ignore the question from the boy but she had to remind him.

“Don’t worry. I’m not that kind of gossipy person. I just think that the Second Miss in your mansion looks really pitiful. How could there be such a Madam? She’s too cruel!” The student nodded repeatedly, indicating that he couldn’t stand it, so he asked this question.

“Today, our Old Madam asked the two Misses to go up the mountain to meet Madam together. I didn’t expect that after talking for a while... they would become like this. Alas!” Yujie shook her head, looking as if it was hard to explain, but when the student asked again, she didn’t say anything else.

Hearing this, the student felt more curious. However, Yujie stopped talking about it, and the boy found it useless if he kept probing. After paying the money, she returned to the inner room.

The doctor inside also reminded Shao Jie’er, “Miss, you must be careful. And don’t have water on your wound.”

“But I got a lot of water on my wound when the teacup was smashed on me before. What should I do?” Shao Jie’er looked flustered.

The old doctor frowned. In fact, he didn't want to hear this kind of thing. There were many secrets that were not known to the public in the aristocratic families. The fewer he knew about this kind of thing, the better.

"I'm talking about the future. Miss, you don't have to worry about the past. I've already cleaned the wound up for you!" the old doctor said.

"Is it really okay? Why does my head hurt so much? Will it cause other diseases?" Shao Jie'er reached out to cover her head and said with pain.

"Uh... there should be no serious problem!" The old doctor had felt Shao Jie'er's pulse just now and believed that there would be no other problems in her brain.

"But it still hurts. Not only here, but also the back of my head. I don't know if it was because I hit the back door frame when I tried to dodge the teacup." Shao Jie'er touched the back of her head again.

The old doctor was speechless for a moment. If the back of her head had hit the door frame, there should be a wound on the back of her head.

He asked the servant girl to massage it gently. It seemed that the girl's whole body was aching, so the old doctor did not dare to make a casual diagnosis.

"Miss... I only treat simple diseases here. If you really feel very painful, you'd better find a renowned doctor or an imperial physician in the palace to treat you."

The old doctor didn't dare to make any diagnosis.

"Do we need to ask the imperial physician?" Shao Jie'er cried, wiping her tears with a handkerchief.

"Or you can ask for a renowned doctor from the city!" The old doctor thought that Shao Jie'er was in a hurry and couldn't find an imperial physician immediately, so he said hurriedly. It was difficult to find an imperial physician, but it was easier if it was a doctor living in the city.

"Second Sister, what do you think?" Shao Wanru said. Shao Jie'er had to make the decision. Just like when they saw the clinic, Shao Jie'er took the initiative to cover her head and said that she couldn't stand the pain, so she got out of the carriage to go to the clinic. It was too far from the city gate and there were too many people!

"Let's go back to the mansion first and ask Grandmother to call an imperial physician to treat me. I have a headache. It seems that something is shaking in my head whenever I move. It's very uncomfortable." Shao Jie'er sobbed a few more times before she said in pain.

"Okay, let's go back quickly!" Shao Wanru nodded, reached out to help Shao Jie'er up, thanked the old doctor, and then walked to the carriage parked at the door with Shao Jie'er's servant girl.

Chapter 822 Go There Again Tomorrow

When they got on the carriage and left, the people nearby began to discuss.

It was mainly the boy who spread those words in the clinic. In addition to what Yujie said, he also eavesdropped on what his master and the injured Miss said. He thought this Miss was really pitiful. Not only did her forehead get injured, but it seemed that her brain also got injured

It was said that she was the Second Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion. Today she went to the Yuhui Nunnery to visit Madam of Duke Xing, who had been cultivating herself there. As for why she smashed a teacup on the Miss, it was said that it was because Old Madam's words made Madam of Duke Xing unhappy, so she picked up the teacup and smashed it at the Second Miss.

A daughter of a concubine was so pitiful. He thought Madam of Duke Xing was really not a good person since she abused the girl like this. In the past, it was said that she was kind to others, but now it seemed that she was not really kind. There was always a knife under her smile, just like her daughter.

However, they were biological mother and daughter, so of course, they were the same...

The rumors became increasingly harsh and exaggerated. When Shao Wanru and Shao Jie'er arrived at Duke Xing's Mansion, it was said that Madam of Duke Xing had always been dissatisfied with Old Madam, so she deliberately smashed the daughter of a concubine to teach Old Madam a lesson to force Old Madam to agree to take her back to the mansion.

As for the well-being of a concubine's daughter, who would care?

Shao Wanru stopped on the way and asked Yujie to buy some medicinal materials for Shao Jie'er. At this time, Shao Jie'er pretended to be sick, so she didn't pay much attention to it. She nodded and leaned against the wall of the carriage "weakly". In order to take care of her, her servant girl also stayed in the carriage.

Yujie got out of the carriage and went to the pharmacy to buy some medicinal materials. Then she asked a boy working in the pharmacy to invite Madame Dong, Butterfly Clothing Shop's shopkeeper, who was not far away. After Yujie whispered Shao Wanru's message to this woman's ears, she returned to the small carriage behind.

Without Shao Jie'er's maid, it was much more convenient for Yujie.

When the carriage arrived at Duke Xing's Mansion, the servants of the mansion already heard that the Second Miss had been hurt and bled and she was so dizzy that she couldn't even walk steadily. Two old maids immediately came out and carefully helped Shao Jie'er into the mansion. Then they went all the way to Old Madam's Chuntang Courtyard.

In the Chuntang Courtyard, Old Madam's face was so full of anger that her face was livid. Shao Wanru seemed fine and so did Madam Jiang. However, it was Shao Jie'er, who was the least likely to have an accident, that got injured. How could Old Madam not be angry?

The servants at the door said that Shao Jie'er almost fainted, and Old Madam knew that something had happened.

At this time, seeing Shao Jie'er being escorted in like this, Old Madam only felt a slight faint pain. It was originally a good plan, but it suddenly became like this. How could Old Madam not be angry?

“What happened?” Old Madam asked Shao Wanru and Shao Jie’er, who had just come in, in a sharp voice.

“Grandma!” Shao Jie’er cried and fell to the ground. “Madam Jiang tried to kill me. I...”

Speaking of this, she choked with tears, and twitched on the ground, and seemed to be about to faint. There was a white bandage that the doctor of the clinic specially wrapped around her head, which was particularly eye-catching for the moment

The doctor of the clinic was afraid that something would happen to Shao Jie’er, so he specially wrapped several more layers around her head, so she looked like she was dragging a white funeral cloth. At the sight of this, Old Madam was so angry that she felt her chest stuffy. She was not dead yet, but her granddaughter came out to cry as if the girl was attending her funeral. It was a really depressing scene.

“What happened? Tell me clearly!” Old Madam pounded the table heavily.

Shao Jie’er really wanted to faint at this time. Although she had made up her mind to make a big fuss about it, she, who mattered little to Old Madam, suddenly felt guilty at this time. She wanted to put all the blame on Shao Wanru, but she didn’t faint when she came in, so she didn’t dare to pretend to faint at this time.

She could only kneel on the ground and cry. She pretended that she didn’t hear Old Madam’s words and hoped that this old woman could be fooled.

She did not dare to answer Old Madam, for fear that Old Madam would find something wrong.

“Fifth Girl, tell me!” Seeing that Shao Jie’er didn’t speak and could only cry, Old Madam looked at Shao Wanru. Compared with Shao Jie’er, Shao Wanru looked almost as calm as water.

Seeing the difference, Old Madam felt that her heart twitching violently again. Shouldn’t Shao Wanru be the one who was crying? Shouldn’t Shao Wanru cry and complain to her about her innocence? Madam Jiang tried to hurt herself and was rescued. At that time, there was only Shao Wanru in the room and she made that order. If one connected these clues, he might think that Shao Wanru wanted to hurt her elders for her mother’s dowry!

The Miss of the Zhao’s Mansion stood outside the courtyard and heard everything clearly. Shao Wanru couldn’t defend herself no matter how hard she tried. At this time, Old Madam thought the girl should cry in front of her.

But the fact was completely different from what Old Madam had expected. How could this happen?

“Grandma, Second Sister and I didn’t talk much after we got there, and Madam Jiang suddenly got angry. At that time, she picked up the teacup and threw it at me and Second Sister. I dodged it a little faster than Second Sister. She was injured. After that, Second Sister cried and left. And after Miss Zhao and I conveyed your words to her, we left.”

Shao Wanru said simply.

“You went in with Miss Zhao?” Old Madam was keenly aware of the special meaning in her words.

Nanny Yu, who was standing behind Old Madam, looked up at Shao Wanru. The corners of her eyes twitched and she lowered her head. She looked at the corner of the ground in front of her and stood still.

"I went in with Miss Zhao. I was afraid that Second Madam would go crazy and hurt me again, so I went in with Miss Zhao to brace myself up!" Shao Wanru nodded and said.

"You are silly. This is a scandal of our Duke Xing's Mansion. How can you let the Miss of other mansions join in the fun?" Old Madam slapped the corner of the table hard, glared at Shao Wanru, and scolded angrily.

"Grandma, do you mean that, compared with letting others know Madam Jiang's current situation, you would rather let me be beaten by her and end up like Second Sister?" Shao Wanru analyzed coldly.

Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion was stunned by her words and couldn't speak for a moment. Of course, she should not acknowledge it.

"I've heard that sis Zhao Zhu is big brother's future daughter-in-law and our future sister-in-law. Moreover, grandmother has asked Miss Zhao to accompany us, which means that she has tacitly approved that Miss Zhao has become a member of this family. I believe that since she was acknowledged by my grandma, it would be okay if she went in with me."

Shao Wanru said calmly, as if she really thought so.

Old Madam just felt her chest full of anger but she could not vent it out. She just glared at Shao Wanru with hatred.

Shao Wanru didn't care about Old Madam's hatred. After they looked at each other, Shao Wanru still looked a little confused, as if she still didn't understand what she had done wrong.

Old Madam became more and more annoyed. "Did you say what I told you to her?"

"I said exactly as what you asked!" Shao Wanru nodded and said.

"What did she say? Where did those things go?" Old Madam said with a trace of gloom across her eyes. She slowly restrained her anger. As long as this matter could not be solved, Shao Wanru had to go to the Yuhui Nunnery. At that time, there would still be opportunities. Thinking of this, she calmed down.

"The Second Madam didn't say anything but she looked a little angry. I was afraid that something would happen, so I asked Miss Zhao to go with me!" Shao Wanru said.

"Then you shall go there again next time. This matter has to be solved!" Old Madam ordered with a gloomy face. "Let it be tomorrow. I'll ask someone to accompany you tomorrow. This time, you must get the correct answer from her. If she doesn't say it, you can ask her again. We can't solve the matter until we get the answer."

She thought Old Madam was intending to send herself to be trapped by Madam Jiang again. Shao Wanru sneered in her heart, raised the corners of her mouth slightly, put up a faint smile, and said coldly, "Grandma, my words are useless. Second Madam won't listen to me and will be angry with me!"

"If you don't go, who can? No one in the mansion can deal with the affairs of the mansion, including the old, the sick, and the injured."

Old Madam said angrily.

"Grandma, there are still some people in the mansion, and Second Sister's aunt can also help. Since there are so many affairs in the mansion, it's wrong to let Third Aunt deal with them alone!"

Shao Wanru suggested.

Shao Jie'er pricked her ears to listen to their conversation. Seeing that her aunt was mentioned, she immediately raised her voice and cried sadly. She sounded so sad that she could not even utter a single word.

Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion frowned and said to Shao Jie'er unhappily, "Second Miss, go to have a rest first. Use your father's name to ask an imperial physician from the palace to take a look at your wound later!" She once thought Shao Jie'er could help, but now She only found this girl very annoying.

Since Old Madam had spoken, two old maids came over and helped Shao Jie'er go down carefully. Although Shao Jie'er wanted to stay and listen to Shao Wanru and Old Madam's conversation, she had no reason at this time. She could only cry and follow the two old maids with the grievance, but she had made up her mind to seize such a good opportunity.

After Shao Jie'er left, Old Madam felt much quieter. She frowned and ignored Shao Wanru's previous words and said, "If you can't deal with your mother's dowry, your grandma will make trouble again. In any case, you have to ask Madam Jiang to tell us the truth. You can go again tomorrow. If you dare not go alone, I will ask someone to accompany you!"

This was not a question, but a decision made for Shao Wanru. No matter whether Shao Wanru wanted to go or not, she had to force Shao Wanru to go there again. She was forcing Shao Wanru to do so as her elder.

Shao Wanru sneered in her heart and understood Old Madam's intention. Old Madam forced her to go up the mountain to let Madam Jiang frame her up. Although Old Madam didn't do it herself, her vicious purpose was obvious. But Shao Wanru would not let Old Madam succeed.

She coughed in a low voice and was about to speak when she suddenly saw an old maid running in hurriedly. "Old Madam, bad news. Great Elder Princess went to Duke Xing's study with a group of people and said that she is going to tear down Duke Xing's study. Let's go and have a look!"

"What?" Old Madam stood up suddenly and asked in a hurry.

"Old Madam, go and have a look. Now Great Elder Princess is blocking Duke Xing in the study! Duke Xing asked me to report to you as soon as possible!"

Chapter 823 Who Is in Charge, the Mother or the Son?

Old Madam rushed to the study angrily. Many people were standing at the door of it. Though they were in quantity, they were quiet and polite.

Upon seeing Old Madam come, all the servant girls and old maids bowed to her respectfully. Nothing about the situation reported by the old maid could be perceptible from such a scene.

Old Madam cast a suspicious look at the servants of Great Elder Princess's Mansion, and then led Shao Wanru into the study.

Hearing the sound from the door, the two people in the study turned towards it at the same time. Shao Jing was sitting in the host seat, while the Great Elder Princess in the guest seat. They both looked solemn, especially Shao Jing, whose forehead was creasing in a frown. The whole atmosphere in the study was very depressing.

On catching sight of his mother's arrival, Shao Jing gave up the host seat to her and took up a chair beside. After Old Madam sat down, she looked at her son and then at Great Elder Princess.

"What does Great Elder Princess want to discuss with my son today?" Old Madam asked, suppressing the anger in her heart. How astute Old Madam was!

"Zhuzhuo, come and sit close with me!" Great Elder Princess waved to Shao Wanru, who was at the end of the crowd.

Shao Wanru obediently walked over and sat down beside Great Elder Princess. Old Madam was so furious about Great Elder Princess's ignorance that she was on the edge of explosion. However, she calmed herself down after some considerations.

Old Madam didn't know for what Great Elder Princess was having a conversation with her son at this time, for such a thing had never happened before. In former days, her son was even never involved in her loggerheads with Great Elder Princess. Old Madam dare not get angry immediately under an uncertain situation.

After suppressing her anger, she picked up the teacup just offered by the servant, wiped aside the floating tea-leaves on the surface with the lid and took a sip, and then put down the cup, waiting for Great Elder Princess to speak.

As soon as Old Madam put down the teacup, Great Elder Princess asked gently, "What do you think of it, Duke?"

"Great Elder Princess, it is the matter of the Harem House, isn't it? It is my mother who is in charge of it. And she has declared her attitude to you before. Isn't it too much of you to mention it again now?" Shao Jing said coldly. His usual smile had long disappeared.

"I am too much? I've heard that Zhuzhuo almost got hurt there today. The Second Miss of your mansion was hurt so seriously that she is still unable to stand up now. If my granddaughter hadn't reacted fast, she would probably have been in the same situation as her right now. Duke Xing, was Zhuzhuo ordered to ask for the lost dowry, or just to be there for someone to vent his anger on? If your family don't like Zhuzhuo, she can just move to my mansion and stay there until she gets married!"

The Great Elder Princess said with a cold face, the teacup in her hand falling heavily on the table and making a crisp sound.

Old Madam's face instantly turned pale. "How did Great Elder Princess know what had just happened?" Thinking of it, she turned her suspicious eyes on Shao Wanru, who only sat there with her head down. For the moment, Old Madam suddenly felt that Shao Wanru seemed not to be the snitcher. "Maybe the Great Elder Princess had known that they were going to the Yuhui Nunnery today, so she sent someone there too. Could it be?"

"Therefore, after Shao Jie'er was smashed by the cup on her face, she came out and then her wound was seen by Great Elder Princess's servants?"

"It seemed to make sense." Believing in her own guess, Old Madam couldn't help cursing Shao Jie'er in her mind. "Shao Jie'er is such a good-for-nothing. Make everyone around know about her little tiny wound after getting hit! It is still the talk of the whole mansion now!"

"Don't worry, Great Elder Princess! The dowry will definitely be taken back!" Shao Jing said in a calm voice. He directly ignored her suggestion that Shao Wanru move to Great Elder Princess's Mansion. In any case, he would not let it happen.

"Don't worry? It's impossible! That Madam of your mansion must hate Zhuozhuo so much that she launched an attack when being asked for the dowry by Zhuozhuo. Well, since that the dowry originally belonged to my daughter, and that my granddaughter ended up not getting them back under the threat of an attack, I will go and ask on my own, and see how arrogant that Madam is. How dare she throw a teacup at people!"

Apparently Great Elder Princess refused to give in. She continued, "I have never seen anything like this... It should definitely be reported to the Emperor that the Madam, Second Branch of Duke Xing's Mansion, not only takes up the First Branch's dowries but also refuses to give them back, plotting to leave them to her children and Duke Xing. What a family-oriented wife Duke Xing has got married to! But she is, unfortunately, a little bit too cruel."

After Old Madam heard Great Elder Princess's words, at once her expression drastically changed, showing her extreme nervousness. "She means to appeal the whole matter to the Emperor, though it can be tackled by the Harem House of our mansion."

"Great Elder Princess, it is just a matter of the Harem House. You can come to me. There is no need to get my son in a dilemma!" Old Madam interrupted.

"No, Old Madam. This is no longer a matter within your charge. Many of my daughter's dowries were royal products, but the Second Branch Madam of your mansion insists on taking them up. I have to doubt that she has ulterior motives. What's more, the Emperor pays attention to issues like that. So how can we conceal it from him?"

Great Elder Princess looked at Old Madam and said with a sneering face. She did not intend to give in.

Old Madam was infuriated. She understood the connotation of Great Elder Princess's words. It hinted that Duke Xing's family might have the intention of rebelling the imperial government. "We shall not make it through to get rid of such an unreasonable accusation!"

Although she was furious, Old Madam knew that it was not the time to explode. She, as usual, calmed herself down and even showed a stiff smile on her face, trying to convince Great Elder Princess, "Princess, on the dowry matter, I promise to give you an explanation absolutely satisfying you."

In this situation, she had to concede, for it seemed that Great Elder Princess had made up her mind to complain it to the Emperor.

"No, Old Madam. Now it is not just the matter of the dowry any longer. I have reason to suspect that the Second Branch Madam has always been malicious against my daughter for long. Since she keeps my daughter's dowries, it is very likely that she put some trick on my daughter, who just returned to your mansion at that time. My daughter died as soon as giving birth to Hao'er. Maybe... the second Madam was relevant..."

When it came to her daughter, Great Elder Princess felt sad, her eyes turning moist. It was reasonable that she has such a suspicion.

She hadn't doubted it, because she had never considered it before. It had been commonly accepted that her daughter, Infanta Qinghua, would be no longer an eyesore of anyone, after her husband, the Heir of Duke Xing, had been dead. Now that it came through Great Elder Princess's mind, she thought, "if those dowries were the trigger, my daughter was indeed the eyesore of the Second Branch Madam."

The Second Madam was in charge of all domestic matters of the whole mansion. After Qinghua went back to the Duke Xing Mansion, Great Elder Princess sent some servants to protect her daughter. Even though Princess did so, she was still far outside the Xing mansion and was unable to protect her daughter from the Second Madam, who was inside the mansion and much closer to Qinghua. "If she wanted to kill my daughter in secret, it was very easy for her."

"I will inform the Emperor and try to obtain his promise of investigating the matter again. Anyway, the Second Madam's fiery temper needs to be suppressed. If the result is that she does have something to do with my daughter's death, not only does she have to pay her life for it, but also Duke Xing's family can't absolve them from the blame!" Great Elder Princess said with hatred.

Shao Wanru lowered her head, with her eyes moistened with tears and her two cherry-like lips tightly closed. In fact, it was she who, in the letter to her grandmother, offered the advice of threatening the Duke Xing's family, aiming at inducing them to make confession. However, after Great Elder Princess said it out loud, she was suddenly vacillated, with a feeling of sorrow coming into her. She also began to suspect, "Is it true that the Second Madam killed my mother for the dowry?"

Shao Wanru tightly clenched the handkerchief in her hand and then slowly loosened it, hatred and coldness overflowing from her eyes.

"Great Elder Princess, I promise you that Infanta Qinghua's dowries will be totally returned. You make a price-list of the lacking part, and we will definitely make up for it, even if we spare nothing in our mansion. We should take the responsibility to do so for Wanru. Anyway, she is the only daughter of my elder brother, who has been gone. I didn't know about it before. If I knew it earlier, I would have stopped it!"

Shao Jing stood up, bowed respectfully to Great Elder Princess, and said with a frank heart. His words were so direct that no excuses could be found in them. He took all the responsibilities.

But Old Madam didn't agree with her son and almost blurred out her disapproval. If they really did what Duke Xing said, they would lose nearly half of Duke Xing's Mansion's property.

Shao Jing winked at his mother, warning her not to express any disagreement. Old Madam had no choice but to lower her head with a frown.

However, Shao Wanru silently kept an eye on what had just happened between the two. In her eyes there was an even colder expression. "Domineering as Old Madam was, she was obedient to her son. It was worthy of getting to the bottom of their relationship."

"In the past, Uncle Shao Jing rarely cared the domestic matter, as if he didn't know anything. It seemed that he had a good temper and listened to Old Madam. I once believed that it was acceptable if he was deceived. But now it seems that he is not so innocent and silly as I thought to be. He is also very domineering, and his so-called obedience to Old Madam was just performances."

Great Elder Princess looked at Shao Jing with a cold eye. She did not intend to let go of him, "Duke Xing, don't forget that the Second Madam is also involved. I must be given an explanation whether she has murdered my daughter or not!"

"Great Elder Princess. You can take measures to have a deep investigation. If it is true that Jiang was indeed relevant, our family will definitely not defend her!" Shao Jing promised with a serious face.

His words were more or less satisfying. If Great Elder Princess insisted on accusing the Second Madam as a murderer without any evidences now, it would seem to be too brutal of her. After all, Jiang was not in a good situation, expelled from the mansion long before. What's more, Shao Jing had no reason to protect her!

Hearing what Shao Jing said, though her face was still solemn, Great Elder Princess stopped her inquiring, and changed the topic. "According to Empress Dowager, Zhuozhuo and Prince Chen's wedding will be arranged a bit earlier than other princes'. The Imperial Astronomical Observatory has decided the date and it will be informed to your family in a few days. We don't have much time, so the dowry from your mansion needs to be well-prepared soon. Zhuozhuo, you don't go out these days. You should make more embroideries as your dowries. Empress Dowager said you'd better embroider something for Prince Chen."

As soon as the Empress Dowager was mentioned, Shao Jing became respectful, and replied, "Of course. There are also embroidered maids in our mansion. We can choose and purchase a good cloth of brocade from other's shop and our embroidered maids will decorate it, or Wanru does it herself. Anyway, Prince Chen should not be bothered by this."

"That will be great. I also have prepared some dowries for Zhuozhuo, which then will be to send here!" Great Elder Princess said, standing up and leaving. She had achieved her goal of coming here. She didn't want to see the gloomy face of Old Madam any more.

"Let me walk Great Elder Princess out!" Shao Jing said.

"No, thank you so much for your kindness, Duke Xing! Zhuozhuo will see me off!" said Great Elder Princess, holding the hand of Shao Wanru, who just stood up from the chair.

"Well! Wanru, go and see your grandma off!" Shao Jing looked at Shao Wanru gently and said. Shao Wanru nodded obediently, bowed to Shao Jing, and then was pulled out of the study by Great Elder Princess...

Chapter 824 An Old Friend in the Mansion

"What does she want?" After Great Elder Princess left, Old Madam slammed her hand on the table so heavily that the teacup nearly jumped off it.

Shao Jing, making sure that nobody else except Nanny Yu standing behind Old Madam was in the study, replied "Great Elder Princess threatened us with the dowry thing." He sat down, picked up his teacup and took a hard sip.

"Ridiculous! It is none of our business even if something did happen at that time. You acted like a coward just now, my son. What are you afraid of? She is merely a disgraced princess now. I don't believe that she is qualified to report it to the Emperor." Old Madam said in anger.

As Old Madam saw just now, Shao Jing kept humbling himself in front of Great Elder Princess, which maddened her so much that she almost stood up to defend her son. Old Madam never believed the Great Elder Princess would do what she claimed.

"Not before. But she will now!" Shao Jing shook his head with a solemn face, "Because Wanru is going to marry Prince Chen!"

"He's just an..." Old Madam shut her mouth before she made an indiscreet remark. "Invalid as Prince Chen was, no one was allowed to call him like that. Obviously, he was a preference for both Empress Dowager and the Emperor."

"Yes. No matter how arbitrary Great Elder Princess was, she would never be qualified to complain it before the Emperor, even though she spared her life to do so! But it's different now. She can connect it to Prince Chen, the man deeply trusted by the Emperor. If someone plots against his marriage, it will be a matter of the Royal Family. And..." Shao Jing suddenly stopped.

"And what?" Old Madam asked with anxiety. She knew nothing about the conversation between Great Elder Princess and Shao Jing before, for she had come late to the study.

"Great Elder Princess intends to accuse me of neglecting my duty on family management in front of the emperor, and ask me to divorce Jiang!" Shao Jing said with a serious face. He couldn't do either.

Shao Jing understood that if he didn't manage the family well, the Censorate would impeach him. How could he help the emperor govern the country if he couldn't even manage his family? As for the divorce, he would not agree to do it, not just for the reputation of his son and daughter. He would not divorce Jiang even though she died.

"There is no need to be panic! The Emperor doesn't even care about it!" Old Madam said in an indignant tone, though she wasn't in full confidence. After years of even fight with Great Elder Princess, Old Madam was still "safe and sound". So she believed that Princess was nothing to be scared.

"Mother, Things are different. The emperor cared less about it before, which doesn't mean he is still unconcerned now. Now Prince Chen is involved!" Shao Jing shook his head and said with a wry smile. He was not as naive as Old Madam.

He didn't dare to go against the Great Elder Princess, because it wasn't worth doing it for some dowries.

"But the property is to be inherited to Hua'an. What are you going to tell him if they are given away?" Old Madam pounded the table heavily and said in anger.

She had planned to leave everything in the mansion to her elderly grandson, but now she lost a lot because of the mess of the dowry.

"We will talk about Hua'an later!" Shao Jing said, shaking his head and thinking in mind, "I have to give in." Then, doubtfully, he asked, "Mother, do you think that Wanru has said something to Great Elder Princess? And that makes the Princess different from what she was?"

"Uh... I don't think so. She has just returned to the mansion and has not met Great Elder Princess before!" Old Madam said with hesitation. She had the same suspicion before, but after thinking about it, she felt that it was impossible.

"That will be the best. It's not a good thing for the entire Duke Xing's Mansion that my fifth niece is a shrewd girl!" Shao Jing said, frowning.

In a moment, Old Madam's face turned pale. She widened her eyes and said, "Don't you want to..."

"No, Mother, don't worry. I won't do that for the time being!" Shao Jing shook his head.

"That's right. Wanru's status is unusual now. You can't get her in trouble." Old Madam breathed a sigh of relief and reminded him, "she is helpful to our family now."

"I won't. Mother, you should go, and hurry up to prepare the dowry for Wanru. We need to satisfy Great Elder Princess so that she won't bother us again!" Shao Jing said.

"Since you have made the decision, let's do it!" Old Madam sighed, feeling hopeless. "I am getting old!"

Nanny Yu came over and gently massaged Old Madam's back. There was a trace of panic in her slightly-closed eyes, but she hid it and tried to look calm.

Shao Jing cast a glance at Nanny Yu and then turned it to Old Madam. He asked in an indifferent tone, "Mother, what about Hua'an's marriage?"

"Let's hold his wedding before Wanru's. It is really against the rules that the fifth girl gets married first. None of her brothers and sisters in the mansion has been married yet! Isn't Prince Chen younger than Prince Yue and Prince Zhou? Why did he get married earlier?"

Old Madam said with confusion and became more and more annoyed.

"Minister Zhao's Mansion is not occupied with other business. Let's exchange wedding gifts in the two days. Hua'an is no longer a child, so he should get married as soon as possible. However, Shao Wanru will get married soon, and that makes it seem that he is in a hurry."

There were not enough embroidery ladies in the mansion, who had to work for the weddings of both Shao Hua'an and Shao Wanru. So they had to employ more embroidery ladies from outside, and they had to order plenty of embroideries from outside, too. Thinking that all burdens would eventually fall on her, Old Madam felt irritated.

Her third daughter-in-law's health was in bad condition. She wasn't reliable at all.

"Ask Concubine Lu to come and give me a favor. I'm an old woman, both mentally and physically weak now!" Old Madam said. Concubine Lu was Shao Jie'er's biological mother.

"Okay, mother, I will ask her and Third Sister-in-law to help you!" Shao Jing nodded. But he was thinking about something else in mind, his eyebrows tightly frowning...

After going out of the study, Shao Wanru walked with Great Elder Princess along the way. The servant girls and old maids were a few steps behind them, so they could not hear what they were talking.

"Grandma, could it be possible that my mother was really..." Shao Wanru, biting her lip, told Princess the doubts in her heart, which gave her a stronger feeling that her guess was right.

"Zhuozhuo, don't worry. I will investigate it. If your mother was indeed murdered, I will let go none of them in Duke Xing's Mansion!" Great Elder Princess said in great hatred. Although her eyes had been in tears, she was tough, comforting her delicate granddaughter by holding their hands together.

At first, it was just a concocted excuse to threaten Shao Jing. But now, Great Elder Princess had the same idea as Shao Wanru that it was possible.

"It is very likely that Madam Jiang, violent and brutal, and for whom money means everything, hurt my daughter. At that time, Qinghua went back to Duke Xing's Mansion with a posthumous child of her husband, the Heir of Duke Xing. So she was treated like a treasure by the whole Duke Xing's family. Even though she had been mentally ill, she was also under well protection."

"But think it again. Actually, it was very easy for Jiang to do something against my daughter!"

"You should be careful living in this mansion too, and don't expose your wisdom. I can tell that your Uncle Shao Jing is not what he looks like. I used to underestimate him before, convinced that he was recognized by many people for nothing but his good temper." Great Elder Princess touched her granddaughter's cold hands and said with concern.

After losing a daughter, Great Elder Princess could not bear the pain to lose her only granddaughter.

"Don't worry, grandma. I will be careful!" Shao Wanru nodded and said. Thinking of Uncle Shao Jing's secret observation on her just now, she knew that she had aroused his suspicion. Now that she was still in Duke Xing's Mansion, something bad might happen to her, even though her marriage was good for Duke Xing's Mansion.

What she needed to do now was to keep a low profile.

"Turn to me if you need help. I will provide ways for you. Don't do anything by yourself." Great Elder Princess was still worried and reminded her again.

Shao Wanru nodded again and again and agreed with a smile. Seeing her granddaughter's delicate face full of satisfaction and trust, Great Elder Princess felt sad again.

Shao Wanru walked Great Elder Princess to the mansion gate. After seeing off her grandmother, she took a deep breath and was about to turn around. But she instantly stopped when catching a glance at a figure.

"Who is that?" Shao Wanru asked the steward of the outer courtyard, who was standing in front of her with a smile.

What she saw was a figure in invisible color. It appeared in a flash. She had seen it this morning, so she recognized it at once.

"Fifth Miss, are you referring to Sir Yan?" The butler asked with a smile. He had sharp eyes. Even though it was a figure, he recognized it immediately.

Shao Wanru's heart skipped a beat. It was indeed Yan Xi from last life. She didn't expect to see him in Duke Xing's Mansion. "Was he really a nephew of Madam Jiang?" She frowned slightly.

"Is that Sir Yan? Is he a relative of our mansion?" Shao Wanru asked calmly.

"He is not a relative, but the son of an old friend of the Duke's. I heard that he had a good relationship with the Duke. He came to the capital for the Imperial Examination, so he lived in our mansion. The Exam is coming in a few days, so Sir Yan may go out for something. However, he rarely goes outside."

The steward explained to Shao Wanru with a flattering tongue.

"Has he lived here for a period of time?" Shao Wanru asked in surprise.

"For about a month." the butler said after thinking for a while.

Shao Wanru glanced at the place where Yan Xi had disappeared, and said in a casual way, "Childe Yan seems to be different from the Childe Wang. He is a serious student."

"Yes, He is. Childe Yan studies very hard. Even if Childe Wang invites him to go out for fun, he has never accepted the invitation!" The butler nodded repeatedly. He knew that it was Wang Shengxue who Shao Wanru referred to.

"Wang Shengxue was not even qualified to serve Childe Yan. They were not at the same level. It was obvious that Childe Yan was a promising student. He won the first prize in the Province Exam, so he would definitely get a place in the following Imperial Exam. Duke Xing had ordered me to serve him well!"

Chapter 825 Knew This or Not?

"Is Childe Wang very familiar with this Childe Yan?" Shao Wanru was about to walk into the mansion, but she suddenly stopped when she heard the footstep. In her last life, she had not known that Wang Shengxue had been quite acquainted with Yan Xi.

"They are not that close to each other. Childe Wang came to look for Childe Yan a few times, but Childe Yan only followed Childe Wang out once or twice. He didn't go out other times," the supervisor answered as he curled his lips.

Everyone in Duke Xing's Mansion didn't like this Childe Wang very much, but the masters didn't forbid him to come over, so all the servants in the mansion turned a blind eye to him.

"Did Childe Wang also come over today?" Shao Wanru suddenly thought of something and asked.

"Yes, he came this morning and went out with Childe Yan. Childe Yan just came back!" The supervisor nodded.

Shao Wanru didn't ask any more and asked the supervisor to do his own work. She walked slowly into the mansion with Yujie.

After sending Shao Wanru away with a smile, the supervisor looked hesitantly in the direction where Shao Wanru had gone and then looked at the place where Childe Yan had disappeared. He somehow felt that Fifth Miss had paid much attention to Childe Yan today.

After thinking for a while, the supervisor felt that it was appropriate to report this. Fifth Miss had never paid attention to others, so her behavior today was indeed a little abnormal.

In the next few days, Shao Wanru was indeed very busy. She was busy packing up and sewing clothes for Chu Liuchen. The ceremony had been scheduled in two months by the Imperial Astronomical Observatory. It was really urgent for the royal family to finish the whole wedding process in two months, but everyone was not so surprised because this was Prince Chen's wedding.

After all, everyone knew that Prince Chen was sick. Now that he had been engaged, he definitely needed to get married early.

The whole Duke Xing's Mansion was hectic, because not only Shao Wanru's marriage but also Shao Hua'an's would be held soon. Shao Hua'an's marriage had been scheduled a month later, which would be a month earlier than Shao Wanru's marriage.

Shao Hua'an had already been 18 years old, which was old enough to get married. In fact, many people at his age had already been married, and some even had children. He didn't get married so early because he had been studying outside instead of staying in Duke Xing's Mansion. After returning to the mansion, he devoted himself to taking care of his parents, which delayed his marriage.

Although it had not been officially engaged before, many aristocratic families had known that Duke Xing's Mansion was going to be engaged to Minister Zhao's Mansion. Although it would only be held in a month, everyone felt that it was normal to officially get married now. Maybe the two mansions had already prepared for it early. After all, the First Miss of Minister's Mansion was not at a young age now.

However, because Shao Wanru's marriage had been scheduled later, Shao Hua'an's marriage needed to be held in a hurry.

Shao Jie'er's biological mother, Concubine Zhao, was in charge of the mansion with Third Madam. The Third Madam was still in poor health, but Shao Caihuan's face had been much better. However, the

scars on her face had not disappeared after a while and could still be seen. Now she was slowly applying medicine to the scars, but what would happen later remained unknown!

It was said that the imperial physician was not sure about the medicine effect now, so she could only apply the medicine for the time being.

In order to customize the embroideries, Duke Xing's Mansion had invited a lot of people from embroidery shops to come over, among which Madame Dong was also included. She brought a few embroidery maids into the Piaoyun Courtyard to help Shao Wanru customize the clothes and accessories needed for her wedding. As for the embroidery maids from other shops, they were sent to the bridal chamber that was newly settled down for Shao Hua'an.

This time, the new courtyard was obviously not out of the line, and it even looked a little remote and inconspicuous.

Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion had originally intended to choose one courtyard from those in the main branch's yard to become Shao Hua'an's bridal chamber. However, after Great Elder Princess had come here once, Old Madam knew her place and dared not to act rashly because of Great Elder Princess being tough.

So, the bridal chamber had been temporarily decided.

Old Madam had had another idea to ask Great Elder Princess for Shao Yuanhao's courtyard. She had also implied this in front of Shao Wanru several times, but after Great Elder Princess had come here, Old Madam had never mentioned it again.

Shao Wanru knew that Great Elder Princess had used Madam Jiang's matter as a warning to make Old Madam drop the idea. If Old Madam Jiang's affair that day had been really reported to the Emperor and the Emperor was still willing to intervene in it, it would be easy to find Old Madam's fault and convict Shao Jing of not managing his family well.

For this reason, Old Madam dared not to go too far. She had had to make a concession on Hao'er's matter and promised Great Elder Princess that Hao'er didn't need to return to the mansion for the time being. He could be raised in Great Elder Princess's Mansion for a period of time and then come back to Duke Xing's Mansion when he got older.

Shao Wanru embroidered all kinds of items in her room quietly every day. Fortunately, these were not difficult for her. In her last life when she had been in the Mansion of the Prime Minister, she had had nothing to do but embroidery. She was familiar with it and could sit there quietly.

She was doing embroidery in the main room, while Madame Dong was in the wing room with a group of embroidery maids. Sometimes Shao Wanru deliberately asked Madame Dong to come over. Seeing this, others thought that Shao Wanru specially called Madame Dong over to have a look because she was not proficient in embroidery.

There were so many embroidery maids in the mansion, but no one expected that Madame Dong originally belonged to Shao Wanru.

The embroidery maids, who followed Madame Dong, sometimes lacked some embroidery threads and cloth, so Madame Dong always went to the embroidery room of the mansion to get them. With an agile

mind, Madame Dong got familiar with many people in the mansion within a short time. It was more convenient for her to inquire about information than for those conspicuous Shao Wanru's servants.

Time flew. Shao Wanru had a lot of things that needed sewing and so did Shao Hua'an.

Since there was no hostess in the second branch, Concubine Zhao was in charge and Shao Jie'er helped her from time to time. Without Madam Jiang and Shao Yanru, Shao Jie'er gradually felt that she was the daughter of lineal descent in the second branch. When looking at others and talking to them, she could also straighten her back, as if Concubine Zhao was about to become the legal wife of Duke Xing.

When she met other sisters, she couldn't help showing a little pride too.

Staying in her courtyard all the time, Shao Wanru didn't think too much. Besides, she had already known Shao Jie'er's vile character in the very beginning and that she would be arrogant when she succeeded. Since Shao Wanru was about to leave Duke Xing's Mansion soon, she didn't really care about Shao Jie'er. Compared with Shao Yanru, Shao Jie'er was much easier to deal with.

It would only benefit Shao Wanru if Shao Jie'er made troubles in the situation. Only by secretly setting Shao Jie'er, an unknown factor, in Duke Xing's Mansion could Shao Wanru intervene in managing the affairs of Duke Xing's Mansion in the future.

After all, a married daughter couldn't manage affairs in her parent's home at will.

She didn't care about this, but Shao Caihuan did. Recently, Shao Caihuan had come to Shao Wanru from time to time, helping her do some embroideries and chatting with her. Compared with Shao Cailing, Shao Caihuan was much closer to Shao Wanru. Maybe it was because she, rather than Shao Cailing, had stayed in the palace with Shao Wanru for a period of time.

Her face had also been injured, so she was unwilling to see others at ordinary times. Busy as Shao Wanru was, she basically just sat in the room and did embroidery, which could also be regarded as her leisure time.

"Fifth Sister, don't you go to have a look at Big Brother's courtyard?" Shao Caihuan put down the embroidery in her hand, picked up the teacup aside to take a sip, and asked softly.

Since she left the palace, her attitude had been a little different from the past, and she had become more and more intimate with Shao Wanru. She had invited Shao Wanru to visit the courtyard before, but Shao Wanru had always refused her.

"I don't want to go there!" Shao Wanru shook her head and said with a smile, "Big Brother's affairs are all managed by Grandmother. His courtyard is also selected by Grandmother, so it must be a good one."

"Indeed, it is really good, so you'd better go to have a look too. Let's go there together, shall we? I haven't been there either, just hearing this from someone else!" Shao Caihuan said softly. She was wearing a veil, and didn't take it off even she was in the room, just leaving a pair of eyes exposed. Her eyes showed a little conation at this moment.

They were young girls, so actually they might both like joining in the fun!

"Maybe not..." Shao Wanru hesitated for a moment and still shook her head. "I'll be embarrassed if I meet Big Brother now!"

"There's nothing to be embarrassed about. We just go to see Big Brother's courtyard. It is he that should feel embarrassed when he sees us!" Shao Caihuan said with a cold smile, "It's better not to meet Second Sister. Second Sister now really regards herself as Second Uncle's daughter of lineal descent!"

Shao Caihuan had mentioned this before, but Shao Wanru had always showed the attitude that it had nothing to do with her.

"You don't have to care about Second Sister because this is her character!" Shao Wanru said lightly.

"I had no intention to care about this, but she... she talked nonsense in front of Mother..." Shao Caihuan said angrily.

"What did she say in front of Third Aunt? About Big Brother's courtyard?" Shao Wanru asked in surprise. The needle in her hand fell smoothly without being affected at all.

"That would be great if it was about Big Brother. But she has never cared about others, hasn't she? She just talked about herself and seemingly said something like... I envy her... But it's just a marriage that no one wants..." Speaking of this, Shao Caihuan blushed and twisted her handkerchief twice angrily.

She really looked down on the so-called good marriage for Shao Jie'er.

A co-consort in Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion? This was even worse than the legal wife of an ordinary family. What was there to be proud of? However, Shao Jie'er even implied that, if Shao Caihuan wanted this marriage, she could give it to Shao Caihuan for the sake of her being so pathetic.

Every time when she thought of this, Shao Caihuan was so angry that she wanted to push Shao Jie'er's hateful face away. How dared she say that in front of her mother!

"What... did Third Aunt say?" Shao Wanru tilted her head to look at Shao Caihuan and asked softly with a trace of darkness flashing through her eyes.

"I don't know what's wrong with Mother. How could she be so gentle to Shao Jie'er? Being so ignorant of the rules, Shao Jie'er should have been beaten away long ago!" Shao Caihuan found it harder to calm down.

She didn't understand why her mother could bear Shao Jie'er's words like this. Shouldn't Mother directly kick her out? Why did Mother still let Shao Jie'er talk there? Why did Mother still wear a smile on her face and be very polite to Concubine Zhao? The more Shao Caihuan thought about this, the angrier she became. She always felt that her mother was too lenient with Shao Jie'er.

Chapter 826 Quarrels Beginning Due to the Most Ordinary Courtyard!

Even if the second aunt was not here now, Shao Jie'er was not the one who had the right to give orders in the second branch. The eldest brother was going to get married soon, and his wife would be in charge of the second branch. Shao Jie'er was just an ordinary daughter of a concubine.

Except for Shao Jie'er, the other daughters in Duke Xing's Mansion were all legitimate. How would they respect Shao Jie'er?

"The Second Uncle doesn't have any other daughters now. Big Sister is not here now. Because of the Second Uncle, the Second Sister has gained more dignity. Even Grandmother treats Second Sister better, let alone us!" Shao Wanru answered calmly and didn't care much about Shao Jie'er's affairs.

"Although you are right, she... is really..." Shao Caihuan was a little angry. She took a deep breath to suppress her feelings, shook her head, and said, "Forget it. Let's stop talking about her. I would get angry when I talk about her. I don't know what's wrong with her. She talks nonsense."

Shao Wanru glanced at Shao Caihuan's expression and smiled slightly. Did it mean that she didn't know the details of Shao Jie'er's decision to give up her marriage or was she showing her dissatisfaction with this marriage?

In Shao Jie'er's eyes, being Commandery Prince Qing's co-consort seemed to be a good marriage, but it was not necessarily the same for Shao Caihuan even if Shao Caihuan's face was injured now. Furthermore, she did not know what would happen in the future and she was not young anymore.

But if there were other choices, she would definitely not choose Chu Qing! But why did Shao Caihuan tell her this?

Her watery eyes blinked twice to hide the suspicion in her eyes. When she raised her head again, there was only a slight smile left, which was a little cold and indifferent. She was not a friend of Shao Caihuan. When she was in the palace, Shao Caihuan had once helped Shao Yanru plot against her, but in the end, she only got what she deserved.

Now Shao Caihuan thought that Shao Wanru did not know the truth so she pretended to be close to her.

Shao Wanru had always been wary of those who had framed her before. She didn't think that they could talk about such private things intimately now.

"Fifth Sister, let's go and have a look at my eldest brother's courtyard. Although it is newly fixed up, it is still very good, which is as good as other courtyards in our mansion. My eldest sister-in-law will definitely be satisfied with it when she marries into our mansion in the future!"

Shao Caihuan said again and reached out to pull Shao Wanru's embroidery tools, which made Shao Wanru lose the threads in her hands and they were loosed in the end.

"Fifth Sister, I'm sorry. I'll help you tighten the thread up later!" Seeing that she had ruined it, Shao Caihuan said with an apologetic expression and put down her hands.

Shao Wanru shook her head, put down the embroidery tools in her hands, and said, "Third Sister, you don't need to blame yourself. It doesn't matter!"

In the past two days, Shao Caihuan had helped her a lot. How could she really ask her to do this because of this small matter?

"Fifth Sister, are we really not going to have a look? We can go and just have a look at it. If you marry into Prince Chen's Mansion in the future, it will be inconvenient for you to come back at that time!" Shao Caihuan sighed and inexplicably felt a little strange in her heart when she thought of Prince Chen whom she had met before.

A few days ago, Chu Liuchen sent the betrothal gifts in person. Originally, Chu Liuchen did not need to do this in person. The Ministry of Rites would send someone to send the betrothal gifts. That day, it happened that Chu Liuchen had nothing to do, so he came to Duke Xing's Mansion with the officials of the Ministry of Rites. Although it was just a formality, the attitude of the whole Duke Xing's Mansion had changed.

Although some people had envied Shao Wanru for marrying into the royal family before, they knew that Chu Liuchen was a sick person who would not live long. So people had a lot of private discussions. However, after seeing Chu Liuchen, everyone only had envy left. He was as handsome as the child in a painting. Many people felt that it was not a loss to marry such a person even if he did not have royal status.

Moreover, although Prince Chen looked a little weak, he was not so weak that he would die of illness. He seemed to be quite healthy. His illness did not seem to be a big deal!

Therefore, Shao Wanru did marry into nobility!

"Let's go!" Shao Wanru said helplessly. If it went on like this, she would not be able to do anything but be annoyed. She had never known that Shao Caihuan would be so annoying.

Hearing Shao Wanru's words, Shao Caihuan immediately became delighted. The two of them dressed up and went to Shao Hua'an's bridal chamber together.

There were many servant girls and old maids walking there along the way. Time was pressing so they were busy decorating Shao Hua'an's bridal chamber.

Shao Wanru didn't know where the bridal chamber was exactly located, but Shao Caihuan did know. However, when they saw the courtyard, Shao Wanru frowned slightly.

This courtyard was a little different from the courtyard she had imagined. She had thought that although it would not be as good as her Piaoyun Courtyard, it should at least be better than other courtyards. However, the courtyard she saw now was very ordinary. It was really surprising.

The Piaoyun Courtyard became Shao Wanru's courtyard because of its special situation in Duke Xing's mansion. It was the best courtyard in the whole mansion. As for the courtyards where other Old Madams lived and Madam Jiang lived, they were also excellent. The courtyard in front of her was even smaller than Madam Jiang's courtyard, and its location was extremely ordinary.

"Why... is it like this?" Shao Caihuan also looked surprised. She had come here before, but she had forgotten the specific appearance of this courtyard. At this time, when she saw it, she couldn't help muttering to herself.

Then she turned to an old maid nearby and asked her servant girl to call the old maid over.

"Is this the bridal chamber arranged for the First Young Master?" Shao Caihuan asked.

After greeting the two Misses, the old maid nodded with a smile and said, "This is the First Young Master's bridal chamber. It is still being decorated. The Second Miss is arranging it inside."

"Is there no other empty courtyard in the mansion?" Shao Caihuan asked the question in her heart. Such a courtyard could really not match Shao Hua'an's identity as the eldest legitimate son. It was so ordinary that it looked similar to Shao Caihuan's courtyard.

The third branch of Duke Xing's Mansion was much weaker in power than the second branch of the family, so of course, they could not choose a good courtyard before.

"I don't know as a servant... If Third Miss wants to know, you could ask the Second Miss. She is in charge of this matter. I heard that the Second Miss helped to pick it," the old maid hesitated to say.

As a servant, she really didn't know about this kind of thing. Although they, as servants, also felt that this courtyard was too small and disgraceful, they just did as the masters of the mansion decided and said.

"Come on, let's go inside and have a look!" Seeing that she could not get any answer, Shao Caihuan asked the old maid to do her own business and said to Shao Wanru.

Shao Wanru nodded and followed Shao Caihuan into the courtyard.

The courtyard was noisier. A large group of servant girls and old maids were moving a large wardrobe carefully inside. Shao Jie'er, who was in the corridor, loudly instructed them to move it. It seemed that they were very busy.

Seeing that they came in, the servant girls and old maids who were not busy hurriedly bowed to them, but Shao Jie'er acted as if she didn't see them and didn't even look at them. She continued to instruct the servant girls and old maids to move the wardrobe together.

"Second Sister, I heard that you picked the courtyard for Big Brother. Aren't you afraid that he will be angry because you picked such a yard?" Shao Caihuan came over and said in an unfriendly tone. Shao Wanru followed her, looked at the group of old maids and servant girls who moved things and said nothing.

"It turns out that Third Sister and Fifth Sister are here. Look at how busy I am. I really didn't notice that you are here." Shao Jie'er said, "Sisters, if you are not busy, please help me think of a better way to put the wardrobe inside and protect it from bumping damages."

It seemed that she was asking them for advice, but in fact, she completely ignored Shao Caihuan's words. Shao Caihuan was so angry that her expression changed. As the legitimate daughter of the third branch, she had always looked down on Shao Jie'er, who had always followed Shao Yanru, but now she was directly ignored by Shao Jie'er. How could she not be angry?

"Second Sister, don't be in a hurry to move things. Does my big brother know that you have chosen this courtyard? Do Grandma and Second Uncle know?"

"Why would they not know? Eldest Brother, Second Uncle, and Grandmother certainly know about it. They are satisfied, but Third Sister seems to be dissatisfied!"

Shao Jie'er glanced at Shao Caihuan with some sarcasm in her eyes, as if she didn't take Shao Caihuan seriously at all.

"Satisfied? Second Sister, you haven't forgotten that my eldest brother is the eldest legitimate son of the mansion, have you?" Shao Caihuan snorted coldly and said with a gloomy expression.

“So what?” Shao Jie’er seemed to not understand Shao Caihuan’s meaning in her words.

Shao Wanru sat down in the corridor on the side and watched the two sisters quarreling calmly with a slight smile on her face. It seemed that this matter was not as simple as it looked on the surface. No matter how bold Shao Jie’er was, she did not dare to humiliate Shao Hua’an on purpose. Did it mean that they were really satisfied?

That was naturally impossible!

She wanted to see what they intended to do!

“Second Sister, you made it sound so easy. Big Brother is not only the legitimate son but also the eldest son. He has always been the noblest one. When you say this, have you thought about your status?” Shao Caihuan said coldly, pointing out that Shao Jie’er was just a concubine’s daughter.

She was neither legitimate nor older than others.

Shao Jie’er was furious. She was so angry that her face became gloomy. She put down the round fan in her hand and said coldly, “Third Sister, what do you mean? Do you think I didn’t choose a good one?”

“Second Sister, there are many better courtyards in our mansion, right? Isn’t there a more suitable courtyard among those empty ones? You just chose such a courtyard to humiliate my eldest brother?!” Shao Caihuan was also annoyed. She couldn’t bear to be scolded by a concubine’s daughter whom she looked down on.

Especially when she thought of what Shao Jie’er had said arrogantly in front of her mother, which made her seem inferior to Shao Jie’er, she became angrier.

“What nonsense are you talking about?” Shao Jie’er frowned and muttered indifferently, “There is no more suitable courtyard in the mansion. It’s good enough to choose such a courtyard!”

“I’m talking nonsense? Aren’t there a few good courtyards over there? What’s going on? Do you intend to keep them for yourself? Let’s go and find my grandma. We must make it clear. Why did you pick such a small and narrow courtyard for my eldest brother?” Shao Caihuan was very angry and came over to pull Shao Jie’er away.

Chapter 827 Fifth Sister Did Nothing

Shao Jie’er dodged her reaching hand. She was pissed off, stamping her feet and saying, “It has nothing to do with you. It’s our Second Branch’s business. Why bother putting in?”

Obviously, her words also irritated Shao Caihuan, who then refuted in a loud voice, “I am also a member of Duke Xing’s Mansion. How can it have nothing to do with me? Miss Zhao is going to marry to our mansion. At that time, she will be the eldest sister-in-law of the Second Branch. Let’s see how will you explain this to Miss Zhao!”

“No other chamber is more suitable than this one!” Shao Jie’er rebutted loudly.

“Any other chamber is better than this. They are big, suitable, and in good location as well. Are you dissatisfied with Miss Zhao? So you choose such a house for her?” Shao Caihuan scolded loudly. They argued words to words, sentences to sentences.

"Since you don't like our Miss, why did your family bother propose to her?" When the two sisters were quarreling, an angry voice suddenly came from the door of the house.

Shao Wanru turned towards and saw a group of old maids standing at the door. The first glance enabled her to know that they were not from Duke Xing's Mansion, because their clothes style was completely different from those of Duke Xing's Mansion.

Ahead of the group was an old maid in most different dress and with an extraordinary aura. She was exactly the one who had spoken just now. Although the sights of every Miss inside were thrown at her, she was not frightened, but angry, "I think we should go and meet Old Madam of your mansion. Remember that she promised our Old Madam that she would treat our First Miss well? If this is all she does, I believe there is no need to carry out the marriage!"

Then she left at once, together with those who had followed in, leaving a few furniture and decorations that they had just brought. They were sent from Minister Zhao's Mansion for the bride's room.

"They are the servants of the Old Madam of the Minister's Mansion!" Shao Jie'er's face showed her panic.

"Let's go and see." Shao Caihuan was also nervous. It would be not a big deal that the sisters in the family had a quarrel with each other, as long as it was kept a secret within their own family. But now, the people of the Minister's Mansion heard it and was even about to tell Old Madam. They even have the intention of canceling the engagement. That was a big problem to deal with.

The Misses had no choice but went to Old Madam's. Shao Wanru didn't want to go there, and she didn't have to do so because she was just a watcher of the quarrel. However, she went with them anyway, for Shao Caihuan, who was holding her hand, looked really pale, as if she would faint if Shao Wanru didn't go with her.

So they were all heading to Old Madam's Chuntang Yard. Although the Misses set off late, they moved fast. It didn't take long for them to catch up with the old maids of Minister Zhao's Mansion. They all reached the Chuntang Yard at the same time.

Old Madam, who had already known that they would come, was sitting in the main room, waiting for them.

As soon as they entered the main room, the head maid stepped forward and bowed to Old Madam. Then she complained in an indignant tone, "Old Madam, please uphold justice for our First Miss!"

"What's the matter?" Old Madam asked with frowned eyebrows.

Shao Wanru and the other two sisters also came forward together and bowed to Old Madam. Then they retreated to the chairs aside and sat down. After sitting down, Shao Wanru lowered her head and looked down. She just wanted to be a silent spectator. This matter had nothing to do with her, but intuitively, she felt that she would be drawn in it.

Because everything happened in such a coincidence. Firstly, she, who at first was unwilling to go out, was persuaded by Shao Caihuan to get to the bridal chamber, where exactly Shao Jie'er was in charge of the arrangement. Then she had a dispute with Shao Caihuan. Secondly, their quarrel included bad comments to the chamber and then even got the Zhao Minister's family involved. Thirdly, the people of

Minister Zhao's Mansion happened to send some furniture there right at the moment and heard their arguments.

It was the dispute between that two sisters that led to the complaint meeting at Old Madam's. Of course, Shao Wanru did not believe that so many coincidences would happen together. She smiled in silence. This matter was funny.

She only sat there and waited to see how they are going to attach her to another trouble.

"Old Madam, our First Miss is going to marry the First Young Master of your mansion, who is the eldest son of the lineal descent, isn't he?" The old maid of Minister Zhao's Mansion said, still in an indignant voice.

Old Madam nodded but said nothing, indicating that she could go on. What she had just asked was an indisputable fact and there was no need to doubt it.

"Since he is the eldest son, why choose such a small chamber as their wedding room? I saw there were lots of houses in the mansion, but none of them was as inconspicuous as the chosen one. At first, I was confused, and thought that there must be some mistakes. But I heard the quarrel between the two Misses, only to find no mistake has been made, and that that is the picked chamber! You just don't care about the marriage, so you chose such a shabby house. If Old Madam is really discontent with our First Miss, I think the marriage is not necessary!"

The old maid seemed to be angrier. She was the private maid of Minister Zhao's mother, which enabled her to speak in such a manner.

And because of this, her words were powerful and influential for people. Judging from her anger, everyone knew that no one would get away from this matter.

Embarrassed, Old Madam coughed in a low voice, and comforted her, "Please be calm. I promise I will give you an acceptable and appropriate explanation after I figure it out."

Then she looked at Shao Jie'er and asked with a solemn face, "Second Miss, I asked you to help your elder brother with his marriage. What did you do?"

Shao Jie'er stood up, wiping the tears on her eyes, and complained, "Grandma, I am not to be blamed. It was Third Sister and Fifth Sister who got there and made troubles on me. I was also puzzled."

It seemed that her words were trying to get herself off the hook and put all the blame on Shao Wanru and Shao Caihuan.

Shao Wanru sneered at them in her mind, with her eyesight focusing on the ground where her feet were, as if she had never been mentioned in Shao Jie'er's malicious accusation.

Old Madam cast a glance at Shao Wanru and then turned it to Shao Caihuan and asked, "Third Girl, tell me what was going on. Weren't you making the embroidery together with the Fifth Girl? Why didn't you just do your job? Why did you, together with the Fifth Girl, go to the Second Girl's to be troublemakers?" Fine! This one also included Shao Wanru.

Shao Wanru was indifferent. She was now ninety percent sure that this matter was pushed to her. Shao Caihuan was indeed untrustworthy. If it weren't for her, she wouldn't have been drawn in this trap!

Shao wanru sat there without a word, as if she didn't hear Old Madam's censure against Shao Caihua and herself.

Shao Caihuan peeked at Shao Wanru, who was sitting still with her head down. Shao Wanru's silence and Old Madam's anger compelled her to reply.

"Grandma, I was making embroideries and clothes with Fifth Sister. I felt tired, so we went out for a walk. I didn't expect to arrive at that chamber..." Shao Caihuan paused, glanced at the supervisor nanny of Minister Zhao's Mansion, and then continued, "Second Sister was there. She quarreled with me!"

Shao Caihuan's words were extremely vague. After all, some words were inappropriate to speak out in front of the nanny of Minister Zhao's Mansion.

"Third Sister, what are you talking about? Was I the one who come to argue with you? No! I was there helping my brother decorate the bridal chamber, but You and Fifth Sister came and criticized me without any reason. How could it be my fault? Grandmother, it's obvious that Third Sister and Fifth Sister are the starters of this matter!" Aggrieved Shao Jie'er defended herself.

The word "Fifth Sister" was again mentioned. But she herself did nothing but stood there, enjoying their arguments for a while. Shao Wanru, rolling her eyes, seemed to be plotting something in her mind. Compared with the two sisters who were at loggerheads, she looked obedient with her head still lowered.

"We started the fight? It was you. It was you who chose such an inconspicuous house for Elder Brother. There are so many good houses, but you just chose that one!" Shao Caihuan couldn't stand Shao Jie'er's slander anymore, so she rebuked.

"Old Madam, on behalf of our Old Madam, I should be given an explanation. Why did you choose such a bad chamber to be our First Miss's wedding room? Your family promised to choose the best one. What's wrong with your inconsistent attitudes? Are you dissatisfied with our First Miss?" The supervisor nanny of Minister Zhao's Mansion angrily questioned as soon as Shao Caihuan finished her words.

"Actually, the first chosen house..." Old Madam frowned and failed to continue her words. She looked up at Shao Wanru. Everyone in the mansion knew that the Piaoyun Courtyard Shao Wanru lived in now was the originally chosen bridal chamber. But it had been Shao Wanru's house. And it was impossible to ask her to move out.

"Your family promised before that they would leave the best house to our First Miss! The two families have been in discussion on the marriage for long. Believing in your promise and sincerity, our Old Madam agreed on the marriage. But, we didn't expect that your family are frauds of marriage."

Infuriated by Old Madam's hemming and hawing, the supervisor nanny of Zhao's Mansion even said the word "fraud".

Anyone who cheated in marriage would be punished by law. No matter how minor the offense was, it would ruin the reputation of the whole Duke Xing's Mansion.

"What marital fraud? It's a good thing for the two families to get married. How can you say that we are marital fraud?" Old Madam snorted unhappily.

"How could it be a cheat? We whole family have been trying our best to prepare for the marriage of my eldest brother!" Shao Caihuan responded angrily. If Shao Hua'an's marriage failed, Shao Caihuan could hardly absolve herself from the blame. At this time, she certainly spared no effort to respond to Old Madam.

Shao Jie'er also said with anxiety, "Yes. We didn't cheat on the marriage. It's just that the best house has been given to Fifth Sister. Could it be possible to ask her to give it up now? We have to wait until Fifth Sister gets married, after that Miss Zhao can move to it. She has to bear with it a little. It won't take too long, just one month."

She mentioned Shao Wanru again, and it was inevitable. Shao Wanru despised them. She slowly raised her head with an elegant and indifferent smile, "Are we here to compete for the ownership of the house where I live now?"

Chapter 828 Hit the Wrong Target

According to the rule in the capital city, the chambers of the married daughters could be vacated or offered to their other masters.

It was set for the situation that many masters were living in the same mansion. Otherwise, those chambers would remain to be their original owners.

However, the next master couldn't move in until the last one had moved out for half a year. So it would be unusual if Miss Zhao and Shao Hua'an couldn't wait to move to Piaoyun Courtyard as soon as Shao Wanru got married.

Shao Wanru didn't intend to give up her house. In the future, she needed to come back from time to time to visit and back up her younger brother Shao Yuanhao, who would return to the mansion later. Even if she didn't live there herself, her maternal grandma, Great Elder Princess, could stay there when she occasionally came to visit her grandson. She was as worried about Shao Yuanhao as Great Elder Princess.

Moreover, there were not that many masters in Duke Xing's Mansion. There was no need for them to occupy her chamber. But she didn't expect that they had already set their eyes on it earlier!

No matter whose idea it was, she would not give it up. Besides, it seemed that Old Madam and other sisters had ulterior motives.

"Fifth Sister, you... how could you..." Shao Caihuan was totally in panic. She looked at Shao Wanru and then at Old Madam. She didn't want to offend Shao Wanru at all. If it weren't for Old Madam's order, in any case, she wouldn't have dragged Shao Wanru into this matter.

She had thought that it was not a big deal. After Shao Wanru got married, her chamber would be vacant, and her eldest brother could move in. She had never expected that Shao Wanru wouldn't agree. At this moment, she didn't know what to say to prove her innocence.

"Fifth Sister, you will have been married at that time. Are you going to live in your parents' home after getting married?" Shao Jie'er didn't scruple as much as Caihuan. Hearing Shao Wanru's rejection, she questioned with an angry face, wholeheartedly speaking for Old Madam who was beside her.

Shao Wanru cast a glimpse at Old Madam, who was sitting high on the main seat and keeping silent with a cold face. She knew that what Shao Jie'er said was exactly what Old Madam wanted. She smiled, stood up and bowed to Old Madam, "Grandma, I have to go back for my own business. I'll take my leave now.

"Fifth Sister, do you agree or not? Tell us!" Shao Jie'er was irritated. She stood up and stopped Shao Wanru from leaving. She would not let Shao Wanru go until she got a clear answer from the latter.

Shao Wanru was amused by her words. "Are they going to force me to agree?"

It was commonly accepted that an unmarried Miss from an aristocratic family, like Shao Wanru, should be meek and obedient to this kind of thing. Any aristocratic Miss, who was believed to be shy about her marriage, should do anything as told. Plus, an outsider of Minister Zhao's Mansion was here. What Shao Wanru should do was to agree.

"Second Sister, you shouldn't ask for my idea. You should discuss it with Grandmother!" Shao Wanru looked at Shao Jie'er with a cold face but in a gentle voice. Such a great incongruity scared Shao Jie'er and made her have to take a step backward. It seemed that Shao Wanru was able to read her mind, which made her feel inexplicably guilty.

Shao Jie'er gave a secret glance at Old Madam, who was still silent. She knew that Old Madam was not satisfied with what Shao Wanru just said. She made up her mind to force Shao Wanru to agree on it, by no means letting her go so easily.

"What will be the difference if I ask Grandmother? She will absolutely ask for your opinion, inquiring you whether you are reluctant to give up Piaoyun Courtyard." Shao Jie'er continued, "You have been living there since you came back to the mansion, so we understand that you are reluctant to give up your chamber. But how can you let Miss Zhao live in such an ordinary chamber forever? It was planned that she lives in an ordinary one first and then move to Piaoyun Courtyard after you're married. Since you are reluctant..." Shao Jie'er coughed in a deep and low sound and was ready to get straight to the point.

"Okay, I'll give up Piaoyun Courtyard!" Shao Wanru suddenly interrupted. "If eldest brother needs it, I can give it up now!"

Then she turned around and bowed respectfully to the Old Madam, who was a little stunned. Shao Wanru continued to say, "Grandma, I am leaving. Since Third Sister had asked me to go and have a look at the wedding room, I delayed doing my jobs. There are a lot of them to do. I won't chat with you anymore today. As for Piaoyun Courtyard, Grandma, it is up to you how to deal with it. Goodbye!"

She turned around and left with Yujie before Old Madam said anything.

Shao Jie'er was about to say something, but Yujie stepped forward and pulled her aside by grabbing her sleeve. Though Shao Jie'er intended to continue her meaningless argument, she couldn't say anything at the moment.

Shao Wanru had agreed. What else could she say?

As Shao Wanru was getting closer to the door, Shao Jie'er became anxious, with sweat on her forehead. In fact, their purpose was not getting Shao Wanru's Piaoyun Courtyard. Although it was good, it was not worth making such a scene with Shao Wanru for it. What Old Madam wanted was another chamber, but she didn't even have a chance to mention it.

They, with strong confidence and flawless plan, aimed at gaining Quhuan Courtyard from Shao Wanru, but it turned out that their well-plotted plan was totally inefficient and even brought about an unexpected outcome. That made them intolerably aggrieved.

Shao Jie'er was not willing to give up such a good opportunity. She didn't even have the chance to say what Old Madam had told her before. Believing that she would be blamed and even punished by Old Madam if she indeed failed to do so, she shouted at Shao Wanru and decided to say it out loud, "Fifth Sister..." But Shao Wanru's unexpected halt made her pause for a while.

Shao Wanru turned around to Shao Jie'er with a beautiful faint smile and said, "Second Sister, Big Sister once told me that she missed you very much when I met her in the palace. Someone also enquired after your health, worrying that you were hurt when you fell into the pool in the palace!"

After hearing that, Shao Jie'er's anxious heart immediately turned piercingly cold.

Actually, it was Shao Yanru who fell into the water, not Shao Jie'er. They had made a deal to lie to others about it. What Shao Wanru had said suggested that she not only knew the truth but also got evidence to prove it. But who was the "someone"?

At that time, two princes also knew the fact. Could they be the "someone"? If it were in the past, Shao Jie'er would not have been worried that they would give it away. Her Big Sister had a good friendship with them, so they would not say anything even if they knew. But now it was not the same as before. Her Big Sister herself had got into trouble. How could she take care of Shao Jie'er?

"I..." Shao Jie'er opened her mouth, but she couldn't squeeze a word out at all. All she could do was to watch Shao Wanru leave.

After Shao Wanru left, the whole main room was filled with an atmosphere of depression, which made it hard for everyone inside to breathe. With a secret glance at Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion, the supervisor nanny of Minister Zhao's Mansion took the opportunity to leave. She said, still in a hostile attitude, "Old Madam, please tell our Old Madam how you're going to deal with the matter. I'll go back now and report it to our Old Madam first!"

Old Madam replied by waving her hand. Nanny Yu took the initiative to send them out, followed by a group of servants.

Only Shao Jie'er and Shao Caihuan were still there, standing in front of Old Madam.

Old Madam threw her cold glance at Shao Jie'er and Shao Caihuan. She was green with anger. How could she not be angry? They were almost about to make it! But they just ended up failing to stop Shao Wanru from leaving at the last moment. Their target, the Quhuan Courtyard, was even never mentioned.

Old Madam herself wouldn't mention it, so only Shao Jie'er could do that for her. It was unexpected for Old Madam that Shao Jie'er was so of no use, so easily defeated by Shao Wanru. Shao Jie'er didn't even say a word about their target, which, Old Madam thought, was such a waste of her intelligent plot.

"Grandma, I... I..." Shao Jie'er was frightened by Old Madam's gaze. She knelt with a thud and cried in panic. She was really scared. Shao Jie'er had always been afraid of Old Madam and Madam of Duke Xing,

Jiang family. After Old Madam called her over and instructed her on this matter that day, she had decided to make a good performance in front of Old Madam with heart and soul.

She didn't think it was something so difficult to do. All she expected was that she mentioned it, and then Old Madam would take charge of it. As long as she said it out, she completed the task assigned by Old Madam. Contrary to her anticipation, she wasn't able to mention Quhuan Courtyard to Shao Wanru. That was Old Madam's real purpose!

Quhuan Courtyard was where the last Heir of Duke Xing should have lived, and it was also the chamber particularly for every heir of a duke of Duke Xing's Mansion.

But the last nominated owner didn't live there because he had been ennobled directly before becoming the Heir.

If Shao Hua'an lived in Quhuan Courtyard, it was almost equivalent that he was admitted to be the Heir of Duke Xing. And if it was approved by Shao Wanru, that could be a perfect excuse for Duke Xing's Mansion to rebuke the dissidents, especially Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

This was also the reason why Shao Jie'er suddenly changed her point when she was asking Shao Wanru to give up Piaoyun Courtyard. She thought that if Shao Wanru refused to give up Piaoyun Courtyard, she would have to promise to give up Quhuan Courtyard instead.

Quhuan Courtyard had been vacant for a long time. Shao Wanru had refused to offer it once, so it wouldn't be possible that she would change her mind.

As long as Shao Wanru agreed to give up Quhuan Courtyard, Old Madam would immediately order her servants to overnight move all the stuff she had prepared for Shao Hua'an into that house. At that time, it would be too late for Rui'an Great Elder Princess to stop it. It was a competition of speed. This dream of Old Madam almost came true if Shao Wanru said yes in a momentary carelessness.

In the future, Shao Wanru's agreement would have been Old Madam's strong evidence if there were any unfavorable comments. At that time, Shao Wanru would have been seen as a selfish person who voluntarily gave up Quhuan Courtyard to keep her Piaoyun Courtyard.

The Piaoyun Courtyard was not their final target, but Quhuan Courtyard was. But Shao Jie'er didn't even mention it. How could Old Madam not be angry?

Noticing that Old Madam was staring at her with fierce eyes, Shao Jie'er was scared to death, with drops of sweat coming out on her forehead. She kowtowed heavily to Old Madam twice and stammered, "Grandma, I... I will go and ask again Fifth Sister to give Quhuan Courtyard to Big Brother!"

But Old Madam was enraged by her, and nearly picked up the teacup on the table and threw it at Shao Jie'er. "Shao Jie'er is really a concubine's daughter, who is too stupid to see through the situation. Does she think that it is the proper time to say it again?"

"You... Go and copy the Woman Precepts!" Old Madam gritted her teeth and said hatefully.

"Yes, Grandma, I... I'll do what you said..." Shao Jie'er stood up, wiped off her tears and rushed to leave, acting as if she had been just granted amnesty.

She was stopped by Old Madam before she got out of the house. "Copy it in your eldest brother's bridal chamber. Do it through the night! You are not allowed to sleep tonight!"

Chapter 829 That's the Reason Why She Was So Nice to Me?

At this time, as long as Old Madam would not punish her, Shao Jie'er was willing to do anything. After leaving with sweat all over her forehead, she stood at the door of the courtyard, feeling angry and annoyed. She wondered why she had been frightened by Shao Wanru just now and couldn't even say a word?

"Miss..." The servant girl said timidly.

"Let's go!" Shao Jie'er gritted her teeth and turned to leave. When she finished copying Woman Precepts as Old Madam had told her, she decided to tell Shao Wanru about it. She did not believe that she had no chance to say it.

Not only did she have to say it, but she also had to create an opportunity where there were as many people as possible to force Shao Wanru to agree so as to please Old Madam.

Thinking of Old Madam's promise before, Shao Jie'er was very tempted by it. This was her chance, and she would not give it up.

In the main room, Shao Caihuan stood with her head down and her heart in a panic. She knew some things and there were also things she did not know of. She had guessed that she had only done one thing right, which was to take Shao Wanru there. For this matter, she had completed it.

Different from Shao Jie'er, she didn't want to get involved in this kind of thing at all.

But since it was not difficult, she didn't care about it much so she agreed. But now, she regretted it very much. If she had known that it would be like this, she would never have intervened. In fact, it had nothing to do with her. Anyway, the heir of the duke would be chosen between the first and the second branch, which meant that the third branch had nothing to do with it.

However, since it was her father's order, she thought it was not difficult. So she agreed.

"Grandma..." Seeing Old Madam's gloomy face, Shao Caihuan uttered.

"You can leave now!" Old Madam said coldly.

Shao Caihuan still wanted to say something, but when she looked at Old Madam's face, she didn't dare to say anything more. She didn't want to get involved in this matter. Since her grandma no longer asked her for anything, it was the best for her to leave.

Shao Caihuan came out of the main room with her servant girl. After standing in the yard and thinking for a while, she went out of the yard and went straight to Shao Wanru's Piaoyun Courtyard. She had to explain to Shao Wanru because she really didn't know that things would turn out like this.

When she arrived at the Piaoyun Courtyard and was about to step into it, she saw Nanny Yu coming over with a smile before this woman bowed to her. "Third Miss!"

"Did Fifth Sister ever come back?" Shao Caihuan asked anxiously. She was really anxious, for fear that something unexpected would happen at this time and she would be blamed again!

"She is back!" Nanny Yu answered with a smile.

"That's good!" Shao Caihuan exhaled a sigh of relief and was about to leave. "I'll go and see my Fifth Sister!"

"Third Miss, please wait a minute!" Nanny Yu took a step back and blocked Shao Caihuan's way.

Shao Caihuan stood still, looked at Nanny Yu in confusion, and asked, "Is there anything else?"

"No, but my Miss was very tired when she came back just now. Now she has laid down and has been resting for only a little while. Third Miss, you'd better come back later!" Nanny Yu refused with a smile.

Shao Caihuan looked up at the sky. Now that the lunch break had passed, and she once heard Shao Wanru would not usually rest at this time. So she found it very ridiculous that Shao Wanru would be resting at this time.

But even if she knew that it was fake, Shao Caihuan couldn't just break in. She could only say with a smile, "Since she's resting, I'll come over to see her later and explain it to her!"

After saying that, she turned around helplessly. She really didn't want to offend Shao Wanru at all. She deliberately looked for Shao Wanru to reconcile and explain.

"Farewell, Third Miss!" Nanny Yu smiled with a nice attitude, looked at Shao Caihuan's back, bowed, and then watched her leave.

Nanny Yu didn't return to the main room until the girl left the yard and disappeared at a junction in front.

Shao Wanru was sitting under the window in the main room, looking out of the window with her deep eyes. She had seen Shao Caihuan coming over just now clearly. But that girl didn't notice her. If the gauze curtain fell on the ground, people inside could see the outside, but people outside couldn't see the inside clearly.

"Miss, the Third Miss has gone back!" Yujie said.

Shao Wanru nodded, picked up the teacup on the table, took a sip, and then slowly put it down. She leaned back in the chair, and her eyes became increasingly cold.

At that moment, she did want to refuse directly, but inexplicably, she suddenly thought of another thing. She immediately agreed, and then left decisively, without even giving Shao Jie'er a chance to speak.

It had been so long since the last incident, and no one had taken any further suspicious action. She had neglected it and thought that they were no longer interested in Qu Huan Courtyard. Unexpectedly, they mentioned it at this critical moment, and she almost fell into their trap.

These people were truly unscrupulous.

"Miss, what should we do now?" Yujie, who was with Shao Wanru just now, also felt the tense atmosphere. At this time, she couldn't help looking at Shao Wanru's beautiful and cold side face and asked.

Shao Wanru picked up the teacup and took another sip. After putting down the teacup, she looked at the curling smoke on the tea table and said slowly, "Go and ask Qing'er to come over!"

Now the only person who could secretly spread the news was Qing'er!

"I'll ask Qing'er to come over right away!" Yujie said, turned around, and went down. She happened to meet Nanny Yu. She nodded to Nanny Yu silently and winked at the main room to suggest that Miss was angry.

Nanny Yu smiled and nodded, indicating that she understood.

The two passed by each other. Nanny Yu lifted the curtain and came in. Seeing Shao Wanru sitting in front of the window with her back to her, she knew that Shao Wanru must have seen the scene just now.

"Miss, Third Miss has gone back, but she will come back later!" Nanny Yu reported.

"If she comes again, just say that I haven't woken up yet and have to continue sleeping!" Shao Wanru suddenly said with a smile on her bright lips. Her smile was no longer mild, but a little cold.

Nanny Yu hesitated for a moment but still asked, "Miss, if Third Miss comes here all the time in the future, we should still use this excuse?"

Just now, Shao Caihuan seemed to be unwilling to give up. She would definitely come here again and would not give up until she saw Shao Wanru.

"Nanny Yu, why do you think Third Sister will come here?" Shao Wanru suddenly asked lazily. Shao Caihuan had been too enthusiastic about her recently and developed a good relationship with her. Based on what had happened in the palace, Shao Caihuan should never get along with her so well.

And the consequences of what had happened in the palace finally happened to Shao Caihuan. However, Shao Wanru, who should have been in trouble, was fine. Even if Shao Caihuan had no real evidence, she would definitely suspect Shao Wanru, instead of seemingly being very concerned about Shao Wanru.

Just like what had happened today, Shao Caihuan should know something about it, but what she knew should not be much. That was why she was in a hurry to explain it to Shao Wanru.

Although she was the legitimate daughter of the main branch, Shao Caihuan was not inferior either. She was the legitimate daughter of the third branch. Now it was the Third Madam who was in charge of the mansion, so Shao Caihuan didn't have to be humble in front of her at all.

No! She was not only humble but also docile. This was the impression Shao Caihuan did not give to Shao Wanru in the past.

"I can't say for sure!" Nanny Yu shook her head. She couldn't figure out the reason why Third Miss was so congenial to her Miss.

Initially, before entering the palace, although the Third Miss and her Miss were close, they were not so good like this. During this period of time, Nanny Yu had seen it and felt that the Third Miss put her Miss first in everything. That girl would definitely agree to anything Shao Wanru said and was willing to help her Miss without any complaint. It could be said that she had no selfish motives at all.

She couldn't figure out what Third Miss meant.

"Nanny Yu, do you remember when Third Miss started treating me well?" Shao Wanru smiled slightly and reminded herself of it when reminding Nanny Yu.

Had she done something to make Shao Caihuan think that she could benefit from Shao Wanru? But Shao Wanru didn't think that she had done anything to make Shao Caihuan feel that way.

It had been a few days since she was engaged, but Shao Caihuan didn't come to please her, so it was not about the marriage.

"Miss... I know something... I don't know if it is true!" Being asked by Shao Wanru, Nanny Yu suddenly remembered something and hesitated. In fact, she really didn't know whether it was true or not and didn't dare to say it.

"Nanny Yu, tell me!" Shao Wanru said gently. There were no outsiders in the room. Even if Nanny Yu said something insane, no one would know it.

"Uh..." Nanny Yu was still a little hesitant, but after thinking about it, she felt that she had to tell the Miss about it. Initially, she thought it must be fake, but after listening to the Miss's words, she felt that it might be true. "I heard that when Prince Chen personally sent betrothal gifts that day, Third Miss and Fourth Miss went to see him!"

"And then?" Shao Wanru didn't understand for a moment. She turned her head and asked with her eyebrows raised.

"I heard that Fourth Miss went back early, but Third Miss didn't come back until His Highness went back!" Nanny Yu said meaningfully.

Shao Wanru didn't understand the meaning of her words at first. She blinked her clear eyes blankly and looked at Nanny Yu's strange expression for a long time. She pursed her cherry lips and asked at a loss, "Could it be... that Third Sister has been hiding there and watching all the time?"

"I think so. I didn't pay much attention to it at that time and thought it was impossible. But now seeing that the Third Miss is so humble to you and wants to please you, I think it's... possible!" Nanny Yu's words sounded more and more ambiguous.

Shao Wanru was unable to accept such a piece of news for a while. She had imagined all kinds of other reasons, but she had never thought of such a reason.

It was said that Shao Jie'er was going to give out her marriage. And what was her marriage? Shao Jie'er was going to marry Commandery Prince Qing? It was impossible for her to be the legal wife, so she could only be a consort.

Chu Qing, who was also the son of the former prince had no advantage in other aspects, except that he was in better health, compared with Chu Liuchen. Moreover, when Chu Liuchen sent the betrothal gifts to her that day, it also broke the rumor that he might die at any time.

If these aspects combined, Chu Liuchen was completely superior to Chu Qing!

Chapter 830 Ghost Shadows in the Midnight

That was to say, if Shao Caihuan approved of the marriage offered by Shao Jie'er, she had probably been tempted by Chu Liuchen. Besides, even if Shao Wanru was reborn, she couldn't deny that Chu Liuchen was so handsome, gentle and elegant, as if he were a young man only existing in a painting.

However, it was just the appearance.

Shao Wanru kept in silence for a while. Her long eyelashes cast irregular shadows under her half-closed watery eyes, which showed her slight tiredness.

"Miss, Qing'er has come!" Yujie's voice broke the silence in the room. Shao Wanru raised her head and nodded to Nanny Yu to show that she had got it.

Seeing Yujie come in with Qing'er, Nanny Yu left, understanding that Shao Wanru needed to have a private conversation with others.

"Qing'er, do we have people available now?" Shao Wanru took a deep breath to suppress the displeasure in her heart, looked up and asked.

When Shao Wanru had been in the Yuhui Nunnery, it was easy for Qing'er to transfer the servants offered by Chu Liuchen. However, she was in Duke Xing's Mansion now. She didn't know whether it would be difficult for Qing'er to do the same or not.

"Miss, I can find someone for you as long as you send me to walk around outside the mansion!" Qing'er said.

"Good! Ask someone to come in the mansion at midnight." Shao Wanru nodded and said. At least, it was not difficult for her to send Qing'er out.

"Miss, should we inform His Highness?" Qing'er said with anxiety.

"No!" Shao Wanru shook her head. Then she asked after a pause, "The people will surely get our message, right?"

"Yes, you can rest assured, Miss!" Qing'er said with a nod. Although it was inconvenient for the people, who were exactly the ones sent to protect Shao Wanru in the Yuhui Nunnery, to sneak into Duke Xing's Mansion during the day, they had been always guarding outside the mansion in case their master was in danger. But they could creep in at night if their master ordered so.

"Go outside and buy some candied fruits for me. If anyone asks, just tell them that I want to eat some lighter, because those in the mansion are not to my taste!"

"Yes, Miss!" Qing'er took Shao Wanru's order and left. She was not a first-class principal maid, so it was simpler for her to go in and out of the mansion than for others including Yujie.

“Miss, is something about to happen tonight?” Yujie looked at Qing’er’s back and asked cautiously in a low voice.

“They have had such a plot, and haven’t reached their goal yet. So I believe they will take another step to make it by forcing me. After a few days later, I will have come up with a solution, not to mention my grandma!” Shao Wanru said in a low voice. It sounded like she was talking to herself.

“Miss?” Yujie became increasingly confused. After thinking for a while, she asked in confusion, “Do you mean that Old Madam and Second Miss have a follow-up plan?”

Yujie had seen it clear when they were at Old Madam’s that what Second Miss said and did must have something to do with Old Madam. Every time Second Miss made up her mind to say something, she always glanced at Old Madam subconsciously.

Shao Wanru didn’t reply but slightly smiled. In fact, she was not very sure about the answer to Yujie’s question. But she was assured that tonight would be a key point for them. If they planned to pay a hostile visit to her, she could refuse them out with a “resting” reason. So what would they do to make her fail to reject?

Shao Wanru faintly smiled, with a bit of coldness on her beautiful face, which made Yujie have an ominous feeling...

Although it had been already the beginning of spring, the weather was still cold, especially in the evening when it was so freezing that it made people tremble. If there was nothing to do, everyone would go back to rest early. When there was a warm bed to lie in, no one was willing to stay outside. No sooner had the night fallen than the lights in many houses were lit up.

The room where Shao Jie’er stayed was lit up too. But as a wing room, it was not bright. The bridal room in the same house had not been well-decorated yet, hence it was so messy and it was difficult to find a place to stay.

The chamber was indeed not a good one. It was casually decorated, and there were no warming facilities in the wing room. Although Shao Jie’er was holding a hand-warmer, she was still trembling because of the cold. How was it possible for her to write?

She asked the servant girl to remove aside things around the room so that there was more space for another stove that was just brought there, which finally made the room a little warmer.

“Miss, are we really going to stay here for a whole night?” Her servant girl Liuxiang coughed a few times.

The charcoal in the stove was cheap. It made people cough, especially when getting close to it. She didn’t get the good one when she asked for some just now.

“Just stay!” Shao Jie’er seemed to have a much better mood now. Although she was trembling with cold, she was no longer as bad-tempered as before.

But Liuxiang remembered that the moment she went to fetch the coal, her master was still angry and kept speaking ill of the Fifth Miss and the Third Miss.

At this time, she should not be scolding anyone. Shao Jie'er, with her warmed hands, seemed to be going to do the copying job. Only a few things were copied on the paper on the table, and they were actually dotted ink.

Shao Jie'er narrowed her eyes, and then warmed her hands again. Then she moved her hands away from the stove, but felt freezing cold at once. She walked to the desk and picked up the writing brush, finding that her fingers were stiff.

Holding the brush, she stood before the desk for a moment. Suddenly, an idea flashed through her mind and she began to scribble on the paper.

"Miss, you will be caught by Old Madam!" Liuxiang was totally scared by her master, and her face turned pale. Since Shao Jie'er was not favored, she, as her girl, was certainly not. Shao Jie'er's mother, Concubine Lu, was given the right to help manage the domestic affairs of the mansion, and then Liuxiang would not be slighted any more as Second Miss's servant girl. But, she had not adjusted her mind yet. At this moment, she rushed to hold Shao Jie'er's hand with a panic.

"Miss, take it seriously. Otherwise, Old Madam will order you to stay here and copy books all the time!" Liuxiang pleaded, still holding Shao Jie'er's hand.

Not only the Miss but also her servants would be punished. They might be beaten or even sold. Remembering that some former servant girls of the Second Miss had ended up being sold, Liuxiang was too frightened to be tough.

Every time Second Miss lost her temper and stirred up trouble, it was always them, her servant girls, who suffered a lot.

More hopelessly, Second Miss still knew nothing about the situation, and became complacent as soon as she felt a little proud for what she had done. In the end, both she and her servants unluckily got into trouble.

"What are you afraid of? Relax!" Shao Jie'er said indifferently. She shook off Liuxiang's hand, continued dripping ink on the paper, and drew haphazardly.

Liuxiang trembled like a falling leaf in the wind. With a pale face, she said in a begging tone, "Miss!"

It was not the first time for Shao Jie'er to say that. Liuxiang did not believe her at all.

"Don't worry. They will be burned soon, and no ink points will be seen. Who will know what I have done, copying it carefully or just doing some drawing casually?" Shao Jie'er became more and more impatient. Thinking of the old maid who had just come secretly to pass Old Madam's message, she raised the corners of her mouth to show a very proud smile.

"Why... why can't they be seen?" Liuxiang was not a very smart servant girl. In fact, she couldn't be smart if she followed such a master, who had always lost the smart girls, and Jiang family never intended to leave any smart and responsible servants for her.

"In a while, the paper will be burned in the fire. Who cares what words I have written on it? We should bless that I will survive it then!" Shao Jie'er looked up at the horizontal beam above her head and clicked her tongue with pity. "This room doesn't look good, but it's not bad!"

Shao Jie'er's words were still beyond Liuxiang's understanding, but she was almost scared to collapse on the ground when hearing the word "survive".

She stammered, "Why, why will Miss survive something? Is... is it because of a fire? Then, then we should run away right now!"

Liuxiang tried to guess what her master meant by picking several words and connecting them into sentences.

"Not now. In a while!" Shao Jie'er lowered her head and began to scribble again and again. She was enjoying herself, relaxed and calm without any panic, which was so unusual.

"How long should we wait? Miss... why will the fire start?" Liuxiang was still in confusion. She looked around cautiously and found that there were piles of furniture around them, untidied and all in a mess, looking like countless ghosts in the dark.

Liuxiang was scared, and cold too. That made her teeth start chattering.

"Miss... Miss..." Liuxiang called her master again as Shao Jie'er ignored her.

"Stop calling me. It's annoying!" Shao Jie'er said unhappily. Of course, the fire would start, because she would personally set it up. And surely, she was not anxious and would wait for the right time, which was according to Old Madam's order. The fire could not be set on the chamber too early in case that it would be put out at once after too many people noticed it.

"Miss... Miss..." Liuxiang called again, and her eyes timidly blinked. "What... what's over there...?"

"What again?" Shao Jie'er said with annoyance.

"It's over there... outside the window. Miss, I seem to see a white figure..." Liuxiang pointed to the outside of the window. Her teeth chattered louder and louder, and even Shao Jie'er could hear it.

Shao Jie'er subconsciously raised her head and looked out of the window. There was nothing but the dark sky.

"Miss... there's something indeed... Look... look..." Liuxiang suddenly screamed and huddled up, hugging her head.

Shao Jie'er looked at Liuxiang first, and turned to the window immediately after understanding her broken sentences, but she still saw nothing. But that made Shao Jie'er become frightened, too. She could sense that her hand, the one with the writing brush in it, was cold and stiff.

"Nonsense!" Shao Jie'er tried her best to calm down and said harshly.

"Miss... Miss, I'm not talking nonsense. Indeed, there was a white shadow, a... a ghost face flashing past the window... and it is not far from you..." Liuxiang was so scared, crying, huddling together, and trembling.

Shao Jie'er also trembled. Liuxiang had never lied to her. But she saw nothing when she looked back. Suddenly, she remembered some rumors in the past about ghosts in the mansion. She sat in the chair in panic and didn't even dare to raise her head, just trembling.

After a long while, she made a huge decision. She gritted her teeth and stood up, struggling to drag her feet to the desk where the oil lamp was placed. She picked up the oil lamp and lit up a fallen curtain...

She dared not to wait any longer...