

Medical Princess 871

Chapter 871 Enter the Mansion of the Prime Minister Again

Old Madam had said that she would not go to the Mansion of the Prime Minister, but later she changed her mind and went there with Shao Cailing, Shao Wanru, and Zhao Xiran, her new daughter-in-law.

Although the two mansions were very close, they still decided to take the carriage. Two carriages were prepared. Shao Wanru and Old Madam took the one in the front, and Zhao Xiran and Shao Cailing the other. They arrived at the Mansion of the Prime Minister just after a turn.

They were the first guests that had arrived and entered the Mansion of the Prime Minister soon.

The men stayed in the living room outside while the women went to the inner room.

After hearing that Old Madam had come, Madam Wen had been waiting at the Chuihua Gate for her. The two mansions had always been in a good relationship. Though the two Madams had little contact with each other for Old Madam was not in charge of the domestic affairs of Marquis Xing's Mansion, their intimacy was never diluted after so many years.

Madam Wen was a pretty middle-aged woman with decent dressing. When she saw Old Madam coming over, she hurriedly greeted her with a smile.

After they greeted each other, Old Madam noticed that there was a beautiful woman behind Madam Wen. She asked, "This girl looks familiar."

"Old Madam, do you forget it? This is my niece Xishu, the little girl who used to play with the Misses in your mansion when they were young," Madam Wen introduced with a smile.

"Oh, yes! God, I'm old and dizzy. Yes! It's Xishu from your mansion. I haven't seen her for a long time, and now she has grown up into such a beautiful girl. Madam Wen is really good at raising children. You have taught her so well!" Old Madam understood and said with a smile.

"Old Madam, you are too polite. How could she be compared with the Misses in your mansion? All of them are as beautiful as flowers. Is this Fifth Miss Shao?" Madam Wen cast her eyes on the girls behind Old Madam.

She had seen Zhao Xiran before, and Shao Cailing was also familiar to her. The only person she knew little about was Shao Wanru. Madam Wen couldn't help praising Shao Wanru in her heart. "She was an elegant and charming girl with delicate facial features and lively watery eyes. When she looked at people, her eyes looked hazy and mysterious, so beautiful that it seemed to be unreal."

Since Madam Wen saw Shao Yanru, she had always believed that no other woman could surpass Shao Yanru in beauty. Now when she saw Fifth Miss Shao, she knew that there was always someone better.

Speaking of this, it was quite lucky for Marquis Xing's Mansion. Not only did it have such a beautiful First Miss Shao, but also the Fifth Miss Shao, who had just returned to her ancestral home, was another beauty. First Miss Shao had become a pity, so it was worrying whether Fifth Miss Shao would have a bad end like her eldest sister.

"Fifth Girl, come front to meet Madam Wen!" Old Madam waved to Shao Wanru and said.

Shao Wanru took a step forward and bowed respectfully to Madam Wen.

“Good girl! You are really beautiful and polite. Old Madam’s biological granddaughter is indeed well-educated,” Madam Wen nodded and said. Then she took a bracelet off her wrist and put it on Shao Wanru’s. “I didn’t prepare presents today. This good jade bracelet is given to Fifth Miss as a meeting gift!”

“Thank you, Madam Wen!” Old Madam said with a smile.

Shao Wanru expressed her gratitude and stepped aside.

Gu Xishu, who stood beside her, glared at her fiercely with uncontrollable hatred in her eyes. Shao Wanru looked into Gu Xishu’s eyes indifferently and then smiled slightly. She did not understand why Gu Xishu was so excited to see her.

The conflict a few years ago had passed for so long, and it was just a trivial matter. Even if Gu Xishu had not made any progress, she could not bear grudges since then. However, Shao Wanru was shocked by Gu Xishu’s expression. There were shocks, complaints, and hatred in her eyes.

However, Gu Xishu gradually controlled her emotions and calmed down, and then her expression returned to normal.

After the juniors greeted each other, Madam Wen led Old Madam inside in person, followed by their juniors, who were listening to their elders’ conversation.

Shao Wanru was the youngest, so she was in the back of the line. Suddenly, Gu Xishu was walking beside her.

“Fifth Miss Shao, it’s your first time to visit our mansion, isn’t it? Let me show you around and enjoy the scenery later!” Gu Xishu said with a smile as if she had never shown aggression to Shao Wanru just now.

“Thank you for your kindness, Miss Gu!” Shao Wanru replied with a smile.

“Fifth Miss, you don’t have to be so polite. You are the guest, and I am the hostess!” Gu Xishu said softly with some connotations in her words. However, Shao Wanru was not interested in her, so she just smiled politely and did not follow her words.

“Miss Gu, are you...” Shao Cailing answered her. They used to be good friends when they were young. So Shao Cailing understood Gu Xishu’s thoughts. But now there were too many people around, so Shao Cailing realized that she could not say anything in front of them. She gave a slight hint.

Gu Xishu blushed and bit her lip, with the handkerchief twisted in her hand. Her bashful look showed that there must be something.

“Miss Gu, are you engaged to Second Young Master?” Zhao Xiran, who was well-informed, said with a low voice after she noticed that Old Madam and Madam Wen were talking excitedly in the front.

“Engaged? Isn’t she going to be concubine?” Shao Wanru raised her eyebrows with a trace of suspicion in her watery eyes.

“It hasn’t been decided yet!” Gu Xishu whispered in a tiny voice, with her face turning red.

“Miss Gu, I’m sorry. I thought that you had reached an agreement!” Zhao Xiran apologized.

“Never mind, Eldest Young Madam Shao!” Gu Xishu said in a sweet voice. She glanced at Shao Wanru with a red face, looking a little complacent. That confused Shao Wanru a lot. She didn’t know what Gu Xishu was proud of. They were almost strangers to each other!

They arrived at the flower hall which was not far from the Chuihua Gate. Old Madam and Madam Wen didn’t require the girls to stay with them and allowed them to walk around with Gu Xishu’s company.

Zhao Xiran decided to stay. She said that she would accompany Old Madam and asked Shao Cailing and Shao Wanru to go with Gu Xishu.

Madam Wen immediately appreciated Zhao Xiran’s manner. She nodded to show her agreement that Old Madam had got a good granddaughter-in-law. Minister Zhao’s daughter was very well-educated.

Old Madam didn’t like Zhao Xiran at first. But she also showed a loving expression on her face. She looked at Zhao Xiran with satisfaction while she was replying to Madam Wen with politeness and modesty as if she was truly contented with Zhao Xiran.

Suddenly, Shao Cailing didn’t want to go either. The third branch was having a hard time now. Before she went out, Third Madam had warned her again and again that she must please Old Madam. Seeing that Zhao Xiran’s trick worked, she immediately walked to the other side of Old Madam and said that she was worried about Old Madam and didn’t want to go around.

There were only four women in total, and two of them didn’t want to go and were bent on pleasing Old Madam. So Shao Wanru sat down beside Shao Cailing.

Seeing that Shao Wanru had also sat down, Madam Wen suggested with a smile, “Fifth Miss Shao, you haven’t been to our mansion before, have you? Xishu happens to be free, so she can show you around to get familiar with our mansion!”

“Fifth Miss Shao, shall we go? It’s your first time coming to our mansion. If I don’t serve you well, my aunt will blame me. Fifth Miss Shao, you won’t embarrass me, will you?” Gu Xishu came to pull Shao Wanru up with great kindness.

Shao Wanru stood up, stepped back and just avoided Gu Xishu’s hands. “Thank you, Miss Gu!”

She couldn’t come out with an excuse to deny Madam Wen’s reason. Among everyone present, she was the only one who had never been to the Mansion of the Prime Minister. Madam Wen’s arrangement was very reasonable.

“Aunt, I’ll take Fifth Miss Shao out for a walk!” Gu Xishu said to Madam Wen with a smile. It seemed that she didn’t notice Shao Wanru’s cold attitude towards her.

Madam Wen nodded with a smile and made fun of them, “Don’t go too far. You’ll come back after walking for a while. Fifth Miss Shao, just come back if you’re tired! There are some snacks to be served later. If you’re too late, you’ll lose the chance to taste them!”

“Aunt!” Gu Xishu stamped her feet, pretending to be angry. And she said, “Don’t say like I am nothing but a gluttonous girl!”

"Aren't you?" Madam Wen laughed, and Old Madam couldn't help laughing too.

Gu Xishu's face turned red after she was laughed at. "Fifth Miss Shao, let's go! We'll come back after walking for a while, in case that they finish all the tasty snacks!" She approached Shao Wanru and said with kindness.

"Okay, okay. Just go!" Madam Wen smiled and waved her hand, which showed that she liked this niece very much.

The smile on Old Madam's face faded. Gu Xishu reminded her of Madam Jiang, who was raised by her. Old Madam was once determined to make Madam Jiang marry into Marquis Xing's Mansion and train her to be the favorite daughter-in-law. But in the end, Madam Jiang ended up like that. Even now, Old Madam couldn't understand why Madam Jiang made mistakes again and again as if she had been cursed.

Shao Wanru bowed to Old Madam and then left with Gu Xishu.

After walking out of the flower hall, Gu Xishu pointed to a path on the front right and said, "Fifth Miss Shao, shall we go that way? The scenery is very good!"

Shao Wanru looked in that direction with a pair of deep eyes. She frowned slightly, but then she relaxed and said, "As you wish, Miss Gu."

She meant that she had never been there before. No matter where they went, Gu Xishu could make the decision.

"Okay, let's go this way!" Gu Xishu nodded with a smile. The two girls talked about the scenery all the way, as if they had never seen each other before.

Shao Wanru was actually very familiar with that path. In her last life, she had walked it several times a day. And it was the most familiar place to Shao Wanru in the inner court of the Mansion of the Prime Minister.

If this path had not been changed, the place where the path led would be Wen Xichi's courtyard, another familiar place to Shao Wanru.

Prime Minister Wen's only daughter had died early, so he only had three sons. He had few concubines, so several large courtyards in the inner court were left to his three sons.

Wen Xichi was Prime Minister Wen's favorite son, who had shown great talents when he was still young. So he owned a large courtyard at the end of the path.

As they walked forward. Shao Wanru kept silent and wanted to see what Gu Xishu wanted to do by pretending to be so obedient.

At a junction, Gu Xishu stopped with a smile and pointed to the front. "That's my third cousin's courtyard. Let's not go there, for fear of bumping into him. He's an intangible person. Who knows if he's there or not? Fifth Miss Shao, let's go this way!"

The direction she pointed was not to Wen Xichi's courtyard. It seemed that she really did not want to come across Wen Xichi.

If it were someone else, Shao Wanru might have believed her. But Gu Xishu? Shao Wanru curled her lips and said in a graceful and cold manner, "You lead the way, Miss Gu!"

Chapter 872 A Picture of Her in the Last Life

It was getting warmer and warmer, and especially it was sunny today. So people could feel warm if they were not in the wind.

Though there were not many flowers in the early spring, along their way there were a lot of trees that had been dyed green by the spring breeze, and they were no longer as withered as before.

Shao Wanru looked at the courtyard in front of her with a frown.

Compared with other courtyards whose buildings were showy and gorgeous, it was a very modest one with an atmosphere of humbleness. And it had a modest gate, behind which there were three simple houses.

"What is this place?" Shao Wanru stopped and asked.

"It is a study. Let me show you something!" Gu Xishu said with a smile and suddenly reached out to push Shao Wanru.

Shao Wanru was not on her guard and almost fell down.

Yujie rushed forward to protect Shao Wanru and cast a vigilant glare at Gu Xishu.

"Fifth Miss Shao, are you afraid?" Gu Xishu raised her eyebrows, lifted her chin, and sneered at her.

"Why should I be afraid? Could it be that Miss Gu hides some ulterior secrets here?" Shao Wanru gently pushed Yujie away and said with a cold face.

"There is indeed something ulterior, but I didn't hide anything! Fifth Miss Shao, how scheming you are! You hooked up with Prince Chen and my Third Cousin at the same time!" Gu Xishu looked at Shao Wanru with jealousy and hatred. She had tried her best but got nothing, but how could Shao Wanru get what she wanted so easily?

"What do you mean?" Shao Wanru's face darkened. She couldn't understand Gu Xishu's words, but they shocked her a lot.

"Fifth Miss Shao, don't you understand? You really know how to pretend. There is no one else here. You'd better be frank!" Gu Xishu said with anger and hatred. When she thought of the painting, she felt so angry that she almost lost her temper.

What she wanted should belong to her. If someone else took it and she couldn't get it, she would rather destroy it!

Gu Xishu had determined to marry her Third Cousin since she lived in the Mansion of the Prime Minister. But now he was getting farther and farther away from her. At the thought of this, she gnashed her teeth in anger.

She grew up with Third Cousin, and she accompanied him until now. Why did Third Cousin fall in love with someone else?

At first, she felt that the girl in the painting was very familiar, but she couldn't remember who she was for a second. Later, she recalled all the outstanding girls she had seen in her mind and found that the painted woman looked like Fifth Miss Shao of Marquis Xing's Mansion.

Gu Xishu had a good memory. Shao Wanru didn't look the same as the girl in the painting when she first met Gu Xishu just now. She still looked like a naive teenager. But some characteristics could not be changed, such as her delicate and beautiful facial features and her pure and charming watery eyes.

Of course, Gu Xishu was just skeptical about Shao Wanru at first, but she changed to be certain when she saw Shao Wanru today.

Yes, it was Shao Wanru, the current Shao Wanru but not the previous one.

"But how could it be her?" That was also why Gu Xishu was so shocked when she saw Shao Wanru for the first time. "Why should it be her? When did Third Cousin get acquainted with her? Why have I never known about it and have never heard of it before?"

Shao Wanru had calmed down. Her watery eyes fell on Gu Xishu's jealous and ferocious face, and then she questioned with a smile, "What do you mean by saying that I should be frank? Miss Gu, do you think you can say whatever you want? How could you slander me at will?"

The calmer Shao Wanru was, the angrier Gu Xishu became. She pointed at Shao Wanru and scolded loudly, "You... how dare you deny it?"

"Miss Gu, please don't talk nonsense without evidence. My Miss is going to marry into Prince Chen's Mansion soon. Not anyone can talk nonsense about her!" Yujie glared at Gu Xishu and said.

Just now, her Miss was almost pushed over by her.

Gu Xishu's servant girl also took a step forward to protect her master. She faced Yujie and said, "How dare you cut in with rude words when my master is talking?"

"Is your Miss's servant girl the same as our Miss's?" Yujie looked up and down at that servant girl with disdain.

"You..." Gu Xishu's servant girl was so angry that she was about to take action but was stopped by Gu Xishu.

"Shao Wanru, you won't admit it until you see the proof, right? Well, I'll show you! Come with me!" Gu Xishu said with a sneer.

She turned around and walked into the house. After taking a few steps, she turned back and said, "Shao Wanru, don't you even dare to have a look at the painting? If you refuse to see it, I'll show it to all the guests today. I'll make everyone see through what kind of person you are! Let's see whether Prince Chen still wants to marry you then."

After that, she rushed into the main room.

Shao Wanru pondered for a second and followed her fearlessly.

The door of the main house was closed. Gu Xishu took out a key to open it and went inside. It turned out to be a study with shelves of books instead of a room for living. The three houses were actually a building with two side rooms connected to both sides of the main room.

Gu Xishu led Shao Wanru to the side room on the left. There was a big desk, on which everything was available, including writing brushes, ink sticks, paper, and ink stones.

There was a big painting jar beside the desk with a few paintings in it.

Gu Xishu walked to the painting jar, took out a scroll, and handed it to Shao Wanru with a cold face. "Take a look at it yourself. Don't tell me that you don't know who she is in it even though there are some differences. They are just tricks designed by Third Cousin to deceive people. Anyone who sees it will know that it's you! The more he tries to deceive us, the more conspicuous it is!"

Shao Wanru frowned and took the painting. She walked to the desk beside the window, slowly unfolded it, and laid it flat on the desk.

When she saw the woman in the painting clearly, her face changed. The woman in the painting was exactly her.

Yujie had thought that Gu Xishu was talking nonsense. Now when she saw the face of the woman in the painting, she was also shocked with her eyes widely open, and she could say nothing in a moment.

"This... is Miss, isn't she?"

"Don't ever say that you don't know the woman in the painting or try to lie that she is not you but someone else, Shao Wanru. How unexpected it is that you are such a woman, who has... with Third Cousin! You... you two..." Gu Xishu pointed at the painting and was so angry that her face turned livid.

Her eyes were full of hatred, as if Wen Xichi had always been hers.

"Shao Wanru, I am going to show this painting to everyone later so that you can experience what it means to lose your reputation. You want to marry my Third Cousin brother? Forget it. Even if you are disgraced and have to marry him, you will be merely a concubine at most and you will be below me. I can torture you in any way I want!"

Gu Xishu's eyes were tinged with angry red.

Shao Wanru ignored her and watched the painting carefully. Everything in it was very familiar to her. Her clothes and expression, and even the surrounding environment were very familiar as if it was just right in front of her. When looking at it again, she seemed to be in a dream.

She touched the face of the woman in the painting with her trembling fingers. For a moment, the hatred that she thought disappeared in her heart aroused again.

The woman in the painting stood in the corridor, followed by a servant girl far behind her. She was not Yujie, but another servant girl who, she remembered, was arranged for her by the Mansion of the Prime Minister. She was loyal, but Shao Wanru failed to protect such a loyal servant girl at that time. She was beaten with a large stick 20 times because of bumping into Gu Xishu of the second branch.

By the time Shao Wanru knew the news and went to find Gu Xishu, Gu Xishu had gone out to have fun. So her servants did not let the servant girl go. When Gu Xishu came back, the servant girl was already dead.

It was drizzling in the painting. She was staring up at the sky with a sad and lonely expression on her face—She was pursing her lips tightly with bitterness and helplessness. Her eyes seemed to fall on the rain or somewhere else through the rain.

Someone else was at the end of the corridor, but the face was too vague to be told who he was. However, from the color of the clothes and the thin figure, Shao Wanru could tell that it was Wen Xichi who was almost too sick to stand up at that time.

He seemed to be standing by the window of the house and quietly watching Shao Wanru, who looked sad in the corridor.

Some memories came into her brain. She married into the Mansion of the Prime Minister in the name of suppressing the bad luck, but she was looked down upon by all the people in the mansion. She was treated quite well by the servants in Wen Xichi's courtyard. As for those in the other courtyards, they didn't see her as a master at all. When they saw her, they were usually indifferent, and few of them obeyed her orders.

Not to mention asking her servant girl to deliver her orders, even if she said it herself, no one would care about her. At that time, Wen Xichi was in poor health, so Shao Wanru didn't dare to disturb him with this kind of thing at all. She just wanted him to take good care of himself. If anything happened, Shao Wanru always tried her best to keep it herself and deal with it alone.

At that time, she felt inferior, and she was sensitive and timid. When she couldn't think of a solution, she would stand alone in the corridor and feel sad for herself.

The woman in the painting was her in the last life, and it seemed that she looked a little older in the drawing than she was now.

But why would there be such a painting? Did Wen Xichi remember anything?

"Where... where did this come from?" Shao Wanru heard her own calm voice. It seemed to be from above the clouds as if it were not made by her. It sounded distant and unreal!

"How shameless you are to ask that! Of course, it was painted by Third Cousin. Will you deny that this person is you? Although Third Cousin used some techniques to make the woman in the painting look a little older than you, so what? Anyone who sees it can tell that it is you, right?"

"Miss Gu, you are wrong. This is not me." Shao Wanru said lightly, "The background is the courtyard of your mansion, isn't it? And isn't this a servant girl of your mansion, either? I've never been here before. How could there be such a scene?"

Shao Wanru slowly traced the corridor with her fingers. The servant girl in the painting had lived a bitter life in her last life because she had been Shao Wanru's servant. In this life, they were not even connected, so Gu Xishu would not kill this servant girl. It was actually the best end...

Chapter 873 Shao Wanru Was the Woman in His Dream?

"It's not you? You are lying to me, Shao Wanru! Who could it be if it's not you? Well, you don't want to admit it, do you? I'll show this painting to others."

Gu Xishu was infuriated. She reached out to take the painting away and said that with anger.

Shao Wanru didn't try to stop her. Instead, she took a step back and said with a cold face, "That's good. Let's do so! I also want to know who it is! If it's me, how could Third Young Master be drawn in the same painting with me in a void scene? Besides, the woman in it is older than me. Could Third Young Master Wen's eyes see through the future?"

Shao Wanru's calm look made Gu Xishu hesitate. Glancing at her, Gu Xishu found that she was so calm that it seemed to have nothing to do with her.

But was there really nothing between her and the painting?

Gu Xishu lowered her head and observed it carefully. The more she looked at it, the more confused she became. She looked at Shao Wanru and then at Yujie behind her. Then Gu Xishu's confidence was shaken.

At this time, Shao Wanru should rush over to snatch the painting and tear it into pieces in a panic, right?

However, she was not afraid that Shao Wanru would tear it up. If Shao Wanru did that, it meant that the person in it was indeed her. Her third cousin had drawn two paintings, but Gu Xishu had not taken out the other one. If Shao Wanru tore off this one, there would be another painting as evidence. She was not worried at all that it would be destroyed. But how could Shao Wanru be so calm?

"Not you?"

"Of course, it's not me, Miss Gu. If you don't believe me, you can show it to others and ask them. But if it's proved that it is not me, I'm afraid that your mansion will be in trouble. After all, my marriage with Prince Chen is a decree of Empress Dowager. Don't you think that the painting by Third Young Master in your mansion indicates that he is planning something inappropriate?"

Shao Wanru tidied up her clothes slowly and looked at Gu Xishu leisurely.

Shao Wanru looked calmer, and her words changed Gu Xishu's facial expression. Empress Dowager's decree... If the result was not as she had supposed, not only would Third Cousin be punished, but also she, the initiator of showing the painting, would probably not get away from it.

"If it's not you, then who could it be?" Gu Xishu asked. She was still unconvinced, but she became less confident with herself.

"How would I know, Miss Gu? I want to get an answer from you. Who is she and why does she look so much like me? Could it be possible that she is related to me by blood? If that is the case, does this woman have anything to do with Marquis Xing's Mansion or with Rui'an Great Elder Princess? Could it be possible that I have an elder sister?"

Shao Wanru's face became cold, and she said, "Miss Gu, why don't you give this painting to me. I'm going to show it to my grandma. After all, the royal family blood should be confirmed!"

As Shao Wanru not only kept calm but also became sharp and cold, Gu Xishu panicked. She rushed to the desk and blocked Shao Wanru. "Fifth Miss Shao, I can't give this painting to you. This is Third Cousin's. I don't know whom he has drawn, but anyway, this painting belongs to Third Cousin."

"Though it is Third Young Master's, didn't Miss Gu show it to me just now? And you also pointed at the painting and claimed that the woman was me, so it means that the painting is mine. Can you give it to me now?"

Shao Wanru became impatient and took a step forward to get Gu Xishu out of her way, but Gu Xishu stood still and blocked her. She shouted with anxiety, "Who said that it was you? How could it be you? You look different from her. She is obviously older than you. My Third Cousin Brother is not familiar with you. How could he paint a picture of you?"

At this time, Shao Wanru's attitude turned the last flame of suspicion in Gu Xishu's mind into ashes. It was not Shao Wanru! Definitely not her! On a closer look, she did not look like Shao Wanru at all.

Moreover, Shao Wanru had always looked calm. How could she become so sad like the woman in the painting? There were many similar people in the world. How could it be Shao Wanru? Although they looked alike, their temperaments and expressions were not the same.

The more Gu Xishu thought about it, the more wrong she thought she was and the more regretful she felt. If Third Cousin knew that she had touched his stuff, he would definitely ask her aunt to punish her.

In fact, she just wanted to trick Shao Wanru and find a way to make use of her.

"Are you sure it is not me or someone else related to me?" Shao Wanru stood still and did not go forward anymore. However, her eyes were cold and a little sharp, as if she did not believe Gu Xishu.

"It's really not you, Fifth Miss Shao, and it's impossible that it is relevant to you. Infanta Qinghua can't have another daughter!"

Gu Xishu only hoped that Shao Wanru would quit taking away the painting. Otherwise, it would be impossible to hide it. She tried hard to persuade Shao Wanru. And the more Gu Xishu said, the more she believed that she had been wrong before. She was deceived.

"All right. Since it isn't me, then I will forget it!" Shao Wanru said with flagging interest. Then she turned around and walked out as if she was not interested in it at all.

Seeing that Shao Wanru had given up, Gu Xishu secretly breathed a sigh of relief. She rolled up the painting carefully and put it in the painting jar with lingering fear in her heart.

After cleaning up, she looked around and then went out with her servant girl after she made sure that nothing was left there.

Shao Wanru had been waiting in the yard for a while until she saw Gu Xishu walk out of the study. Gu Xishu with timidity in her expression hurried up to catch up with Shao Wanru. She looked no longer arrogant and confident like before. Her status could naturally not be compared with Shao Wanru's.

Without self-righteousness, she unconsciously showed weakness in front of Shao Wanru...

After they left, Wen Xichi appeared behind a pine tree in the back corner of the courtyard. He looked at the back of two Misses with his hands clasped behind his back. He stood still there, eyes becoming so deep that thousands of thoughts seemed to flash in his mind, and looked lonely and isolated.

"Master..." Seeing that he kept still for so long, the servant couldn't help calling to remind him, "Cousin Miss has left!"

The servant was confused. In the past, he had never seen Third Young Master pay any attention to cousin Miss. Why did he look so affectionate today? If he was passionate with her, then why didn't Third Young Master respond to her when she came to please him before and even show indifference and dislike to her? What happened to him now?

Cousin Miss was about to marry Second Young Master and become Third Young Master's sister-in-law. Was Third Young Master reluctant?

The servant scratched his head and couldn't figure it out!

"Do you know why, if we keep dreaming of the same person?" Wen Xichi asked in a low voice. It sounded like he was talking to himself with some confusion that he could not figure out either. When he came here, he heard someone's voice in the room, not only Gu Xishu's but also Shao Wanru's. Inexplicably, he wanted to hide.

He felt like observing Shao Wanru in secret.

Wasn't it her? Yes! It was her! How could it not be her? But the memory in his dream seemed to be different from the reality. The woman in the dream looked sad, which made him feel a heartache. He wanted to try his best to protect her, but he seemed to be very ill and needed she to take care of him in his dream? How could he look after her?

That was a pain, feeling even worse than when he woke up. The woman in his dream made him feel distressed, but he was too weak to help her and could only look at her from a distance. He knew that even if he helped her out once, she would face more difficulties later. What would happen to her if he was gone?

He had begged his mother, who said that she was good to her. But in fact, she had always been indifferent to her, right?

He put his hand on the tree trunk and felt a pain in his heart. He felt that the woman in his dream was Shao Wanru but not the Shao Wanru in front of him. That feeling was very confusing and mysterious.

It seemed that he knew it was her, but he couldn't find any evidence to totally convince himself. Moreover, the person he drew was a little different from the real Shao Wanru. It seemed that the girl in his memory meant a lot to him before and had deeply imprinted in his heart. Now when she showed up in front of him again, she just looked different from what he remembered.

So it was her!

He had thought that those dreams would fade away, and they once got out of his memory for a while. Unexpectedly, he had dreamt a lot in the last few days and almost every dream was about her, who was sad, timid, and panicky. Every scene sored his heart.

He couldn't help squeezing the tree drunk, and pain in the hand woke him up. So what if it was or wasn't her? She was going to marry Prince Chen and become his princess soon. Moreover, there was a scar on his heart. He had once helped Prince Yue to ruin her reputation, which almost took her life.

How could he be qualified to draw her?

He turned around and walked to the main house. The servant hurriedly took out the key and opened the door. After entering the room, he looked at the painting jar and pondered for a while. Then he took out two paintings, tore them up, and threw them into a pot filled with water. The water slowly became turbid, and the clear paintings became blurred. But in his brain, the woman's figure in his dream became clearer and clearer.

He had always been cautious and would never leave any traces. But this time, he did something stupid. He even drew a picture of the woman in his dream. If it fell into someone's hands, it would ruin her reputation.

If someone scheming saw it, it might bring disaster to her.

He had thought his study was locked and that it was lucky enough that no one would see the paintings. But Gu Xishu should have the key to his study!

"Go and report to Madam later. Tell her that someone broke into my courtyard and stole a few precious calligraphy and paintings. Find out who has the key to my study and who has been here today!"

The paintings in the water had been completely dissolved, but Wen Xichi's eyes still fell on the surface of the water. After a long while, he slowly ordered in a cold voice.

The servant didn't quite understand his master's behavior today. Who had come? Hadn't cousin Miss just come? His master didn't catch her directly but asked Madam to inquire about it. Could it be possible that he made a mistake and his master had no interest in cousin Miss at all?

Thinking of this, the servant suddenly became happy and took the order. In fact, he didn't like cousin Miss either. She had been engaged to Second Young Master, but she always came to see his master. After knowing that, Second Young Master glared at his master from time to time. She was such a dissolute woman. Madam even asked Second Young Master to marry her!

Chapter 874 Second Miss Zhao Retaliates for Her Sister

Shao Wanru and Gu Xishu went back to the reception room. What had happened just now scared Gu Xishu. So she no longer dared to be domineering in front of Shao Wanru and even did not want to stay close to her. She sat beside Shao Cailing and talked with the latter intimately.

It could be said that they two grew up together, but Shao Cailing often played with Shao Caihuan when they were young. While Gu Xishu had a closer friendship with Shao Yanru, Shao Jie'er, and Wen Xiyan, the Miss of the Mansion of Prime Minister. Later, something bad happened to Wen Xiyan, so the two families became distant. As everyone became older, the side door linking the two mansions was shut to maintain the girls' reputation.

Anyway, there was no other friend around at the moment, so Shao Cailing was her best choice to have a chat. The two of them were talking about some interesting things in their childhood. Shao Wanru sat

next to them calmly. She seemed to be listening to their talk with great interest, but actually, she had been absent-minded for a long time.

What did Wen Xichi mean by painting her? Did he also remember what had happened in her last life?

When she met him last time, obviously he looked like remembering nothing. Would he suddenly recall it later than that? But even so, he shouldn't create such a painting. If it was seen by other people, they would misunderstand that she might have an affair with him all the time, especially Chu Liuchen. Even Shao Wanru was uncertain what Chu Liuchen would think of her if he saw the painting!

In Shao Wanru's memory, the Chu Liuchen in her last life was a completely dark figure. Though he was of high status, he looked gloomy, desperate and vicious. She particularly remembered the last scene, where the imperial palace was dyed red with the blood from the dead bodies of the beauties deserted on the road.

What was he doing? Why did he do that?

According to Chu Liuchen's temperament, he would only do that when he had gone insane. But what had driven him so crazy that he even killed those weak and harmless beautiful girls and made their blood dye the sky red? Why was he so desperate, so bloody and violent?

"Did anything bad happen? What on earth did I forget?" She clenched the handkerchief in her hand unconsciously, as if that little soft handkerchief would give her answers. Under her thick trembling eyelashes, her eyes became cold. She did not dare to think further or make any speculations.

"Could it be... could it be..."

"Fifth Sister... Fifth Sister..." Zhao Xiran's voice seemed to come from the sky and pulled her back to the reality from her deep thought.

"Sister Zhao!" Shao Wanru raised her head and answered softly.

"Fifth Sister, are you not feeling well? Why are you so pale?" Zhao Xiran asked in a low voice with concern.

Shao Wanru's face had always been ruddy and healthy, which made her look delicate and beautiful. But now her face was as pale as snow and seemed to be suffused with frost, as if she would not be able to hold on the next moment.

Gu Xishu poked her head out to glance at Shao Wanru with doubts in her eyes.

Shao Wanru touched her head and said weakly, "I don't know whether it is because I didn't sleep well last night. I feel a little uncomfortable now."

"Let me take you to have a rest," Zhao Xiran suggested.

There were usually resting rooms arranged for female guests in such a banquet.

"No, Thanks. I may be better to sit for a while!" Shao Wanru shook her head and refused Zhao Xiran's kindness.

"No, you can't get sick now... You'd better have a rest first. If you don't feel better later, I'll go back home with you," Zhao Xiran said.

Shao Wanru was going to get married soon, and she was going to marry Prince Chen. It was close to the wedding day. At this time, there couldn't be any more accidents.

"Fifth Miss Shao, why not let me take you to have a rest?" Seeing Shao Wanru's abnormal face, Gu Xishu stood up and said.

Old Madam and Madam Wen were talking with several older madams, and there were too many people around, so none of them had noticed them.

"Sorry to trouble you, Miss Gu!" Before Shao Wanru spoke, Zhao Xiran had answered.

"It's not troublesome. We have already arranged a place for resting!" Gu Xishu said with a smile.

"I'll go with you, Fifth Sister!" As there was nothing for Shao Cailing to do here, she also stood up.

At this point, if Shao Wanru insisted to refuse, it would sound a little pretentious. So she stood up and all of the girls followed Gu Xishu to leave the flower hall.

The resting room was a little far from the flower hall, but it was quieter. Now no other female guests came, which made it much quieter.

They accompanied Shao Wanru into a room on the side. The servant girls of the Mansion of the Prime Minister, who were waiting there, hurried up to serve Shao Wanru with tea and then left politely.

"Sister Zhao, Fourth Sister, you can go back. Miss Gu, please go back too. I will get better after lying down for a while. I assure you that I am just fine," Shao Wanru said politely.

"I don't have anything to do there, so I'll stay and take care of you, Fifth Sister. Fourth Sister, please tell Grandmother when you are back that I'm here to be Fifth Sister's company, I'm worried about her being here alone!" Zhao Xiran said with the demeanor of a sister-in-law.

Shao Cailing nodded. They didn't tell Old Madam just now. So she should inform Grandma after she went back.

Gu Xishu cast a skeptical look at Shao Wanru who was with a pale face. She wanted to stay and figure it out, but she couldn't think out an excuse. She could only comfort Shao Wanru with a few words and then left with Shao Cailing.

"Fifth Sister, go into the bedroom and have a rest. I'll sit outside here!" Zhao Xiran said softly.

Shao Wanru nodded. She did not refuse, because at this moment her mind was in a mess. She needed a place where there was no one around and collected her thoughts.

If Wen Xichi did remember what had happened in her last life, what should she do? And what could she do?

In this life, she didn't have too many ties with Wen Xichi, except that she once warned him. In her memory, Wen Xichi had treated her quite well as a gentle and generous elder brother did. Even if Wen Xichi had remembered something, he shouldn't have had drawn the painting.

Shao Wanru, in a half-awake state, was thinking about it on the bed with her outfit off.

The Wen Xichi's matter came to her so unexpectedly that it made her panic, and she didn't know how to talk to Chu Liuchen about it.

It was too inconceivable to be told to others. She didn't know how to explain it. If Shao Wanru had not experienced it herself, she wouldn't have believed it either.

As she was in a dazed and dizzy state, she slowly fell into a deep sleep, where she was groping around in the darkness. Then, a light suddenly flashed out and some of her memories that had disappeared seemed to be recovering in her mind...

Zhao Xiran and her servant girl were sitting outside the bedroom. When she heard the inside quiet down, she picked up a book of poetry from the dressing table and began to read it.

The book had been prepared here early in case that the women guests would have nothing to do when they were resting here.

There was not only a book but also some other small playthings and a few small silk flowers, which were not finished to be products yet. The women guests resting here could spend time with their servant girls making silk flowers.

Recently, silk flowers had been popular in the capital city. Young Madams' or Misses' servant girls more or less knew how to make one. They made some silk flowers while they were chatting with each other. That was exactly the most relaxing way in which Young Madams and Misses entertained themselves. What was more, these flowers had been half made, so it was much easier to finish them.

And they looked novel after being decorated with some small accessories prepared by the Mansion of the Prime Minister.

But Zhao Xiran didn't like silk flowers. So she chose to read a book. It was very quiet in the room. Only the sound of her flipping the book could be heard. Suddenly, someone knocked on the door. Zhao Xiran looked up and signaled the servant girl to open it.

A beautiful round-faced girl ran in. When she saw Zhao Xiran, she said in surprise, "Sister, you are here!"

Zhao Xiran's face was also with joy. But she stretched out her hand and pointed inside, telling her sister that someone was sleeping in the bedroom.

The beautiful girl with a round face immediately nodded and lowered her voice. Even her footsteps became light, but her steps were still very big, which showed that she was surprised and excited.

"Sister, I heard that you came here, so I came to find you!" The girl walked to Zhao Xiran and sat down beside her. She said excitedly, "Sister, how are you doing in Marquis Xing's Mansion? I heard that people there didn't like your marriage with Brother-in-law very much. They said that it had degraded Marquis Xing's Mansion!"

The girl was Zhao Xiran's younger sister, Zhao Xiqiong. The two sisters had a good relationship. When Zhao Xiran paid the first visit to her parents that day, Zhao Xiqiong didn't talk to her elder sister in private. She was very worried about her elder sister living in Marquis Xing's Mansion. Although her elder sister was always smart since she was a child, it didn't help when such an unlucky thing had happened.

"There is no such thing. They are just rumors from people outside," Zhao Xiran replied with a soft smile and a very peaceful look.

"Did they really treat you well, Sister?" Zhao Xiqiong asked suspiciously.

"Yes! They're all very good to me. Tell father and mother not to worry. Don't talk those jumbled rumors to them. They'll be worried!" Zhao Xiran continued to comfort Zhao Xiqiong.

Zhao Xiqiong was dubious after hearing her elder sister's words. She turned her head to look at the bedroom, whose entrance was covered by a hanging curtain, so she couldn't see anything inside and couldn't help becoming curious. She lowered her voice and said, "Who is inside? Is it Old Madam of Marquis Xing's Mansion?"

"No, it's Fifth Miss Shao," Zhao Xiran shook his head and said.

"Fifth Miss Shao?" After repeating her words, Zhao Xiqiong suddenly became furious and felt indignant for her sister. "Sister, you said that you are living a good life. But now, look at you! When your younger sister-in-law is resting, you, as her eldest sister-in-law, guard the door for her? Is this the rule of Marquis Xing's Mansion? No wonder people say that Marquis Xing's Mansion is a place without rules, though its people look very well-behaved!"

In anger, she couldn't help speaking loud.

Zhao Xiran rushed to cover her mouth and said in a low voice, "Fifth Sister has been in sleep. You keep your voice down! No one asked me to guard her. It was me who wanted to come here with her because I am free. It's not what you think!"

Chapter 875 The Familiar Hua Sheng Appears in Her Dream

"It's not as I thought? Then why are you here staying with her? Shouldn't you stay with Old Madam of Marquis Xing's Mansion?" Zhao Xiqiong threw off Zhao Xiran's hands and said unhappily.

"Yes, I should! But I also want to have some free time," Zhao Xiran said with helplessness.

Hearing that it was Zhao Xiran's own idea, the anger on Zhao Xiqiong's face subsided a little. She became curious about Shao Wanru, who was in the bedroom.

"Sister, I heard that Fifth Miss Shao is very beautiful, and that's why Prince Chen likes her. Since you have seen her, what do you think of her when compared with First Miss Shao?"

Zhao Xiqiong had seen Shao Yanru, who, in her eyes, was the most beautiful woman in the capital city. Zhao Xiqiong believed that no matter how gorgeous Shao Wanru was, she could not surpass Shao Yanru.

"A little more beautiful than First Miss Shao!" Zhao Xiran's answers did not dilute Zhao Xiqiong's curiosity. Instead, she became more and more curious.

"Sister, could I sneak a look at her?" Zhao Xiqiong said as she stood up.

But she was stopped with her sleeve grabbed by Zhao Xiran, who shook her head to indicate that she could not go in at this time. "Her servant girl was there. If you sneak in, you will embarrass the entire Minister Zhao's Mansion!"

Every Miss from an aristocratic family should keep their manners decent. How could she behave furtively?

"All right! I'll stay here to accompany you, Sister. Anyway, I have nothing to do," Zhao Xiqiong rolled her eyes and said. She didn't want to leave until she saw Shao Wanru, because she was too curious about the mysterious Fifth Miss Shao.

"No, if you don't go back, Mother will come and find you!" Zhao Xiran shook her head and didn't agree.

"Fine!" Zhao Xiqiong stood up helplessly. "I have a message from Father to you! He asked you how it was going? I don't even know what he meant. I left in a hurry and didn't ask him more!"

In the past, her father usually talked to her Elder Sister a lot, but he rarely talked with her. So she didn't know what he meant by saying "it".

Zhao Xiran smiled and said, "Take a message to Father. Tell him that there is no progress yet. Tell him to be patient."

"Got it. I'll tell Father when I get back. I have no idea what you are talking about so secretively!" Zhao Xiqiong said with paying no attention to it. Father and Eldest Sister often talked in riddles that she neither could understand nor was interested in.

Zhao Xiqiong left after having more conversation with her sister, making a slight sound when gently closing the door. The room became quiet again.

In the inner room, Shao Wanru suddenly sat up with her eyes goggling straight ahead.

Yujie was stunned and asked, "What's wrong with you, Miss?"

Shao Wanru's mind seemed to be still in her dream. She saw the Hua Sheng, the headwear.

At first, she saw some fragments of unconscious memories including Chu Liuchen's figure and her own face, which seemed to be meaningless.

She did not sleep well and had always been in a daze, because there were some talking voices in her ears. But suddenly, a sound broke into her deep and endless dream. She saw the exquisite Hua Sheng falling from a carriage.

She squatted to pick it up and looked around. No one was paying attention to her there. Unknowingly, she had arrived somewhere remote.

In her last life, she was much less knowledgeable. Although she could tell that this Hua Sheng was an exquisite headwear, which must be valuable, she didn't know that it was exclusive to the Empress.

As such a precious headwear was missing, its owner must come back to seek it later. So she waited under the eaves for the person who had lost it, but it was Qi Baiyu who finally came. Qi Baiyu came for her because he had heard that she had been driven out of the Mansion of the Prime Minister. Seeing that she was in a mess, he took her to one of his courtyards.

After that, he recommended her to become a painter for the beauties selected into the palace.

"So it was Chu Liuchen who had lost that Hua Sheng at that time..."

"Fifth Sister, what's the matter with you?" Zhao Xiran was also shocked by the noise inside and hastened to go into the bedroom. She was in a panic the moment she saw Shao Wanru be in a bad situation—she sat up in a daze with her eyes wide opening.

"Miss... Miss!" Yujie had never seen Shao Wanru in such a state. She was scared and about to cry.

Hearing their voices, Shao Wanru came to her senses from the shock and confusion. She turned to look at Yujie and Zhao Xiran and their figures gradually became clear in her eyes.

"Fifth Sister, are you okay?" Zhao Xiran looked at Shao Wanru's eyes and saw that she was as confused as she had just woken up. She asked, "Did you have a nightmare?"

Shao Wanru blinked her eyes, fluttering her long eyelashes. Then she raised her head and said, "I'm fine. It seemed that I did have a nightmare!"

"Miss, drink some water!" Yujie handed her a cup of warm water. Shao Wanru took it. As the warm water was swallowed through her throat, she began to realize what she had just seen was a dream and that what she saw now was real.

After taking a few sips, Shao Wanru handed back the cup to Yujie, leaned over, and coughed in a low voice, "Thank you, Sister Zhao. I'm fine now!"

"Are you feeling better now?" Zhao Xiran said and put one of her hands on Shao Wanru's wrist. It seemed that she wanted to take Shao Wanru's pulse, but she stopped. If it weren't for the fact that Shao Wanru also knew how to take a pulse and was familiar with Zhao Xiran's behaviors, Shao Wanru would have thought that she had misunderstood.

"I'm much better now... I'm fine!" Shao Wanru said with a smile. Her eyes became leisurely. Zhao Xiran seemed to know how to take pulses for others. It was unknown to Shao Wanru how good her medical skills were!

"That's good!" Zhao Xi was relieved.

"Sister Zhao, it's getting late, isn't it? Has anyone ever come to ask us to go back?" Shao Wanru looked at the sky through the window and said. It was almost noon.

"No one has come yet, but I think someone will come soon. Fifth Sister, you should get up if you feel well. We can go back now in case that the host comes and summons us!" Zhao Xiran left the inner room with a smile.

Shao Wanru took a deep breath and got out of bed with Yujie's help. After putting on her overcoat, she sat at the dressing table and Yujie helped comb her hair.

There was a complete set of toiletries on the dressing table.

"Did someone come here just now?" Shao Wanru asked casually.

"Yes, it seemed to be Eldest Young Madam's younger sister. I heard some of their talks!" Yujie said in a low voice. Although the voice outside had been low just now, Yujie still heard a few words for the inside was very quiet. "Eldest Young Madam's younger sister came to visit her. They talked for a while, and just after she left, you suddenly sat up. Miss, are you really fine?"

Yujie was still worried, so she asked her Miss again.

Shao Wanru shook her head and said, "I'm fine. I had a nightmare!"

Then Yujie was finally convinced by her Miss. She was really shocked by the scene that her Miss suddenly sat up in a daze. But now she calmed down.

After dressing up, Shao Wanru came out of the inner room with Yujie. When she arrived at the outer room, she saw Zhao Xiran and the servant girl making silk flowers. She was interested and sat next to Zhao Xiran to watch her do that.

"Fifth Sister, do you want to make one? They look very quite lovely," said Zhao Xiran, who pointed at another half-finished silk flower.

The light white material was lightly dyed pink-and-purple at the border. When they were made into the half-finished silk flower, the pink-and-purple was at the edge of its petals and looked both elegant and glamorous. Decorated with some pearls hung down, the flower looked extremely beautiful and charming, but the light white color also brought it elegance. So it looked neither modest nor gaudy.

Of all the half-finished flowers here, this was the most outstanding one.

Shao Wanru couldn't help nodding and started to take the half-product to make it into a finished flower. Yujie also came over to help.

However, this master and servant girl was not good at such manual work. Yujie wanted to help, but things went worse and worse under her help. It was a very simple job, but thanks to her warmheartedness, the half-finished flowers fell apart and lost their original appearances, and were about to become trashes.

Zhao Xi couldn't stand it anymore. She put down the silk flower in her hand, which was about to be finished, and asked Qiu Yue to finish it. She took over Yujie's job to help Shao Wanru.

With her help, Shao Wanru's flowers had finally taken shape.

Standing aside, Yujie felt shameful and envious. She praised, "This flower is so beautiful. Eldest Young Madam and Miss are so dexterous. I am used to rough work with my hands, so I can't wrap such silk flowers well."

Zhao Xiran helped wrap the silk flower with a smile. She checked it and then put it on the right bun on Shao Wanru's head. She immediately clapped her hands and said, "Fifth Sister, you look gorgeous with this flower. It is fabulous! Those you wore were too plain. You are going to marry into Prince Chen's Mansion soon. It's not good to wear such plain ornaments!"

The color of the flower was light but with a trace of delicate charm. It was indeed young girls' favorite color. With the matching of the rice-sized pearls, the flower looked more and more brilliant and matched Shao Wanru's temperament. It made her face as white as jade and her facial features as delicate as that of a fairy coming out of a painting.

"Sister Zhao!" Shao Wanru felt a little embarrassed and reached out to take off the flower.

"Fifth Sister, don't take it off. Let's wear them together. After all, we made them by ourselves. They are different from those made by others!" Zhao Xiran said with a smile. She also took the silk flower from Qiu Yue's hand and inserted it into her hair bun.

The color of her flower was also good, making the silk flower look like a real one inserted in Zhao Xiran's black hair. It was even more charming and eye-catching than a real flower.

A faint fragrance came from her sleeves. It should have come from these flowers, on which had been sprinkled perfumed powder early.

The two servant girls took the mirror and they both were satisfied after looking in the mirror, so they didn't take the flowers off. As it was almost time, they cleaned up and left together.

Servant girls were waiting outside the door. When they walked out, some of them immediately led them to the banquet. It was getting late.

On the way, they met a person who came to summon them. The person was in a hurry, but when he saw the two young ladies were fine, he breathed a sigh of relief.

"Someone fell into the river?"

Chapter 876 Forced to Apologize

"Who fell into the river?" Zhao Xiran asked in disbelief after hearing the servant girl.

When a banquet like this was held in a mansion, safety measures were much more stringent, so it was unlikely that such a thing would happen.

"It's... it's Fourth Miss of your mansion!" The servant girl was awkward. After all, the two Misses in front of her were also from Marquis Xing's Mansion. How could they still feel pleased after hearing that such a thing happened to their sister when they were guests here.

"Why did Fourth Sister fall into the river?" Shao Wanru asked in a low voice. Shao Cailing was not a naughty girl, so no one had ever thought that she would fall into a river. Moreover, she had a servant girl with her.

"I don't know either. I was not on the spot at that time," the servant girl lowered her head.

As they couldn't get anything more out of the servant girl, Zhao Xiran and Shao Wanru hurriedly went back with her, not to the banquet but the previous flower hall. There were not many people there, only Madam Wen, Old Madam, Shao Cailing, and Gu Xishu.

Shao Cailing was crying, and Gu Xishu was wiping her tears. The atmosphere was very serious.

Zhao Xiran and Shao Wanru came over and bowed to Old Madam first, and then to Madam Wen. After that, they were led to sit aside. After they sat down, Old Madam asked, "Fourth Girl, is what you said true?"

"Grandma, I don't dare to lie! Miss Gu told me that she wanted to lead me to the place where we had fun together when we were young, and I followed her there. But I didn't expect... I didn't expect that she led me there to push me into the water!" Shao Cailing said in anger when she raised her wet and

swollen eyes and pointed at Gu Xishu. "It is an obscure place! And I was asked to go there by Miss Gu. So how could it not be her! Miss Gu, are you trying to ruin my reputation?"

Originally, she went to attend a banquet with happiness. But she got into an unexpected disaster here. How could she bear to stand it? Fortunately, there was no one around at that time, otherwise, her reputation would have been ruined.

Recently, everyone in the Marquis Xing's Mansion was talking about reputation. Her mother also warned her not to lose her reputation, and Shao Cailing had always remembered it.

"Fourth Miss, I didn't push you. I did have an appointment with you, but I left for a while because I had something to do later, didn't I? I didn't know that you were pushed into the water, and I didn't see who pushed you. How could you blame it on me because you didn't see anyone else around? If I intended to set you up, how could I ask you to be there in person?" Gu Xishu explained while she was crying.

"Who knows whether it is because you wanted to cast a mist before our eyes? When we were children, you and Eldest Sister were cunning and always plotted to do something secret!" Seeing that Gu Xishu still denied it, Shao Cailing rebuked her in a loud angry voice.

She had changed the wet clothes. Though her hair had been tidied up, it still looked wet. She looked quite pitiful with a pale face caused by the cold water.

Old Madam coughed in a low voice, and her face darkened. Shao Yanru had always been her pride, and Old Madam believed that there might be a future for her.

Zhao Xiran, who had sharp eyes, saw the expression on Old Madam's face. She reached out to hold Shao Cailing's hands and comforted her in a low voice, "Fourth Sister. Why don't you tell us what happened at that time? I am confident that Madam Wen will give us a proper explanation!"

Shao Wanru's hands were warm, which made Shao Cailing feel warm in the heart. She felt more and more aggrieved and shed tears drop by drop. She sobbed so hard that she could almost not make a sound. "Sister Zhao, it's really Miss Gu who harmed me..."

"Okay, okay, I understand! We will listen to grandma!" Zhao Xiran comforted her and turned to look at Old Madam.

Old Madam coughed in a low voice again and pushed the problem to Madam Wen, "Madam Wen, what do you think of..."

"Xishu, where were you when it happened to Fourth Miss Shao?" Madam Wen turned to look at Gu Xishu, who was also crying, and asked her with a darkened face.

"Aunt, I was with my servant girls. If you don't believe me, you can ask them. There were two servant girls with me at that time. I left there for a while, and something had happened to Fourth Miss Shao when I came back. I didn't meet Fourth Miss Shao once before I went back there. How could I hurt her!" Gu Xishu also complained.

Shao Cailing refused to accept her explanation and said, "Here is your own mansion, so it's easy for you to arrange someone to do that. You didn't need to do it yourself!"

"Fourth Miss, I didn't!" Gu Xishu cried again.

This problem became more tricky. The suspect said that it had nothing to do with her because she had witnesses to prove that she was not present at that time. While the victim insisted that it was the suspect's plot even if she was not present, because it was the Mansion of the Prime Minister and Gu Xishu had the geographical advantage.

Madam Wen had a lot of guests outside to entertain, so she was in no mood to care about the affairs of these little girls. She made a prompt decision on the spot and said, "Xishu, apologize to Fourth Miss. No matter whether you have pushed her or not, you have made the appointment. You are in the wrong from the beginning!"

"Aunt?" Gu Xishu looked at Madam Wen in disbelief. Although Gu Xishu was a cousin Miss in the Mansion of the Prime Minister, Madam Wen, who had no other daughters now, had always spoiled her niece with mother's love. Gu Xishu's face always reminded Madam Wen of her delicate younger daughter. No matter what happened, Madam Wen had always supported and covered Gu Xishu.

So, it was a heavy slap in Gu Xishu's face that she was asked by her aunt to admit what she didn't do and apologize to Shao Cailing in front of so many people. If it was spread out, how could she face others?

"Apologize now! Fourth Miss is the guest. It's your fault that you didn't treat your guest well. And you left for your own business during your appointment with your guest, which was wrong!" Madam Wen said with a cold face and looked at Gu Xishu with a little anger.

Even though she had doted on Gu Xishu in the past, Madam Wen knew that she didn't solve it in such a way, it would get worse, which was not good for Gu Xishu.

Seeing that Madam Wen was angry, Gu Xishu had to cry and apologize to Shao Cailing. Then she ran away with hands covering her crying face.

"Old Madam, I will go on the investigation. But no matter what was the cause, our mansion is to blame for starting it. Later, I will prepare a generous gift and send them to your mansion as an apology to Fourth Miss!" Madam Wen ignored Gu Xishu who had run out in tears and said to Old Madam with a wry smile, "It's all my fault. I spoiled her and made her so casual."

Shao Wanru looked up at Madam Wen, who actually never admitted that Gu Xishu had pushed Shao Cailing. She just tortuously said that Gu Xishu was wrong in being impolite to Shao Cailing.

Although Shao Cailing was frightened, she wasn't hurt anyway. Old Madam couldn't argue the point to death, so she nodded at once and considered to let it go.

However, it was not appropriate for Shao Cailing to stay here anymore in such a state. Shao Wanru proposed to send Shao Cailing back, and Zhao Xiran would stay to accompany Old Madam.

Old Madam agreed on her proposal. After all, Zhao Xiran was her new daughter-in-law. She couldn't leave without showing up at the banquet. Otherwise, what would the madams and Misses on good terms with Minister Zhao's Mansion think? What's more, Old Madam Zhao and Second Miss Zhao were also guests here today.

Shao Wanru and Shao Cailing got on the carriage of Marquis Xing's Mansion. The carriage went out of the gate of the Mansion of the Prime Minister and then arrived at Marquis Xing's Mansion after a turn.

Shao Cailing kept trembling and didn't look well, though she had changed her clothes. She must have caught a cold.

Shao Wanru accompanied Shao Cailing to the third branch. After Third Madam heard that something bad had happened to Shao Cailing, she struggled to get up to see her daughter. When she saw Shao Cailing lying in the quilt, trembling, she burst into tears.

She only had two daughters. Now accidents happened to them one after another, and the third branch was not in a good situation. The more Third Madam thought about it, the sadder she became, and she almost fainted.

After comforting her with a few words, Shao Wanru advised her to rest. Third Madam was indeed in weak health, and she didn't pretend to be dizzy before.

Feeling Shao Wanru's sincerity, Third Madam expressed her gratitude while wiping her tears. Then she was helped to leave by a servant.

Shao Wanru didn't go back to Piaoyun Courtyard at once. She asked someone to make brown-sugar ginger soup for Shao Cailing and helped her drink it. She stayed to guard her Fourth Sister.

Shao Cailing had slept for a long time. She was still asleep when Old Madam returned to the mansion and sent someone to inquire about her. Hearing that Shao Wanru had been staying here, Old Madam was satisfied and sent some nourishing medicinal materials to Shao Cailing. The matter had to be ended like this.

In the past, Old Madam might have had confidence to question the Mansion of the Prime Minister for an acceptable explanation. But now, Marquis Xing's Mansion was not favored by the Emperor and was in a weak position. Marquis Xing's Mansion could not afford to offend any other mansion of officials of high status, let alone the Mansion of the Prime Minister.

Thinking that a little cousin girl of the Mansion of the Prime Minister dared to hurt her legitimate granddaughter, Old Madam could not bear it.

But so what if she couldn't bear it? It was meaningless to argue more. Old Madam was best at weighing gains and losses. Thinking of this, she suppressed her anger, ate a little food at the banquet, and decided to come back with an excuse that she was worried about Shao Cailing.

When Shao Cailing woke up, it was already after one o'clock in the afternoon. Before she opened her eyes, she heard a gentle voice in her ear, "Fourth Sister, you are awake. How are you feeling?"

Although it was early spring and the weather was much warmer today, it was still cold in essence. She might get illness for the rest of her life after falling into the water. This was also the reason why Shao Wanru asked Shao Cailing to drink the brown sugar ginger soup before she fell asleep.

"Thank you, Fifth Sister!" Shao Cailing said in a hoarse but sincere voice.

The servant girl helped her sit up. Shao Wanru put a cushion behind her back and reached out to take her pulses. She found that the pulse was still calm, so she got her hand off and said with a smile, "Fourth Sister, don't worry. It's nothing serious!"

Hearing Shao Wanru's words, Shao Cailing breathed a sigh of relief. Looking at Shao Wanru, she wanted to say something but stopped on second thought. After thinking for a while, she waved her hand and all the servants in her room immediately left, leaving only a trusted servant girl of her. "Fifth Sister, Gu Xishu is not a good woman. I... I am going to tell you something..." Shao Cailing stammered to say.

Chapter 877 The Truth in the Unpleasant Past

Shao Wanru had known in her last life that Gu Xishu was not a good person.

On the surface, it seemed to be a bicker between her and others, but Gu Xishu was such a vicious person that she might cause a quarrel. In Shao Wanru's last life, after Gu Xishu joined hands with Second Young Master of the Wen's Mansion to murder Wen Xichi, she also instigated Madam Wen to drive Shao Wanru out. She couldn't even be tolerant of Shao Wanru, who was alive.

At that time, she was homeless and driven into a corner where only death was waiting for her.

If it were not for Qi Baiyu or the person behind him, she would have had to die.

"Fourth Sister, why do you say that?" Shao Wanru said calmly.

"Fifth Sister, what I want to tell you... I can't believe it myself, but... but I did see it. I have never told anyone else, not even my mother... I don't know whether you will believe me..." Shao Cailing looked very confused and her words were incoherent.

Shao Wanru nodded with a smile and said, "Of course I believe you!"

Among all the Misses in the mansion, Shao Cailing was the least scheming girl. What she thought in her heart was always written on her face.

"I... I saw something when I was a child. I... I think it was true... but I was so scared that I dare not to speak it out!" Shao Cailing was flustered. She grasped Shao Wanru's hands as if she wanted to borrow Shao Wanru's strength.

Shao Wanru looked at her with a smile. She did not shake off Shao Cailing's hands. Shao Cailing held Shao Wanru's hand with force that the latter felt a little pain in her wrist. Even so, Shao Wanru did not shake her off.

It seemed that Shao Wanru's calmness and gentleness comforted Shao Cailing, who started to feel relaxed and gradually loosened the strength on her hand. However, her hand was still held together with Shao Wanru's. She looked at Shao Wanru with a serious face and said, "Fifth Sister, I think it was Gu Xishu who killed Wen Xiyan!"

"What?" Shao Wanru didn't have a response for a second. But in a moment, she suddenly remembered that Wen Xiyan was Wen Xichi's younger sister who died young, and her face immediately showed a deep-thinking expression.

"She is the Miss of the Mansion of the Prime Minister, the only daughter of Madam Wen. When we were kids, we often hung out together. The two families didn't shut the side door until she died. It was said that every time Madam Wen saw that door, she would be reminded of the pain of losing her daughter."

Since she had begun her confession, it was much easier for her to continue it. Shao Cailing explained in a low voice. "Wen Xiyan was also killed by being pushed into the water! That day, I was playing with Third Sister. Later, Third Sister was summoned away, so I went to Wen's Mansion alone, through the side door. I intended to go to find Wen Xiyan, but I saw Gu Xishu and Eldest Sister on my way. The two of them stayed together in a hidden place and talked with each other without even servants beside!"

"They looked very sneaky, so I hid as well and peeked at them. But they left soon after talking for a while. Then I didn't care about them and went back home. Later, I heard that Wen Xiyan died. The spot happened to be the place where I saw Gu Xishu and Big Sister hiding and talking before. Suddenly, I remembered that... there was a shoe of Wen Xiyan, and when Gu Xishu left, she threw the shoe... into the water!"

Shao Cailing stammered again and there was a flash of panic in her eyes.

At that time, she didn't take it seriously at all. When Shao Cailing saw Gu Xishu pick up a shoe from the ground and throw it into the water before she and Shao Yanru left, she had thought that Gu Xishu just did it for fun. God knew whose shoe it was! It happened to be used for playing stone-skipping.

After all, there were several kids, and their shoes were about the same size. Sometimes, they would deliberately hide or throw away others' shoes or other things.

The children of the third branch had always been in a distant relationship with those of the second branch. It was lucky for Shao Cailing not to show up in front of that two people at that time. But after that, Shao Cailing felt a burst of lingering fear. If they had known that she saw them at that time, would she have been murdered too by Gu Xishu and Shao Yanru?

If that were the case, would she have also ended up dying from drowning?

After Wen Xiyan's death, Shao Cailing was scared to death and she had been sick for half a year, during which she had always been in a daze. Every time she thought of the scene, Shao Cailing was scared and flustered.

She was in a full state of panic. Later, her wet nurse knew about it. The wet nurse comforted her and told her not to tell anyone. She warned her that Old Madam attached most importance to First Miss. And Wen Xiyan's death was related to First Miss. If Old Madam had known it, something miserable would have probably happened.

The third branch of Marquis Xing's Mansion had never been valued. If Third Master were not the biological son of Old Madam, they would have been sent out of the mansion early with a little property.

However, Shao Cailing didn't witness them pushing Wen Xiyan. There was no practical evidence to prove that they were the murderers. The wet nurse was afraid Shao Cailing would be sent by Old Madam to some remote village in the name of recuperation, and that she could never return to the capital city again, and that she might even die outside. So she repeatedly warned Shao Cailing to keep it a secret.

Don't tell anyone!

But at the moment, Shao Cailing was in a panic. She thought that Gu Xishu must have found out her secret. Otherwise, she wouldn't have asked her to go there and pushed her into the water. Except for Gu Xishu, who else would want to kill her?

"Fifth Sister, I think Gu Xishu must have known that I saw it, so she did that to me on purpose!" Shao Cailing was very anxious and scared at this time. The panic in her heart drove her to tell Shao Wanru the buried past.

"Wen Xichi's young sister was also killed by Gu Xishu?" After hearing Shao Cailing's words, Shao Wanru believed her. If Wen Xichi's younger sister was still alive, Madam Wen would never treat Gu Xishu so well.

So, Wen Xiyan was the obstacle for Gu Xishu to become Madam Wen's preference.

However, Shao Wanru was shocked that Shao Yanru was also involved. With a flash of inspiration, she thought of Doctor Qiu. In her last life, Doctor Qiu was responsible to treat Wen Xichi. But in this life, he entered Marquis Xing's Mansion to treat Wang Yishu instead of going to the Mansion of the Prime Minister.

Could it also have anything to do with Gu Xishu and Shao Yanru? In any aspect, Wen Xiyan was not a threat to Shao Yanru. Even the latter could build a close relationship with the Mansion of the Prime Minister by making friends with the former. And Shao Yanru would definitely do so according to her personality. So it could be said that it was merely Gu Xishu who wanted to kill Wen Xiyan.

If her guess was right, then it should be Gu Xishu who was the murder. But Shao Yanru happened to see her do that. Although they were young at that time, they were both cruel and merciless. After an agreement was reached, Shao Yanru promised to help and cover up the truth for Gu Xishu. From then on, Shao Yanru would have something on Gu Xishu, and it would be much easier for Shao Yanru to make use of Gu Xishu.

It would be much better than making friends with Wen Xiyan!

Shao Wanru lowered her eyes slightly, with her pupils contracted, overflowing an aura of bloodthirsty evilness.

No wonder Gu Xishu wanted to expel Shao Wanru out in her last life. Honestly speaking, Shao Wanru had never been an important role in the Mansion of the Prime Minister and could not become a threat or burden in the future even if she continue to live there. But both Wen Xichi and Shao Wanru didn't expect what had happened in the mourning hall.

Before he died, Wen Xichi had once told Shao Wanru many times that he had reached an agreement with his mother Madam Wen. If he died in the future and Shao Wanru still wanted to stay in the mansion, she would be taken good care of. If she wanted to leave, she would be given some money so that she could live a good life even if she no longer stay in the Mansion of the Prime Minister.

However, the fact was beyond her and Wen Xichi's expectation.

Wen Xichi had always been intelligent. Even though he was in deeply poor health, he had put something away for the rainy day for Shao Wanru. He died without any regrets after making sure that Shao Wanru would have nothing to worry about in the future.

But the reality was a slap in his face. After his death, his mother and Gu Xishu kicked her out of the mourning hall and the Mansion of the Prime Minister with an unfounded accusation.

Shao Wanru believed that Madam Wen couldn't have done it to such an extent if it weren't for someone else's instigation. Anyway, it would be bad for the reputation of the Mansion of the Prime Minister if no sooner had her son died than his wife was driven out. But the truth was they did that even so.

"So it was Shao Yanru!" Shao Wanru closed her eyes, felt the coldness in her heart, and then slowly opened her eyes.

She couldn't deny Madam Wen, nor could she respect her. She was not a saint and had her own views on what was right and wrong.

However, she would not let go of Gu Xishu and Shao Yanru.

Perhaps, as Shao Wanru thought, not only the matter about Doctor Qiu but also what Gu Xishu had done to her today was Shao Yanru's order. It was quite unexpected that Shao Yanru would have so much power to order Gu Xishu to set her up, though she was locked in the palace and slighted by everyone there, almost without any chance to make a comeback.

When they were in Wen Xichi's study, she felt Gu Xishu strange. It didn't seem that Gu Xishu meant to expose her. If the woman in the painting was truly her in this life, she must be frightened to become guilty in front of Gu Xishu who had threatened her. Then Gu Xishu could be sure that the person in the painting was indeed her.

If that was the case, it was not that Gu Xishu wanted to expose her, but that she wanted to threaten her.

Shao Yanru, who was behind, coerced Gu Xishu into threatening Shao Wanru to help Shao Yanru out of the dilemma! What a good plot!

Otherwise, given Gu Xishu's determination to marry Wen Xichi, what she wanted should be to ruin Shao Wanru's reputation, not just to threaten her!

"Fifth Sister, don't you believe me?" Seeing Shao Wanru remain silent for a long time, Shao Cailing became anxious and asked.

"Fourth Sister, I certainly believe you. You should be careful from now on and don't let Gu Xishu find out what you have known. Otherwise, what happened to you today might come to you again!" Shao Wanru reminded in a soft voice. It was afraid that not only Gu Xishu but also Old Madam from the same mansion would support Shao Yanru.

Now Shao Wanru was curious about who had pushed Shao Cailing. Was it indeed Gu Xishu? She always felt that it was not Gu Xishu. Then who would it be if it wasn't Gu Xishu? Who also found out Shao Cailing's secret?

"Don't worry. I won't give it away. I don't dare to talk about it! but I won't let Gu Xishu go!" Although Shao Cailing was timid, she was unwilling to see that Gu Xishu got away from it without any punishment.

"Fourth Sister, don't worry. Even if we don't investigate it, the Mansion of the Prime Minister will do, though they might try to keep it secret. How could they just let it go after such a thing has happened to its guests in the mansion? Otherwise, the next accident might fall on the people in their own mansion!" Shao Wanru smiled slightly and said meaningfully.

It wouldn't be over like this...

Chapter 878 What a Pretentious Woman!

"Just tell the truth. What happened?" Madam Wen asked with a darkened face. She was exhausted after seeing all the guests off, but she didn't take a rest at once and Gu Xishu was summoned here by her.

"I am innocent, Aunt! Why... why should I push Fourth Miss Shao into the water? I have no reason to do that!" Gu Xishu cried again with grievances. She looked delicate, so people would feel sorry for her when she was wiping her tears with an aggrieved look.

"Who could it be if it's not you? Since you asked her to go with you, why did you leave her halfway?" Madam Wen didn't stop questioning her as she did before as soon as she saw Gu Xishu crying aggrievedly. Madam Wen had known nothing about such a dangerous accident that happened in her mansion!

Suddenly, Madam Wen thought of her younger daughter, who also died in the water. She felt a pain in her heart. She loved her younger daughter most, and she had never thought that she would die so early.

"I... I was with Fourth Miss Shao, but... but on our way, a servant came to us and told me that Second Cousin... was looking for me, so I went for him!" Gu Xishu seemed to look a little uneasy.

Madam Wen was infuriated. Her second son was such a playboy who had been in an ambiguous relationship with Gu Xishu for a long time. That's why they ended up like this.

Madam Wen had been pissed off before. She did want Gu Xishu to be her second son's concubine. However, Prime Minister Wen thought that since his second son was too useless to marry a Miss from a noble family, why not marry Gu Xishu to be his wife? In addition, it was said from a transfer order that Prime Minister Wen's elder sister, Gu Xishu's mother was coming back soon and would get a promotion.

Whether Gu Xishu would become a concubine or not, she would disgrace the Mansion of the Prime Minister. Moreover, her mother couldn't agree.

Considering these, Madam Wen felt that her husband's idea did make sense and she also agreed to let Gu Xishu be the wife of her second son instead of a concubine. That was why she took Gu Xishu to her birthday banquet and introduce her to the guests today.

Out of expectation, Gu Xishu made trouble again, and it had something to do with her second son too.

Madam Wen knocked on the table hard and asked angrily, "Why did Shi'an want to see you? And why did it have to be at that time?"

"It's... it's nothing important. It's just some external affairs that Second... Second Cousin was a bit confused about!" Gu Xishu pinched the corner of her upper dress with guilt, lowered her head and said with a blush.

In fact, she was very reluctant. If Wen Shi'an hadn't insisted on seeing her, she wouldn't have left Shao Cailing at that time. When she was led out, she found that it was indeed Wen Shi'an who wanted to meet her. However, Wen Shi'an wasn't baffled by external affairs or wanted her help. He just wanted to hug and kiss her, for the reason that they hadn't met each other for a long time because of Madam Wen's strict injunction.

So he called Gu Xishu over when Madam Wen was too busy to notice them.

Gu Xishu had always been fond of Wen Xichi. Unfortunately, she could only marry Wen Shi'an. Although she didn't like him, she could only let him hug her and kiss her for a while, and then she left with an excuse that she had to help Madam Wen accompany the guests.

However, it was impossible for her to tell Madam Wen about it, so she could only push it to Wen Shi'an.

On hearing that it was relevant to Wen Shi'an again, Madam Wen was in extreme anger. Both her eldest son and youngest son were promising, but only the second son was so incompetent that he was neither good at literature nor was capable of doing martial arts.

What's more, he always indulged in eating, drinking and pleasure-seeking. It was bearable for Madam Wen that he flirted with Gu Xishu in daily life. But how could he do that at her birthday banquet? He had no dignity as a young master of an aristocratic family at all.

"You... you two..." Madam Wen was so angry that she kept gasping for breath. She wished that she had never given birth to the second son!

"But it's really not me who pushed Fourth Miss Shao, Aunt. Who knows whether she fell into the water by accident and she blamed it on me? How, how can I make time to push her? Besides, I didn't know that Second Cousin would ask to see me in advance, and it's impossible for me to arrange someone else to do that early!"

When Gu Xishu saw that Madam Wen got angry, she pinched her handkerchief with grievance and wiped her tears sadly again.

Madam Wen took a deep breath to suppress the anger in her heart. Madam Wen had raised Gu Xishu since she was a child and treated her as a daughter, so she certainly liked her niece very much. Seeing her aggrieved look, Madam Wen became soft-hearted. She felt aggrieved for Gu Xishu for her marrying her disappointing second son.

How could Madam Wen not know that her niece was actually in love with Wen Xichi?

However, it was doomed to be like this due to a freak combination of coincidences.

Madam Wen calmed down, stopped scolding Gu Xishu, and asked calmly, "Does anyone else know that you have an appointment with Fourth Miss Shao?" She did not believe that Shao Cailing would fall into the water on purpose to set Gu Xishu up.

On such a cold day, it might lead to a lifetime of illness, not to mention that she was also an unmarried girl. If she was haunted by the disease, it would also be an obstacle for her to have children in the future.

"I... I just came up with such an idea on the spur of the moment. I just want to go for a walk with Fourth Miss Shao. We haven't seen each other for so many years. I wanted to walk around and talk about our childhood with her," Gu Xishu said and cried, and her voice started to tremble. It was obvious that she was trying hard to hide her grievances.

Because she was just a cousin Miss of the Mansion of the Prime Minister, she was often ignored when the other masters of Wen's Mansion were invited. So Madam Wen rarely took her out.

Madam Wen felt increasingly distressed when seeing Gu Xishu like that. It was indeed the truth that Gu Xishu was not a daughter of Madam Wen's mansion, so other mansions rarely put her name on the invitation cards. Madam Wen felt that she owed Gu Xishu a lot even if she treated her like a daughter.

Recently, Madam Wen had even ordered Gu Xishu to stay in the mansion and not to go out. Because she thought that Gu Xishu would be a concubine for her second son, and as a concubine, Gu should not expose herself too much in public. At that time, Madam Wen still intended to find a good wife for her second son.

Thinking of this, she increasingly felt that Gu Xishu was indeed wronged. Gu Xishu's parents were going back to the capital city. So at this time, she couldn't let Gu Xishu be treated unfairly anymore.

"Well, don't cry. I will find out who intended to frame you up!" Madam Wen's voice softened.

While they were talking, a servant girl came in and reported, "Madam, Third Young Master has come!"

"Invite him in!" Madam Wen hastened to say. As soon as she heard that her most promising youngest son came over, she immediately became happy.

Gu Xishu also raised her head, but there were still tears in the corners of her eyes. Her watery eyes were already focused on the door. When she saw Wen Xichi at the door, her passion for him almost overflowed from her eyes.

Instead of Second Cousin, the handsome Third Cousin in front of her was the one she wanted to marry.

In the past, when she was hooking up with her Second Cousin, she never thought that she would marry him, so she didn't care much about the differences between the two brothers. But after it was decided that she could only marry her Second Cousin Wen Shi'an, she began to feel Wen Shi'an was a stupid man. "How could he be compared with my handsome Third Cousin?"

"No, I can't marry Second Cousin. I have to marry Third Cousin!"

"There must be ways. There must be ways! Shao Yanru also said that as long as I haven't married Second Cousin, I still have a chance. I am still unmarried and Third Cousin is also single. There were plenty of opportunities for me, weren't there?"

Thinking of it, Gu Xishu looked at Wen Xichi with increasing passion, and her eyes were full of affection.

Wen Xichi stepped forward, bowed to Madam Wen, and then sat down aside.

Gu Xishu hastened to step forward and bowed to Wen Xichi with bashfulness. "Third Cousin!"

Since she cried just now, so her face was still with tears and looked very attractive. And her eyes were particularly appealing. She looked at Wen Xichi with her tender eyes. Perhaps it was because Wen Xichi remained silent for long that she staggered and lost her balance. She fell straight to Wen Xichi.

Wen Xichi reached out to catch her in the hand, and Gu Xishu couldn't help leaning into his arms. Even though Madam Wen felt that Gu Xishu was wronged just now, she couldn't stand Gu Xishu now, and she snorted.

Wen Xichi stood up, stepped aside, and loosened his grip on Gu Xishu, who later bumped straight into the chair he had been sitting in before. With a cry of “Ouch”, Gu Xishu failed to control her body and hit the railing of the chair. It was not a light hit, so she was in so much pain that the tears at the corners of her eyes immediately fell across her face, which made her look extremely miserable.

“Sit decently!” Madam Wen’s face darkened. No matter how partial she was to Gu Xishu, she couldn’t help getting angry at this time. Gu Xishu was already her second son’s woman, so it was inappropriate that Gu Xishu had intimate contact with her youngest son.

Realizing Madam Wen was really angry, Gu Xishu did not dare to play tricks anymore. She endured the pain and sat in the chair, looking obedient.

A trace of disgust flashed in Wen Xichi’s eyes, but he sat down in the chair opposite to her calmly, as if what happened just now had no impact on him at all.

“Mother, I’ve checked it out. No one has been to the place from which Fourth Miss Shao fell into the water. Only Cousin Gu has been there with her!” Wen Xichi reported to Madam Wen. It was Madam Wen who had asked her youngest son to investigate it.

If there was a person with evil intentions in the Mansion of the Prime Minister, it would be a disaster if he or she stayed in the mansion. Moreover, it always reminded Madam Wen of her daughter who died young, and she inexplicably felt that the two cases might be linked.

But investigation results showed that it seemed to have nothing to do with anyone except Gu Xishu. Hearing her youngest son’s words, Madam Wen looked at Gu Xishu suspiciously again.

“No! Aunt, Third Cousin, I swear it has nothing to do with me. I... I am really wronged. I did nothing except for asking Fourth Miss Shao to go there!” Seeing that their attitudes changed, Gu Xishu immediately cried with grievances. Tears rolled down her white and tender face, which made people feel distressed.

Madam Wen, in particular, felt sorry. When she was about to comfort Gu Xishu, she heard her youngest son say, “Cousin Gu, you seemed to have said the same words when the same accident happened to my sister. Why did you say that again now?”

In fact, Wen Xichi’s words were unintentional, but as soon as he finished speaking, not only he was greatly shocked, but also Madam Wen was so stunned that her face turned as pale as snow. And then their eyes were all focused on Gu Xishu...

Chapter 879 Shao Wanru’s Wedding Comes

In fact, Wen Xichi didn’t mean that. But after all those words came out of his mouth, a buzz ran in his head. Then a trace of suspicion came into being in his mind. He had never suspected like this!

Wen Xichi still remembered what had happened to his younger sister. At that time, it was said that Wen Xiyan was playing with Gu Xishu. But later, Gu Xishu was called away, and Wen Xiyan was left alone. Then, the wet nurse guarding Wen Xiyan was also called away. Finally, when they saw Wen Xiyan again, the little young girl had been dead.

Madam Wen cried and then fainted beside her daughter's cold body. Gu Xishu kept calling her cousin's name and cried so hard that she couldn't stand up. She said regretfully that if she hadn't left at that time, her cousin wouldn't have been dead.

It was also because Gu Xishu looked so grieved and regretful for Wen Xiyan's death that Madam Wen doted on Gu Xishu from then on, even more than she did to her sons.

Because the accident happening to Wen Xiyan had so many familiarities with that of Four Miss Shao, Wen Xichi immediately remembered his sister's death, which Gu Xishu was also involved in.

In the past, he had never suspected Gu Xishu, nor did he often think of the sorrow that was buried deep in the bottom of his heart. But now, he no longer believed Gu Xishu, so he thought of her as a suspect with the greatest malice.

The suspicion in his mind made his blood run cold. If his sister's death was not an accident, could she be murdered by Gu Xishu?

Madam Wen seemed to have the same opinion as Wen Xichi. Her lips trembled as she looked at Gu Xishu, but she couldn't say a word. She didn't dare to think more.

"What... what are you talking about, Third Cousin? It was my fault that I didn't keep an eye on Cousin Sister, and caused her... But what happened to Fourth Miss Shao had nothing to do with me. Fourth Miss Shao is an adult, and I have little contact with her. There... there must be someone who intended to set me up and hurt Fourth Miss Shao!"

Gu Xishu in a panic hurriedly covered her face and cried. This time, she did not shed tears but cried out loud.

She leaned against the chair railing and sobbed, "Third Cousin, if you blame me for not taking good care of Cousin Sister at that time, I won't deny it. I will even be willing to pay it with my life if you want. But I don't admit what happened today. I didn't do that!"

Seeing Gu Xishu sit on the chair in despair and hearing her words just now, Madam Wen couldn't help crying. The death of her youngest daughter was a scar on her heart. No matter when it was touched, it would hurt a lot.

"Well, don't cry anymore. It's not your fault. It's all Yan'er's... Yan'er's..." Madam Wen choked with sobs and couldn't speak.

"Mother, don't be sad! Younger Sister... It's been so long. If God blesses her, she has been reincarnated into another good family. She must live a happy life now." Seeing his mother crying so hard, Wen Xichi comforted her, fearing that her health would be harmed.

Every time Madam Wen thought of her youngest daughter, she couldn't stop crying. For so many years, Madam Wen had been in poor health because of this.

Sometimes she even fainted away while crying. Wen Xichi didn't dare to let his mother cry anymore, so he comforted her in a soft voice.

"I... I know... I thought so too. I thought that such a good girl like your sister would definitely be reincarnated into a better family, but... but..." Madam Wen wiped her tears as she cried.

"Aunt, I'm willing to cut off my hair to pray for Cousin Sister. From now on, I only hope that she can be reincarnated into a good family and live a happy life!" Gu Xishu cried and said. Then she stood up and threw herself in front of Prime Wen. She knelt and put her hands below Madam Wen's knees.

Her words made Madam Wen feel distressed and sad. She couldn't help hugging her and bursting into tears. "You... what are you talking about... As long as you are fine, I will be very happy. You don't need to do that for your Cousin Sister!"

All her displeasure and annoyance disappeared in Gu Xishu's crying.

Madam Wen held Gu Xishu in her arms and cried as if she were holding her daughter. If her daughter were still alive, she would grow up and get married. And She would intimately hug her mother like this.

Wen Xichi frowned tightly with a trace of fierceness flashing in his eyes. He had to investigate it since he was in suspicion.

In fact, the accident of Shao Cailing was a mistake made by Wen Xichi. He intended to teach Gu Xishu a lesson so that she would not dare to frame Shao Wanru again. It should have been Gu Xishu who was pushed into the water. Unexpectedly, the servant sent by Wen Xichi only saw a Miss there and took her for Gu Xishu, so he pushed Shao Cailing.

What happened in his study made Wen Xichi realize that Gu Xishu seemed to have ulterior motives. It seemed that she wanted to use the painting to threaten him and Shao Wanru. So he decided at once to give Gu Xishu a lesson and ask his servant to take action. Although he was a gentleman, he never thought that he should keep elegant to bad people. When necessary, he should take action to retaliate.

There seemed to be someone behind Gu Xishu. He didn't just want to teach Gu Xishu a lesson, but also wanted to force the person behind the scene to show up.

Unexpectedly, he taught the wrong person by accident.

However, the mistake led him to doubt what happened in the past. Since so many years had passed, it was difficult to start an investigation on it now. And it seemed that his mother's heart ached with pity for Gu Xishu. But Wen Xichi felt that if he wanted to investigate it, he would find some clues.

Since he worked in the Ministry of Justice, he had been very prone to have a doubt. For example, Gu Xishu looked very guilty in his eyes. Since she was guilty, there must be something wrong with her...

Several peaceful days passed. Shao Cailing's accident was fading away. Old Madam just gave her some tonics.

Owed to the fact that Shao Wanru fed Shao Cailing with hot soup with ginger and brown sugar in time, Shao Cailing was well cured.

Marquis Xing's Mansion was very busy in the following days. Even Old Madam had to help Shao Wanru select and prepare dowries for her marriage.

In the last few days, endless bad things had happened to Marquis Xing's Mansion except for Shao Wanru's wedding. The whole mansion had to spare no effort and attention to prepare it. Empress Dowager even warned Old Madam by hints that if something happened to Shao Wanru's wedding day, Marquis Xing's Mansion might lose the title of marquis.

Since Old Madam had received such a hint from Empress Dowager, how could she dare to slight it?

She didn't intend to release the two granddaughters who were locked up in case they made trouble again.

Zhao Xiran was helpful. Although she couldn't deal with many problems as a rookie, she always asked Old Madam to give advice and make decisions. In addition, she listened to Old Madam respectfully. That pleased and satisfied Old Madam, and she no longer hated Zhao Xiran as much as before.

At first, Old Madam liked Zhao Xiran. Of course, it was because of Minister Zhao's Mansion behind Zhao Xiran. If it hadn't been for the demotion of the rank of her mansion, Old Madam would have thought more highly of Zhao Xiran.

Shao Wanru sewed embroideries in her courtyard. Shao Cailing came to help from time to time. Different from Shao Caihuan, she didn't want to profit from giving help. Sometimes she would put forward her opinion when she thought differently from Shao Wanru. Shao Wanru and Shao Cailing looked more like sisters than the former and Shao Caihuan did.

In Marquis Xing's Mansion, only Shao Cailing could make Shao Wanru feel what was sisterhood, and that was very unexpected. Shao Cailing had never been close to Shao Wanru before, and they wouldn't have become so close if it hadn't been for this accident.

In the blink of an eye came Prince Chen's wedding day. Shao Wanru was woken up early in the morning. First, she took a bath and changed her clothes, and then she was brought to the dressing table to change the hairstyle, clear off the fine hair on the face and neck, and trim the hair on the temples.

The Lucky Lady invited was also extraordinary. She had been the most distinguished Lucky Lady invited by some noble aristocratic families.

It was not easy to find such a Lucky Lady, a woman of noble status who must have both parents and one son and one daughter, and live a harmonious marriage life with her husband.

Fortunately, it was Prince Chen's wedding, so they succeeded in hiring her. Of course, this Lucky Lady was actually a princess of the imperial family. No one from an ordinary family could afford to hire her.

Moreover, Prince Chen was Empress Dowager's favorite grandson and the Emperor's favorite nephew, so no one dare to refuse to attend his wedding.

Looking at Shao Wanru's exceedingly beautiful face, the Lucky Lady kept praising her. She said that Shao Wanru was the most beautiful one among the brides she had ever seen and definitely deserved the title of First Beauty. Shao Wanru was the best match for Prince Chen, and Empress Dowager would definitely like her.

As for Prince Chen, none of the people who had seen him would deny that he was like a handsome young man who came out of a painting.

Many people had been secretly ridiculing the Fifth Miss of Marquis Xing's Mansion. If the red veil was lifted and the bride was found not as good-looking as the groom, it would be a joke in the future.

The Lucky Lady had laughed at Shao Wanru secretly in her heart too. Now after she saw Shao Wanru's appearance, she had to admit that the two of them were a couple made in heaven. If they weren't matched, no one would be worthy of such a beauty or such a handsome man!

This would be the most pleasing and also the most compatible pair!

Lucky Lady kept praising Shao Wanru with a smile while helping her to do the facials which made her glossy face shinier and shiner.

It was unknown whether it was because the hair on her face had been removed or because of the atmosphere here, Shao Wanru's face had always been red, which made her look more and more delicate and charming.

On such a good day, Shao Caihuan and Shao Jie'er were also released. If they did not come out on such a good day, it would have a bad impact on their marriages.

It was the result of Zhao Xiran's pleading, and Shao Wanru didn't object to it, so Old Madam released them.

Shao Jie'er sat beside and looked at Shao Wanru's beautiful face jealously. She almost crumpled the handkerchief in her hand. How good it would be if she were the bride of today's wedding! She was not sure whom Commandery Prince Qing would want, her or her Third Sister. She failed to do the task ordered by her grandma so she did not dare to ask Old Madam.

Chapter 880 Happiness Is to Wait for Her to Grow Up

Shao Caihuan was also looking at Shao Wanru with envy and sadness in her eyes. After so many things had happened, she now understood that her previous dream was just some wishful thinkings.

She lowered her head slightly with the veil still covering her face, which had not recovered yet. And it was not certain whether it could make a full recovery. Thinking that she, a woman with such an ugly face, dared to dream of Prince Chen before, she felt a deep sense of inferiority.

How could Prince Chen fall in love with a disfigured girl like her? Moreover, she had nearly got her whole family in jail. Perhaps, she had some delusions in the past, but now they were all gone.

Shao Cailing went to sit beside Shao Caihuan, who looked sad, so Cailing held her hands and called her in a comforting voice, "Sister!"

Shao Caihuan shook her head and took a deep breath, telling Shao Cailing not to worry about her. After experiencing that, she no longer kept any fantasies in her mind. She only hoped her family was safe and sound. She seemed to have been bewitched before!

Perhaps it was because she had been suppressed by Shao Yanru all the time. After she got rid of Shao Yanru, she started to become arrogant.

Shao Caihuan raised her eyes with a wry smile and looked at Shao Wanru enviously. "Fifth Sister is a lucky woman. When I saw Prince Chen's attitude towards her that day, I knew that he was in love with her. Who else in the capital city could make Prince Chen, who is as handsome as a painting figure, care about her so much?"

People said that Prince Chen was too weak to get married, but the royal family never care about that. Even if Prince Chen was dying, he would still get married as he should have done.

As for the fact that there was no Princess Chen until now, it was merely that no women before Shao Wanru could catch his heart.

Shao Caihuan stayed in the Buddha Hall and meditated for a few days, which had reminded her of a lot of things. If things about the new couple would go on as she had imagined, her Fifth Sister was very lucky!

How fortunate it was that there was a man in the world who was willing to wait for her to grow up? Moreover, such a man came from the royal family.

Three years ago, Fifth Sister was still a child, but Prince Chen had reached the marriage age.

Thinking of this, she felt that she was as ridiculous as a clown before. Even if she was as beautiful as before, she couldn't beat Fifth Sister, let alone now.

Even when Shao Yanru had a good reputation, Prince Chen didn't fall in love with her. According to this point, Shao Caihuan gave in.

There were some blessings in her envious eyes. She sincerely hoped that Shao Wanru would be happy. There were many girls in Marquis Xing's Mansion in this generation, but the first few ones had no good end!

"Third Sister, I didn't mean to offend you that day. Please forgive me!" A gentle voice suddenly came to her ears. It was Zhao Xiran's voice.

"Sister Zhao!" Shao Caihuan's face turned cold.

"Third Sister..." Zhao Xiran looked guilty and sad. When she was about to explain, she was interrupted by Shao Caihuan. "Sister Zhao, today is Fifth Sister's big day. Don't mention those sorrows in the past. Let's say that I misunderstood you before. Please forgive me!"

Shao Caihuan was very clear, and she didn't argue whose fault it was. At this point, she didn't have any other thoughts. The reason why she made trouble at Zhao Xiran's bridal chamber was that she was afraid that her parents would get involved in this matter. In addition, she couldn't explain it clearly, so she could only lead her grandma's attention to Zhao Xiran.

The matter had passed, and it was no longer something that could be pursued.

It was impossible for them to be as close as before. Zhao Xiran was merely her eldest sister-in-law from another branch. Naturally, they would not be close.

Zhao Xiran wanted to say something more, but Shao Caihuan looked away. She knew that it wouldn't help though she tried to talk with Shao Caihuan again.

Shao Jie'er was sitting in a corner, rubbing her handkerchief and casting a look at Zhao Xiran and Shao Caihuan. She was almost invisible.

Zhao Xiran and Shao Caihuan talked in a little low voice, and it was noisy in the room. Shao Jie'er could not hear what they were talking about, but she was sure that they weren't having a happy conversation. She rolled her eyes, called a servant girl over, and was about to give her an order. But when she turned around, she saw Zhao Xiran was looking at her.

They looked into each other's eyes. Shao Jie'er panicked, but Zhao Xiran showed a slight smile and moved her lips silently.

"Be careful!" Shao Jie'er knew what Zhao Xiran wanted to tell her though she didn't make a sound, and she panicked.

The servant girl she called was already standing in front of her. Seeing her stunned, the servant girl called her, "Second Miss!"

"It's nothing. You can leave now!" Shao Jie'er waved her hand and said. She did want to cause some trouble, but now she didn't dare to do it. Zhao Xiran had noticed her, and her silent warning made Shao Jie'er afraid and dare not to act rashly. After thinking for a while, she gave up taking out the other handkerchief in her sleeve.

She couldn't see through Zhao Xiran, not knowing whether she would help her or Shao Wanru.

At this time, Shao Jie'er felt that it was better not to act rashly. Moreover, Zhao Xiran's words were an obvious warning.

The handkerchief in her sleeve was the same as those of hers, but it had the character "Shao" embroidered on it and it had been fumigated by Shao Wanru's favorite incense. People were prone to think that such a handkerchief belonged to Shao Wanru.

If such a handkerchief was found on a man on such a happy day, Shao Wanru's reputation would be ruined.

However, Shao Jie'er suddenly did not dare to make that happen anymore...

Shao Wanru's head was covered with a veil, so she could not see what was going on around. However, Yujie had been keeping an eye on the several Misses, so she naturally saw that Shao Jie'er called the servant girl and then asked her to leave after having eye contact with Eldest Young Madam. She had an intuition that there must be something wrong with Shao Jie'er.

Second Miss was the kind of person who liked making trouble.

Yujie had seen that Shao Jie'er silently withdraw her hand from her sleeve.

When no one was paying attention to them, she secretly told Shao Wanru what Shao Jie'er had just done in a low voice as she tidied up Shao Wanru's collar.

Shao Wanru said in a low voice, "Ask Qing'er to keep an eye on her later!" Yujie nodded.

The bridegroom's people had arrived outside. No one had expected that Prince Chen would come to pick her up in person.

Whether it was in terms of his identity or his health, everyone had thought that he couldn't come in person. And Marquis Xing's Mansion had got ready for such a situation.

But they were all shocked and slapped in the face when they saw Prince Chen, who looked more handsome than ever in red clothes matching his black hair, show up in front of the Marquis Xing's Mansion. Prince Chen came to pick up the bride in person!

There was a smile on Chu Liuchen's face, which made him very gentle and elegant. Dressed in a red brocade robe, he looked handsome with a jade-like face and red lips.

He didn't come alone but was followed by a group of his brothers from the royal family, including Prince Yue, Prince Zhou, and Prince Xin, which gave people the chance to see the four outstanding sons of the royal family at once! There must be the next Emperor among them! Thinking of this, many people screamed with excitement.

Apart from these royal brothers, some princes and dukes from Princesses' mansions also attended. All of them were remarkable nobles, and their presence on the wedding day had caused a stir in the whole capital city. Fortunately, the route to take the bride had been cleaned. Otherwise, no one knew when they would get to Marquis Xing's Mansion.

These nobles were not only of high status but also talented and knowledgeable. On their way to the bride's room, they broke the obstacles set by Marquis Xing's Mansion quickly.

Shao Wanru heard footsteps coming towards her though she was surrounded by loud laughter. She could hear Prince Chen's voice. It should be Chu Liuchen's coming! Her face was inexplicably hot.

According to customs in the capital city, first the bridegroom entered the bride's room, but he must leave and wait outside the mansion. Then the bride's elder brother carried the bride out of the mansion.

Chu Liuchen stood in front of Shao Wanru and looked at her, who was wearing a red veil. His eyes became deeper and deeper and filled with joy that could not be seen in the past. After putting the jade apple in front of Shao Wanru, he turned around, left the room with all his royal brothers, and waited outside.

He walked as if on wings. Those girls felt more and more jealous when they saw his vigorous steps. Wasn't Prince Chen said to be in poor health?

The Lucky Lady put the jade apple in Shao Wanru's hand while saying auspicious words and then helped Shao Wanru up.

Shao Hua'an had been waiting at the door for a long time. When Shao Wanru came out, he carried Shao Wanru to the gate.

Shao Wanru had no parents. Old Madam of Marquis Xing's Mansion and Rui'an Great Elder Princess were sitting in the main seats of the hall outside.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess had won this honor when she fought with Old Madam of Marquis Xing's Mansion. At this time, she was sitting high. When she saw Shao Hua'an come out with Shao Wanru on his back, her eyes turned wet for a moment.

Shao Wanru stopped in front of them. After she bowed to the two elders, Rui'an Great Elder Princess couldn't help wiping her tears. She choked with sobs. While Old Madam, who didn't seem to be so powerful now, looked very calm. She just wiped the corners of her eyes gently with a handkerchief and then gave clear orders.

Shao Wanru bowed to the two elders again, and then left with sadness amid the cry of Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

Tears fell across her face. In her last life, she got married too, but no one cried for her at that time.

Madam Dowager and Shui Ruolan were gone. How could Madam Di care about her? Madam Di plotted against her and was eager to expel her as soon as possible.

She shed tears in silence, with the drops of tears hitting the ground in front of her.

In this life, she finally found a family that belonged to her, which, for her, was the most precious. To guard the new family, she would never be beaten by them!

The bridal sedan chair was parked at the gate. It was not an ordinary small sedan chair, but a splendid sedan chair driven by eight servants.

Shao Wanru didn't calm down until getting on the bridal sedan chair. She heard the sound "rise the sedan chair", and she was lifted steadily.

The bridal sedan chair did not go straight to Prince Chen's Mansion. It circled half of the capital city, passed the main gate of the palace, and then went to Prince Chen's Mansion.

People in the capital city had seen Prince Chen, who rarely showed up in front of others because of his illness. For the first time, the pale and weak Prince Chen became lively in people's eyes.

It turned out that Prince Chen was not as sick as others had said. Prince Chen was a handsome man! Did they misunderstand something before?

A person happened to come out through the gate of the palace when the bridal sedan chair was passing by, he stopped and whispered to the people around him, "Does Chu Liuchen have ulterior motives?"