

Medical Princess 841

Chapter 841 Annul the Marriage?

With the fear of somehow provoking Prince Chen, Old Madam answered him with utmost carefulness, trying her best to meet his needs. She had heard that Prince Chen was actually a temperamental and evil man instead of being as gentle and elegant as he appeared. Moreover, she had seen his cold face just now.

"In a while. I am not in a hurry!" Chu Liuchen said with indifference, the slight smile on his face showing a trace of impatience.

Old Madam was anxious inwardly because she had no idea what had offended Chu Liuchen again. For a moment, she didn't know what to say and just discreetly followed behind him.

Chu Liuchen said nothing more and walked forward with his hands clasped behind his back.

He just walked around in the yard and didn't go into the main house, for which Old Madam breathed a sigh of relief. She was so afraid that he would walk into the main house without asking permission, and she couldn't stop him if he did so.

"Haven't you decided who is the heir of the duke?" Chu Liuchen suddenly stopped, gave a sidelong glance at Old Madam, and asked her with a smile.

It was a difficult question to answer, so Old Madam became more cautious. "It is still a matter of no great urgency. We have to wait and see!"

"Who is your preference, Old Madam?" Chu Liuchen asked again.

"I... I have never thought of this!" Old Madam didn't dare to mention Shao Hua'an's name.

"You haven't thought of it yet? Well, it is apparent that the First Young Master of your mansion is not valued!" Chu Liuchen turned around and walked out of the courtyard.

Not daring to respond to such a comment on her grandson, Old Madam pretended that she didn't hear it. She lowered her head and followed Prince Chen out of the courtyard.

"Old Madam, I'm going to meet Fifth Miss Shao! See you next time." Chu Liuchen waved his hand and said to Old Madam as if he were the host after going out of the gate.

Old Madam should have followed him, but she failed to say it out because of his snooty attitude just now, afraid that he would say something sharper.

After thinking for a while, Old Madam calmed down and said to Shao Caihuan with a smile, "Caihuan, you lead the way for His highness!"

"Yes, grandma!" Shao Caihuan was overjoyed. She bowed to Old Madam with great delight. It was such a hard-won opportunity to get along with Prince Chen. How could she not be happy?

She thought that she would get the chance to talk to Prince Chen without Old Madam's supervision.

“Old Madam, you send her to follow me. Does it mean that you want to keep an eye on me?” Chu Liuchen asked after casting a cold glance at Shao Caihuan.

“No! How dare I have such a bad thought? I’m just afraid that Your Highness might be unaware of the way.” Old Madam hastened to explain, and she was so nervous that she even didn’t dare to breathe. By no means did she want to offend this prince.

“Then a servant is enough to lead the way for me. Is Third Miss of your mansion a close friend of mine? Hasn’t Old Madam ever considered that it’s improper that a woman and a man stay together without anyone else? I am still an unmarried man. If my reputation is ruined, it will be hard for me to explain myself at that time!”

Chu Liuchen said with great displeasure. He glanced at Shao Caihuan with sarcasm and coldness in his eyes. The latter’s face turned pale at first and then extremely red.

Old Madam felt terribly ashamed, and the expressions on her face changed from scaredness to embarrassment. Indeed she had such a plot, but she also felt it shameful that her disgraceful plan was seen through and directly uncovered by Chu Liuchen. What’s more, his sharp questions and rebukes were such a heavy slap in her face that Old Madam was incapable to resist them. She could only be shamed with her face going red.

Your Highness, it is all my fault! Hello, there! Lead His Highness to Quhuan Courtyard! Old Madam lowered her head and said.

Seeing the scene, Nanny Yu hurried to stand out to take the job. She saved Old Madam from embarrassment.

After Chu Liuchen and Nanny Yu left, Shao Caihuan burst into tears. At that moment, she was so ashamed and embarrassed that she wanted to hide in a hole on the ground and never came out.

“Stop crying, you fool!” Old Madam said coldly and glared at Shao Caihuan. “You were not the only one who was insulted.” Old Madam blamed everything on Shao Caihuan, thinking that if it weren’t for Shao Caihuan’s obvious affection for Prince Chen, she wouldn’t have had such a stupid idea. But it turned out that both of them were humiliated by Chu Liuchen.

“Grandma...” Shao Caihuan cried so hard that she couldn’t make a sound.

“Go back to your house. If you don’t stop crying, your face will be ruined! That will make it more difficult for you to marry someone! Moreover, you’d better stop thinking of getting things that are impossible for you to have.” Old Madam scolded her in a harsh tone. She was in a bad mood, so she was not in the mood to comfort Shao Caihuan at the time.

On finishing her words, she turned around and left, followed by a group of servants. Shao Caihuan was left alone, sobbing. She did not dare to cry anymore, afraid that the tears would aggravate the scars on her face.

She turned to look into the distance, where she saw Chu Liuchen’s vague figure which was tall and straight. “Why does such a beautiful man belong to Shao Wanru? Why is Shao Wanru able to be treated with his kindness? Why was it impossible for me to get what I want? I didn’t ask for much. I didn’t ask for the position of his legal wife. I just wanted to be a consort of him!”

She stamped her feet and ran back to her courtyard with her face covered. She was going to ask her father for help. She believed that as her father had succeeded in asking Shao Jie'er to give up her marriage, he could be able to help her to get a position of a concubine from her Fifth Sister.

No matter whom she married, Shao Caihuan was doomed to be a concubine. In such a case, she would rather marry into Prince Chen's Mansion than Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion...

A carriage was slowly moving forward. For quite a while, it was silent inside until Old Madam Zhao sighed, looked at her granddaughter sitting next to her with compassion and love, and then asked, "Ran'er, what do you think of it?"

"I think Prince Chen is satisfied with his marriage with Fifth Miss Shao. After all, she's the granddaughter of Rui'an Great Elder Princess, who has always kept a close relationship with Empress Dowager. For this reason, Fifth Miss Shao is special enough in Prince Chen's eye. What's more, I bet Prince Chen is close to Great Elder Princess because both of them are intimate with Empress Dowager!"

Zhao Xiran gave an analysis with a gentle face. She looked calm and even indifferent as if what she said had nothing to do with her at all.

"I am afraid there is more than meets the eye." Old Madam Zhao shook her head and said. It was the first time that she had met Fifth Miss Shao, and at that time she had had some opinions on her and now elaborated them slowly. "It is said that the First Miss Shao is the most beautiful woman. Even if she is stuck in such a dilemma now, she will certainly have a prosperous future. In my opinion, Fifth Miss Shao is more outstanding than any other girl. She is as beautiful and elegant as a peony, with a mixed aura of charm and indifference. There is no doubt that Shao Wanru is a gorgeous beauty!"

"Grandma, although there are few beauties in the world, they are not 'endangered species'! Based on Prince Chen's temperament, I don't think he will keep taking a fancy to Fifth Miss Shao though a beauty like her has won his heart." Zhao Xiran had an idea slightly different from Old Madam Zhao.

She had always been both intelligent and well-informed. "In terms of appearance, Prince Chen himself is an incomparably handsome man."

"With a relatively high status and a beautiful look, Fifth Miss Shao has more advantages than other women. If her biological brother becomes the Heir of Duke Xing in the future, Prince Chen will benefit more from it!" Zhao Xiran said with an extremely indifferent attitude as if she was not going to marry into Duke Xing's Mansion and become Shao Hua'an's wife soon.

She was viewing this matter from a perspective of an outsider.

"If it is true, your marital engagement with Shao Hua'an is an inappropriate decision!" Old Madam Zhao frowned tightly. Her original intention of choosing Shao Hua'an for marriage was to make her granddaughter become the wife of Heir of Duke Xing. In Old Madam Zhao's view, if he was merely a First Young Master, his identity couldn't match her granddaughter's, the eldest Miss in Minister Zhao's Mansion.

At this time, Old Madam Zhao regretted agreeing on this marriage of her granddaughter. At first, she thought that it was a piece of cake to realize her ambition, but it became more difficult with many uncertain factors brought by Prince Chen's intervention.

Zhao Xiran didn't say anything. Before she met Prince Chen, she had always thought that he didn't care too much for Shao Wanru. But when they were all in the flower hall, she could tell that he must have different feelings for Shao Wanru from those for other women. Although she didn't know how much Prince Chen cared for Shao Wanru, or whether it was all because of her attractive appearance, Zhao Xiran was very sure that the man's feeling was true now!

"If it is really a bad decision, why don't we just annul the engagement?" Seeing that her granddaughter did not speak, Old Madam Zhao persuaded her in a low voice. In fact, Old Madam Zhao had never thought highly of this marriage, which was why it had been delayed for such a long time. They had discussed it for about three years before it was settled. The reason was also that she was dissatisfied with it.

At that time, it was Zhao Xiran's hasty agreement that finally settled the marriage. But now Old Madam Zhao regretted it.

"Although it is not good for a woman to break the betrothal, we can make it delayed with some excuses until people of Duke Xing's Mansion become impatient and break the betrothal first." Old Madam Zhao advised, afraid that Zhao Xiran would feel wronged.

"Grandma, there is no need to cancel it. My marriage is still beneficial to us! Prince Chen may not be interested in Fifth Miss Shao for long. Why don't we just wait and see?" Zhao Xiran shook her head and said. Chu Liuchen's smiling face flashed in her mind. "He was extremely handsome and gentle. He seemed to be very kind to everyone, right?"

"Are you indeed going to marry into Duke Xing's Mansion?" Old Madam Zhao asked and sighed. She didn't think it was a good idea, but she loved her granddaughter so much that the latter was allowed to make her own decisions on this matter.

Her eldest granddaughter had always been a sensible and talented girl. Although she was a girl in the inner court, she had such great intelligence that even her elder brother was not in her league. Her father always said with a pity that it would be wonderful if his eldest daughter were a man. In such a case she could maintain her status in Minister Zhao's Mansion for at least 20 or 30 years. Unfortunately, she was a daughter.

Because of Zhao Xiran's cleverness, Old Madam Zhao liked to discuss many things with her and she also listened to her eldest granddaughter's words. Old Madam Zhao cherished her as if she were a treasure. She never became worried when her eldest granddaughter's marriage was delayed again and again, because she felt that her eldest granddaughter deserved a better partner than the First Young Master of Duke Xing's Mansion, who, she believed, was unworthy.

For the sake of striving for her eldest granddaughter's prestige, she even went to Duke Xing's Mansion and cooperated with Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion to perform a play. So under the situation that her eldest granddaughter deserved a better marriage, Old Madam Zhao felt aggrieved that Duke Xing's Mansion could not promise to give the position of the wife of the Heir of Duke Xing.

"Don't worry, Grandma. Since the marriage has been decided, just let it go on with the plan. No one can tell what will happen to it in the future. What's more, it's also father's idea that I marry into Duke Xing's

Mansion,” Zhao Xiran said with a smile. Her eyes were gentle and her smile was light. She showed no shyness that should be seen when talking about marriage.

It seemed that she was talking about others’ affairs. Although she had an aura out of ordinary, she lacked the gentleness of a girl who was about to get married.

Seeing that Old Madam Zhao still wanted to say something, Zhao Xiran shook her head with a smile. “Grandma, don’t try to persuade me anymore. I know what I am doing. For my father and our mansion, I don’t regret it. No matter what happens in the future, I have no complaints!”

Everything would be impossible unless she married into Duke Xing’s Mansion! She had to get married no matter how reluctant she was. After all, what she wanted was more than the position of the legal wife of the Heir of Duke Xing...

Chapter 842 Go Ahead and Cry! I Am Here for You

When Chu Liuchen came over, Shao Wanru was still quietly looking at the screen wall in front of her. She moved her eyes from up to down reading almost every word on it, and at the same time she was recalling her father’s faint figure deep in her memory. She bit her lip gently, trying hard to stop the tears in her eyes.

She didn’t want to cry, especially not in front of the screen wall.

That was the screen wall of her father, on which every character, whose styles changed from naive to mature, was written by her father.

Without her father, she was like duckweed or willow twigs belonging nowhere. In her last life, she was always oppressed as a pile of muds was doomed to be trampled on the ground, so she wasn’t able to keep the handwriting of her father.

In this life, she would spare no efforts to guard the courtyard and the screen wall, keeping everything of her father lively.

“Still reading it?” Chu Liuchen’s gentle voice came to her ears.

“Excellent writings of Father!” Shao Wanru sniffed and answered softly, eyes still fixed on the screen wall in front of her.

“Do you want to keep this courtyard?” Chu Liuchen could see through Shao Wanru’s mind. He reached out to take her hands apart, which were tightly holding together, and then wrapped one of her hands with his big, cold one. With their elbows relaxed, his wide sleeve slipped down and covered the two tight-holding hands from anyone else’s sights.

A bit cold as it was, Chu Liuchen’s hand was still warmer than Shao Wanru’s. And the warmth instantly saved her from the world of cold sorrow, in which she felt a trace of bone-chilling coldness spreading from her limbs to her heart, and then from her heart to the whole body.

Fortunately, she was saved from it by Chu Liuchen.

She turned around and looked at Chu Liuchen, praising in her heart that he had such charming eyes, which, when he was either happy or angry, looked as watery and bright as ripples. It seemed that they

could see through people's hearts. Being stared at by him, Shao Wanru could see it clear that there were silent affections and fondnesses filled with his eyes.

Biting her lip, she started to feel nervous. She tried to slip her hand out of his big one but failed. He held it so tight and showed no sign of letting go that she even felt hurt. However, the pain made her come to the sense that it was not her last life but this life.

She relaxed her hand slowly and just let it be held in his. She lowered her eyes, no longer alert and nervous. With a little tiredness, her long eyelashes fluttered like the wings of a tired butterfly.

Suddenly, she sensed a pull on her hand, and in a moment she uncontrollably fell forward into his arms. Then Chu Liuchen's gentle voice came to her ears. "Just cry if you want to. I'm here for you!"

Shao Wanru subconsciously pushed him away, thinking that it was not conventional. Despite the situation that no one else could see what they were doing, because there were no outsiders, and they were standing behind the screen wall, they were still in Duke Xing's Mansion after all. Although they were engaged, they had not been married yet. Anyway, Shao Wanru didn't consider it a good idea to behave like that.

But the next moment, her pushing hand suddenly stopped and she hugged Chu Liuchen back with deeply burying her head in his arms. At this moment, her sense was entirely dissipated by her sensibility.

Originally, she had planned to send Qing'er to ask him to send a helper, but she didn't expect that he came here in person. When she saw Chu Liuchen today, she felt soft and warm in her heart, excited and touched. It was such a warmhearted manner that she couldn't help losing control of her behavior.

Stunned for a moment, Chu Liuchen also reached out to hug Shao Wanru, gently patted her in the back, and comforted her in a soft and gentle voice. "It's okay. They don't dare to bully you at will."

As he was saying this, a trace of hostility flashed in his eyes and a thought came into being in his mind. Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion lived in the inner court and didn't often show up in public. So he couldn't do anything to her for the time being. However, he could do something to Duke Xing when they met.

Chu Liuchen never cared about whether they were elders or not. As long as Shao Wanru hated them, he would hate them too. He just wanted to spoil her without principles.

He was moved by the body in his arms. It was petite and soft. And he had never felt more at ease. It seemed that something missing in his life had been found back and he felt that it was complete at the moment.

It was the best to describe his feelings right at the moment. Never had he known when he had put her in his heart and when he had fallen in love with her.

Since he had consciousness, he had known that he hated the world, hated everything he had seen and known, and hated those covered secrets. He also hated himself very much.

The congenital disease? He never cared about it, and never intended to live a good life. He had made many secret plans, none of which was to get what he wanted but to cause a disturbance or to destroy something. "Since I disliked everything, why not destroy them all?"

Wouldn't it be better to destroy everything, including himself?

But everything changed during the girl walked slowly into his heart. He had no awareness when he began to cherish his life. Instead of being careless with his health, he began to take the initiative to ask for treatments because he didn't want to die young. He wanted to live a long life with the girl in his heart!

He looked down and made some space between him and Shao Wanru. Then his lips gently fell on her fair forehead. But his eyes were fixed on her pink and tender cherry lips, which looked so delicate and charming all the time. Anyway, he couldn't do anything outside now.

He sighed helplessly and slowly suppressed the desires deep in his heart. Actually, he wanted more.

But he could do nothing but restrain himself. It was not that he wasn't bold enough. He had always been wanton and never cared about what other people would say. But he was afraid that his Zhuozhuo would be shy and angry. Therefore, he could only restrain himself.

"After we get married, I can stay with her without scruples. It will be soon! Very soon!"

He pulled Shao Wanru into his arms again and patted her on her slender back gently. He was giving supports to her in silence and she was allowed to quietly stay in his arms after relaxing all her vigilance.

Yujie and Xiao Xuanzi had early retreated to the other side of the screen wall to leave private space for the two.

"What is First Miss Zhao like?" Shao Wanru asked softly after a long while. Resting her head on his chest, she heard that his heartbeat was a bit leaden.

"I heard that she is a talented female. Different from those talented women in the boudoir, she is no less talented than a man!" Chu Liuchen said softly.

"My Eldest Brother is also a talent!" Shao Wanru followed.

"A talented man and a talented woman are a perfect couple!" Chu Liuchen raised his eyebrows and said in an extremely lazy voice.

"Why did they discuss their marriage for so long? I heard that they didn't start the discussion until I returned to the family!" Shao Wanru asked again.

"I think they were waiting to see First Young Master Shao's future!" Chu Liuchen replied.

Shao Wanru fell silent. "Did the so-called future refer to the position of the Heir of Duke Xing?" She swore she would not allow Shao Hua'an to get it! This courtyard would belong to her father forever, and it would be left to Shao Yuanhao later. She would never give it up to anyone else, nor would she allow anyone to tear down that screen wall, which was the most complete memory left by her father.

In her last life, she didn't have such a thought of keeping that courtyard and she did not know that she could. In this life, by no means would she give it up unless she died!

"I want this courtyard!" Shao Wanru said calmly. It was the first time that she had told Chu Liuchen what she needed in such a calm voice. She didn't hide anything at all. At this moment, she believed that if she want something, just say it out. She didn't have to pretend herself in front of Chu Liuchen.

That was what she thought in her mind, and she did it, saying out what she wanted with the willfulness and arrogance of a girl. Because everything she wanted now had been far away from her early in her last life.

"Well, they're all yours!" Chu Liuchen looked at the girl in his arms with a smile, and promised her in a soft voice but without any hesitation, as if what Shao Wanru wanted were merely a piece of jewelry or clothes.

He enjoyed the feeling of being wholeheartedly relied on by someone, and was also delighted with Shao Wanru's coquetry. The girl he liked didn't have to be too burdened.

"You can do whatever you want. Just do it. I will deal with every problem for you!" Chu Liuchen said again with his watery eyes shining with love.

Actually, Chu Liuchen would prefer to protect Shao Wanru from doing anything dangerous in case that she got hurt.

But he knew that Shao Wanru was never an ordinary girl. She would rather get what she wanted by herself, which he had already known when he first saw the resolute and decisive eyes of the little girl. It was also the reason why he was interested in her and then stepped into her life step by step.

But Chu Liuchen had no idea when he had fallen in love with her. Was it the moment they first met or during the process they made deals? He didn't know and it couldn't be figured out. Remembering these, he smiled slightly and thought in his mind that if he had known that she was the one who could save him from the endless darkness, he wouldn't have been so mean to her at that time!

But it was not too late to make up for it. He would give her a life without any anxiety and provide her with strong support when she needed him. He would protect her from every trouble. All she needed to do was to move forward with confidence and courage!

He would give her anything she wanted!

Shao Wanru blinked her eyes again and again and did not talk. She bit her lip, feeling bitter but also extremely happy. At this moment, she wanted to cry, but she no longer felt sad in her heart. Was she crying with joy? She didn't know. She just felt that it was just like a journey, she had traveled alone for a long time and when she was about to lose hope and want to give up, she finally saw a warm smile, a doting look, and a warm hug waiting for her.

It seemed that everything was real and full of happiness!

She smiled with silent happiness. She was sure that she fell in love with this man. She fell in love with the prince who treated her with extremely mean attitudes at the very beginning.

"Who's there?" Xiao Xuanzi's angry voice suddenly came from outside the screen wall.

"I was sent by Old Madam. She wants to invite His Highness to have lunch with her. She asks a reply from His Highness!" The little servant girl was indeed sent by Old Madam. She stood at the gate of the courtyard, trembling, and answered Xiao Xuanzi with a pale face.

"My master has some other affairs to deal with, so there is no need to bother Old Madam!" Xiao Xuanzi said in an unfriendly voice. His master would have to go to the palace and have lunch with Empress Dowager. How could he have time to accompany Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion?

Xiao Xuanzi didn't like whatever his master disliked.

"Thank you and I'll report to my master!" the servant girl replied in a hurry and immediately turned around and ran. She accidentally bumped into the corner of the wall because of the panic and shouted in a low voice due to the pain. Then she limped to leave in a hurry.

Chapter 843 The Duke Shows Up!

Behind the screen wall, Shao Wanru soundlessly laughed and pushed Chu Liuchen away. Because of leaning in Chu Liuchen's arms, her face was in a blush.

"What are you laughing at?" Chu Liuchen let go of her and asked in confusion. She was standing beside him.

"Nothing!" Shao Wanru shook her head and said. Of course, she wouldn't tell Chu Liuchen that she longed to see Old Madam's aggrieved face.

Though she didn't tell him, Chu Liuchen knew what Shao Wanru was thinking in her mind. He reached out to flick Shao Wanru's forehead gently and then said in distress. "Time is moving so slowly!"

"Your Highness, do you have something urgent to deal with?" Shao Wanru touched her forehead with her hand, looked at Chu Liuchen with her watery eyes, and said with discontent.

"Of course I have! Though I'm not young anymore, I haven't got a wife yet! I can't sleep at night because of that!" Chu Liuchen teased her in a serious tone.

Shao Wanru blushed in the face as if it were bleeding. "This man has no sense of shame! How can he say words like that? Where is the mysterious elegance he showed when we first met? Was this man really Prince Chen whom I know?"

"Your Highness, you'd better go back early! It is getting late," Shao Wanru reached out to give a slight push on Chu Liuchen and said with a blush.

Chu Liuchen burst out laughing when he saw that she had been shy but still pretended not to understand his teasing words. He wanted to hold her hands again, but this time Shao Wanru was on guard. She stepped back with her hands hiding behind her back.

"When will you follow me back to my mansion?" Chu Liuchen asked and smiled. He was more and more pleased with the shyness of the girl in front of him.

"You should go, Your Highness! I have to go to meet my grandma." Shao Wanru was anyway a bashful girl, so she couldn't bear to be teased anymore and could only try to persuade him to go.

“Okay, okay! I am leaving. Alas, what a hard life I am living! I was just abandoned after being used!” Chu Liuchen shook his head, pretending to be helpless.

And Shao Wanru became shyer and shyer due to his boundless jokes. “Does this guy lose all his sense of shame?”

“Do you want me to accompany you there?” Seeing that she was too shy to look at him, Chu Liuchen changed the topic and asked with a smile.

“No! You go back first and I’ll go there in a while!” Shao Wanru shook her head and pouted to say.

“You sure? I am an excellent escort. Are you sure that you are not going to employ me?” Chu Liuchen asked.

Shao Wanru felt that if she continued to answer his serious nonsenses, she would probably lose her control and take action to stop them.

She reached out to make him turn around and said to him, “Your Highness, please go back. And I am not going to see you off because I have something to do!”

As she said, she pushed Chu Liuchen on the back with a few strengths. He took a few steps forward but then turned around again, asking in confusion. “Are you sure that you don’t need me anymore?”

Shao Wanru felt so happy that everyone could sense it from her eyes. She bit her lip, thinking that she was wrong about his personality just now. The person in front of her was still the naughty Prince Chen.

As Shao Wanru stared at him without saying anything, Chu Liuchen stopped teasing her and said with a smile. “See you!”

“Take care, Your Highness!” Shao Wanru pouted slightly, stamped her feet, and said with a bit of temper.

“Okay, I’ll just leave. Do you want to know more about First Miss Zhao?” Chu Liuchen narrowed his eyes and said. He had stopped making fun of her.

“Of course I do!” Shao Wanru answered after thinking for a while. But she had a decision.

First Miss Zhao showed a very indifferent attitude towards what had happened today. She seemed to be an onlooker, on which Shao Wanru had some doubts. This morning in the flower hall, First Miss Zhao did not behave like a bride who was about to marry into the family. She didn’t feel shy in front of either Shao Wanru or Old Madam. She looked too generous!

In other words, she was not generous. She seemed a bit indifferent!?

It was said that her Eldest Brother was very fond of First Miss Zhao, which was also the reason why the marriage of the two could be finally decided though it had been delayed for such a long time.

She had thought that First Miss Zhao must be fond of her fiance too. After all, she still agreed to marry Shao Hua’an in the end after they suffered from lots of troubles in their marriage for three years! Shao Wanru did not believe that there was no affection between the two of them.

But it seemed that the truth was not as she had imagined. Then why was First Miss Zhao willing to marry Shao Hua'an though she didn't love him? Was it to become the wife of the Heir of Duke Xing?

Shao Wanru could not conclude. After Chu Liuchen left, she continued thinking about it for a while. She didn't know Zhao Xiran well, so it was in vain for her to keep digging it now. It would be better to just wait and see after getting Zhao Xiran's personal information from Chu Liuchen. She didn't bother to waste her mind on it anymore and went to Old Madam's Chuntang Courtyard with Yujie.

She had to go and inform Old Madam that Chu Liuchen had gone back.

When they arrived at Old Madam's, Old Madam was sitting in the main room and drank tea quietly. Seeing Shao Wanru, she waved her hand asking her to come in.

Shao Wanru walked into the main room, bowed to Old Madam, and then sat down.

"Your Eldest Brother's bridal chamber was burnt, which was caused by your Second Sister. And I was also to blame. At that time, I shouldn't have asked your Second Sister to stay in that courtyard and copy the Woman Precepts. Otherwise, such an incident wouldn't have happened. However, we have to let it go. I will punish your Second Sister. Anyway, there are still many vacant courtyards in the mansion. I was thinking that the Qihui Courtyard which is relatively close to yours is a good one. What do you think?"

In fact, Qihui Courtyard was not close to Shao Wanru's courtyard, but it was located at the edge of the first branch's territory. It could be a courtyard of the first branch, or the second branch.

"I also think it good!" Shao Wanru replied softly.

Shao Hua'an's last courtyard was actually burnt by Old Madam on purpose, and that's why she had chosen a bad courtyard for him first. Now Shao Hua'an wouldn't feel wronged even if he didn't get the Quhuan Courtyard because any other courtyard to be chosen was better than the burnt one. On the other hand, although Duke Xing's Mansion was simply divided into three parts, the first branch, the second branch, and the third branch, their boundaries were not clear-cut. It was hard to say that Qihui Courtyard certainly belonged to the first branch, so she had no reason to object, and she was doomed to fail if she did.

She herself and Hao'er belonged to the first branch, and the latter was still living in Great Elder Princess's Mansion. So there were lots of vacant courtyards in the first branch. It was unreasonable if she said no to Old Madam. What's more, it was the people of the second branch who was in charge of the whole mansion. Strictly speaking, she, as a niece of them, was living under someone else's roof.

Since she had no other choice but to agree on it, Shao Wanru didn't say anything more.

Old Madam was quite satisfied with Shao Wanru's tact. And then she asked a few more questions about what Chu Liuchen had said before letting Shao Wanru go back.

Shao Wanru walked back to her Piaoyun Courtyard after going out of Old Madam's, contemplating in her mind that she might get herself out of what would happen next.

It was urgent to prepare the marriage, but she believed that Old Madam had started the preparation for it early, and so had her elusive Second Uncle. Everything burnt must be of low quality so it was easy to deal with their ruins. Then it would be quick to arrange things that had been well prepared by them.

She also believed that she would not get involved in another trouble from the time being. At least before she got married, there would not be any conspiracy of taking up Quhuan Courtyard, especially after Chu Liuchen's coming today. Though Old Madam and Shao Jing still didn't give it up, it would take them ages to make a new plan.

"Fifth Miss, the Duke wants to see you!" An old maid was coming to her in a hurry and said as soon as they met at an intersection. When she saw Shao Wanru, she bowed to her with happiness.

"Second Uncle wants to see me?" Shao Wanru asked in surprise.

Chu Liuchen did go to Shao Jing's courtyard just now, but she didn't go. So Second Uncle shouldn't call her over. "Wasn't it better for him to see Old Madam and Shao Caihuan?"

"Yes, Fifth Miss. Duke wants to ask Fifth Miss something. He wants you to go to his courtyard!" The old maid said with a smile.

Shao Wanru nodded, turned around, and went to the outer court, during which she asked the old maid in a casual voice. "When did Second Uncle come back? Did he come across Prince Chen?"

Chu Liuchen didn't tell her, and nor did she ask. She didn't know whether they had met or not.

"Duke Xing has just come back and he didn't meet Prince Chen." The old maid gave a clear and concise reply. It was obvious that she was a clever servant.

Then Shao Wanru remained silent and followed the old maid to the outer court. They did not go to Shao Jing's courtyard, but to Shao Jing's other study. In the past, when Shao Jing needed to talk with Shao Wanru, he always met her at that study.

When they reached the door of the study, Shao Wanru was asked to wait for a while by the old maid, who then went in to report to her master. Before long Shao Wanru was summoned.

Shao Jing, who was with a dignified face, was sitting behind the writing desk in the study and fixing his examining eyes on Shao Wanru. He thought in his mind that whether he had underestimated this niece.

Shao Wanru stepped forward and bowed, and then stood aside with her head and shoulders down.

"Sit down!" Shao Jing said gently.

Shao Wanru nodded her head, sat down on a chair, put her hands on her knees, and kneaded the handkerchief in her hand with anxiety. It could be seen that she was not calm.

Shao Jing cast a glance at her hands, from which he could see that she couldn't calm down at once. So the smile on his face became more friendly. "I heard that the people of Minister Zhao's Mansion came today. Did they make things difficult for our mansion?"

Shao Wanru didn't think it necessary for him to ask her about it. Since Shao Jing had asked, she had to answer it. She nodded at once and said softly, "Nothing serious. They just came and talked to Grandma about something for a while. Grandmother has just decided to take Qihui Courtyard as Eldest Brother's wedding room!"

Of course, Shao Jing had already known about Qiuhui Courtyard. He looked at Shao Wanru again with emotionless eyes. He couldn't see how fierce his niece was! "Was it all because of Prince Chen? Did he care so much about Shao Wanru?"

"Qiuhui Courtyard is a good courtyard. When I was a child, I once lived there with your father. But after that, it has always been vacant." Shao Jing sighed softly with a trace of relief in his eyes. He had a look of happiness, which showed a gentle feeling and made people have a good opinion of him at this time.

It was hard to believe that he was such an evil man!

However, one should never judge a book by its cover. Shao Wanru lowered her head slightly to hide the coldness in her eyes. Thinking of her father, she felt infinitely sad.

"Honestly speaking, this courtyard is your father's. Now you have given it to your Eldest Brother, so I have to compensate you with something anyway. We should originally prepare some dowries for you to celebrate your wedding day. At that time, we will present you two more loads of dowries, which you can regard as my guilt to you," Shao Jing said with a sigh.

"Second Uncle, you don't have to do that. Duke Xing's Mansion has already prepared a lot of presents for me, so you don't have to give me more." Shao Wanru refused with politeness. But what she said was true. Because of Great Elder Princess's tough attitudes, Duke Xing's Mansion didn't dare to covet her dowries anymore.

She had owned most parts of her dowries, and the missing part had been compensated with money. Although the compensation was not adequate yet, it seemed that it would be fully paid.

But why did Shao Jing mention the dowry matter at this time? Hadn't he always avoided it...?

Chapter 844 She Almost Believed It

"The dowry your mother left behind, of course, belongs to you and Hao'er. As for what I gave you, just take it as a gift and accept it. I have been close to your father since childhood, closer than ordinary brothers. I just didn't expect that he would... and didn't expect that you had been living under someone else's roof for so many years. If I had known it earlier, I would have sent someone to pick you up!"

Shao Jing sighed and felt even more guilty.

"Second Uncle... No one wanted that to happen!" Shao Wanru said softly, biting her lip, as if she didn't want to talk anymore, since dwelling on the past would only bring her more grief.

"I'm so sorry for what I have done to you and your father. I should have made up for it. Originally, I entrusted my wife to handle the affairs of the inner courtyard, and I thought that she would handle them very well but in the end... Wanru, I'm so sorry!" Shao Jing said with a sadder voice.

Did he mean that what his wife had done before had nothing to do with him? Shao Wanru's heart skipped a beat and she suppressed the displeasure in her heart.

She looked up and shook her head before saying sincerely, "Uncle, I know these have nothing to do with you."

"I'm glad you think so. Though you grew up without your parents by your side, you are the same as your father in nature. Different from Ru'er, you are outstanding. She only has herself to blame for what she suffered," Shao Jing said.

It was extremely candid of him to give such a comment on his daughter.

If Shao Wanru hadn't been reborn, framed by Duke Xing, or ended up in a miserable situation in her last life, she would almost believe him and consider her hypocritical uncle a nice person with good character, and would think that what his wife and daughter had done had nothing to do with him and that he didn't have any bad intentions against her.

A great man would inevitably have a wicked wife and unfilial children. Instead of blaming him, people would sympathize with him.

However, in the last life, did her shrewd uncle really not know it? His wife and daughter all knew it, but only he, the family leader, did not. Wasn't it too lame?

Shao Wanru guessed that her uncle not only knew what his wife and daughter were doing but also was helping them. Now he stood up for her just because there was no one who supported him.

The truth came out, and it had to!

"Yanru is now in the imperial palace. I wonder how she is going!" Shao Wanru asked softly, pretending not to catch what Shao Jing meant.

"She... Alas..." Shao Jing sighed mildly again. He didn't know how to answer. After a long while, he said, "Wanru, I ask you for nothing, except that when you meet Ru'er in the palace afterwards, talk to her in a nicer way. Otherwise, she may be misunderstood and bullied by people in the palace."

He did not request Shao Wanru to take care of Shao Yanru but just asked her to be a little kinder when she met Shao Yanru in the palace afterwards, so that the people in the palace would not look down on Shao Yanru. He had made a concession.

This request was not too much. No matter how much Shao Yanru had hurt Shao Wanru, she had fallen into such a miserable situation now. Moreover, for Shao Jing's sake, Shao Wanru should not swear at Shao Yanru when she saw her in the palace.

But after thinking carefully, she found what her uncle said was meaningless and boring.

Shao Wanru certainly would not have any harsh words for Shao Yanru. Otherwise, she would also be reprimanded. Unlike other places, there were many Noble Ladies. Maybe even the Empress was more than willing to caught something on her.

The Empress would definitely punish her if Shao Wanru really treated her sister that way.

So Shao Wanru wouldn't speak ill of Shao Yanru in front of the others for her own sake.

She was still brooding over what Shao Jing said since she didn't understand what he meant. He said in an extremely trivial and submissive way, but still said nothing meaningful.

"Don't worry, uncle. I will!" Shao Wanru said, in an increasingly soft voice. She looked delicate and petite, sitting there with slightly tearful eyes. She must have been moved.

"Well, let's forget those painful things. There is nothing I can do now to help them. After all, they had brought it upon themselves. It would be best if things on their sides would get better, and if they don't, just let it be," Shao Jing said. Then a hint of relief and sadness appeared on his face before he looked like he had let it go.

"Yes," Shao Wanru nodded and replied.

"When your father left, he took away some items from the mansion. I didn't care about it at first, but I found that a private seal belonging to your grandfather in the mansion was missing these days, and some calligraphy works written by your grandfather were missing as well. Have you seen them in your father's relics?"

Shao Wanru looked at Shao Jing blankly, as if she didn't understand what he meant. She frowned slightly, thought for a moment, and said, "I didn't see them."

"But I asked the servants present at that time. They all said that your father took them away. It's just a private seal and some calligraphy and paintings your grandfather left, and if you have them, please show them to me. I won't take them away, and I will make another seal," Shao Jing said more tactfully.

He looked kind and plump with a big smile on his round face, but not treacherous at all.

However, the implication in his words was cunning.

Shao Wanru thought for a longer time. Shao Jing didn't press her to reply this time. After a long while, she shook her head again and said with certainty, "Second Uncle, I really haven't seen them."

"Your father probably had them! Wanru, show me his relics. Maybe you are not clear about it. Don't worry, I won't really take the seal away!" Shao Jing urged again.

This time, he appeared to be a little impatient. If Shao Wanru had not been observing him secretly, she would not have noticed this tiny change.

It seemed that this was the real purpose of her hypocritical uncle.

She was relieved. What she feared most was not other people's conspiracies, but when they were made secretly! Although she had gone through a lot and been reborn as a provident girl, she couldn't always foresee what would happen and get prepared. It was already very great of her to anticipate something.

"You still have father's relics?" asked Shao Jing.

Shao Wanru shook her head and said, "He left nothing to me except for a seal which could prove our relationship, and my mother only left me a glass."

That was true. These were the two relics Shao Wanru had seen at the beginning, which served as the main proof of their relationship. Actually, Old Madam Qin had a parcel delivered to her later. Some of the things inside were now at Shao Wanru's place. However, she would not let Shao Jing see them, so she didn't tell him everything.

Even if Shao Jing looked into it, he would not find out the truth. Old Madam Qin had told her very few people knew about it, and even Mrs. Di didn't know it.

Except for a few showy ones that attracted Mrs. Di's attention at that time, the rest were not very impressive, which saved her snooping.

Shao Jing's gaze fell on Shao Wanru's face. He carefully examined her, as if to see if she had lied, and then slowly said, "Never mind. I'll look for them somewhere else in the mansion!"

"All right!" Shao Wanru nodded her head.

"If you need anything, just tell me. Although I'm not very capable, I'll definitely help you if I can. We're a family, so we can't be estranged because of others!" Shao Jing reminded her. From this aspect, he really looked like a loving old father, who could make people feel good about him.

"Thank you, I will!" Shao Wanru said in an increasingly gentler tone.

"Then you can go back first!" Shao Jing said with a smile.

Shao Wanru stood up, bowed deeply to Shao Jing, and then turned to leave. Shao Jing looked at her back, and the smile on his face was replaced with a gloomy look. "Am I wrong? Does she really not have them? But if she does, where did that calligraphy work come from?" he wondered.

He reached out and rubbed his eyebrows. Of course, the more calligraphy works he had, the better it would be, and the more chips he would obtain. He hadn't thought of it before, but now since he did, he must conduct a thorough investigation. He wouldn't give up halfway until he saw the relics of his elder brother.

"Or maybe they are at the Ningyuan Army General's Mansion? After all, at that time, she was just a child who knew nothing and couldn't even remember her origins!"

Thinking of this, he had made up his mind and said coldly, "Someone, go invite Ningyuan Army General over!" He pulling a long face made people feel a kind of inexplicable chill.

Shao Wanru didn't see Shao Jing's expression change, nor did she know that Qin Huaiyong was going to meet Shao Jing at his mansion. She was now looking at the young man in front of her with surprise.

She was so shocked that she couldn't utter a word. That person turned out to be Yan Xi.

When Shao Wanru was just reborn, she hated Yan Xi. But when she finally realized that she might have misunderstood him, his family had declined.

He was different from Wang Shengxue, who was said to have lived an excellent life.

"They both framed me. Why did they end so differently?" Shao Wanru thought. Before seeing Yan Xi, Shao Wanru didn't want to think too much about other people's affairs. However, on seeing Yan Xi that day, she recalled some things. Later, she was surprised to find that he was the son of Shao Jing's old friend.

However, Yan Xi was in front of her at present. It was really an unexpected surprise.

The expression on her face turned from surprise to coldness, and then to indifference. She edged past Yan Xi to avoid his bow and curtsied sideways before greeting him.

They almost bumped into each other at the intersection.

It was a narrow path, and the rockery at the intersection blocked their sight, so they didn't see each other. Yan Xi had a heavy heart on his way to see Duke Xing and walked rapidly as this was the outer court where he thought he wouldn't bump into any female members of the family. Unexpectedly, he almost bumped into a lady of the mansion.

If he hadn't reacted quickly enough, he would have bumped into Shao Wanru...

Chapter 845 Yan Xi's Marriage

Shao Wanru took a step back and stared at Yan Xi in front of her in astonishment. In the last life, she only took a glance at him from a distance and felt that he was merely a good-looking man. But now when she looked at him carefully, she found that he had a heroic spirit in his eyes and eyebrows. He didn't look like a Confucian scholar. If suited up in a campaign gown, he would look more like a general!

She looked him up and down with her watery eyes, seeming to be thinking of something. Shao Wanru had had slight sympathy for him since she knew that this Child Yan once fell into someone's trap. "Was it because of me that he was set up? Or for other reasons?"

It was not until now that she started to realize that there were secrets behind this mystery in her last life.

Yan Xi was also astonished. Summoned by Duke Xing, he had never thought of the possibility that he almost bumped into someone when he arrived. It was a young Miss, who was not tall. What first came into his sight was a pair of bright and watery eyes. At first glance, they looked quite attractive. But after careful observation, he felt that they were crystal clear and extremely beautiful.

On her snow-white and tender face were her delicate facial features, as well as her long eyelashes, the fluttering of which made her eyes look as gentle as water. Her lips were as bright-colored as flowers with stamens, which made her a gorgeous beauty. "First Miss Shao?"

Although he was amazed, he immediately became clear-headed and denied the abrupt supposition. First Miss Shao had been in the palace now and it was said that she had become the Emperor's Secondary Consort. "Then who was this girl?" He had never heard of other peerless beauty except for First Miss Shao.

He lowered his eyes and stepped aside, cupping his hands respectfully to Shao Wanru and no longer fixing his eyes on her.

He was a respectable and well-behaved person. When he saw her just now, there was nothing but amazement in his eyes. It was like that he caught sight of a cluster of flowers and then felt amazed. Nothing evil was in his mind. His eyes were very pure and his behavior was polite. It was hard to believe that such a disgraceful event had happened to him in her last life.

After making the above commons in her heart, Shao Wanru winked at Yujie, who understood it at once. She took a step forward with her hands on her hips and head up, pretending herself as a stroppy servant

girl. Then she shouted, "Who are you? How dare you stroll around Duke Xing's Mansion? What if you knock someone down?"

"I am a scholar lodging in the mansion because my father is an old friend of Duke Xing's. I was summoned to come here by Duke Xing. I feel so sorry! I didn't mean to offend you just now, Miss!" Yan Xi took a deep bow and said politely.

That made the little servant girl Yujie look very rude and irrational.

"The Duke is looking for you? Did he send a man to get you? It was our Miss who was the one he wanted to see just now!" Yujie was not convinced and rebuked, becoming more and more arrogant.

Such servant girls who bullied the weak and feared the strong existed in many mansions, especially those of first-class, who were sometimes even more difficult than their masters.

In order to curry favor with their masters, they always spoke first on half of their masters in a rude and arrogant manner. Of course, they wouldn't do that unless they were favored by their masters. At this moment, Yujie was a typical example.

Yan Xi felt quite helpless. He had seen some fine servants in Duke Xing's Mansion before, so he didn't expect to meet such an arrogant servant girl, whose question was even ruder than her attitude. It sounded like that no one else but her Miss deserved to be summoned by Duke Xing.

Though displeased, Yan Xi didn't intend to argue with a servant girl. He said calmly, "Duke Xing has sent someone to call me early before. He needed to talk to me. I should have come earlier, but I was delayed for a while. So I walked here in a hurry!"

Shao Wanru slightly narrowed her eyes, in which there was a trace of deep suspicion. If Yanxi had come earlier, she would have met him in Shao Jing's study. Of course, it was possible that he had to come late and happened to come across her here!

"If that was the case, then what was that for?"

In the last life, she and this Childe Yan were tied up into a group, and neither of them had a good end. Then what about this life?

"Childe Yan, your father is an old friend of Second Uncle's?" her watery eyes slightly raised as she softly asked.

On hearing Shao Wanru's voice, Yujie stepped aside and made way for her.

Yan Xi raised his head and cast another glance at the elegant and charming Miss in front of him, with a little doubt in his eyes. Though he was amazed by her at the first glance, he didn't have a good impression of Shao Wanru.

A servant girl was like her master. How good could a master be if her servant girl behaved like that?

But out of his expectation, Shao Wanru spoke in a soft and gentle voice, which was different from what he had imagined. After the glance at Shao Wanru, he lowered his eyes and said, "My father has always been related to Duke Xing's Mansion!"

"Not only to Second Uncle but also to other people in our mansion?" Shao Wanru keenly grasped the point of his words. Her heart pounded wildly as an idea was coming into being in her mind.

"Yes!" Yan Xi said emotionlessly. He didn't think he should talk more about this to a boudoir girl.

Shao Wanru blinked her eyes. She could see his indifference and understand that it was impossible to get more from him. She nodded slightly at him and left with Yujie.

They were still outside the door of Shao Jing's study, which was not a good place to talk in detail.

Watching Shao Wanru go away, Yan Xi frowned, very surprised to find that the Miss was not as obstinate as her servant girl, which was really confusing! He didn't suppose that it was so easy for him to get rid of the Miss, whom he had thought to be unreasonable.

He didn't expect that she would ask such a question and then leave without hesitation! Surprised, he couldn't help looking back at her distant figure again and suddenly got an idea. "Second Uncle? If she calls Duke Xing Second Uncle, she must be the Miss of the first branch, who has been lost in the outside world before. She is the granddaughter of Rui'an Great Elder Princess! After being recognized, she spent three years in observing mourning for her parents in the nunnery, which made her have a good reputation."

Or in other words, she was the future Princess Chen!

"If my supposition is right, then everything that happened just now would make sense!"

"She is a decent master while her servant girl relies on her power and bullies people. It's said that she lives a difficult life in Duke Xing's Mansion, so that's why she had such a servant girl to protect her?"

"Childe Yan!" seeing he was deep in thought, the following servant reminded him of the time. It had been late since they got here.

"Let's go!" Yan Xi nodded. Stopping thinking about Shao Wanru, he turned around and strode toward the study of Duke Xing.

In the study, Shao Jing was sorting out the books with his head down. Receiving the servant's report, he nodded to show his permission of letting Yan Xi come in.

After entering the room, he bowed to Shao Jing and stepped aside with respect.

"Sit down, please! My dear nephew," Shao Jing said politely. After Yan Xi sat down, he said again with a smile, "Your father sent a letter saying that he would like to arrange a marriage for you in the capital city. After all, you are not naive anymore. If you can pass the imperial exam and then find a partner suitable for yourself this time, your father will no longer worry about you!"

Shao Jing, with a smile, showed him a letter by waving it in his hand.

Yan Xi had just received a letter from his father too. So obviously Duke Xing's letter was delivered together with his. Thinking for a while, he stood up, cupped his hands toward Shao Jing, and said, "Anything you say, Uncle Shao!"

Shao Jing waved his hand, asking him to sit down. Then he said with a smile, "The marriage will be a good alliance between two families. But I haven't found out a suitable family in the capital city for your marriage. However, it has always been the case that parents are keen to get a candidate as their son-in-law. If you pass the imperial examination and become an official in the future, I assure you that many families will ask for marrying their daughters to you. How about I pick one for you at that time?"

"Your wish is my command, Uncle Shao!" Yan Xi said gently. Masculine though he was, he looked very mild when smiling, leaving a good impression on others.

In addition, he didn't intend to refuse Shao Jing's kindness at all. Before he left home, his father had told him that he needed to ask for a marriage in the capital city. However, with two weddings to be held, Duke Xing's Mansion was so busy dealing with them that it indeed had no time to help Yan Xi with his marital affair now.

"But if you take a fancy of some girl, you tell me! I'll ask around for you!" Shao Jing said.

Yanxi did not answer immediately but kept silent for a moment. He seemed to be hesitating.

"Might it not be true that you do fall in love with a Miss?" Shao Jing asked with curiosity.

Yan Xi remained silent for a more while. Then he shook his head and denied, "No, I don't fall in love with any Miss. I just suddenly remembered something my father has said before!"

He sounded very depressed and frustrated. He had been in the capital city for a long. And he hardly went out for a trip because he had to prepare for the exam. It was not until now he was reminded that he hadn't seen his father for a long time.

"Provided that you pass the exam and become an official in the future, you will have to live in the capital city. Even if your father can't stay with you, he will surely be proud and happy for your achievement," Shao Jing comforted him and then changed the topic, "I heard that you are good at martial arts. But you choose to strive for the position of a civilian official, which is actually against your father's wish, right? However, your father is a reasonable man who will never force you to join the army!"

"In fact, my father did want me to be a military general at the very beginning." Yan Xi said, "It's just that I do like studying, so he made a concession."

"Your father is rational," Shao Jing sighed with relief, "You'll be a civilian official, and your father is a martial one. Both will bring out the best in each other perfectly."

"I'll have to trouble you this time, Uncle Shao!" Yan Xi stood up and took a deep bow once more.

Shao Jing smiled and said, "You are too polite, my dear nephew! If you need anything in the mansion, just tell me, or ask for help from the housekeeper to whom I have already given the instruction. Don't worry about anything but your preparation for the imperial exam. I hope that you can get a good mark and achieve your goals this time, which will also make your father rest assured!"

"Thanks for your luck words, Uncle Shao!" Yan Xi said respectfully.

"Then you can leave now. Remember that just tell me if you are in need! Don't stay up late, and it is good to go out for a walk sometimes!"

"You have my permission!" Yan Xi nodded and became more respectful to Shao Jing. Before Yan Xi came to the capital city, his father had said that he did not know much about Duke Xing's personality and asked his son to be cautious and not to be reckless there. Now as he was living in Duke Xing's Mansion, he found that Duke Xing was a kind person who always took good care of him.

But it was confusing for Yan Xi that such a good person had a sinful wife and an unfilial daughter.

Yan Xi left the study with such confusion in mind. He stood still outside the study and looked back at it. He thought that though Duke Xing was really a good person, he was somehow a little odd.

"Childe, are we still going out today?" the servant asked. They had been delayed before because of it!

Chapter 846 A Strange Servant Girl

"Yes, we are!" Yan Xi thought for a second and said. He had things to do. It was luck that Duke Xing had just advised him to go out of the mansion sometimes.

"Then let's go now, Master. Childe Wang is still waiting for us," the servant nodded and said with a smile.

As Yan Xi went to meet Childe Wang, a feeling of displeasure came through his head. He didn't have a good impression of Wang Shengxue, another nephew of Duke Xing's, who seemed to be a wretched and evil person in Yan Xi's eyes. But Wang was very kind to Yan Xi, so it was hard for the latter to say out his wish of cutting off contact with the former.

Wang Shengxue had been wandering at an intersection of the corner. When he saw Yan Xi, he rushed over with joy and yelled, "Childe Yan!"

"Childe Wang!"

"Hurry up! We have to go now. If we are late, we will lose the chance to save her and that is really bad." Wang Shengxue said with a very happy smile.

"Thanks for waiting for me, Childe Wang!" Yan Xi bowed to Wang Shengxue and took a deep look at him, confused with his unreasoning happiness.

"Childe Yan, you're too polite and humble. It is you who are so warmhearted to offer help when encountering such things. I happen to be free and I am just intolerant to see that a foreigner is bullied. Let's go, let's go! We can't delay anymore or there will be big trouble!"

Wang Shengxue patted his chest with a serious look, and then put down his hand again. Finally, he reached out with intimacy, wanting to grasp Yan Xi's sleeves.

Yan Xi, feeling uneasy, raised his hand and perfectly avoided Wang Shengxue's catching, and then he said with indifference, "Let's go!"

He didn't like very much the various accidents resulting from a good deed and his "friendship" with Wang Shengxue. But once he had taken action to help someone, he had to make it.

Actually, even Yan Xi was baffled about what had caused such a thing. And Wang Shengxue, as a “passer-by”, was even more serious about it than he was, which drove Yan Xi to think that Wang Shengxue might not be as bad as he thought.

They finally set off in a hurry after a few words. On a rockery, Shao Wanru stood high and watched them leaving with cold eyes.

She didn’t expect that Yan Xi and Wang Shengxue had such a good relationship that they almost didn’t need to stand on ceremony.

“It was strange,” Shao Wanru thought, believing that there must be something covered. She still remembered that Wang Shengxue had the goods on Madam Jiang, Madam of Duke Xing, the evidence that she murdered Wang Yishu. But the “goods” were completely useless now because Madam Jiang had been disgraced and kicked out of Duke Xing’s family. Even if he made her crime public, it would not do much harm to the reputation of Duke Xing’s Mansion.

“Therefore, Wang Shengxue is no longer a threat to Duke Xing’s Mansion now?” Shao Wanru thought, “Wang Shengxue was certainly not a good person. There must be a reason for him to be so interested in the matters of Duke Xing’s Mansion like this!”

In her last life, both she and Yan Xi had almost been ruined in their lives. Was it because of her or Yan Xi? What made him so special that he was aimed and then framed?

Who it was that conspired with Duke Xing’s Mansion and plotted against her and Yan Xi at that time? If it didn’t exist, could it be that someone of Duke Xing’s Mansion was the only enemy? Before, she didn’t know that Yan Xi was living in Duke Xing’s Mansion, nor did she know why he lived there. Now, after careful contemplation, it seemed that only people of Duke Xing’s Mansion would have the intention to plot against him!

Who on earth was the real schemer?

“Take a shortcut and ask the coachman to give them a ride,” Shao Wanru ordered, because Wang Shengxue was not a man who preferred walking somewhere. She had an intuition that their destination was where she saw the City Gate that day. It was far away from Duke Xing’s Mansion, and it would take a while to get there even by carriage.

“There must be something behind! Though she was just a servant girl, it was not an easy thing to make her sacrifice herself voluntarily to set someone up. Who was the person behind?”

The coachman Shao Wanru had just mentioned was brought by her from Rui’an Great Elder Princess’s Mansion. Now he was a registered servant of her, so he could be regarded as a coachman of Duke Xing’s Mansion.

“Yes, Miss! I am going to do as you said right away.” Receiving her master’s order, Yujie nodded, ran down the rockery, and went to the parking lot through a shortcut.

Wang Shengxue with Yan Xi went to the parking lot ahead of Yujie. Yan Xi didn’t want to trouble the people in Duke Xing’s Mansion. Although Shao Jing had given them the instruction of taking good care of him, he preferred not to trouble anyone. After all, he was just a lodger in the mansion, so it was really embarrassing for him to ask for services all the time.

But Wang Shengxue was different. He repeatedly emphasized that it was trivial. "Moreover, there are a lot of carriages available. It will be fine to use one of them. Look, it will take a long time either to go there or come back. It will be very inconvenient if we walk."

After hearing his persuasion, Yan Xi thought that it did make sense. Thinking that he might have to save time for his study, he made up his mind and went to the parking lot with Wang.

As soon as they arrived there, a coachman happened to be feeding fodders to the horses which were about to pull the carriage. What the right time!

"Get a carriage and give me and Childe Yan a ride," instead of picking a good carriage carefully, Wang Shengxue casually pointed to one as he said to the coachman.

The coachman, heading up and looking at the two Childe, nodded without hesitation and drove the pointed carriage over. "Get in, please!" he said to them respectfully.

Every time the coachmen in the mansion saw Wang Shengsue, they were very indifferent to him. It was known to all that Old Madam didn't like him, nor did Duke Xing want to talk with him. It was said that he had created a tremendous uproar in Duke Xing's Mansion before and it became an unpleasant memory. The coachmen knew little about the details, which, however, didn't stop them from knowing that their masters were not fond of Childe Wang. However, he was not forbidden to come to the mansion.

Therefore, Childe Wang was quite an embarrassing person in the mansion, and he was even not popular with the servants there. Today, however, there was a polite coachman who showed respect to him. And being respected, Wang Shengxue felt very comfortable when enjoying it, so he specially patted the coachman on the shoulder as a reward.

Both of them got on the carriage, and Wang Shengxue said an address. The coachman waved his whip and drove the carriage out of Duke Xing's Mansion. Then he turned at the corner of the street and went toward the City Gate.

Shao Wanru's supposition was proved. Their destination was indeed beside the City Gate.

As the carriage was running all the way forward, they made several turns and took detours via a few paths before they reached the destination, which was Wang Shengxue's idea. And the road they went along was very familiar to Wang Shengxue.

They stopped at the back door of a courtyard. Wang Shengxue jumped off first, walked to the back door, and knocked on it gently. The coachman noticed that there was a certain rhythm in his knocking.

Yan Xi also got out of the carriage and stood behind Wang Shengxue. Behind the door came the sound of footsteps, and then the door was opened. They saw a servant girl with slightly wet eyes. Wang Shengxue stepped aside, and the servant girl saw Yan Xi.

"Childe Yan!" the maid cried. The moment she saw Yan Xi, she showed a complicated expression of happiness and sadness on her face.

"What's wrong? Is your Miss well?" Yan Xi asked.

"Childe Yan, why don't you come in and see her first? Our Miss would rather die than give in. If... if there is no way..." the servant girl wiped her tears with a handkerchief.

The coachman was sitting high on the carriage, from which he could see that the servant girl was not crying, but she was pretending to be by wiping her face with the handkerchief.

"Let's go in first!" Wang Shengxue glanced at the coachman warily and said in a low voice while giving way for Yan Xi.

Yanshu nodded and stepped into the courtyard. The servant girl fell behind him. When she saw Wang Shengxue beside her, she also bowed to him and then turned around to follow behind Yan Xi.

It was clearly seen by the coachman that the servant girl had eye contact with Wang Shengxue when she bowed to him. It was subtle, and they seemed to be very familiar with each other, about which the coachman was not very sure. But he could tell that the servant girl behaved as if she met an acquaintance because she didn't hide from him the fact that there were no tears on her face.

The coachman paid close attention to them because he had received an order of keeping an eye on Childe Wang and Childe Yan, which was delivered by the servant girl of Fifth Miss.

This was also the reason why the two Childes could meet him.

"Wait here until Childe Yan and I come out and then we go back together," Wang Shengxue ordered before he went inside. The coachman nodded and then watched the three of them disappear into the courtyard.

The whole thing did not make sense. Childe Yan was the one mainly involved in the issue and also the one to whom the servant girl asked for help just now. It turned out that the Miss of this courtyard should be someone related to Childe Yan. Strangely, the servant girl seemed to be related to Wang Shengxue. When they looked at each other just now, it seemed that they had a tacit understanding.

At first, the coachman was a servant in Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion. Thanks to his cleverness, he was sent to serve Shao Wanru. At this time, the more he thought about it, the more he was convinced that there's something fishy in it. "There was something wrong with the servant girl, so was there with Wang Shengxue. But the whole thing was the biggest mystery."

Looking around, the coachman decided to park the carriage in a corner where there was a tree by the side of the road. Some of its branches reached inside the enclosing wall of the courtyard which Childe Yan and Childe Wang had just entered.

After the carriage was parked, the coachman found that part of it was covered by the branches from the sight. The branches even blocked part of the courtyard wall.

That was a small lane through which few people would pass. Getting off the carriage, he climbed up the wall with the help of the branches. The carriage happened to block him from the passer-by's sight.

High on his position, the coachman found it only a small courtyard that had nothing different from others. It was the same as most of the small courtyards in the capital city. Looking around, he saw that the door of the main room was half-closed, and heard some sounds of a woman's crying and complaining in broken words.

The coachman couldn't hear clearly what the woman was saying. There were also men's voices from time to time. He could tell that most of the time it was Childe Wang who was speaking, and sometimes Childe Yan cut in. It sounded that they were comforting the woman.

That was all he could hear. From his position, he could not see the situation inside the main room.

The coachman looked around, only to find it a bad idea for him to sneak in.

After crying and speaking for a while, the woman sounded soft and calm. Wang Shengxue was persuading her with heart. Childe Yan's voice could be heard from time to time.

After a long time, the coachman saw some figures moving out from the door of the main room, so he jumped down from the wall nimbly and got back on the ground. He stood casually beside the carriage and waited for them to come out.

Chapter 847 A Fated Relationship

Frequent footsteps and voices came from inside. This time, the coachman could hear them clearly when they were speaking outside the room.

"Don't worry, Miss Zhao. Childe Yan and I will always be your backup, and you will be safe! That guy is just a son of a low-grade official. You don't have to be afraid of him," Wang Shengxue was comforting her, and the coachman heard it clearly.

"Thank you, Childe Wang, and Childe Yan. Without you, I wouldn't have known what to do. As a single woman alone in the capital city, I would rather die if... if that's the case," the woman sobbed in a low voice which sounded very delicate but with a little strong firmness.

"Don't be worried about it, Miss Zhao. It will be solved, and I assured you," Yan Xi also comforted her. He was given a headache by the current situation. He was willing to do her a favor but had no idea how to do it at the moment. He himself was also a foreigner in the capital city, and the only person he knew was Duke Xing. Was it possible that he could ask Duke Xing for help?

But he was not a cold man who would let people die if they got in trouble. He reached out to relax his glabella. Never encountered such a troublesome thing before, YanXi really didn't know how to deal with it.

Miss Zhao was a delicate and pretty girl at the age of seventeen or eighteen, just in her youthful prime. She was looking at Yan Xi with her big watery eyes that seemed to be able to speak, which aroused more sympathies for her.

Despite the fact that she was not the most beautiful one, she was more pretty and fragile than the average. It was really admirable for a weak woman like her to say such things with such determination.

Gazed by her trustful eyes, Yan Xi felt it even more awkward for him.

"Don't worry. Childe Yan and I will help you to solve the problem. Leave it to us! It's infuriating that a playboy wants to take a young lady for his own!" Wang Shengxue said with anger, making casual promises one after another.

Yan Xi was speechless at Wang Shengxue. He had an intention of discussing it with him, but... After all, it wasn't an easy problem to deal with.

Wasn't it possible that a man would dare to possess a woman like that just because he was the son of such an inferior official? That was the capital city, not a remote town! Any official of the capital city was superior to his father. Was it just because of ignorance that his playboy son dared to do whatever he wanted?

"Thank you, Childe Yan. Thank you, Childe Wang!" The woman said in a delicate voice. She wiped her face with a handkerchief and looked up again with a beautiful smile. She looked as charmingly delicate as a lily in the breeze. Fixing her affectionate eyes on Yan Xi, she said, "Thank you for helping me, Childe Yan!"

As they talked, they had arrived at the entrance. The servant girl opened the door, but Miss Zhao did not see them out first. Stepping to beside her servant girl and touching the shoulder of the latter, reluctance to say goodbye, she look at Yan Xi and said, "Childe Yan, if you save me from it, I will definitely..."

She stopped before finishing her words and her face blushed.

Before Yan Xi spoke, Wang Shengxue clapped his hands and said to Miss Zhao with a happy smile, "Miss Zhao, you are indeed a passionate person. But Childe Yan is not an ordinary man. He can be the Number One Scholar in the future!"

Yan Xi frowned. He didn't like Wang Shengxue's exaggerated words.

"Childe Wang, let's go!" Yan Xi said and took the lead to go out.

"Okay, let's go back!" Wang Shengxue nodded. Making sure that Yan Xi had been out of the door, he looked back and cast a dirty peep at Miss Zhao's pretty face.

With her head lowed, Miss Zhao seemed not to see what Wang Shengxue did to her.

Wang Shengxue turned around and left with a satisfied smile. When arriving outside, he saw Yan Xi waiting for him by the carriage. So he immediately stepped forward with a smile and said, "After you, Childe Yan!"

Yan Xi nodded and got on the carriage, followed by Wang Shengxue. The coachman skillfully turned the carriage to another direction, during which he happened to see Miss Zhao inside the courtyard. She was a beauty. A thought instantly came into his mind—he didn't know this Miss.

Miss Zhao seemed to have noticed that the coachman was peeking at her. So she gestured to the servant girl and asked her to close the door of the courtyard. Both of them hid behind the door together.

"Childe Yan, what do you think we should do? Should we tell Uncle Shao?" Wang Shengxue couldn't wait to ask as soon as he sat down.

Yan Xi frowned tightly. He didn't know what to do either.

Beholding his frown, Wang Shengxue said again, "It won't be settled if it just depends on us two, but it will if Uncle Shao gives a hand. Miss Zhao came to the capital city alone to turn to her relatives. It's

pitiful that she is trapped in such trouble before she finds her relatives. If she hadn't met meet you, she and her servant girl might have lost their lives!"

Speaking of this, Wang Shengxue sighed with a sobbing tone.

"Ask Duke Xing for help?" Yan Xi finally answered.

"I know no one else better! What's more, the playboy's father is not a high-ranking official, he can be easily dealt with as long as Uncle Shao shows his face. Then the whole thing will be over, the son of that inferior official won't trouble Miss Zhao anymore, and she can rest assured to go on seeking her relatives!" Wang Shengxue said and nodded.

Yan Xi fell silent again. It was a good idea, but he was not sure whether it was practicable. They must find a reason to persuade Duke Xing to help. But the truth was Yan Xi had nothing to do with Miss Zhao, which made it hard to explain to Duke Xing.

Here was the whole thing. Miss Zhao, who came to the capital city without families, encountered a playboy who had a crush on her when she was on her way to the Buddha Temple to offer incense. The moment she was stopped and about to be offended by the playboy, she was saved by Yan Xi, who happened to go by when he was hanging out on the street.

In general, it was a coincidence, and it came to a quite good end. The playboy was repelled. But when Yan Xi was about to leave, unexpectedly, Miss Zhao fainted away. Yan Xi could only help send her home, and then he met Wang Shengxue.

Wang Shengxue was very warmhearted and joined him to help.

Unexpectedly, it was not over. That idle man didn't intend to give up. He found Miss Zhao and forced her to marry him as a concubine. However, Miss Zhao would never be a concubine even though she was in such a predicament that she had to come alone to seek refuge with relatives in the capital city because of the decline of her family.

She was a decent girl from a good family. She would rather die than be a concubine.

She had a strong will, which was very admirable. If Yan Xi hadn't known it, it would be acceptable that he was not going to help her. But now that he knew it, he would feel guilty if he stood aside and watched her die.

That was why he made up his mind to take care of her.

Though the problem was not easy to solve.

"Childe Yan, I heard that you are not engaged yet. What if you tell Uncle Shao that Miss Zhao is your fiancée, then he can interfere with a reason?" Wang Shengxue rolled his eyes and then come up with an idea for him.

He knew what Yan Xi was worried about. But in his opinion, there was nothing to worry about.

"No!" Yan Xi shook his head decisively.

"Why not? It's just an oral statement. Have you not understood Miss Zhao yet? If you get her out of this trouble, she will definitely be willing to devote her life to you without considering the reputation," Wang Shengxue reminded him, ignoring Yan Xi's worries.

That was exactly what Miss Zhao meant.

"Childe Wang, stop that, please! I don't expect to be repaid. If I get her reward, her reputation will be ruined. It was not easy for her to refuse to be a concubine before, so that is too bad if she becomes one of mine!"

Yan Xi shook his head and denied Wang's idea. At first glance, he had affirmed that Miss Zhao was a noble woman, who would never be willing to be anyone's concubine.

Such a thing would never happen even though it was mentioned.

"Then what do you think we should do?" Wang Shengxue shrugged his shoulder. He put all the blame on Yan Xi, without even thinking that it was he who had patted his chest and made the promise.

Yan Xi frowned and kept in silence. At the moment, he was also at a loss. It became quiet in the carriage, no talking but their heavy breathing.

The coachman had been paying attention to the people in the carriage. On their way to Miss Zhao's, they talk little. But now on their way back, they talked a lot.

The carriage was steering to Duke Xing's Mansion and when they arrived, the coachman had known most parts of the whole thing.

After the carriage stopped, Yan Xi and Wang Shengxue got out of the carriage together. Yan Xi took out a small purse from his pocket and then gave some money to the coachman, and the latter bowed to thank him.

Wang Shengxue didn't do anything. He just pulled Yan Xi's sleeve and left, showing no respect to the coachman as if it was the coachman's duty to give a ride to him, who was not even a master.

The coachman, with a good temper, held the money that Yan Xi gave him and saw them off with a smile...

When Qing'er came back to report the news from the coachman, Shao Wanru was making clothes for Chu Liuchen, who had sent people to give his size in the morning.

Yujie and Qu Le helped her cut the cloth, and they listened to Qing'er's report in silence. After Qing'er finished, Yujie put down the needle and thread in her hand and said in surprise, "Miss Zhao sounds like a woman with evil intentions. But, why did she play a trick on Childe Yan? I heard that Childe Yan is just the son of an old friend of Duke Xing. He is not powerful and influential in the capital city, isn't he?"

"Could it be that Childe Yan is actually a rich man, so she wants Childe Yan's money?" Qu Le blinked her eyes and asked, following Yujie's thoughts.

Shao Wanru didn't put down the scissors in her hand. She blinked her eyes, in which and there was a trace of sharp hostility. If her supposition was right, then someone was plotting to destroy Yan Xi's prospects.

But who would want to plot against an ordinary student, who just came to the capital city for the imperial exam? With the fact that a lot of students were on the list of candidates who were qualified for the exam, why was Yan Xi the only target? There should be something that she hadn't known!

"Go and gather some information about Childe Yan!" Shao Wanru looked up and order slowly. It seemed that the key to uncovering the mystery was on Yu Yan himself.

Shao Wanru had a vague feeling that what happened to Yan Xi must have something to do with her!

"Yes, Miss. I'm going to do it right now!" Yujie was a straightforward girl. On hearing Shao Wanru's order, she immediately turned around and go out.

"Let Nanny Yu do it. She is familiar with the people in the mansion!" Shao Wanru stopped her. Compared with Nanny Yu, Yujie stayed with Shao Wanru more, so it was easy for others to have suspicions of Shao Wanru's intention if they were questioned by Yujie. She curled her lip up slightly and gave an instruction. "Nanny Yu, don't ask Yan Xi first. Let's start from other people, like Second Uncle!"

Chapter 848 Shao Hua'an's Wedding

It had been a few days later when Nanny Yu got the information and came back.

It was not that Nanny Yu had been inefficient, but that she had not wanted others to find out that people in Piaoyun Courtyard was paying attention to this Childe Yan's matter. After all, this matter had nothing to do with Shao Wanru. So it was unreasonable for her to ask someone to inquire about it.

"Miss, Yan's Mansion is an aristocratic family at the border. They have been guarding the border and have been old friends with our mansion for generations. This can be traced back to Old Duke. At that time, Old Duke and Old Master of Yan's Mansion were as close as brothers. I heard that they had once followed our previous Emperor to go on a campaign together. They could be said to have a friendship of life and death!"

Nanny Yu selected some useful information that she had inquired about and reported it to Shao Wanru.

"I also heard that the two families had wanted to become related by marriage at that time, but both families had no daughter of lineal descent, so this matter had had to be put aside. Besides, our Duke's Mansion accompanied the previous Emperor to the capital city, while Yan's Mansion still stayed there and guarded the border."

Hearing this, Shao Wanru blinked her watery eyes slightly and grasped a key point. "The relationship between the two families is not the friendship between Second Uncle and Lord Yan!"

"Yes, it should be like this. It is the original friendship between the two mansions instead of that of the Duke. I heard that Old Madam is also very concerned about Childe Yan and sends people to the outer courtyard to inquire about him from time to time."

Nanny Yu nodded. She had gone through a lot of twists and turns before she managed to gather this information. In order not to be discovered by others and affect her Miss's reputation, Nanny Yu had been very careful, lest her Miss's reputation be implicated.

In fact, in Nanny Yu's opinion, her Miss should not pay attention to the affairs of a strange man from another mansion at this time. Her Miss was about to become Princess Chen. If someone discovered this,

it might be used by a man of intention and cause a great disturbance. After all, there were few people in Duke Xing's Mansion who were kind to her Miss.

Seeing that Shao Wanru was silent, Nanny Yu persuaded her cautiously, "Miss, I don't think this matter has something to do with you."

Shao Wanru knew that Nanny Yu said this out of kindness, so she nodded and changed the topic, "Has Childe Wang shown up in our mansion from time to time recently?"

"Childe Wang is really annoying. None of the masters likes him. Every time he comes here, he really thinks of himself as a master. But Duke didn't say anything directly, so everyone can only let him come and go as he pleases." There was a lot of information about Wang Shengxue. Even though Nanny Yu had not deliberately inquired about him, she had heard a lot.

Childe Wang hadn't been here for a period of time before, but recently he had come here more frequently. After coming over, he liked putting on airs, as if he really regarded himself as a master in this mansion, which was really annoying.

"Since Miss Wang passed away, hasn't he never come?" Shao Wanru asked with a trace of deepness across her eyes. She clearly remembered that Wang Shengxue hadn't come to the mansion when she had entered the imperial palace to attend the Consort Selection.

What had happened to Wang Yishu had made him fall out with Duke Xing's Mansion. Moreover, he had even threatened Duke Xing's Mansion at that time. Thus, Old Madam had had to go to worship Wang Yishu. Such a distant descendant dared to trouble Old Madam. It was really hard for Old Madam, who was a self-conceited person, to bear this.

At that time, Wang Shengxue had also been emboldened by someone's support. Obviously he had had a new backer, otherwise Duke Xing's Mansion would neither have shown such weakness nor let Old Madam make such a concession. Not only had she given him a house, but also took all the Misses in Duke Xing's Mansion to worship Wang Yishu, showing that they had given enough face to Wang Shengxue.

In this case, the most normal behavior was that Wang Shengxue should no longer have any contact with Duke Xing's Mansion. Originally they were distant relatives, so he would be unable to visit Duke Xing's Mansion in the future.

After something had happened to Madam Jiang, the evidence in Wang Shengxue's hands would be useless. Even if Wang Shengxue wanted to come back, Old Madam would definitely disagree rather than let him be unbridled at the mansion now without saying a word.

Considering Old Madam's character, since the evidence had lost its effect, she would have never allowed Wang Shengxue to enter the mansion. However, the current situation was not the case. She seemingly turned a blind eye to Wang Shengxue and allowed him to do whatever he wanted in the mansion. And the problem he caused was related to Yan Xi.

Shao Wanru had thought for a long time about what the coachman had reported. The conclusion was that Wang Shengxue was definitely not innocent in the matter between Yan Xi and Miss Zhao, and had probably plotted it by himself. So what did Wang Shengxue want?

Of course, it could also be said what the person behind Wang Shengxue wanted!

This matter should have something to do with Duke Xing's Mansion. Otherwise, Wang Shengxue could not have been able to enter Duke Xing's Mansion, considering his previous behaviour. However, he not only entered the mansion now, but also seemed to be very calm and at ease. Although all the servants hated him, they could at most gossip behind his back when the masters did not give any instruction.

"Nanny Yu, you'd better pay attention to Childe Wang. He and his sister used to bear grudges against me. It doesn't matter even if someone notices you asking about him!"

Shao Wanru raised her arch eyebrows and had made up her mind in her heart!

"Okay, I understand!" Nanny Yu nodded in a hurry and breathed a sigh of relief in her heart. She was really worried that her Miss would fall in love with Childe Yan. Since her Miss was going to get married soon, it was not appropriate to pay attention to a strange man at this time.

On the day of Shao Hua'an's wedding, Shao Wanru got up early. Although Duke Xing's Mansion was the groom's family, all the affairs should be prepared early.

After having some breakfast, Shao Wanru went to Old Madam's Chuntang Courtyard.

The moment she entered the door, she heard a burst of laughter. It turned out that the people of Third Branch were all here. Actually, besides them, Shao Jie'er had also been released and she was sitting down in the lower position.

Third Madam had always been in poor health, but she also got up early this morning. She sat on one side of Old Madam, while on the other side sat Shao Jie'er, Shao Caihuan, and Shao Cailing.

Seeing Shao Wanru come in, Third Madam said to Old Madam with a smile, "Mother, see, we just talked about Wanru and now she comes in!"

Old Madam raised her eyes and glanced at Shao Wanru. She snorted indifferently with a cold attitude.

Shao Wanru had been used to such cold attitude. She stepped forward and bowed deeply to Old Madam respectfully. Old Madam waved her hand and said, "Sit down first. We are waiting for you!"

Shao Wanru retreated to the chair next to Third Madam and sat down. She raised the corners of her mouth slightly with a hint of sarcasm on her face. Waiting for her? Old Madam intended to blame her for being late, but in fact, she had gotten up early today and had come to greet much earlier than before.

However, it seemed that they indeed had arrived for a while. Someone must have informed them in advance, but obviously she had not received such message.

"Mother, what do you think of today's arrangement? You know that I'm in poor health!" Third Madam coughed in a low voice and gently covered her mouth with a handkerchief.

Since Shao Wanru met Third Madam, Third Madam seemed to have always been in poor health.

We won't manage the things in the outer courtyard. You are in charge of the inner courtyard. Since you are not well, you can ask Third Girl and Fifth Girl to help you. Fourth Girl, take care of those Misses and

accompany them to take a walk or have a chat. I will stay in the flower hall, talking to those Madams who don't want to walk around.

Old Madam cleared her throat and said this.

Shao Wanru clenched her handkerchief tightly and then relaxed. This arrangement was a little beyond her expectation. She had thought that she just needed to accompany guests, but she hadn't expected that she would be asked to help Third Madam.

She knew nothing about Duke Xing's affairs. In fact, she was less useful than Nanny in charge in the mansion!

"Wanru, why don't you manage the kitchen for me?" Third Madam looked at Shao Wanru with a smile and asked.

"Third Aunt, I... I don't know these..." Shao Wanru looked at Third Madam quite nervously with a blank look.

Being in charge of a kitchen was not something that could be done in a short time. Today, Third Madam suddenly asked her to be in charge of this. In this case, if something went wrong, Shao Wanru would take responsibility for it. She didn't think it was a good idea.

"Then how about helping Third Aunt manage the tea room?" Third Madam seemingly also felt that this was difficult for Shao Wanru, so she didn't insist on it. After thinking for a while, she asked again with a smile.

She could refuse once, but it was inconvenient to refuse twice. Moreover, managing the tea room was much easier than managing the kitchen.

"Okay, then I'll help Third Aunt manage the tea room. Third Aunt, if I don't do it well, please teach me!" Shao Wanru promised in a soft voice and then sat aside quietly, listening to Old Madam and Third Madam discussing all the arrangement in the banquet.

When everything was settled, Old Madam asked the supervisors of different departments to come over. Third Madam went to the wing room to meet the supervisors and to arrange today's affairs.

Shao Wanru and Shao Caihuan accompanied Third Madam. Since they were Third Madam's helpers today, they naturally tried their best to stay with Third Madam.

Shao Caihuan still wore a veil on her face and sat beside Third Madam obediently. Although she smiled at Shao Wanru kindly and gently, she no longer showed a flattering look as before.

She seemed to have returned to her former self.

Although Third Madam was in poor health, she handled things with ease and efficiency. During this period, she had handled all the affairs in Duke Xing's Mansion, so she was still quite familiar with them now.

After the supervisors of various departments were given orders, they left one by one and went to work on their own business.

Third Madam asked Shao Wanru and Shao Caihuan to check the affairs assigned to them respectively.

Shao Wanru went to the tea room with Yujie. Now she was mainly responsible for serving the tea for the guests in the inner courtyard. Female guests were also arranged to rest in a large flower hall in the inner courtyard.

The tea room was on the side of this big flower hall. It was a separate courtyard instead of a small room. When Shao Wanru came over, the servant girls and old maids in it were busy preparing. Of course, the so-called "tea room" was not only for serving tea, but also some fruits and snacks needed to be placed on the plate one by one.

Seeing Shao Wanru coming over, the Nanny in charge of tea room hurriedly came over to greet her with a smile. When she had been at the Third Madam's place just now, the Third Madam had already explained that Fifth Miss was in charge of this matter.

"Are these pastries so exquisite today?" Shao Wanru looked at a plate of steaming pastries and asked. This was specially taken out of the steamer just now by the Nanny in charge in order to curry favor with Shao Wanru. It was a quite small plate of pastries, but it had a perfect combination of color, aroma, and taste. At first glance, one could tell that it was excellent, not to mention that Shao Wanru just had had a little breakfast in a hurry.

Looking at such soft waxy desserts, she really felt hungry!

Chapter 849 Only Sweet Pastries!

"Fifth Miss, our mansion did not make these pastries before. But Minister Zhao's mansion sent the modes and ways to make them. The Third Madam asked us to try to make them and found that they were really delicious. So she asked us to make them today and invite the Madams and Misses who came to the mansion today to have a try!" The Nanny in charge explained with a smile.

Shao Wanru picked up a piece of pastry with chopsticks, took a bite, and then nodded, "They are really tasty and beautiful."

"Fifth Miss, I heard that this recipe was made by First Miss Zhao herself. Zhao's Mansion has never given it to others. This time they gave it to us because First Miss Zhao is going to marry into our mansion!" The nanny in charge smiled happily. It was a good thing to be praised by her master.

The Fifth Miss was no longer the one before. They had to try their best to flatter her.

Shao Wanru nodded. After tasting a piece of pastry, she stood up and looked at the wing room. At this time, a few female guests had come, but Shao Wanru did not go out. She just sat in the courtyard where tea was prepared. Shao Cailing and Old Madam would accompany the guests. It was not her turn.

She could totally take a break and just sit here.

However, she failed to take a break in the end. After sitting in the yard for a while, she saw an old maid running over quickly. When the old maid saw Shao Wanru sitting in the yard, she hurriedly came over and bowed, "Fifth Miss, Old Madam asks you to take some tea of good quality and some pastries to the room. You don't need to add more sugar. It's not good for Madam Dowager to eat too much sweet food."

"Go and prepare some pastries that are not so sweet and send them to Old Madam!" Shao Wanru nodded and ordered the Nanny in charge who had been standing beside her.

"Fifth Miss..." The Nanny in charge said bitterly and perplexedly.

"What's wrong?" Shao Wanru raised her eyebrows, put down the teacup in her hands leisurely, and asked.

"Fifth Miss, the pastries are all sweet, and the recipe sent by Zhao's Mansion is for sweet food..." The nanny in charge said in embarrassment.

"That is to say, you didn't prepare any pastries that were not so sweet?" Shao Wanru narrowed her eyes and said with a cold expression.

In a banquet, it was natural to prepare food with various flavors. One flavor could only gain the favor of some people while the others would not like it.

Tastes differed so they should prepare more flavors.

"The pastries sent by Minister Zhao's Manor were delicious. We all thought that they were fresh and could be made, so almost everyone would like them. But we didn't think that..." The nanny in charge was entangled with what she said and said hesitantly.

"Fifth Miss, hurry up. Old Madam is still waiting for the pastries!" The old maid sent by Old Madam said impatiently and turned to leave after saying this.

"Fifth Miss... what should we do?" The Nanny in charge was dumbfounded and stammered.

Shao Wanru took a deep breath to calm herself down. She stood up and walked to the largest room in the middle, in which people could make pastries.

It was steaming hot inside, and the air was filled with white steam. When she came in, she felt dizzy and couldn't see anything clearly.

The sweet smell overflowed from it. It smelled very good, but when people were immersed in it, it was indeed too sweet!

The elderly should indeed not eat too many pastries like them.

"Are there any old models to make pastries in our mansion?" Looking at the situation in the room, Shao Wanru asked.

"There are some old ones, but it is too late now!" The Nanny in charge said with her hands trembling.

It would take some time for a pastry to be made, let alone dough kneading, steaming, and other processes. In this case, the Old Madam could not eat the pastries before noon.

Old Madam asked in urgency. If they didn't hurry up, she might send people to urge them later.

"What's that?" Shao Wanru glanced at some small flour wrappings by the stove and asked.

“We will use them to make spring rolls. The people in the kitchen asked us to make them. There’s also a big pot of bean paste. They say that when the dishes are served later, we are free here. So we should help them prepare this pastry, which is also sweet!”

The Nanny in charge spread her hands helplessly.

“There should be some minced meat in the kitchen. Go get a pot, wrap some meat in the wrappings, and make it like the traditional spring roll!” Shao Wanru ordered.

“Fifth... Fifth Miss, is this edible?” The Nanny in charge opened her eyes wide and said in astonishment. Spring rolls had always been made of sweet bean paste. She had never heard of it being made of minced meat.

“Go and ask someone to get the minced meat here. Hurry up,” Shao Wanru said lightly and calmly.

This pastry had always been sweet in the capital city, but in fact, in Jiangzhou, other things could be wrapped in it and it could be made into a salty one.

Seeing that Shao Wanru was so decisive, the Nanny in charge could only listen to her. She instructed someone to fetch some minced meat and asked some free people to come here. Under the leadership of Yujie, they made the spring rolls with salty flavor. In fact, it was very simple and fast to make them. After wrapping them, they just needed to put them in the oil pan and fry them. Then they were nearly done.

There were very little minced meat wrapped in the flour wrappings, which was functioned just as the seasoning. After turning them over a few times, people could eat them when they floated up.

The first plate of fried spring rolls with salty flavor was ready very quickly. The Nanny in charge put down the chopsticks in her hands and heaved a sigh of relief.

“Fifth Miss, Old Madam urged you to hurry up!” At the door, the old maid sent by Old Madam came back again. It was too foggy inside. So she could not find Shao Wanru for a while. She stood at the door and shouted to Shao Wanru.

Shao Wanru was actually standing by the door. Hearing her voice, she turned around and walked out of the pastry room in the center. The old maid didn’t expect that Shao Wanru would stand so close to her. After being stunned for a moment, she hurriedly followed Shao Wanru out and said, “Fifth Miss...”

Yujie came out from inside, handed the plate in her hand to the old maid, and said, “Send it to Old Madam quickly!”

“Aren’t...aren’t they sweet? Old Madam meant that even the pastries can’t be too sweet, not to mention spring rolls with bean paste inside!”

The old maid glared at Yujie unhappily and questioned.

“Just send this plate to her. I’ll take responsibility if anything happens!” Shao Wanru said, as she walked to the courtyard and sat back in her position before.

Seeing that Shao Wanru behaved like this and the spring rolls in her hands, the old maid stamped her feet helplessly, turned around and left. Since the Fifth Miss said that she would take the responsibility, a

servant like her could not really argue with the Fifth Miss. If the Old Madam got angry later, the Fifth Miss would wait to be rebuked by Old Madam!

In the flower hall, Old Madam was talking and laughing with several Old Grandmas and Old Madams. They were chatting happily.

Seeing that the old maid had sent a plate of spring rolls, Old Madam became unhappy on her expression. She had told her before that they could not eat sweet food. It seemed that these spring rolls would be even sweeter.

"Old Madam, Fifth Miss specially asked me to send this to you. She said that you would like it!" The old maid did not dare to complain explicitly, so she secretly pointed out that it was Shao Wanru's idea.

Old Madam's expression became more and more gloomy, and she could hardly keep the smile on her face. When she gave instructions just now, she said it in front of all the Old Madams. But now, Shao Wanru sent this to her as if she was slapping Old Madam's face.

"It smells good. Let me have a taste!" Another Old Madam sniffed it, and said with a smile.

An old maid behind her hurriedly took a small plate and put a spring roll in front of her. The Old Madam picked it up and took a bite. At first, she was stunned, and then she was surprised and delighted. Finally, she nodded repeatedly and said, "Good, it's really delicious. I like it so much!"

As she spoke, she finished the spring roll in front of her in a few bites.

"Is it really delicious? Not sweet?" Another Old Madam asked in doubt.

"It's not hard but a little crispy and salty. It tastes very good!" The Old Madam said with smile on her face. She motioned the old maid beside her to take another one and then ate it with relish. She nodded as she ate.

Seeing that she was so satisfied with the food, the other Old Madams couldn't help picking it up one by one. After tasting it, they all nodded. They were used to the sweet taste of spring rolls. This kind of salty ones was unique. Moreover, it had just been made and was extremely fresh and delicious. Being crispy because of frying, it could be eaten by the old people.

The anger on Old Madam's face faded away slowly. She asked Nanny Yu to pick one up and bit it gently. It smelled and tasted very good and attractive to her. She nodded calmly at the moment, indicating that she was satisfied with what Shao Wanru had done.

"Old Madam, your granddaughter is so capable that she could make such good spring rolls. After I go back, I will ask my mansion to have a try. I'm old and tired of eating sweet things!" The Old Madam, who had been the first to eat, put down the chopsticks in her hands and said with a smile, feeling very satisfied.

"She is indeed capable!"

"How can she not be good as she was picked by the Empress Dowager as the Princess Chen!" Another two old madams joked.

Although Old Madam disliked Shao Wanru, she was still very happy to hear Shao Wanru being praised by others like this. She smiled delightfully and said modestly, "She is just a child and doesn't know much. So I let her take charge of some things. She can't be ignorant of everything in the future. She has to learn slowly."

Shao Wanru would be the future Princess Chen. When she married into Prince Chen's Mansion, she would definitely be in charge of the inner courtyard. So she should learn some managing methods of the inner courtyard. However, neither Old Madam nor Shao Jing seemed to have thought of this matter, nor did anyone tended to teach her. Now that Old Madam mentioned it, it seemed that they had taught her.

"The Misses in your mansion are all smart, and even the youngest Fifth Miss Shao is so clever, which makes people like her so much."

"They are all pretty with good character."

"None of my granddaughters have come up with such a good solution!" Old Madams flattered the Old Madam one after another, and the Old Madam could not stop smiling. She said repeatedly, "All the Misses in your mansion are also as beautiful as flowers..."

This matter was over. It was rare for Old Madam to ask the old maid to express her praise to Shao Wanru.

Since they liked it, Shao Wanru asked the tea room to make more and send them to the other female guests.

The two plates of different pastries were sent out at the same time. However, according to the servant girl who came back, everyone's favorite was not the previous plate of sweet pastries, but the spring rolls newly made by Shao Wanru. Even the servant girls from other mansions asked the servant girls from the tea room how they could make it, what they should prepare, and what they should pay attention to.

Shao Wanru, who was sitting in the courtyard, heard these words and sneered. Someone had predicted that she would be in charge of this matter and deliberately let her ruin things today so that she would lose face and be punished...

Chapter 850 Big Trouble During the Wedding

She not only suffered a loss for no reason and was unable to talk about it but also felt extremely offended by it!

Since the matter had been solved, Shao Wanru asked the Nanny in charge to keep an eye on it and rush to report to her if there was anything she could not deal with.

She went back to Piaoyun Courtyard and changed her clothes.

When Shao Wanru came back, the bride's bridal sedan chair had entered the mansion. She didn't go back to the tea room again but directly went to Qiuhui Courtyard to see the bride with Yujie.

Qiuhui Courtyard was covered with bright red colors. The carpets on the floor of the porch and curtains hung on the door were all red, which built an atmosphere of happiness.

In the bridal chamber, with the veil on her head removed, the bride was sitting on the bed with shyness, listening to the praises from the crowd in the room.

"Fifth Sister, you are here too! Let's go in together!" Shao Caihuan happened to arrive at the same time and invited Shao Wanru with a smile when they met at the door.

Shao Wanru nodded, and then they entered the bridal chamber together.

There were some Madams and Misses from the bride's family in the bridal chamber. When they saw the two, they bowed and made jokes. The whole room was full of laughter and cheer.

Shao Wanru looked at Zhao Xiran with a smile. Today, Zhao Xiran looked as commonly shy as a bride, completely different from that day on which she showed indifference to her marriage. Only at this moment did it look like that she had married into Duke Xing's Mansion.

Standing aside calmly and watching Shao Caihuan join others to make fun of the bride, Shao Wanru just smiled slightly and did not show excessive intimacy or coldness.

Some of them had never seen Shao Wanru before, and they were amazed by her beautiful appearance. They looked at the bride sitting on the bed and then at Shao Wanru who was not dressed meticulously, and secretly made a comparison on the two in their minds, after which they couldn't help praising that Fifth Miss Shao was really beautiful!

Even the bride, who was in an exquisite wedding dress, paled in front of her.

The banquet had begun, and the ladies in the bridal chamber went away one by one. Shao Wanru and Shao Caihuan as the host were not in a hurry, so they stepped aside and made way for them to go first.

In a moment, the bridal chamber quietened down.

"Fifth Sister, shall we also go there now?" Shao Caihuan looked at Shao Wanru and asked.

Shao Wanru hesitated. She and Shao Caihuan each had their own functions, so they did not have to go to the banquet right now. Even if they went there, they were not in a hurry to have lunch.

"Third Sister, Fifth Sister, please don't go yet!" Zhao Xiran, who had been sitting on the bed like a mute, suddenly asked them to stay.

"What's the matter, Sister Zhao?" The two of them turned around together and changed the way they addressed her with a smile. Since she had married into Duke Xing's Mansion, there was no First Miss Zhao anymore, but only Madam Zhao, the First Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion.

Zhao Xiran stood up and walked to her dressing table, from a drawer at the top of which she took out a jewelry box and then said to them with a smile, "You two have been busy with my affairs until now. I'm afraid you won't even have a peaceful lunch. Thank you, my two sisters. Here are two palace flowers I made by myself. I want to give them to you as thanksgiving gifts."

Zhao Xiran said as she presented the jewelry box open in front of them.

They looked in the box and saw two delicate silk flowers.

"They are so beautiful!" Shao Caihuan's eyes lit up and she reached out to take out the purple palace flower. "I have never seen such beautiful palace flowers. I am afraid that even in the palace there is no such beautiful palace flower, right?"

These two silk flowers were not only in the shape of a flower but also each stuck with a pendant, which made the palace flowers even more charming.

In Duke Xing's Mansion, there were silk flowers made in palace, most of which were awarded by the masters in the palace. Not to mention others, Shao Wanru herself had several boxes given by Empress Dowager. But compared with the ones in front of her, they were obviously more beautiful, with some small branches and leaves scattered around.

"I am glad that you like them. I made them by myself and I was so afraid that you would dislike them!" Zhao Xiran breathed a sigh of relief, which made people have a good impression of her.

"You are too polite, Sister Zhao. If these flowers are not beautiful, no flowers in the world can be said to be beautiful!" Shao Caihuan said with a smile. She did not put down the purple flower in her hand. She liked the purple one.

"Thank you, Sister Zhao!" Shao Wanru also thanked her with a polite smile.

The one left in the box was a light white-and-pink silk flower, with elegance mixed up with a little charm. It was the exact color that Shao Wanru was fond of.

The two flowers happened to be to both Shao Wanru's and Shao Caihuan's tastes.

"Don't mention it. I'm sorry to trouble you today!" Zhao Xiran bowed deeply and said.

Not daring to accept her salute, they both bowed in return.

As it was getting late, Shao Caihuan and Shao Wanru said goodbye and went out. They had to go now, for fear that Old Madam and Third Madam needed their help.

The two sisters went on their separate ways at the gate of Qiuhui Courtyard for their own business.

Shao Wanru went to the tea room. At this time, people in the tea room were not so busy. Everyone was cleaning up and seemed to be in a good mood. The Nanny in charge smiled with great happiness when she saw Shao Wanru was there.

Because the tea room prepared a dessert called fried salty Spring rolls, many servant girls and old maids who served the guests with them were awarded, including Nanny in charge. Moreover, Old Madam specially awarded all people working in the tea room. All of this was owed to Fifth Miss's good idea.

When she saw Shao Wanru again, she certainly flattered her more.

"Fifth Miss, you haven't had lunch yet, have you? Everything is fine here. You can go to have your meal!" Nanny in charge said with a smile.

Shao Wanru looked around and confirmed that nothing was wrong. She nodded and turned around to find a place to have lunch.

After lunch, some guests said goodbye and left one after another. Old Madam called all her granddaughters to see them off with her.

Among her three granddaughters, Shao Wanru was praised most by the guests. Even if their aim was not to flatter Rui'an Great Elder Princess, it was certainly to Prince Chen.

Many people had been confused before why Empress Dowager would choose the Fifth Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion as the partner of her most favored Prince Chen. Now they knew the reason when they saw her in the flesh. They couldn't help but sigh what a good decision Empress Dowager had made to choose such a beauty. Of course, everyone knew that Rui'an Great Elder Princess must be involved in the decision.

Otherwise, the Fifth Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion would not be good enough for Prince Chen.

However, she didn't match him in identity. But in terms of appearance, several Old Madams who had seen Chu Liuchen would never deny that if they two stood together, it would look like the handsome man and the beautiful woman were made for each other!

So everyone praised Shao Wanru a lot in many aspects, from her beautiful look to her virtue of filial piety to any new trick they had just thought. Shao Wanru almost became a flawless woman in their praises.

Every time it happened, Shao Wanru would lower her head with shyness, looking like a little girl who didn't know what to do. She looked very well-behaved, which was also approved by all these Old Madams, who nodded and praised that Old Madam of Duke Xing's Mansion was a good teacher and had taught Fifth Miss Shao well.

Old Madam accepted all these compliments.

Most of the women guests left after lunch, and only some close relatives stayed for dinner. So there were few guests to serve in the afternoon, and the tea room was less busy. Shao Wanru also had time to go back to her courtyard to have a break, after which she went back to her position.

As soon as she sat down in the courtyard where the tea room was located, an old maid ran in with anxiety. When she saw Shao Wanru, she breathed a sigh of relief but said anxiously, "Fifth Miss, go and have a look! Something bad happened!"

"What's the matter?" Shao Wanru asked in surprise. In general, when something went wrong, they should report it to Old Madam and Third Madam instead of her!

"It's Prince Chen... something happened to him..." The old maid took a few more breaths and said, "Old Madam asked me to ask you to deal with it..."

Shao Wanru narrowed her eyes instantly and said with a cold look, "What do you mean by saying that something happened to Prince Chen?"

"Why would Prince Chen have an accident in our mansion?" Yujie also asked with anxiety.

The old maid wiped the sweat on her face with her hands. She was anxious, but she had to be calm and make it clear. In fact, it was not Chu Liuchen who had an accident. It should be said that Chu Liuzhou and Chu Liuyue were making trouble.

Unfortunately, it had something to do with Shao Wanru.

After hearing the old maid's detailed report, Shao Wanru was out of patience. Followed by the old maid and Yujie, she rushed to the outer court.

There was a fight, which was relevant to Prince Chen and Prince Zhou. The other two princes seemed to be involved too. That was a huge problem!

A man's resting place in the outer court was in a mess, but it only happened inside the courtyard. There were people guarding outside and no one else was allowed to come in. Shao Wanru was also blocked as soon as she reached there.

"Go and report to Old Madam that I have been here!" Shao Wanru stopped and said slowly to the person who blocked her.

The guard nodded and ran to report to Old Madam. After the accident, Old Madam and Shao Jing came at once and gave the order of setting cordons around the entire courtyard to prevent others from coming in it.

It was a day of great joy for Duke Xing's Mansion today. There were servants not only of Duke Xing's Mansion but also other mansions. So it was easy that there would be some bad rumors.

Shao Wanru didn't wait long outside before an old maid of Old Madam came to lead her in. The first place she was led to was not the main room, where there seemed to be plenty of people, some of whom were having a fierce quarrel in loud voices.

In the wing room, Old Madam sat with a gloomy face. After Shao Wanru came in, she pointed aside, signaling Shao Wanru to sit down. She frowned tightly, and the atmosphere in the room was very depressing.

After bowing to her, Shao Wanru sat down beside Old Madam and kept silent, waiting for her to speak. She understood that she was not called over by Old Madam in such a hurry for watching the fun. She could even hear the noise from the main room. It seemed that Old Madam was unable to suppress it.

"Fifth Girl, can you invite Prince Chen to come?" Hearing another quarrel over there, Old Madam couldn't help frowning, and she pinched and relaxed the muscle between her eyebrows. It should be a good day, but now it was about to become a disaster, which made Old Madam very helpless.