

Medical Princess 881

Chapter 881 Wen Xichi's Obsession at the Wedding Hall

"I don't know, Master!" Xiqi said as he stood behind and looked at the departing sedan chair.

When a prince got married, his wedding parade would walk by the gate of the palace, which could be regarded as showing his respect and filial piety to the Emperor.

But Chu Liuchen's status was out of the ordinary so that other people couldn't help thinking whether his parade had ulterior motives.

And Prince Cheng was one of them. "He marries the granddaughter of Rui'an Great Elder Princess..." Prince Cheng murmured to himself with his face darkening. He was about to attend the wedding held in Prince Chen's Mansion, but he came from the palace instead of his mansion.

It was quite surprising that both the Emperor and Empress Dowager were satisfied with this marriage. Could it be possible that they were very fond of the Fifth Miss Shao whom Chu Liuchen married? So could it be because the Emperor and Empress Dowager liked her that Chu Liuchen was satisfied with Fifth Miss Shao?

If that was the case, Chu Liuchen must have a big plot! Moreover, Chu Liuchen was getting better and better in health now. He was no longer as delicate and vulnerable as before!

"Your Highness!" Seeing Prince Cheng looking at the bridal sedan chair with a gloomy face, Xiqi reminded him.

They were still at the gate of the palace. And it was Prince Chen's wedding day today, so all the members of the royal family had to look happy.

Prince Cheng coughed hard and then showed a kind smile on his face. His smile looked peaceful, but people could feel that he was truly happy, possibly because he had stayed in the temple for a long time.

"It's great that Prince Chen is married now!" Prince Cheng muttered to himself. He seemed to think of something and sighed softly, then got on his carriage outside the gate of the palace.

He was Chu Liuchen's uncle. It seemed that he did feel sorry for Chu Liuchen. As for the reason, it should be Chu Liuchen's family background. Then that could explain why his face darkened before.

It was normal that he would remember his elder brother who had passed away on his nephew's wedding day. If someone was suspected to covet the throne, Chu Liuchen must be the first one coming into others' minds.

Although it was rarely mentioned that Prince Chen was the legitimate son of the former Emperor, it did not mean that no one cared about it, especially the one in the palace. Prince Cheng did not believe that the Emperor didn't care about Chu Liuchen's identity...

Shao Wanru's bridal sedan chair was going forward, followed by a line of 128 boxes of dowries, each of which was full. Those at the front were presented by Empress Dowager, in the middle by the Emperor, and at the rear by the Empress. This lineup was more prominent than that of Infanta Qinghua when she married into Duke Xing's Mansion.

How enviable it was that Shao Wanru had “ten miles” of dowries for her marriage. In addition, The man she married was Chu Liuchen who was handsome and promising. Everyone in the capital city sighed that how lucky the Fifth Miss of Marquis Xing’s Mansion was to marry such a good man.

After going along more than half of the capital city, the bridal sedan chair finally stopped at the gate of Prince Chen’s Mansion. It was very lively in front of the gate! It had always been deserted. The Emperor specially mentioned Chu Liuchen’s marriage in front of those ministers and invited them to attend the wedding banquet as the elders of the groom. Since it was the Emperor’s invitation, no one dared to refuse.

Of course, those of low status could send gifts but couldn’t enter the mansion. Those who were allowed to enter were all noble family members or high-ranking officials.

There was no hostess in Prince Chen’s Mansion. It was Empress Dowager’s grace that her two nannies were specially sent to serve the madams and Misses who came to congratulate.

With Empress Dowager’s servants’ management, everything in the inner court was going on in order.

When the bridal sedan chair arrived at Prince Chen’s Mansion, it waited outside for a while, during which Shao Wanru sat in the sedan chair uneasily. She didn’t understand why Chu Liuchen didn’t wait for her at the gate. “Why do we have to wait for such a long time?”

While she was thinking of it, the bridal sedan chair suddenly shook. She immediately steadied herself by holding the handrail inside the sedan chair.

Then there were two more shakes, and the crowd outside was cheering loudly. It should be the three shots at the door from Chu Liuchen.

The curtain of the sedan chair was lifted. One end of a red ribbon was put into her hand, and the other into Chu Liuchen’s. Chu Liuchen led Shao Wanru across the brazier and they both went to the wedding hall.

In the wedding hall, the Lucky Lady was waiting for them. When they just arrived, it was just the auspicious time for the couple to perform the formal ceremony.

Hearing the noise around, Shao Wanru felt inexplicably uneasy. In her last life, on the wedding day when she married Wen Xichi, he had been too sick to get up from bed. So the wedding ceremony was performed by his elder brother for him. At that time, it was also as noisy as now in the ceremony hall.

She felt flustered so that she moved with uneasy steps.

Suddenly, her hand with the red ribbon in it was covered by a bigger hand, and then Chu Liuchen’s elegant voice came into her ears. “Don’t panic!”

She stopped and took a deep breath. The warm touch in her hand told her that this life was different from the last one. No one bowed on behalf of her husband, and Chu Liuchen was here with her.

She looked down and saw a pair of thin-base boots with dragon patterns sewed with golden thread. The pattern of waves was inlaid with gold. They were not the boots that an ordinary person could afford to wear.

“So, it was me who was getting married!”

The Lucky Lady was shouting, “First bow to heaven and earth!”

Shao Wanru reacted a little slowly. She could sense that the two big hands were gently leading her. She lowered her head, and heard some people in the crowd laughing.

“It seems that Prince Chen really likes his bride!”

“Of course he likes her, otherwise he wouldn’t go to welcome her in person!”

“She is quite lucky...”

Their voices were not loud. It must be because Chu Liuchen had just gently set a direction for her. Under the veil, her cheeks turned light red. She bit her lips, with her eyes becoming mistier and a smile gradually appearing on her face.

Wen Xichi stood behind the crowd, watching Chu Liuchen and Shao Wanru bow with the groom’s hands guiding the direction for the bride. Although his hands only moved a little, he could lead Shao Wanru to the right position. Wen Xichi frowned and felt uncomfortable.

It seemed that something was pressing his heart. It was so heavy that he could hardly breathe!

Such a scene had never appeared in his dream, but he felt that there should be one! But why was there not? Why?

The bride, with the red veil covering her head, finished the wedding ceremony under the groom’s guidance. Wen Xichi could sense her silent trust in Chu Liuchen even though her expression was covered by the red veil. He felt the red dazzling and glaring. The complexity in his eyes finally condensed into a strong sense of sadness.

No matter whether the girl in his dream was Shao Wanru or not, he seemed to have lost her!

If there was the last life, did it mean that he had missed the chance to marry Shao Wanru in this life? He clenched his fists tightly and his lips became pale. If his dream in the past had been as clear as it was in the last few days, would he be desperate to marry Shao Wanru? Then would she be his bride at this moment?

It could be said that he had never had such an idea in his mind before, but at this time, it was so strong that he could not ignore it.

He couldn’t control himself to think about her. He even had an impulse of kidnapping the bride! He had never been so confirmed that he wanted Shao Wanru. Either the one in his dream or the one in front of him should belong to him!

He believed in the theory of last life!

But he also realized that it was too late!

He hated the feeling, but he felt it.

“Yuanqing, are you feeling uncomfortable?” Chu Liuyue’s voice came into his ears. Wen Xichi suppressed the tumbling regret in his heart and slowly loosened his clenched hand. “No, I’m fine. I just feel a little tired. Maybe it’s because there are too many people around me.”

“Then let’s go out for a walk,” Chu Liuxin said calmly.

Though he said it with a smile, Wen Xichi looked up at him and immediately noticed that it was not a sincere smile. They had known each other for a long time, so how could Wen Xichi not see the stiffness in Chu Liuyue’s smile? He calmly gave a glance at Chu Liuchen who was saluting. Then he nodded to Chu Liuyue and strode out with him.

At this moment, everyone was paying attention to Chu Liuchen’s wedding ceremony, so they didn’t see the two of them walking out. It didn’t take long for them to walk out of the wedding hall.

“Yuanqing, let’s go there for a walk. There are fewer people, so it’s quieter!” Chu Liuyue smiled and pointed to a door on the right, which led to the inner court. Chu Liuyue had been there several times, so he was very familiar with it.

There was no hostess in Prince Chen’s Mansion now, and Chu Liuchen lived in the so-called inner court alone. So they wouldn’t offend anyone if they went into the inner court.

Wen Xichi nodded. The two turned and walked in the door of the Moon Cave.

“Yuanqing, what do you think of my third brother’s health?” Both of them seemed to be thinking of something in their minds. After walking quietly for a while, Chu Liuxin broke the silence.

“Prince Chen seems to be in good health!” Wen Xichi said calmly.

“I have the same opinion as you, but Third Brother... he is infected with the congenital poison of the fetus. Can it be cured so easily?” Chu Liuyue asked in disbelief.

Chu Liuchen was in good spirits and he looked healthy in all aspects, which confused Chu Liuyue a lot. Before, he was so sick that many people were bothered to visit him. However, he seemed to be in a full recovery now. How could it happen? The imperial physicians had once declared at that time that he had been dying.

“Your Highness, have you looked up any medical cases?” Wen Xichi said lightly.

“Yes, I have. But... I can’t figure out...” Chu Liuyue now regarded Wen Xichi as his henchman, so he didn’t hide anything from Wen.

Since Wen Xichi helped him deal with Shao Wanru, he had taken Chu Liuyue’s side.

The superstition of scourge almost killed Shao Wanru. At that time, Chu Liuyue was also regretful that he failed to help Shao Yanru. Now he thought of it, and he felt relieved.

Fortunately, Shao Wanru was fine!

This feeling also made him uncomfortable with the joyfulness in the ceremony hall, but he had to hide the discomfort in the bottom of his heart. When he took the position of Prince Chen in the future, it

would be very easy for him to deal with Shao Wanru. And it should not be a difficult thing that Chu Liuchen died of illness.

But now he had doubts about Chu Liuchen's health condition, so he asked Wen Xichi out for a walk and to give him some advice...

Chapter 882 The Lost Memories

"Your Highness, did you find some previous medical records of Prince Chen?" Wen Xichi asked with a frown.

"Yes, I did! It is not difficult for me to reach those old records, though I shouldn't do that. I read some when I was recuperating at the Imperial Institute of Medicine. They all said that Third Brother's disease... was severe!"

Chu Liuyue was talking about the time when he was hospitalized in the Imperial Institute of Medicine after he and Chu Liuxin were both injured.

During that period, he also did something else apart from recuperating, such as secretly checking Chu Liuchen's medical records. He was banned from looking into medical records. If the Emperor knew it, he would probably be scolded again. Chu Liuyue believed that if his father found out that he had read Chu Liuchen's medical records, he would be seriously punished by his father.

"It was not so easy to get his medical records in the past, but you still found it, Your Highness. However, we didn't find any records about his current condition. You think that Prince Chen has been cured, don't you, Your Highness?" Wen Xichi asked him in reply.

Chu Liuyue indeed thought so! He did not hide from Wen Xichi. He nodded and sighed heavily, "Yuanqing, Third Brother seems to be healthy now! What do you think?"

Chu Liuchen did look good when he was performing the wedding ceremony. He also gave three good shots at the bridal sedan chair just now. Chu Liuyue felt Chu Liuchen seemed to be completely cured, except that his face and lips looked a little paler than others'.

If that was the case, Chu Liuchen would join in the list of his rivals... Thinking of this, Chu Liuyue frowned tightly.

It had been hard for him to deal with Chu Liuzhou. In addition, Prince Cheng was also one of his enemies. If Chu Liuchen was in a full recovery, he would be another opponent.

Moreover, Shao Wanru had married Chu Liuchen! "Such a beauty seems to be a creature born to my taste!" Chu Liuyue thought. She was both as pretty as a peony and as elegant as an orchid. Her every move was so beautiful that it gave a hit on his heart.

At first, he thought that Shao Wanru was still young, so he was not worried that she would get married early. Out of his expectation, among the Misses of Marquis Xing's Mansion, she was the first one who married out. It felt like he saw a product in a shop and wanted it, but it was bought and became others' belonging before he did, which made him feel very upset. If he had known this, he would have directly asked his father's grant permission of a marriage to her without any scruple.

“Prince Chen does look good, but whether he is truly good or not depends on what will happen tonight!” Wen Xichi suppressed his annoyance and analyzed.

Chu Liuxin was silent at first, but then he immediately understood. He nodded and said, “You are right, Yuanqing. We will know after tonight!”

He stood still and turned around, focusing his eyes in the direction of the wedding hall. At this time, the ceremony should have been completed!

“So what if they are married? Can a patient do what he should do as a husband?”

Thinking of this, Chu Liuyue felt a little relieved. Even though Chu Liuchen looked healthy, Chu Liuyue always felt that he couldn’t be in a full recovery.

How could such a sick man, who was about to die, be cured so easily?

For more than a decade, countless imperial physicians and famous doctors around the country had failed to cure Chu Liuchen. How could he recover so quickly? He believed that Chu Liuchen was like an arrow at the end of its flight and was just pretending to be strong in front of others...

After the ceremony, Shao Wanru was helped into the bridal chamber. The guests were waiting to see the bride.

Chu Liuchen lifted the red veil. Shao Wanru looked up at him with her heart pounding and immediately lowered her head with a red face.

“What a beautiful bride!”

“How gorgeous!”

“She’s so pretty!” Cries of surprise came from all directions. Shao Wanru’s face became redder. She lowered her head and didn’t dare to look into Chu Liuchen’s beautiful eyes. However, her glance at Chu Liuchen’s handsome face just now made her easy and shy.

She couldn’t help biting her lips and lowering her head to look at the bright red carpet under her feet.

“If Princess Chen is hungry, she can eat the meal first!” Chu Liuchen smiled slightly and instructed the nanny beside him.

The nanny nodded and entertained the Madams and Misses in the bridal chamber with a smile. Chu Liuchen turned around and walked out. As the groom, he must leave now.

Everyone knew that he had always been in weak health, so no one dared to force him to drink at the wedding banquet. They were afraid that an accident might happen as it did at the wedding banquet held in Marquis Xing’s Mansion before. Everyone turned a blind eye to the fact that the groom toasted with tea instead of spirits, and they acted as if he were actually drinking alcohol.

Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou did not drink either. Before they came to Prince Chen’s Mansion, both of them had been warned by the Emperor that they were not allowed to drink.

However, Prince Xin was drinking alone. Before Chu Liuchen came over, he was already drunk.

Chu Liuyue asked a servant to take him to rest.

After walking around and greeting most of the guests, Chu Liuchen left the banquet with the help of a eunuch. Everyone could see that Prince Chen didn't look well and guessed that he had been exhausted.

Everyone had always been suspicious of Prince Chen's health condition. But when they saw that he was tired, one hand keeping relaxing his eyebrows and his face turning pale, they unloaded the suspicion in their hearts and dared not to stop him from leaving. Prince Chen was indeed in weak health. He was not as strong as he looked!

He became exhausted in such a short time!

In the bridal room, Shao Wanru looked at Chu Liuchen in astonishment. He had just left for a second! In such a short time, what he could do was no more than to walk around the banquet casually.

The Madams and Misses who stayed in the bridal chamber for fun had to leave because of Chu Liuchen's early return.

"Why... why do you come back so early?" Shao Wanru looked around and asked in astonishment.

"I've finished toasting and got drunk!" Chu Liuchen said lazily. Then he sat down beside Shao Wanru and turned to look at Shao Wanru leisurely.

"..."

Shao Wanru was speechless. How dare he say that he got drunk without any reeks of alcohol?

"Why don't you go to wash up first? I'm drunk. I need to lie down for a while," Chu Liuchen waved his hand, fell on the bed, and said lazily.

Shao Wanru had been wanting to take a bath for a long time because she felt a little uncomfortable. She had intended to wait until those Madams and Misses left. But she didn't expect that Chu Liuchen would come back so soon. Hearing his advice, she stood up at once.

Yujie and Qu Le came to help her remove the heavy headwear on her head and then helped her go to the bathroom next to the bridal room.

The bathroom was very spacious, filled with warm steams and a faint fragrance, which was very pleasing. Shao Wanru looked at the spacious bathroom in astonishment.

The tub was made of warm jade! How luxurious! There was also a soft couch placed beside the pool. They were separated by half a screen.

That made her inexplicably nervous.

"Miss!" Yujie called her in a low voice after she found her master was a little strange.

Shao Wanru took a deep breath and slowly calmed down. With the help of the two servant girls, she took off her clothes with a slight blush on her face. She slipped into the pool by the jade platform on the side and waved her hand to ask the two servant girls to go out. She got up too early this morning and her body was still stiff. Being soaked in warm water, now she was completely relaxed.

"Miss, I am worried that you are alone," Yujie stopped at the door and said.

"I'm fine!" Shao Wanru waved her hand and motioned for Yujie to go out. She wanted to be alone for a while.

Because of her persistence, Yujie could only leave. "Miss, I am waiting for you at the door. You can call me if you need anything!"

Shao Wanru nodded. After the footsteps of the two servant girls were gone, the bathroom instantly became quiet.

She slowly closed her eyes, with her back leaning against the side of the bath. Everything that had just happened was like a dream because it made her feel unrealistic.

Was the last life just a dream of her in this life? Or was this life the continuation of her last life? It was difficult to tell! Suddenly, that exquisite headwear Hua Sheng flashed in her mind. She took a deep breath...

That Hua Sheng was Chu Liuchen's belonging. So, was it the reason why she and Chu Liuchen met each other in her last life?

Shao Wanru could remember everyone's stories in her last life, except for Chu Liuchen's!

She reached out to relax her frowning eyebrows. More and more speculations came into being in her head. Now she was sure that she must know Chu Liuchen in her last life and even have a close relationship with him. But why was there only a simple figure of Chu Liuchen in her memory? Why was there not the scene of her getting along with him?

It seemed that everything related to Chu Liuchen was hidden from her memory.

But why? Why was everything related to Chu Liuchen erased from her memory, but those about any other people were stricken into her heart?

It was so confusing that it made her uneasy. Was that pair of desperate eyes with hostility Chu Liuchen's? Why did he look like that?

Suddenly she felt a heavy pain in her heart, which seemed to be caused by something happening in the past in her memory. But she couldn't remember it no matter how hard she tried. She frowned more. "Why?"

Why could she only learn everything about Chu Liuchen in her last life by imagination and speculation, just as she enjoyed flowers in the fog? She was reborn!

What on earth had happened in her last life? Or what was the reason that caused her to forget Chu Liuchen's stories?

They should be very important... very important...

The fragments of her memories of the two lives appeared in her head one after another, but whether they were important or not, none of them was about Chu Liuchen. Moreover, many of them were linked

to each other, but she failed to connect them into a full memory as if some important pieces were stolen.

Why did she forget them? She or Chu Liuchen, who was the cause?

That headwear Hua Sheng opened another part of Shao Wanru's memories. But such part of memories was still vague. She almost touched it, but why couldn't she recall it?

She reached out to relax her eyebrows again, and suddenly she heard an elegant voice. "What's wrong? Is anything bothering you?"

Chapter 883 Bathe Together? No Good!

Shao Wanru was astonished to open her eyes and happened to have eye contact with Chu Liuchen. When she noticed that he was wearing a light bathrobe, a bright red instantly appeared on her face and she huddled up in the water.

"Why did you come here?"

"Why couldn't I come? Am I not allowed to have a bath as you did?" Chu Liuchen raised his eyebrows and asked. He looked even more handsome in the steam.

"Aren't you tired?" Shao Wanru stammered with a flushed face.

"Yes, I am, but I am not too tired to take a bath!" Chu Liuchen took off the bathrobe and got into the pool. Shao Wanru didn't even dare to look at him. Her long eyelashes fluttered, and she closed her eyes.

The next second, however, her body fell into his strong arms.

"Your... Your Highness..." Shao Wanru was flustered, so she couldn't help struggling.

"Don't be afraid. I'll just take a bath. But if you struggle again, I can't promise you what else I will do!" Chu Liuchen lowered his head to look at the flushed face in his arms, which made him laugh.

Shao Wanru dare not move. She froze in Chu Liuchen's arms.

Chu Liuchen had hugged her like this before, but at least they were with clothes at that time. Now they were both naked, so how dare she make a move? She could only keep still in his arms, with her heart almost jumping out of her chest.

With his eyes focusing on the obedient girl in his arms, Chu Liuchen felt the curve of her figure under the turbulent pool. It was so desirable to him though Shao Wanru was huddling up.

Chu Liuchen suddenly loosened a little his arms around Shao Wanru and said seriously, "You got too close to me!"

Shao Wanru didn't know what to say! He was a thief crying "stop thief!" "You drew me into your arms! And now you say I got too close to you?"

Though he said so, he still held Shao Wanru in his arms. The girly fragrance from her body rose along with the warm steam and sneaked into his nose. He became more and more obsessive.

The next moment, he kissed her aggressively. He tightly hugged Shao Wanru with his slender arms so that their bodies were tightly touching together.

Shao Wanru had never been “violated” like this in her two lives. She struggled subconsciously and was dizzy by the kiss. Her mouth and nose were filled with Chu Liuchen’s breath, and then her body softened.

It was such a long kiss that Shao Wanru thought that she was almost about to die here. Finally, Chu Liuchen let go of her. He had kissed her fiercely as if he were going to swallow her.

“Go over there. It’s not a good idea for us to bathe together!” Chu Liuchen said and pointed in a direction. She swam to the opposite side of the pool the moment she came to her senses. The strong masculine aura almost made her lose her mind. Her whole body was red and her breath was unstable.

However, Chu Liuchen’s breath was much more unstable. Shao Wanru could sense his heavy breath through the distance of the pool. She became shyer and almost buried herself in the water.

“What do you think of the bath?” After a long while, Chu Liuchen’s calm voice came across the pool. She could see that he asked with a smile through the fog-like steam.

“It is very... very good!” Shao Wanru had not recovered from her shyness and could not respond to him in a calm tone.

“I built it for you,” Chu Liuchen said with a smile. He leaned against the side of the bath and his eyes fell on Shao Wanru’s slender body through the mist. He almost lost the self-control he was proud of.

At first, he had thought that he could totally control himself when facing such a situation. He smiled in silence. If it weren’t for her health, he wouldn’t have to bear it at all.

Shao Wanru’s face was still red as a beet. She didn’t dare to look at him. Without looking in the direction of Chu Liuchen, she replied, “Thank... thank you, Your Highness!”

“Have you finished bathing, Your Highness?” Shao Wanru bit her lip and asked with a red face. She would rather talk to him with clothes on.

“No, I am not in a hurry. If you’ve done, you can go first, Zhuozhuo!” Chu Liuchen said lazily, focusing his eyes on Shao Wanru on purpose.

Shao Wanru didn’t dare to imagine what it would be like if she got up from the pool naked in front of him. She sank into the water lower, as if only in this way could she get rid of the shyness.

“I... I will bathe a bit longer!”

Chu Liuchen’s laughter came from the other side. It seemed that he was in a good mood. His laughter sounded louder and lasted longer in the big bathroom so that she felt surrounded by his voice. “Well, we can enjoy bathing slowly. Anyway, I’m not in a hurry!”

Shao Wanru wanted to go, but no matter how bold she was, she didn’t dare to get up naked in front of Chu Liuchen. She knew that Chu Liuchen said that on purpose, but she couldn’t do anything to him.

This man was too bad!

"Your Highness... you just came back from outside, so you can't bathe too long!" Shao Wanru bit her lip and said. She had better try to save herself.

"Why can't I? I'm in poor health, so I have to spend more time bathing!" Chu Liuchen said frankly.

An idea came to her mind and she hastened to suggest. "No, Your Highness. The medical book says that you can't soak in the water for too long!" It was too embarrassing now. She just wanted to deal with it.

She had to relieve the embarrassment.

"To believe everything in books is worse than to read no books at all. Zhuozhuo, do you think it is true?" Chu Liuchen said with interest, and the smile on his face became wider and wider. His glance at her eyes through the mist made Shao Wanru immediately blush again.

She was eager to leave, but she didn't dare to do that in the end.

"Your... Your Highness, it was true that you can't stay in the water for too long!" She coughed and pretended to be serious. However, her delicate red face diluted the seriousness in her words and made her look more lovely.

"Zhuozhuo, you are so considerate of me!" Chu Liuchen's smile became coquettish.

Yes, it was a delicate and charming smile. He was no longer as elegant as jade now but looked coquettish. His pale face turned bright red after being steamed in the heating bathroom, and his handsome face was like a peach blossom.

The palm-sized face of Shao Wanru who was on the opposite side was also becoming more and more like a blooming flower. Her delicate facial features looked indistinct in the steam. She looked like a goddess from the Ninth Heaven who had fallen into the mortal world.

Chu Liuchen overestimated his self-control again, so he had to close his eyes.

"Don't worry. You are still young, so I won't touch you now. I have enquired. Women shouldn't have sex with her husband until they are already 15 years old. Otherwise, it will harm their bodies!" he said slowly.

When Shao Wanru heard this, she blushed again.

"I... I..." She stammered, not knowing what to say next.

Chu Liuchen burst out laughing and stood up. Shao Wanru turned around in a hurry and turned her head to the other side. Hearing the sound of Chu Liuchen coming out of the bath, she breathed a sigh of relief. But she couldn't get up until he left.

Unexpectedly, a bathrobe was put on her and she was pulled up and heavily thrown into Chu Liuchen's arms. Chu Liuchen chuckled to her ear. "Don't move. I'll carry you back to the bedroom!"

Shao Wanru didn't dare to move again. Then she caught Chu Liuchen's bathrobe in a hurry.

It was quiet outside the bathroom. No one else was there. After she was put on the bed, Shao Wanru looked around the room with a red face. Seeing that there was no one, she breathed a sigh of relief again. In her two lives, she had always been a well-behaved good girl and had never done such a thing.

As the gauze curtain was unhooked, a set of clothes was thrown into the bed. It was her pajamas.

The gauze curtain was half transparent. Shao Wanru changed her bathrobe to the pajamas in a hurry and then felt relieved.

“Finished?” Chu Liuchen’s gentle voice came in through the gauze curtain.

Shao Wanru nodded subconsciously. Suddenly, she realized that he couldn’t see her outside the curtain, so she answered in a low voice.

Chu Liuchen hooked up the gauze curtain and threw the bathrobe she had just taken off on the screen on the side. Then he, who had also changed into his nightgown, sat on the bedside and said to her naturally, “Dry my hair!”

A dry towel was also put in into her hand.

“Your Highness, don’t you need a servant?” Shao Wanru took the towel to dry his wet hair and asked curiously. Although her face was still as red as blood, she felt relieved because of his promise just now.

She believed Chu Liuchen from the bottom of her heart.

“I don’t want any other’s service but Princess Chen’s!” Chu Liuchen smiled in a low voice that was clear and charming.

Even though she knew that he couldn’t see her face, Shao Wanru blushed. Her long eyelashes fluttered, and she didn’t know what to say for a moment.

“I am married now. How can other people get so close to me? You as my Princess will take the responsibility in the future!” It seemed that Chu Liuchen didn’t need Shao Wanru’s response. He continued to say, “Zhuzhuo and I are childhood sweethearts. Of course, our marriage is different from those blind ones!”

It sounded like they had had an affair for a long time. Shao Wanru couldn’t help loosening her grip on his hair because she was ashamed and annoyed by his tricky words. However, she didn’t know what to say. She had long known that Chu Liuchen was an unabashed man. If she went along with him, he might say something that made her shy.

But even if she didn’t follow his words, he could also say more words that would make her bashful.

“Your Highness... why did you stop in front of the bridal sedan chair?” Shao Wanru blushed and felt that it was better to talk about something serious.

“You sensed it?” Chu Liuchen raised his eyebrows.

“Yes... What happened?” Shao Wanru became curious when she remembered the unusual stop of the sedan chair.

When it came to a serious topic, she looked more natural and was no longer ashamed and annoyed as before.

“It was not a big deal. The bow broke!” Chu Liuchen said indifferently.

"How, how come?" Shao Wanru asked in surprise. That was not a precious bow, so how could it be destroyed? Moreover, the bow was nothing important, so it was meaningless to break it.

"Do you think it is serious?" Chu Liuchen asked slowly. It seemed that he had eyes on the back of his head.

"Is there any cause and effect?" Shao Wanru thought for a moment and asked softly. Suddenly, she realized what would happen if the bow was broken. A chill crept on her back. The broken bow would cause a bad impact on...

Chapter 884 Desire

Normally, if the broken-bow accident happened on others' wedding day, it would not be blamed on the bride.

But she was different from other brides. She had once been called the "bane" because of Shao Yanru's plot, though the Emperor was infuriated and had been persuaded by her to decree a forbidden order—everyone was banned to call her as a "bane".

However, many people had heard about it. They might think it was not a big deal at that time. After all, it had caused a great sensation and lots of responsibilities had been pushed to her, which had made the Emperor angry.

"Who did that?" Shao Wanru stopped her hands and asked.

"It had been damaged before being awarded to me in the palace. I have already sent it to the Emperor!" Chu Liuchen said lazily.

Did he intend to bring it to the imperial palace?

"Did many people see that?" Shao Wanru frowned slightly and gently dried Chu Liuchen's hair again.

"Don't worry. No one else had noticed that there was something wrong with the bow. I found it as soon as I pulled it, so I changed to another bow. The bow is not completely broken into two pieces. There's only a crack in it!" Chu Liuchen said with a smile.

Shao Wanru let out a sigh of relief after hearing his words. No one noticed it, so there would not be any rumors. Chu Liuchen had been occupied with all kinds of troubles. If more troubles were added because of her, he must be haunted by more annoying gossip.

"Why... why did we take one more bow in the wedding hall just now?" Shao Wanru suddenly remembered it after she let go of the broken bow accident.

With a red veil covering her head, she was flustered when she was asked to take one more bow. Fortunately, she made no mistakes under Chu Liuchen's guidance.

"I am on the list of princes, so I have to take a bow to Uncle the Emperor!" Chu Liuchen said with a confusing expression on his face.

Though Shao Wanru couldn't see his face, she could hear some sarcasm in his voice. She knew that this reminded him of his family. He was the son of the former Emperor, the same as Commandery Prince

Qing. He shouldn't have been on the list of the Emperor's sons, but he became Third Prince due to the Emperor's grace.

Chu Liuchen must feel very uncomfortable with it...

Now, he had to address himself as the Emperor's son though they were nephew and uncle, which must remind him of his family background. Who knew whether it was the Emperor's or Empress Dowager's idea? Wasn't it cruel that he was always reminded of his family background from time to time?

Although Shao Wanru knew that it might infuriate Chu Liuchen, she asked carefully and softly, "Then... what should we do to deal with it in the future?"

Since she had married Chu Liuchen, she had to pay more attention to everything related to the royal family. Moreover, she couldn't avoid facing it at all. She needed to know Chu Liuchen's attitude towards the royal family and then she could cooperate with him.

"You don't have to know my attitudes. Just do what you want!" As his hair was almost dry, Chu Liuchen turned around, stood up, and walked to the door to call the servants.

Yujie answered and came in. She helped Shao Wanru sit down at the dressing table and dry her hair.

It was very quiet in the room, and there was only the sound of Yujie drying Shao Wanru's hair. Shao Wanru looked at the big bed behind her through the mirror.

Chu Liuchen reclined on the bed and flipped through a book. He was silent.

Finally, Yujie dried her hair and left quietly.

Shao Wanru could sense there was a blush on her face. She lowered her head and her long eyelashes fluttered from time to time. She was too bashful to move closer to the bed.

While she was staring at her fingers in a daze, an arm suddenly wrapped around her waist. "Why don't you come and rest? Is there anything attractive to my princess?"

The man's scent rushed to her, which made her become hot in the body and turn red in the face again.

She bit her lip and stood up with his gesture. Being held tightly in Chu Liuchen's arms, she slowly walked to the bed.

When she reached the bedside, Shao Wanru rushed into the side against the wall. It should be that the groom slept inside and the bride outside, but she couldn't care about the rule right now. Her heart beat faster and faster and her fingers began to twitch.

Since she was living a second life, she was much tougher and calmer than she had been in the last life. But she didn't expect that she would be so flustered now that her heart seemed to be about to jump out of her chest.

She was especially nervous when being stared at by Chu Liuchen. She had never experienced such a scene in her two lives.

In her last life, her wedding with Wen Xichi was just a formality. She entered Wen Xichi's room, which was without any decoration except a red paper-cutting character "happiness" stuck on the door to indicate that it was a day of great joy.

When she came into his room, Wen Xichi was lying on the bed, looking extremely weak.

All the servants in his room were concerned about Wen Xichi. But none of them cared about the bride, who was allowed to marry Wen Xichi for the sake of counteracting the bad luck. Therefore, Shao Wanru's wedding night was that she sat on the bedside alone and looked after Wen Xichi, who had fallen asleep after taking medicine, without any servants staying to help her.

At that time, no one cared about who she was. However, after that night, she was no longer in a state of utter stupefaction as she had been at the wedding night. They added a bed for her in the room so that it was convenient for her to take care of Wen Xichi.

Shao Wanru was heavily pulled into his strong arms. For the first time, Shao Wanru had realized that Chu Liuchen was not as skinny as he looked as if he was seriously sick. He had muscles.

On the bed covered by the gauze curtain, Chu Liuchen held Shao Wanru in his arms and leaned against the cushion at the head of the bed. Their breaths intertwined in the air. Under the cover of the bed curtain, they looked particularly intimate.

Shao Wanru didn't know what to say at this time. She leaned on Chu Liuchen's shoulder, feeling that the breath of the man was so heavy that he didn't look as elegant as he did in public.

Shao Wanru's breath couldn't help becoming heavier with Chu Liuchen's breathing sound in her ears. She clasped the hem of her pajamas tightly and only felt that her palms were sweating.

Chu Liuchen suddenly laughed in a low voice and said, "I don't think it is a good idea!"

"What?" Shao Wanru asked subconsciously.

"I've asked several imperial physicians before, and they all said that you haven't come of age yet and can't sleep with a man. But now I can't stand it anymore. What should I do?" Chu Liuchen rolled his beautiful eyes and looked at Shao Wanru.

The petite girl lay in his arms. Her light and soft body touched the bottom of his heart. Her bright and watery eyes looked more charming with the gauze curtain as the background. It had only been a few years, but this girl grew more beautiful and became more to his taste. He smiled and then gently kissed her on the pink and tender lips.

After a moment's thought, he controlled himself.

He had never paid attention to other women. And he had never thought that he would lose his composure or self-control when facing any woman, even Shao Wanru. But now Chu Liuchen had to admit that he had overestimated himself.

Shao Wanru didn't expect that Chu Liuchen would say such words in such a serious voice. For a moment, she was both moved and shy, and she didn't even know where to look. Recalling his gentle kiss in her mind, she bit her lip and looked up at Chu Liuchen at a loss. Her bashful look almost eradicated the last self-control of Chu Liuchen.

“Don’t you think the imperial physicians are wrong?” Chu Liuchen said in a serious tone.

Shao Wanru was awkward and looked away. “How unabashed he is! How could he enquire more than one imperial physician about such shameful questions? He is Prince Chen!”

“Zhuozhuo, do you think the imperial physicians are wrong?” Chu Liuchen asked again. It seemed that he wouldn’t stop until he gained an answer from her.

“Your Highness!” Shao Wanru was too ashamed to answer such a question. “I am not as shameless as you! Never wish that I will talk about such dirty topics with you!” Shao Wanru thought in her mind.

“Alas, if I had known it earlier, I would have married you a bit later!” Chu Liuchen sighed, with his eyes falling on her petite body. There was such a good girl in the world whose body grew just the way he liked. And now he married her!

Thinking of these, Chu Liuchen could not keep calm and started to feel a little melancholy. He couldn’t help murmuring to himself, “Why didn’t you grow up faster?”

Shao Wanru could no longer stand his thirsty words, which had greatly shocked her.

“Shouldn’t Prince Chen be cold and aloof? When did he become so childish? Is he still the same crown prince in her last life, who was standing on the high platform with rage on his face?”

Each word he said was more childish and thirsty than the last. What was more helpless was that he never stopped making fun of her and spared no efforts to make her blush.

Her body was stiff and she did not dare to move. She felt her entire body was on fire as if she were being steamed in a cage. Her body was tightly held in his arms. She wanted to push him away.

Her hand was caught by Chu Liuchen. Then he asked, “Are you rejecting me?”

Chu Liuchen’s voice was full of surprise, and there seemed to be other meanings in his words.

“Your Highness, please loosen your arms... I feel hot!” Shao Wanru begged with anxiety. However, her words sounded so ambiguous that they could easily be misunderstood, especially at this time. She did not want Chu Liuchen to think that she had agreed on something.

“Are you hot?” As soon as Chu Liuchen loosened his arms, Shao Wanru hurriedly rolled away and stayed from him. Fortunately, the bed was big enough so that she did not hit the wall when she turned over.

“Yes, I am!” Shao Wanru lowered her head and said in a very low voice.

“Well, I happen to feel cold. You can help me warm my feet!” Chu Liuchen said naturally, without a blush or a panic.

Shao Wanru wanted to roll her eyes to show how speechless she was. How could she not know how hot his body was? How dare he say that he was cold?

She couldn’t help but move close to the wall again. Fortunately, Chu Liuchen didn’t reach out his arms to hug her. Instead, he lay on the bed still. Then he pointed to the place next to him and said, “It’s getting late. You should lie down and sleep!”

As he didn't catch her into his arms again, Shao Wanru breathed a sigh of relief and lay down obediently. She would be willing to do everything he asked as long as he didn't hug her. Moreover, he had said that she was not old enough to...

Although she had sensed that he was very thirsty just now, she believed that he would not do anything to her tonight as he had promised. With her watery eyes glancing at his handsome face, she felt sweet and soft in her heart...

Chapter 885 Is It a Sweet Wedding Night?

Suddenly, the air quieted down. It was not weird but peaceful and reassuring.

Their breaths became steady. Shao Wanru half closed her eyes. She tried hard to fall asleep but failed. Her eyelashes fluttered as she was thinking. Then she opened her eyes.

"Your Highness, can you talk about your mansion to me?"

"What do you want to know?" Chu Liuchen answered in a teasing voice, with his eyes closed.

Shao Wanru hesitated for a moment, but finally, she decided to be straightforward. "Tell me anything about your mansion and the palace!"

Since Chu Liuchen's identity was special, Prince Chen's Mansion, the so-called "Southern Palace", was similar to "Eastern Palace" in position. It was connected to the Imperial Palace, so people could enter the Imperial Palace through the side door of his mansion. Such a position arrangement was not only a geographical strategy but also a psychological one.

As she was Princess Chen now, she had to deal with the people in the Imperial Palace.

"You just need to worry about how to be Princess Chen. As for others, deal with them according to the circumstances," Chu Liuchen said casually. He didn't move closer to her, but he reached out and held Shao Wanru's soft hand. He pinched it gently and said with his face darkening, "If someone shows kindness to you, don't take it seriously. Most of the people in the Imperial Palace play cunning tricks. No one can tell whether they are friends or foes!"

Such words were a little inexplicable and even abrupt, but Shao Wanru could hear his sadness in them. She subconsciously held Chu Liuchen's hand and looked at him with gentle eyes.

"I'll comply with your order, Your Highness!"

"Good to hear that!" Chu Liuchen held Shao Wanru in his arms and said seriously. Of course, he looked very serious, but in fact...

The next morning, Shao Wanru woke up and found that she ached all over. She opened her eyes, not remembering where she was for a moment. She felt that she seemed to be tied because she couldn't move at all.

She looked up and saw Chu Liuchen's handsome face. He was as gorgeous and elegant as jade. No one would deny that he was God's favorite after they saw his face. Coupled with his scattered long hair, his face looked even more charming so that sometimes people couldn't tell whether he was a man or a woman and doubted whether he was a character in a painting coming alive in the real world.

But she blushed in a second when she remembered what Chu Liuchen did last night. He did anything to her on the bed, except for the last step.

If it weren't for last night, she would have never known that Chu Liuchen, a handsome and elegant gentleman like an angel in heaven, would be so unabashed...

"Are you awake?" Chu Liuchen opened his eyes and asked with a gentle smile. Then he kissed her tender forehead gently.

Seeing him open his eyes, Shao Wanru closed her watery eyes at once and her heart was pounding.

"Sleep again?" Chu Liuchen asked with a smile. Looking at her slightly trembling eyelashes, he gently patted her on the back and said, "Okay, just sleep for a while more!"

"I... I'm awake!" Shao Wanru opened her eyes in a hurry. They needed to go to the palace to visit the Emperor and Empress Dowager. How could she be so willful? What would others think of her?

"Are you going to get up?" Chu Liuchen smiled and watched her try hard to pretend to be serious.

"Yes!" Shao Wanru tried hard not to look at his teasing face.

"Okay, I'll do as you want!" Chu Liuchen let go of her, got up, and then turned around to help her.

Shao Wanru had sat up by herself. She bit her lips and ignored his outstretched hands.

"What's wrong? Are you mad at me?" Chu Liuchen bent to face her and asked with a smile. His "sanctimoniousness" made Shao Wanru gnash her teeth.

He looked refreshed, but she was uncomfortable all over.

She was pouting her lips with a light red face, and apparently she was unhappy. So, Chu Liuchen coaxed her in a low voice in her ear. "Okay, okay, I promise I won't do that again, okay?"

However, his comforts made Shao Wanru's little face turn redder. All her knowledge about the wedding night was from some pornographic paintings on a book given by Madam Di when she got married in the last life.

At first glance at the paper of the book, Shao Wanru knew that it was a cheap book that could be got very easily. She felt disgusted and flustered after scanning a few pages, and then she put it at the bottom of a box and locked it.

This time, Rui'an Great Elder Princess had given her a series of exquisite pornographic paintings and had told her to follow Chu Liuchen's instructions. Last night, they didn't have sex in the end. But, she still felt ashamed very much.

Chu Liuchen had no lovers. Not only did the rumor spread outside say so, but also Xiao Xuanzi had repeatedly mentioned. However, he knew so much. How could Shao Wanru not be annoyed? She lowered her head and felt too ashamed.

Seeing Shao Wanru's taut face showing her aggrievance and annoyance, Chu Liuchen smiled and his eyes became soft and gentle. He had always been indifferent to anything and anyone. In the past, he

didn't even care about himself. But now he was sure that the girl in front of him was the one he cared about most.

Since he knew that, he must spare no efforts to protect her.

A decision came into being in his mind, which was hidden from Shao Wanru. Since he had got what he wanted, he would definitely protect it. In no way would he allow his woman to be hurt or robbed. He had always been the best at guarding his belongings...

"Master, are you up?" Hearing the sound inside, Xiao Xuanzi asked outside the door, followed by several servant girls holding the toiletries.

"Come in!" Chu Liuchen let go of Shao Wanru and said.

The door was opened, and a group of servant girls and eunuchs entered the room, followed by Yujie and Qu Le. The two of them went to serve Shao Wanru first.

Although the blush on Shao Wanru's face hadn't vanished, she looked much calmer.

All the servant girls were helping Shao Wanru wash up, and none of them approached Chu Liuchen. However, the two young eunuchs brought by Xiao Xuanzi were serving Chu Liuchen well. It was obvious that they had been serving Prince Chen.

After Shao Wanru finished washing up, she was helped to sit at the dressing table. Qu Le combed her long hair. All the servant girls of Prince Chen's Mansion left, but Qu Le and Yujie stayed.

Two nannies from the Imperial Palace came and bowed to Chu Liuchen, who was sitting at the head of the bed. Chu Liuchen nodded to them.

A nanny walked to the bed and searched the messy quilts on it with a smile. Shao Wanru looked at her through the dressing-table mirror. At first, Shao Wanru didn't understand what she meant to do that, but when the nanny took out a big wrinkled white handkerchief from the bed, her face immediately turned red and she didn't dare to look into the mirror anymore.

Seeing the white handkerchief without a trace of blood, the nanny's expression changed and she asked in a panic, "Your Highness..."

"What's wrong? Is there a problem?" Chu Liuchen raised his eyes, which were elegant and gentle.

However, the nanny was so frightened that she trembled. She quickly lowered her head and said, "I was making a fuss over nothing! Sorry!"

"You can leave now!" Chu Liuchen waved his hand indifferently.

The two nannies didn't dare to stay any longer. They carefully put the handkerchief in a brocade box and left. When they went to the door, they looked at each other with their faces becoming gloomy. Last night, Prince Chen and Princess Chen didn't consummate their marriage! If Empress Dowager knew it, she would definitely be sad.

"Let's go and report it to Empress Dowager first!" Another Nanny suggested. It wouldn't help if they continue standing there.

They had to return to the Imperial Palace by the side door of Prince Chen's Mansion and went directly to the Palace of Benevolent Peace to see Empress Dowager.

"Prince Chen really didn't consummate his marriage?" Empress Dowager's eyes turned wet after she heard the report of the two nannies. Was Prince Chen so weak? Didn't they say that he was recovering and he was almost as healthy as a normal man?

"I think it is true... according to..." The two nannies suppressed their fear and answered.

"You can leave now!" Empress Dowager waved her hand.

The two nannies breathed a sigh of relief and left as quickly as possible.

"Is my Chen'er really not well?" After the two nannies left, Empress Dowager shed tears. She cared about this grandson so much. When she thought of his family background, she would feel extremely distressed. "He was a pitiful boy."

"Empress Dowager, don't be sad. Maybe His Highness had taken the medicine before, so it was inconvenient for him!" Nanny Wei thought of an excuse to comfort Empress Dowager.

"He picked that girl himself, sent the gifts himself, and even go to pick up the bride in person. It can be seen that he is really satisfied with his bride. But now... he couldn't consummate his marriage. How pitiful my Chen'er is!" The more Empress Dowager thought about it, the sadder she became. Chu Liuchen was fond of Shao Wanru, which was one of the most important reasons why Empress Dowager determined to grant them a marriage.

As long as Chu Liuchen wanted anything, Empress Dowager was willing to fulfill all his wishes, not to mention just granting a woman to him. What's more, the girl could at least give birth to a son or a daughter for him!

Although Chu Liuchen seemed to become better in health, Empress Dowager was still worried, afraid that Chu Liuchen would faint again.

"Don't worry, Empress Dowager. Both Princess Chen and Prince Chen are still young. Maybe they will know what they should do when they are older. At least, Princess Chen is the woman whom Prince Chen likes, for which we should be happy. It is enough for Prince Chen to know your love for him!" Nanny Wei said again.

Empress Dowager nodded, wiped her tears with a handkerchief, and then sighed heavily. "The kid... I feel that I owe him... If it weren't for me... now he..."

Her words were very broken, but Nanny Wei knew what she wanted to say, so she immediately comforted Empress Dowager again, "Don't blame yourself, Empress Dowager. It is the greatest blessing for Prince Chen to become healthier. Since he has been engaged to Princess Chen, he has been getting better and better. He has not been sick for a long time, with his behavior and expression as normal as ordinary people's. It seems that he will be in a full recovery in the future!"

After all, the former Emperor had passed away, so it wouldn't help for anyone if Empress Dowager complained like that.

Empress Dowager felt very pleased with Nanny Wei's words. She nodded repeatedly and thought that Nanny Wei was right, so she stopped crying at once. She thought for a moment and then asked Nanny Wei to take out the gifts she had prepared before. "When Princess Chen comes later, give all of these gifts to her."

"Didn't you say that they were too generous?" Nanny Wei asked carefully.

"That was in the past. Now, I want her to take good care of Prince Chen, and I can give her anything!" Empress Dowager sighed and said. Anyway, her grandson was in poor health... And she would feel guilty if Rui'an Great Elder Princess's granddaughter was slighted.

"Yes, I will comply with your order!" Nanny Wei understood Empress Dowager's intention the best, so she nodded and agreed at once.

The Empress Dowager's Palace of Benevolent Peace became peaceful, but the Emperor's Imperial Study was full of angry air. Three princes were standing in front of the Emperor. They didn't dare to take a breath when they were looking at the broken bow thrown to the ground in front of them by the Emperor...

Chapter 886 Go to Visit the Elders

In fact, in addition to the three princes, there were other people in the Imperial Study too, including Prince Cheng, Commandery Prince Qing and some servants. Prince Cheng was sitting, while Commandery Prince Qing was standing a little far away from the three princes with his head lowered. He did not dare to speak a word, either.

"Confess! Whose work was the broken bow?" the Emperor said angrily with a cold face. He slammed his hand hard on the desk, which nearly shook off the bookshelf on it.

It was the Emperor who awarded the bow, but it was unexpected that the bow would be damaged by somebody. It almost became broken in Chu Liuchen's hands and made him lose face in front of others.

The Emperor became furious at the thought of that.

"Brother, could it be that Prince Chen exerted too much strength?" Prince Cheng tried to mediate the dilemma.

"Excuse me? Prince Chen used too much strength?" the Emperor said in a sneer. Then he pointed at his three sons standing in front of him. "Any one of you might have used too much strength, but it's impossible for Prince Chen!"

The three princes had nothing to say in reply.

If it were someone else who used the bow, they could explain with such an excuse. But it was Chu Liuchen, who had always been believed in weak health, and who was always said to be living the last day of his life.

Even if they dared to tell the truth, they were afraid that the Emperor would punish them if he was so infuriated that he lost his temper.

Chu Liuyue raised his head and said with an earnest face, "Father, I don't know anything about it!"

"Father, I don't know what was going on either. It must be that someone intended to make trouble for Third Brother. Please find out who he was and punish him!" Chu Liuzhou hastened to say by following his brother. Anyway, he was not stupid, though he might be reckless.

"Father, I didn't do that," said Chu Liuxin, who looked a little decadent and listless. He had always been in such a state since Shao Yanru's event happened.

The Emperor glanced at his youngest son and sighed silently. He had no suspicion on him. Moreover, the Emperor always felt that he had owed his youngest son a lot on that matter.

Of course, the Empress should be to blame. Her dereliction of duty gave Shao Yanru a good opportunity and the whole thing almost hurt Chu Liuxin. The youngest son had always been a child, but now he seemed to have suddenly become an adult who didn't look energetic at all.

"Brother, have you investigated it?" Prince Cheng asked. He focused on the investigation of the matter, by which he implicitly indicated that it had nothing to do with him at the same time.

"Yes, I did. The eunuch who sent the bow is dead!" the Emperor said coldly.

"Then it is more difficult to deal with it now!" Prince Cheng frowned and said, "It can be sure that there must be someone wanting to hurt Prince Chen, but his motive is uncertain, isn't it? If he just wanted to humiliate Prince Chen, he should not have done such a thing!"

It was neither a big deal nor a trivial matter that the bow was damaged. For Chu Liuchen, it was not serious at all. It could be said that it was a little exaggerated.

Prince Cheng was secretly hinting to the Emperor that they didn't have to involve too many people.

"Your Majesty, why don't you permit me to investigate it..." Chu Qing finally got an opportunity to show his loyalty and hurriedly asked for permission.

He didn't care about whether it was a big case or not. He just hoped to be missioned by the Emperor, which could show that he was valued. He didn't find any clues for the last case, so he wanted to get another mission and deal with it so that the Emperor could think highly of him.

"Have you finished your last task?" Prince Cheng looked sideways at him and asked with a smile.

His words sounded gentle, but they hit Chu Qing's weakness and made him blush at once. Chu Qing didn't know what to say in reply.

"Father, I am willing to take the mission!" Chu Liuyue requested.

If the Emperor handed the right of investigation over to him, it meant that the Emperor trusted him. Of course, Chu Liuyue couldn't miss such a good chance.

"Father, I happen to be free recently, and my legs have long recovered. I always want to serve you. Why don't you leave it to me!" Chu Liuzhou hurried to say after he immediately realized it too.

Only Chu Liuxin seemed to have freed his soul from the body. He looked around with a confused look, having no awareness of showing his loyalty in front of the Emperor.

"I will send someone to investigate this matter, but not you..." The Emperor's face was darkened. He narrowed his eyes and looked at them one by one with a cold look.

"Your Majesty, Prince Chen and Princess Chen have come!" a eunuch outside said. The Emperor had issued an order before that if Prince Chen and Princess Chen came, they should inform him first.

The Emperor calmed down and leaned backward. "Bring them in!"

The eunuch left in a hurry, and soon he led Chu Liuchen and Shao Wanru into the study.

The couple respectfully took three bows to the Emperor, and then they were helped up.

The Emperor was very satisfied with Chu Liuchen's aura of handsome elegance, except his excessive pale face. Then he turned to look at Shao Wanru standing beside Chu Liuchen. Shao Wanru's face looked a little childish but it told others that she was an outstanding beauty. They were indeed a perfect couple.

The Emperor's cold face became friendly. After rewarding Derong, he kindly asked a servant to bring a chair for Chu Liuchen, for fear that he would be tired.

Shao Wanru stood behind Chu Liuchen consciously, lowering her head and shoulder. Then she caught the sight of the broken bow on the ground and had an intuition that it was the one used by Chu Liuchen yesterday. Her long eyelashes couldn't help fluttering to hide the suspicion in her eyes.

"How do you feel, Chen'er?" the Emperor looked Chu Liuchen up and down and asked with concern.

He had always thought that Chu Liuchen's complexion was not good. Now compared with Shao Wanru's bright and pink face, Chu Liuchen's looked paler in his eyes, which made him very worried.

"I'm very well. Thank you for worrying about me, Uncle the Emperor!" Chu Liuchen said with a gentle smile. He glanced at the bow on the ground and the several brothers standing there and then asked in surprise, "Have you figured it out, Uncle the Emperor?"

"There is indeed something wrong with the bow, but the eunuch who sent it has died!" the Emperor said in annoyance.

"Uncle the Emperor, there is no need to investigate it anymore. It is not a big deal. I sent the bow to you yesterday because I didn't have time to ask about it at that time!" Chu Liuchen said with a faint smile.

His expression and persuasion made the Emperor feel increasingly distressed and angry. Chu Liuchen had been in such poor health, but there was still a person who couldn't be tolerant of him and wanted him to suffer.

"No. I will find out the truth. Why don't you take Princess Chen to bow to the Empress first? Your Imperial Grandmother is still waiting for you!" the Emperor replied.

They should have met the Emperor first, then Empress Dowager, and the Empress in the end. However, they changed the order because Empress Dowager wanted to talk to her grandson for a longer time.

"Yes, Uncle the Emperor!" Chu Liuchen stood up and nodded in agreement. After bowing again, Shao Wanru and he left the Imperial Study and got on the palace sedan chair waiting outside.

Actually, they should walk to visit the elders in the palace, but the Emperor was worried about Chu Liuchen's health, so he specially prepared a sedan chair for them.

Since Chu Liuchen, as a man, didn't walk, Shao Wanru, as a woman, certainly had to take the palace sedan chair with him.

Fortunately, the palace sedan chair prepared for them was bigger; it was not crowded when it took two people.

Of course, it was indeed capacious for the two of them to sit together if Chu Liuchen was not flippant. But Chu Liuchen was not so well-behaved. As soon as he sat down, he drew Shao Wanru to sit on his lap before he asked the servants to lift the sedan chair.

Shao Wanru struggled a few seconds with a blushed face, but she couldn't get rid of his arms, so she gave up in the end. She leaned her head on Chu Liuchen's chest and asked in a low voice, "Will the Empress make things difficult for me?"

"No!" Chu Liuchen said leisurely.

"Why?" Shao Wanru raised her watery eyes and looked at Chu Liuchen. In her opinion, the Empress must have a bad impression of Chu Liuchen. After all, her son yearned for the position of the crown prince, but Chu Liuchen was the one in their way. "Will the Empress be fond of you?"

Shao Wanru asked with her beautiful eyes full of surprise, as if what she asked was very obvious but he seemed to know nothing about it. Then her pink and tender lips were slightly open, which evoked his desire of kissing her.

Chu Liuchen had never mistreated himself. He lowered his head and kissed her lips quickly and accurately. Shao Wanru struggled as soon as she came to her senses, but she suddenly remembered that they were in the palace sedan chair, and two eunuchs carrying the sedan chair were from the palace. For a moment, she was ashamed and annoyed, but she didn't dare to struggle.

Chu Liuchen laughed in a low and carefree voice in her ear after he let her go. She couldn't help pinching him hard.

She didn't let him go until Chu Liuchen cried out in pain in a low voice.

"You're trying to murder your husband!" Looking at her angry face, Chu Liuchen teased with a smile.

Shao Wanru couldn't help thinking of pinching him again.

"Don't worry about that. Even though the Empress doesn't like you, she won't do anything to you on the surface. She will probably ignore you, so you don't have to care about her!" Chu Liuchen stopped making fun of her when he realized she was mad and then comforted her with a smile. "Anyway, she can't like you!"

His words were a little complex, but Shao Wanru understood what he meant. It was the truth that they were incompatible with the Empress, so it was impossible for them to have a good impression of each other. The friendliness they showed to each other was just superficial politeness. Shao Wanru nodded at once after hearing him, hesitated for a moment, and said, "Your Highness, do I have to pay attention to anything else?"

“No. Just take it easy. If they are rude to you, you don’t have to be tolerant of them. Now you are my Princess Chen!” Chu Liuchen said meaningfully with a faint smile.

He meant that she was always under his cover, which made Shao Wanru feel safe and warm in her heart.

Their sedan chair stopped at the gate of the Empress’s Phoenix Palace. The couple got off the sedan chair and walked into the palace together. The palace servants who had received the message came out to welcome them.

Shao Wanru was shocked by the people in the Empress’s palace as soon as she and Chu Liuchen entered the palace. Although she had come here several times before, she had never seen so many kinds of beauties at the same time. All these imperial concubines’ attention was drawn by the couple walking in. They had heard that Prince Chen went to pick the bride up in person on their wedding day, so they wanted to see what kind of woman could make him do that.

Therefore, Shao Wanru was gazed by eyes with scrutiny, contempt, ridicule, and admiration...

It couldn’t be denied that she felt very stressed when bearing so many gazes. Fortunately, Shao Wanru had been mentally prepared in advance. She followed Chu Liuchen and walked in with graceful paces, which more or less reduced those imperial concubines’ desires of making fun of her.

Chapter 887 The Beauty’s Origin Is Humble, Isn’t It?

After Chu Liuchen and Shao Wanru bowed to her, the Empress said with a smile, “Empress Dowager and I are both relieved to see that Prince Chen married a beautiful lady. I hope that you can live a harmonious life in the future. It is also one of the Emperor’s wishes!”

They were very kind words that the Empress as an elder should say, but Shao Wanru could hear some other meanings in them.

She slightly bit her lip, lowered her head with shyness, and nodded. At this time, as a newly married bride, she did not need to say anything in reply.

“Thank you, Your Majesty!” Chu Liuchen answered gently. Shao Wanru bowed sideways with shyness.

“I need to visit Imperial Grandmother, so I have to take my leave now!”

Did Chu Liuchen mean that they wanted to leave as soon as possible? The Empress’s face darkened, because she felt humiliated by him in front of so many imperial concubines.

“Why all this hurry? Why don’t you stay for a bit longer? Among the princes, you are the first to get married, Prince Chen. I want to talk with Princess Chen a bit longer. Could it be that you are not willing to give us such a bit of time, Prince Chen?” the Empress said with a smile and glanced at Shao Wanru’s lowered face gently with intimacy.

Shao Wanru took a step towards Chu Liuchen in silence and stood close to him.

On this occasion, it was inappropriate for her to say anything. Fortunately, she was covered by the identity of a newly married woman. Of course, she believed that Chu Liuchen would handle it well and would not let the reputation of Prince Chen’s Mansion be damaged.

"I'm indeed a little reluctant, Your Majesty. Imperial Grandmother has sent her order early in the morning. She asked us to come to visit her soon after we finished our visit here, saying that she has a big gift for me. I really can't wait to see my gift!"

Chu Liuchen replied to her with an elegant smile and calm eyes.

His beautiful and handsome appearance speeded up all the imperial concubines' heartbeats. And they started to become jealous of Shao Wanru. How lucky she was to marry such a handsome prince, who was powerful and influential for being favored by both Empress Dowager and the Emperor!

Why was Princess Chen so lucky to marry such a fairy-like man, who was handsome, talented and powerful, and even friendly and gentle in attitude? Such a man was like an angel from heaven. How could Princess Chen be favored to marry such a good person?

In the past, there were rumors that Prince Chen was moody. It was sure enough that they were incredible.

"Your Highness, since the Empress wants to chat with you and Princess Chen, why don't you stay a little longer? Empress Dowager is not in such a hurry!"

Because of Chu Liuchen's kindness and gentleness, some imperial concubines couldn't help talking to Prince Chen with a charming smile.

Shao Wanru raised her eyes slightly and caught sight of a bright face. She looked pretty among those imperial concubines. She seemed to be favored by the Emperor now; otherwise, she would not be daring to cut in the conversation between Chu Liuchen and the Empress.

"Your Majesty, who is this?" Chu Liuchen raised his eyes to look at the woman opposite him. She was about 17 or 18 years old, and she was dressed gorgeously. When she saw Chu Liuchen looking up at her, she made eye contact with him tenderly, with her hands pinching a handkerchief tightly.

She stared at Chu Liuchen obsessively with bashful and charming eyes, which were even with a bit of seduction. That made her look quite attractive.

"This is Beauty Wu, who has just been conferred by His Majesty and moved in the Imperial Palace. Among this batch of conferred beauties, His Majesty favored Beauty Wu the best," the Empress said with a dignified and decent look.

Since Beauty Wu stood up for her, she naturally introduced Beauty Wu and helped show her status. Others probably didn't know about Chu Liuchen's personality, but the Empress did. She was afraid that Chu Liuchen would do something out of line again, and it would be difficult to deal with him at that time.

She was the master of the harem, so the Emperor would come to her as long as anything happened in the harem.

"Nice to meet you, Your Highness Prince Chen!" On hearing the Empress's words, Beauty Wu immediately stood up and said in a sweet voice. Then she took a bow to him, which showed the charming curves of her figure.

Beauty Wu was indeed a good-looking girl. The clothes she wore matched her figure very well. Her chest looked plump with her slender waist tightly tied. In addition, she was extremely beautiful. She looked at Chu Liuchen with her big watery eyes, which made her more attractive.

"Beauty Wu, you are from a humble family, aren't you?" Chu Liuchen asked in a gentle voice but his words were very mean.

Beauty Wu was stunned. She didn't expect the gentle Prince Chen would ask her such a question about her origin.

She was indeed not from a noble family. She was just a daughter of an inferior official and his concubine, who came from a remote place. She didn't know Prince Chen well. Otherwise, she wouldn't have stood up and said that just now.

"Your Highness..." she said in a sweet voice with tears in her beautiful eyes, which made her look very grieved.

Such a beauty was the most attractive when she was silent with grieved tears in her eyes. Even a man with a heart of stone would feel pity for her. But when she looked at Prince Chen, she was enchanted by his gentleness and handsome appearance and almost forgot her identity as an imperial concubine. All her mind was occupied by Prince Chen. The longer she stared at him, the more handsome and charming he became in her eyes.

The Empress' face changed as she had a bad feeling.

"Your Majesty, she is my uncle's imperial concubine, so I should have respected her. But she keeps staring at me with such indelicate eyes. She is no different from those palace maids and Misses who bumped into me on purpose in the past. It is hard for me to show respect to her!" Chu Liuchen's face suddenly changed from gentle to cold, and his pretty eyebrows were covered by a gloomy aura. His eyes were also gloomy and cold.

Other imperial concubines who had fantasies about him just now were also shocked by his words, and their expressions changed a lot. They seemed to be in a warm spring just now, but the next second they were swept into an ice cave. Moreover, Chu Liuchen's words were so sharp and frank that they indicated Beauty Wu wasn't virtuous and even wanted to seduce him.

The Empress was angry and resentful. She was pissed off by Beauty Wu, who forgot herself and seduced Chu Liuchen. It was well known to everyone in the Imperial Palace who were familiar with Chu Liuchen that he was cold-blooded. Those servant girls, who bumped into him on purpose and intended to seduce him, were all sentenced to death.

On the other hand, those Misses from aristocratic families who did the same didn't lose their lives, but they didn't have a good end. They often ran away in tears after being sneered at by him.

The current situation was very difficult to deal with. Chu Liuchen accused Beauty Wu of seducing him in front of so many imperial concubines, which made the Empress, the master of the harem, feel very awkward.

After she came to her senses from her shock, Beauty Wu knelt to the Empress and explained with anxiety, "No, Your Majesty. I didn't... I just..."

She had stood up for the Empress before, so the Empress didn't want her to be bullied. Otherwise, no one would stand on her side in the future.

The Empress coughed in a low voice and then showed a gentle smile on her face. "Prince Chen, don't be angry. That is what Beauty Wu is like. She talks to anyone in such a manner. It's not only because of you!"

"Oh, really? Beauty Wu always becomes affectionate when talking to any man? Then you have to check it out, Your Majesty, to see who else Beauty Wu has talked to like this. If they are merely her father and brothers in the family, it will be fine. But if they are other men..." Chu Liuchen said with a sneer and stood proudly in the main palace with his hands clasped behind his back. His eyes were cold, and anyone could see that he was angry.

Of course, he meant that Beauty Wu was impure.

"Your Highness..." Beauty Wu collapsed to the ground. Others only heard his doubts, but she knew what she had done in her heart.

Before Beauty Wu entered the Imperial Palace, she did have an affair with her cousin. Although they had not broken through the last layer of ethical constraint, they had done everything a couple would do. Her cousin always liked charming women, so Beauty Wu made use of her beauty to flirt with him.

However, to live a glorious and luxurious life, she broke up with her cousin and entered the Imperial Palace.

"You'd better do more investigations in case the reputation of our royal family is ruined and it brings shame to my uncle, Your Majesty!" Chu Liuchen said coldly in a lazy tone, but his words were as sharp as thorns.

At this time, the Empress was also very anxious. She must stop Chu Liuchen from saying more. She clenched her teeth to suppress her anger and forced a smile. "Thank you for your reminder, Prince Chen. I'm afraid that Empress Dowager can't wait to see you. You'd better go there now in case she becomes worried."

She had to give up her plan of oppressing Shao Wanru with the help of those imperial concubines. She just wanted to send the troublemaker away. With just a few words, Beauty Wu had been knocked out! The Empress felt indescribably aggrieved.

In fact, Beauty Wu was a smart girl. Although she had been favored by the Emperor since she entered the Imperial Palace, she had always been very respectful to the Empress and stood on her side. She was a sharp-eyed person, anyway. Moreover, she had made a good impression on the Emperor. The Empress naturally took her as a henchman.

However, she didn't expect Beauty Wu would be knocked out like that.

The Emperor would definitely know what had happened here today. In fact, the Empress was very sharp-eyed too. She had discovered that Beauty Wu was not well-educated, so she had had the suspicion before that Beauty Wu might have an affair with other men before entering the Palace. So it didn't matter whether the investigation was done or not. If the Emperor became suspicious of Beauty Wu, she must be out of favor no matter how good she was.

“Thank you, Your Majesty. You are considerate. Then I will take my princess to visit Imperial Grandmother now!” Chu Liuchen smiled slightly, and his face relaxed. Then he took a bow to the Empress.

Shao Wanru also followed to bow.

“Well, go now!” The Empress waved her hand gently, behaving like a motherly elder.

Chu Liuchen nodded with a smile and walked out with Shao Wanru. But after taking a few steps, he suddenly turned around and looked at Beauty Wu, who was still kneeling on the ground. He said to the Empress again, “Your Majesty, you have to look into it. Not everyone can enter the Imperial Palace at will, not to mention that this is related to Uncle the Emperor!”

“I will find out the truth. Thank you for your concern, Prince Chen!” The Empress squeezed these words from the gaps between her teeth.

Chu Liuchen turned around with satisfaction with the Empress’s answers and returned to be gentle and elegant as he had been when he just entered the hall. He left with Shao Wanru, leaving the hall in dull silence...

Chapter 888 Replaceable Concubines and Indispensable Empress

It was depressing and silent in the palace hall.

Those clever imperial concubines all cast a mocking look at Beauty Wu, who was kneeling on the ground. This woman, who fought against them for the Emperor’s favor a few days ago, fell out of favor from now on.

Anyway, she deserved that because of her ignorance. Everyone knew that they could only have fantasies of Prince Chen in their mind, but Beauty Wu even wanted to hook up with him! Didn’t she realize how beautiful Princess Chen standing beside him was? How could she be so confident to seduce Prince Chen in front of his wife?

It was said for a long time that Prince Chen had no interest in flirting with beautiful women. And everyone took it to heart. Unexpectedly, such a stupid person like Beauty Wu dared to tempt him, and she even did that in front of Prince Chen’s newlywed wife. How ignorant she was to do such a thing!

Many imperial concubines secretly felt pity for her and thought Beauty Wu was stupid.

“Come and take Beauty Wu to Cold Palace,” the Empress ordered in a cold voice. She had been sullen since Chu Liuchen left.

Two nannies showed up to take Beauty Wu away.

“Your Majesty! Your Majesty! I’m innocent! What Prince Chen said was an unfounded rumor. Please check it out, Your Majesty!” Beauty Wu moved back to avoid being caught by the two nannies and defended herself with tears.

But the Empress was unmoved and waved her hand to motion for the two nannies.

The two nannies reached out to draw her again. This time, Beauty Wu couldn't avoid them and was dragged away.

"Your Majesty, I'm one of His Majesty's people. You can't punish me like this. I want to see His Majesty. He'll forgive me..." Beauty Wu cried out for help while struggling.

However, no one paid attention to her. Then the hall became quiet again. At this time, the Empress was not in the mood to entertain other imperial concubines. She waved her hand and motioned for them to leave.

All the imperial concubines got up quickly, said goodbye to the Empress, and then left the Phoenix Palace.

After everyone left, the Empress suddenly grabbed the teacup beside her and threw it to the ground. The teacup broke into pieces.

"Your Majesty!" The servants all knelt in a panic. Some of them happened to kneel on the shards of porcelain, but they dare not to speak a word or make a move when the blood oozed from their knees.

"Your Majesty, His Majesty may come later!" a trusted eunuch reminded the Empress carefully.

"All of you leave now!" the Empress suppressed her anger and said coldly.

The palace servants did not dare to hesitate and left at once. Only the trusted eunuch stayed.

"He is just a prince. How dare he treat me like that!" the Empress said harshly after all the palace servants left. Now that no one else was around, she did not need to hide her emotions anymore.

"Please calm down, Your Majesty," said the eunuch.

The Empress was so angry that she pointed in the direction of the Palace of Benevolent Peace and scolded, "Calm down? How can I? What does he think I am? He comes to visit me and leaves all as he pleases! Who does he think he is? He is just an ill person. Does he consider himself as the..."

The eunuch knelt down and said in a hurry, "Please be discreet in word, Your Majesty!"

His voice was much sharper than usual, which made the Empress come to her senses at once. She took a deep breath and tried hard to suppress the fire in her heart.

She was extremely furious though. In the past, she might care less about it. But today, with so many imperial concubines present, he didn't show any respect to her, the master of the harem. The more she thought about it, the angrier she became.

However, she was rational enough. As the Empress in office for so many years, she knew that she should be calm at this time.

"I know! You can stand up." She waved her hand to motion for the trusted eunuch to get up. Then, she turned to look in the direction of the Palace of Benevolent Peace. "As long as that old woman is still alive, I will never be able to dominate the harem! The little bastard has always been disrespectful to me and embarrassed me several times..."

“Your Majesty, Prince Chen is such a kid. You don’t have to be angry. It should be Beauty Wu’s fault. She is such a disgraceful woman that she dared to seduce Prince Chen just now! She had no awareness of the difference between herself and Prince Chen. How could he be seduced by her?” The trusted eunuch comforted.

“Useless fool!” the Empress said angrily. She had intended to keep Shao Wanru here today and teach her a lesson, but Beauty Wu ruined her plan.

If Beauty Wu hadn’t talked on her own initiative, it wouldn’t have ended like that. Beauty Wu deserved the punishment! She thought that she could turn the tables on others after being favored by the Emperor for a few days. She didn’t know what an insignificant role she was. There had never been a shortage of favored beauties in the Imperial Palace, but few of them had ever won the Emperor’s heart.

Did she think that she had married into nobility?

“Don’t be angry. Your Majesty. Since Beauty Wu has done such a thing in front of all the imperial concubines, it was for the good of His Majesty that you punished her like that. If His Majesty blames you, you can’t explain it with such a reason. What’s more, Prince Chen is the victim...” the eunuch said with a smile.

The Empress understood what he meant and slowly calmed down, but after thinking for a while, she still felt a little indignant.

“Prince Yue and Prince Zhou haven’t got married yet, but His Majesty pays all his attention to Prince Chen, the third prince, and arranged his marriage before all his elder brothers’. What will others think of Prince Zhou?”

It had been the convention that the elder was always the first. How could he break the rule?

It was not just the matter of the marriage. Who got married first was not what the Empress cared about the most. She was afraid that after the Emperor broke the rule, he might also break the rule in passing over the throne. As long as she thought of this, the Empress would not be in a good mood.

“No need to worry, Your Majesty. Prince Chen got married first because he is in poor health. If it weren’t for his weak health, the Emperor and Empress Dowager might not have proposed his marriage so early. Every official understands it though no one says so!” the eunuch said with a smile.

His words comforted the Empress, who later showed a faint smile on her face, but then she became angry again and said, “But Princess Chen escaped from my plan!”

“Your Majesty, she could escape this time, but she can’t the next time! Since she has married Prince Chen, she will enter the Imperial Palace from time to time. And you are an elder of Prince Chen, so he has to visit you. Then you can always know where Princess Chen is!” The trusted eunuch was very smart and kept saying what the Empress liked hearing, which made the Empress very happy. She nodded and felt that it was reasonable.

She had plenty of opportunities to deal with Shao Wanru. Chu Liuchen was in poor health and had to be in court, so he didn’t have much time to be with Shao Wanru. It wouldn’t take too much effort for her to deal with Shao Wanru.

She was eager to oppress Shao Wanru because she wanted to deal with Chu Liuchen. So many years passed; Chu Liuchen not only kept well but was also getting better and better in health. The Empress had never found his other weaknesses. Since he had agreed to marry Shao Wanru, maybe Shao Wanru was his only weakness.

After all, Chu Liuchen didn't even have a woman for so many years. No matter how charming the woman sent to him was, she would be thrown out in the end or even lose her life.

Years of fighting against Chu Liuchen had made the Empress conclude that Chu Liuchen was not a tenderhearted person. "He's very cold-blooded." But she didn't know whether Shao Wanru was different from other women to Chu Liuchen or she was just made use of by him.

But no matter what it was, the Empress thought that it might be a breakthrough to start with Shao Wanru...

"Well... let's put it aside for the time being..." The Empress nodded. She would inevitably have some conflicts with Shao Wanru. However, it was very simple to deal with a girl who was not yet 15 years old. As long as Chu Liuchen was not around her, she could take action at any time...

"The Empress doesn't like me, does she?" Shao Wanru sat in Chu Liuchen's arms and asked in the palace sedan chair.

"Certainly she doesn't!" Chu Liuchen said indifferently, "If you don't want to see her, you don't have to go to visit her. If you are not with me next time, you can go directly to see Imperial Grandmother. She doesn't dare to be presumptuous in front of Imperial Grandmother!"

He was fiddling with the silk ribbon around her waist with his slender fingers.

Shao Wanru wanted to give him a bite. That was the Empress of the country! How could she not visit her as she wished? Moreover, she was their elder of noble status. If she ignored her, it would be a big crime.

"That's the Empress!" Shao Wanru squinted at him, pursed her cherry lips, and said unhappily.

She showed a perplexed expression on her small face, which made her inexplicably cute. Chu Liuchen reached out to pinch her pink and tender cheek.

"Ah!" Shao Wanru slapped off his naughty hand and reached out to protect her face. She glared at him with her bright watery eyes and said, "It hurts!"

"I didn't use much strength. I just touched it slightly." Seeing a red handprint on Shao Wanru's cheek, Chu Liuchen regretted it. He didn't feel that he had used too much strength, but the little beauty's cheek was as tender as tofu, and it turned red once it was touched, which seemed to be hurting her.

"Touch? No, you used a lot of strength, Your Highness!" Shao Wanru complained angrily. Her bright eyes seemed to be able to talk and were silently accusing Chu Liuchen, which instantly softened Chu Liuchen's heart. He felt his heart was filled with a feeling of sweetness and sourness, with his eyes becoming gentle.

"Okay, it's my fault. Zhuozhuo, don't be angry. Come on, let me have a look. It turned red!" Chu Liuchen said with a smile and pulled Shao Wanru's hand. But this time, he didn't dare to use strength. His little princess was like dough, and marks could be easily left on her once she was touched.

“Don’t look, don’t look!” Shao Wanru hurriedly covered her face and struggled to push his hands away. Her face was flushed. In the past, Chu Liuchen was cold, but now he was so unabashed. Was he really the Crown Prince she saw in her last life?

Couldn’t be that his soul had been changed, could it?

Finally, Shao Wanru pushed away his fumbling hands. She was shy and angry now. Just now, he kissed her on the lips several times when she was off guard. If they hadn’t been in the Palace, she might have cried out loud. However, he seemed to be satisfied, leaning back and smiling lazily.

“Do you want to know why the Empress dislikes you?”

Chapter 889 The Mysterious Consort

The Empress Dowager had been waiting for them in the palace for a long time. When she heard that they were coming, she immediately let them enter the palace.

After they bowed to the Empress Dowager together, she smiled with her eyes narrowed.

The two people in front of her were really a perfect couple. The man was extremely handsome, and the woman was extremely beautiful.

She knew her grandson best. Moreover, she pampered him wholeheartedly. Even though Chu Liuchen looked as gentle and calm as usual, the Empress Dowager could still see from his face that he was suppressing his joy. It was real.

This was how a lively person should be. He used to have only one facial expression and it seemed that no one could see him through.

Because of this, the Empress Dowager thanked Shao Wanru from the bottom of her heart. It was also because of Chu Liuchen that she thought Shao Wanru was increasingly good-looking.

They were a perfect match and pleasing to the eye.

Previously, the Empress Dowager was worried because they had not consummated their marriage. Now her worries had faded away. As long as the two of them lived a happy life, and as long as Liuchen was happy, she had no worries.

For so many years, she had never seen Liuchen so happy.

The Empress Dowager smiled from ear to ear as she pulled the two of them to sit down beside her.

“Imperial Grandmother!” Chu Liuchen rubbed his forehead with a headache. His Imperial Grandmother, who had always been wise and kind, was smiling from ear to ear today.

“I know. I am so happy!” the Empress Dowager answered and then sighed softly. “Liuchen, you are a married grown-up now. Don’t be headstrong and willful in the future. You have to think of Imperial Grandmother and your new princess!”

When she said that, the Empress Dowager’s eyes turned red. This child had been giving up on himself for so many years and didn’t take himself seriously at all. It was obvious that he didn’t want to live.

Fortunately, this child had taken a fancy to Rui'an's granddaughter. Otherwise, he might have lost his life.

"Imperial Grandmother, don't worry. I've recovered now. Although I'm a little weaker than ordinary people, I'm fine!" Chu Liuchen comforted the Empress Dowager.

"That's good, that's good. My worries are settled. In the future... even if I die, I can rest assured!" The Empress Dowager wiped her tears with a handkerchief.

She had so many grandchildren, but the one she cared about the most was Chu Liuchen. He was a really poor child.

"Imperial Grandmother, why do you say that? You will live for a hundred years!" Chu Liuchen comforted her with a smile. "You will have great-grandchildren in the future!"

Hearing this, the Empress Dowager lit up her eyes and nodded repeatedly. Liuchen was young, while Shao Wanru was even younger. They were indeed not in a hurry to consummate their marriage. Looking at the perfect couple in front of her and thinking about how lovely their children would be, the Empress Dowager couldn't help laughing.

"Come on, reward Princess Chen!" the Empress Dowager ordered.

The palace servants had already brought out the prepared gifts. Looking at the rows of palace eunuchs and palace maids holding gift boxes in their hands, Shao Wanru hurriedly stood up and said, "Your Majesty, these are too much."

"Call me Imperial Grandmother!" the Empress Dowager took Shao Wanru's hand and said kindly.

Shao Wanru bit her lip and then said softly, "Imperial Grandmother!"

"Good, good! From now on, live a good life with Liuchen. If he bullies you in any way, tell me. I will teach him a lesson for you!" the Empress Dowager said with a smile.

"Teach Chu Liuchen a lesson?"

Shao Wanru subconsciously looked up at Chu Liuchen beside her and found that he was also looking at her with an indescribable affection in his deep eyes. She immediately blushed and quickly lowered her head. In fact, he bullied her in the palace sedan chair when they came over!

Seeing that although they didn't talk, their eyes were full of affection, the Empress Dowager finally felt relieved.

This time, Liuchen married the woman he wanted to marry. That was great!

He didn't need to follow his parents' routine which in the end harmed their child.

The Empress Dowager was very happy. She talked to the two of them and even asked someone to invite the Emperor over for lunch. As for the gifts, they were prepared by the Empress Dowager, so Shao Wanru could only accept them shyly. However, Chu Liuchen felt that it was natural for her to accept them, so he didn't feel ashamed at all. He even thanked the Empress Dowager on behalf of Shao Wanru, which made the Empress Dowager call him "shameless" and scold him with a smile.

The Palace of Benevolent Peace was full of joy.

The Emperor came here quickly. When he arrived at the Palace of Benevolent Peace, he chatted with the Empress Dowager for a while before ordering for lunch.

After lunch, the Emperor took Chu Liuchen to the Imperial Study. The Empress Dowager was tired, so she went to rest first. Shao Wanru also slept for a while in the side palace, and then got up.

Seeing that it was still early and the Empress Dowager was still taking a nap, Shao Wanru went out of the palace with Yujie.

It was the beginning of spring and it was a good time to enjoy the scenery. Many flowers sprouted in one night. This was the case even in Duke Xing's Mansion, let alone in the Imperial Palace.

They walked all the way along the road of the Palace of Benevolent Peace casually. At first, they walked on the main road, but later they got onto the side roads. The flowers on the main road were not as beautiful and colorful as those on the side roads. After all, people were supposed to walk on the main road. If wonderful flowers grew in the middle of the road, they would be easily destroyed.

It was easier for them to grow on the side roads, and people could still appreciate them.

Shao Wanru was not familiar with the Palace of Benevolent Peace in her last life, and it was not in the same direction as Chuxiu Palace. She knew nothing about this area and just walked casually along the scenery.

They walked further and further away from the Palace of Benevolent Peace.

"My Princess, these peonies are so beautiful. There are so many varieties!" They entered a garden where many varieties of peonies were planted. Their beauty dazzled Yujie.

The precious peonies that could not be seen outside were blooming, which were extremely beautiful.

Shao Wanru lowered her body, looked at a peony, and said softly, "The gate of the courtyard read 'The Peony Courtyard', it should be full of peonies."

Everyone liked beautiful flowers, and she also liked them very much, so she couldn't help taking another look at them.

"My Princess, let me pick one for you to wear. You will definitely look more beautiful!" Yujie rolled her eyes and said. Her Princess was more delicate than flowers. Wearing this flower would definitely complement her.

"This is the Imperial Palace!" Shao Wanru glared at the lawless servant girl.

"I know. You can wear it here. We won't go out, so no one will know!" Yujie really liked the peonies here.

Moreover, she always felt that if her Princess wore peonies, she would be more beautiful.

"No one can pick the flowers in the Imperial Palace at will!"

"I know, I..." Yujie suddenly felt that this was wrong. Because she recognized that the voice was not her master's. She raised her head in astonishment and was stunned when she saw a beautiful woman with a dazzling face standing on the opposite side. "There's someone else in here?"

Shao Wanru also raised her head and looked at the three people on the opposite side, or in other words, one master and two palace servants.

A palace maid, a palace eunuch, and a beautiful noble lady.

The lady should be in her twenties or thirties. Shao Wanru couldn't see clearly, but she couldn't help marveling at her outstanding appearance.

Time seemed to be particularly kind to her and didn't leave any signs of aging on her face. She looked at Shao Wanru with her beautiful eyes and gave a gentle and kind smile.

In terms of manner, she was absolutely not an ordinary person.

Shao Wanru took a few steps back and bowed immediately. "Your Highness, I'm sorry that I disturbed you by accident and I ask for your forgiveness."

Even if she didn't know her identity, judging from her appearance and behavior, she must be an imperial concubine. However, she was so beautiful that Shao Wanru couldn't remember any other imperial concubine in the palace who was so beautiful.

Among all the beauties she had seen, Shao Yanru was the most outstanding, but the one in front of her was better than Shao Yanru. Her age even gave her more elegance. She was very beautiful, elegant, and imposing. Such a woman was destined to be extraordinary.

Shao Wanru considered all the famous imperial concubines in her mind, but she did not think of anyone.

"Are you Princess Chen?" the lady looked Shao Wanru up and down and asked with a smile. She came over from beside a cluster of peonies, and two palace servants hurriedly followed her.

"Yes, I wonder which palace Your Highness is from!" When she approached, Shao Wanru hurriedly bowed to her, but her curious eyes still fell on the imperial concubine in front of her.

No matter how hard she thought, she couldn't think of such an outstanding imperial concubine in her past and present lives!

When her eyes fell on the clothes the lady was wearing, her pupils suddenly contracted. People in the palace were not allowed to use Colorful Yarn at will. If she was right, the clothes in front of the women should be made of Colorful Yarn.

The sentence "the Emperor doesn't like it" meant that these imperial concubines couldn't make clothes with Colorful Yarn. At most, they could make some bed curtains, sachets, and other small things in private.

How could she make such a large piece of clothes so openly? Was she not afraid that the Emperor would be angry? This was really strange!

"I live alone in the quiet palace and seldom come out. I didn't expect that I would see Princess Chen today," the imperial concubine said in a soft voice and looked Shao Wanru up and down, with an increasingly gentle smile on her face.

Pointing at a small pavilion among the peonies, the imperial concubine said, "Shall we go there and have a seat? I just happened to be enjoying the flowers here and prepared some tea!"

"Thank you, Your Highness. I'm sorry to disturb you!" Shao Wanru said embarrassedly. She had even prepared tea. It could be seen that the imperial concubine wanted to enjoy the flowers quietly, but she disturbed her.

"It doesn't matter. Sitting alone was too quiet!" the imperial concubine said with a smile. She then turned around and walked to the pavilion with Shao Wanru following her.

They entered the pavilion respectively.

The imperial concubine waved her hand, and the two palace servants walked out of the pavilion. Shao Wanru hesitated for a moment and also waved her hand. Yujie also walked out to the entrance of the pavilion with the two palace maids.

Chapter 890 Feeling Nervous, She Wanted to Say Something but Stopped

In the pavilion, the tea and snacks had been set out on the stone table. On the side, there was a small stove with a pot of water boiling on it.

The seats faced the sun, and the wind was blocked by a light blue curtain behind them. Admiring the fine view of blooming peonies, one must feel relaxed and comfortable. It was indeed a good place to enjoy the flowers and the scenery. No wonder it had been occupied so early.

"Sit down first!" the imperial concubine smiled and reached out to lead Shao Wanru to a chair.

Shao nodded and sat down gracefully without hesitation.

The imperial concubine picked up the teapot beside her and poured a cup of tea for Shao Wanru, asking with a smile, "Would you like to have a taste of my tea?"

Shao Wanru reached for it and took a sip. She was surprised. She didn't know what kind of tea that was, but she had just drunk the same in Empress Dowager's palace. The taste was particularly light and mellow, so she couldn't forget it.

"Your Highness, the tea is really good," Shao Wanru put down the teacup and said calmly.

"Princess Chen, I'm glad you like it. I still have some, and I'll give more to you later!" the imperial concubine said with a smile, showing her kindness.

However, for Shao Wanru, this kindness was indeed inexplicable!

How could the tea drunk by the Empress Dowager be an ordinary one? Now, this imperial concubine even asked to give her some more, which was too generous!

With long eyelashes fluttering to hide emotions in her eyes, Shao Wanru shook her head with a smile and said, "I don't dare to accept your gift, Your Highness. You are my elder, and I am just a junior!"

Since she was called “Your Highness”, she was naturally an imperial concubine and thus was Shao Wanru’s elder.

“Since it’s a gift from me an elder, you can accept it. You have just accepted the gift from Empress Dowager, haven’t you?” the imperial concubine said with a smile as if she didn’t hear Shao Wanru’s refusal.

The identity of Empress Dowager was unique in the imperial palace. Now, this imperial concubine didn’t mention the Empress but talked about the Empress Dowager who was higher-level than the Empress.

Shao Wanru became more and more curious about who this woman was!

“Is this your welcome gift for me, Your Highness?” Shao Wanru tilted her head slightly, which made her look more playful, lovely, and more approachable.

“In fact, that tea is not my gift for our first meeting! What I have prepared for you is this. Here you are,” the imperial concubine said with a bigger smile on her face seeing that Shao Wanru was easy-going and gentle. She reached into her wide long sleeve, took out a small jewelry box, and gave it to Shao Wanru. “Today, it’s the first time you’ve entered the imperial palace. I happened to have something to do just now, so I didn’t attend your acceptance ceremony. Take it as my compensation!”

As she said, she pushed the small jewelry box to Shao Wanru.

She really prepared a gift. Had she truly missed what had happened in front of the Empress before?

The curiosity in Shao Wanru’s eyes became more and more intense. She didn’t take the jewelry box that was handed over but looked at the imperial concubine with a burning and questioning gaze.

She was confused.

“Your Highness, why do you send me a gift for our first meeting? I don’t even know who you are. How dare I accept your gift!” Shao Wanru said.

Seeing that Shao Wanru did not accept the gift, the imperial concubine sighed softly, raised her head, and looked into the distance with disappointment and sadness.

“It’s been too long. I’m afraid... nobody in this palace could remember me!”

“Please tell me, Your Highness!” Shao Wanru said softly.

The imperial concubine did not answer at once. After a long while, she said slowly, “Have you heard of Consort Lan, Princess Chen?”

“Consort Lan?”

All of a sudden, Shao Wanru felt as if someone had hit her in the head, and some deeply buried memories came rushing back.

Consort Lan had once been the most favored one in the imperial harem. Shao Wanru had once heard of her from Shao Yanru, who had said that although Consort Lan was the most favored, she was still grounded eventually.

In this life, she thought of Consort Lan because Chu Liuchen mentioned Shao Yanru. At that time, Shao Yanru liked to visit Consort Lan when she came to the palace.

"Is the person in front of me Consort Lan whom I have heard of in both my last and current life?"

"Have you heard of me, Princess Chen?" Consort Lan smiled and looked at Shao Wanru with her beautiful and shining eyes.

Shao Wanru shook her head at first and then nodded. After that, she hid her surprise and said, "I did hear of Consort Lan, but I don't know you exactly!"

"What do you mean?" Consort Lan took a sip of tea and asked softly. She seemed to be interested in her words.

"I heard that Consort Lan... has been grounded..." Shao Wanru said. She looked Consort Lan up and down and couldn't help marveling over her beauty. No wonder Consort Lan had been the most favored one in the imperial harem. How could she not be favored? But why was she grounded and not allowed to go in and out at will? Even guards were sent to follow her.

"Did Prince Chen say that?" Consort Lan raised her eyes and asked gently. She was still elegant, but her eyes seemed to glitter with something beyond Shao Wanru's understanding.

"Not Prince Chen... When I entered the palace, I heard someone mention it occasionally!" Shao Wanru shook her head and said, "So it's not true?"

"In fact, it's true, but there is another reason!" Consort Lan smiled and slowly lowered her head with a touch of sadness.

Obviously, this Consort Lan had her story.

"Well, let's stop talking about these things. Those past events only give rise to sadness!" Consort Lan said. She pushed the jewelry box to Shao Wanru, and cast her a more amiable look. "This is a gift for our first meeting. Please accept it, Princess Chen. It is not expensive, just a little accessory!" she added.

Then, she stood up and said, "I've been out for a long time. If I don't go back now, I'm afraid someone would discover!"

"Your Highness, are you going back?" Shao Wanru asked, involuntarily standing up as well.

"I'm leaving!" Consort Lan looked back with gloomy eyes. Although she was still smiling, her smile looked woeful. "I rarely have a chance to come out now. Even if I do, it's inconvenient for me to meet others. When you go back, please don't mention this to Empress Dowager."

Did this mean that she sneaked out?

In the pavilion, everything was carefully prepared. But now, all those exquisite decorations were just left behind. Consort Lan was indeed an imperial concubine. Even at this time, she didn't look embarrassed at all. If she hadn't revealed it herself, Shao Wanru wouldn't have thought that she was out of favor in the imperial harem.

"Farewell, Your Highness!" Shao Wanru said softly.

Consort Lan smiled at her and started to leave. After taking two steps, before she reached the entrance of the pavilion, she suddenly turned around and walked back. Shao Wanru was surprised to see Consort Lan coming back and holding her hands.

Consort Lan looked at her, opened her mouth to say something but stopped. The calmness in her eyes seemed to disappear in an instant. Now, her beautiful eyes were full of emotion and unspeakable sadness.

"Your Highness..." the palace maid outside the pavilion suddenly called loudly.

Consort Lan's trembling lips stiffened as she shouted.

"Your Highness, you should go back now!" The palace maid suddenly came in and reached out to hold Consort Lan.

Consort Lan, who was emotional and about to say something just now, immediately put her hands down and forced a smile on her face, as if she wanted to make it seem kind to Shao Wanru. But a teardrop unexpectedly fell from her eye.

"Your Highness!" The eunuch also entered the pavilion in a hurry.

Shao Wanru took a few steps back and made way for him.

"Your Highness, it's time for us to go back!" the eunuch said in a low voice and held Consort Lan on the other side.

"Your Highness, if we don't go back now, we will be discovered. At that time..." the palace maid also said in a soft voice with a touch of anxiety that Shao Wanru could hear clearly.

Were the two palace servants stopping Consort Lan from doing something? Shao Wanru slowly narrowed her eyes. It was very strange. Not only Consort Lan but also the two palace servants around her seemed odd!

"Let's go!" After a long while, Consort Lan's voice calmed down. With two palace servants holding her arms, she turned around and left without saying a word to Shao Wanru.

Seeing them leave, Yujie came in and said, "Miss, Consort Lan was so emotional just now. Did she try to do something?"

Although Yujie stood outside the pavilion, she had been paying attention to what was happening. Of course, she heard what Consort Lan had said before. Just now, when Consort Lan suddenly turned around, she was also shocked and thought Consort Lan wanted to do something to Shao Wanru.

"This Consort Lan... is very strange!" Shao Wanru didn't know why she described such a gorgeous woman in this way. This Consort Lan was very beautiful. Despite her age, she was still incomparable in the imperial harem.

She was not only good-looking. Her beauty was condensed over the years, which could make people fall in love at first glance.

Shao Wanru had seen and painted a lot of beauties in her last life, but none of them could compare with her.

Such a woman was destined to be extraordinary in the palace. However, she only had the title of "Consort Lan" now. Most people in the palace could not recognize her.

It was so in the last life, and it remained unchanged this life!

"Miss, why is she wearing a veil in the palace?" Yujie suddenly asked.

Shao Wanru stopped her deep thought and looked at the three people who had gone far away. She could only see their blurred backs. They seemed to have stopped there, and the palace maid helped Consort Lan put on a veil.

There was really no need to wear a veil in the palace!

"Maybe she sneaked out and was afraid of being known by others. I heard that the Emperor has grounded Consort Lan and sent guards to keep the gates of her palace," Shao Wanru said in a low voice. She seemed to explain to Yujie but also to herself at the same time.

However, her doubt did not melt away with this explanation!

This was too strange!

Shao Wanru looked back at the stone table. Everything had been set up properly. The water just boiled on the stove with steam rising from the teapot. The tea on the table was still hot. It could be seen that everything had been well prepared and they should have sat here and enjoyed the scenery together.

But now Consort Lan left in a hurry, as if somebody was chasing her...

This Consort Lan was really strange...

But today, Shao Wanru was destined to meet more than one person like Consort Lan...