

Medical Princess 911

Chapter 911 Old Madam Was Shocked

Supervisor Xiao was so panic that she couldn't even speak clearly. Besides, her face hurt. She lost her smart mouth after she got slapped on her face.

It all happened so fast that she couldn't react in time. Her mind was still foggy and confused.

She didn't know why things had ended up like this.

"Madam, look, there are really two account books!" At this time, Mei Xue and Meiyan had already ordered several people to carry out the two boxes of account books.

The two boxes of account books were put in front of Supervisor Xiao. She felt dizzy. She would rather pass out than deal with the scene.

Mei Xue and Meiyan took out one account book separately from each box and handed them to Qin Yuru.

Qin Yuru flipped through the two account books that had the same date with a gloomy face.

One book recorded great revenue and the other recorded almost deficit. At the end of the year, the latter even recorded a labor fee.

"Two account books, one is authentic, and the other is bogus. Well, well, well! For so many years, you have been fooling me and telling me we have been in deficit. Well, well, well! Come and bring these account books and this lackey to the government office to report the case!" Qin Yuru was so angry that she even laughed.

"Princess... Princess, it's not what you think. It's not me, but Madam who asked us to do this. We didn't dare to embezzle the money. We sent it all to Duke Yong's Mansion and gave it to Madam!" Supervisor Xiao shouted in a panic. If she really got into the government office, she might not have the chance to say anything.

"People said that this Princess has no ability and couldn't even win her husband's heart. Why is she acting so powerful? Didn't Madam say that we could completely ignore this Princess?" Supervisor Xiao thought.

"Did Madam ask you to do this?" Qin Yuru snorted coldly and asked.

"I... I..." Supervisor Xiao hesitated again and looked around, hoping that Countess Yong would come over to save her at this time.

"If you don't tell me now, you won't have the chance to tell me in the future. When you get into the government office, you will be tortured severely. Don't rely on your Master to help you. For so many years, you have been helping others plot against my mother's and my dowry. Your whole family would not get away with it. The evidence is irrefutable!" Qin Yuru said harshly with a gloomy face.

"These shops were originally the dowry of our Princess that she got from her parents, but they have been managed by Countess Yong. Later, Princess married into the Duke Yong's Mansion but those shops

were still managed by the Countess. The Countess is the sister-in-law of Princess's mother, and now she is our Princess's mother-in-law. How could she embezzle the dowry of her daughter-in-law? For the past 20 years, you, the crafty servant, must have been churning out the fake accounts and deceiving your master!" Mei Xue rebuked loudly.

By the way, she echoed Qin Yuru's previous words. After all, Countess Yong was Princess's mother-in-law. There were some things that others could say, but Qin Yuru could not.

"Embezzled her daughter-in-law's dowry?"

"Not only had she embezzled her daughter-in-law's property, but she had also embezzled her sister-in-law's property. She had been embezzling the money for about 20 years. Countess Yong was truly shameless and cruel," people around thought.

Mei Xue's words immediately made everyone around understand the situation.

At first, people who thought that Qin Yuru was too barbarous, now couldn't help feeling sympathy for her. Her money had been embezzled for not just one or two years, but for twenty years. This Countess was too shameless to do such a thing.

Embezzling her daughter-in-law's dowry was shameless enough, not to mention that Qin Yuru's mother was also her sister-in-law. Some people remembered the past of this Countess Yong and immediately understood that Mei Xue was telling the truth.

Duke Yong's Princess had married into her uncle's family. She married her uncle's son. Her reputation had been ruined at that time. She was the daughter of Ningyuan Army General!

Ningyuan Army General used to be deployed in Jiangzhou and just returned to the capital city three years ago. Since these shops were Madam of Ningyuan Army General's dowry, they should also be the dowry of her daughter. Because Madam of Ningyuan Army General went to Jiangzhou, although the shops in the capital city were owned by Madam of General, it was Countess Yong who had always been in charge of them.

Later, this First Miss of General's Mansion married into Duke Yong's Mansion, and the ownership of these shops was transferred to the First Miss and became her dowry.

Now it seemed that no matter the shops were owned by her or the former general's wife, Qin Yuru had got nothing. Instead, these dowries had been embezzled by Countess Yong.

This was truly an astonishing matter!

As for Supervisor Xiao herself, no one would believe that she dared to embezzle so much money from her Master for so many years, not just one or two years. Considering her age, she couldn't have been in charge of these shops for a long time.

There was no other explanation except that Countess Yong, who was in charge of these shops, embezzled the money.

Fanglan Embroidery Shop had a good business, and all the customers were Misses and Madams from aristocratic and rich families. At this time, after watching the whole scene, they despised Countess Yong.

Some servant girls and old maids began to whisper.

"Princess, I didn't embezzle the money. It was Madam. It's her order..." At this point, Supervisor Xiao couldn't take the responsibility for today's matter anymore.

"Nonsense. Why would Madam do this? Why would she embezzle my mother's dowry?" Qin Yuru's face became gloomier. She had no intention to avoid the topic and interrogated her in front of everyone.

"Princess... let's... let's go inside to talk about it..." Supervisor Xiao said with drifting eyes.

"There is nothing that can't be discussed publicly. We can talk about it here. I don't think there is any reasonable explanation for this kind of fraud!" Qin Yuru said.

After living in Duke Yong's Mansion for three years, Qin Yuru was no longer who she was before!

"Princess..." Supervisor Xiao pleaded. She didn't dare to say it out loud in front of so many people!

However, the more she acted like this, the more people believed that this matter must have something to do with Countess Yong, and the more people despised Countess Yong.

In the past, it was said that this Princess had a bad reputation, but now it seemed that Countess Yong was not so good either.

An old maid shoved into the crowd hurriedly, walked to the front of Qin Yuru, bowed respectfully to her, and then said with sweat all over her face, "Princess, Old Madam asked you to go to the mansion to talk about something!"

"What is she going to tell me? Is she going to tell me that my mother's and my dowry belonged to Duke Yong's Mansion?" Qin Yuru sneered and stood still.

Since it was dowry, even her parents' family couldn't mess with it.

"Princess, Old Madam said that this matter is very important. Please go there and have a talk!" The old maid was anxious and panicked. She had no choice. Old Madam had ordered that Princess must go there, otherwise, Old Madam and Madam would not spare her.

"I'll go after dealing with this matter here!" Qin Yuru remained unmoved.

"Princess..." the old maid said again.

"Princess, let's go there. We can't actually interrogate her here, can we?" Mei Xue rolled her eyes and said in a low voice.

Anyway, Old Madam was a senior. Besides, this matter had something to do with Countess Yong but had nothing to do with Old Madam. "Old Madam wanted to deal with it properly, so she asked me to go there," Qin Yuru thought.

It would be unreasonable for Qin Yuru not to go.

"Well, have someone send this lackey and these two boxes of evidence to the government office and let them find out what is going on!" Qin Yuru ordered.

When Qin Yuru finally got up, Supervisor Xiao breathed a sigh of relief. But before she could take a second breath, her heart became heavy again.

“Even when Old Madam stood out, Princess was unwilling to stop!” Supervisor Xiao thought.

“Yes, I’ll arrange it right away!” Meiyan answered sharply and knocked over the old maid who came here. She asked two old maids to tie up Supervisor Xiao and had someone to carry the two boxes.

“Princess...” Supervisor Xiao still wanted to say something but was pushed away by Meiyan. She was forced to take a few steps back and could not get close to Qin Yuru.

Seeing Meiyan had left with witnesses and evidence, Qin Yuru stood up and went back to the Duke Yong’s Mansion with a group of servant girls and old maids.

After they left, all the people in Fanglan Embroidery Shop began to talk about it. They said that Countess Yong was too greedy to do such a thing. If she had married into a strictly regulated family, she could be divorced. No one knew how Duke Yong’s Mansion would deal with her!

The matter had something to do with both the Duke Yong’s Mansion and the Ningyuan Army General’s Mansion. Although Ningyuan Army General had just moved to the capital for a few years, the Emperor favored him very much. When something like this happened to his only daughter, he should do something...

The people were talking about this matter. Duke Yong’s Mansion, which had been inconspicuous for three years, was brought back to the spotlight again. When Qin Yuru returned to Duke Yong’s Mansion, she saw Di Yan there as soon as she got out of the carriage. Seeing her get out of the carriage, he even helped her. This had never happened to her in the past three years.

“Why are you here?” Qin Yuru asked in an unkind tone.

“Grandma asked me to wait for you here!” Di Yan said with a cold face. He was fooling around with the innocent maids just now and didn’t expect that he would be called over by his grandma and mother. Now he had to wait for Qin Yuru here.

He and Qin Yuru hated each other’s guts.

“You don’t have to wait for me here. I will go in and ask mother-in-law what is going on!” Qin Yuru said with a gloomy face.

“When will you stop? Is it a big deal? Is there anyone in our mansion who treated you badly? Do you have to make a scene like this and embarrass my mother?” Di Yan said impatiently. He had just heard about what Qin Yuru had done from his grandmother and felt that Qin Yuru was a troublemaker.

“It’s not a big deal? Where is the money from my shop? Did you spend it on your concubines? Di Yan, you are so shameless to spend your wife’s money on your concubines. If this news comes out, you will lose face in the capital city!” Qin Yuru sneered, no longer hiding her contempt for Di Yan!

“You...” Di Yan was so angry that he raised his hand and tried to slap Qin Yuru. No man could bear it when he was called “living off his wife”!

Chapter 912 Crazy Make Trouble

"Come on! Hit me if you have balls!" Qin Yuru looked up and shouted, staring at Di Yan with crazy eyes.

Her irrational eyes scared Di Yan. He couldn't help taking a step back and getting inside to stay away from her. "I won't bother myself arguing with you, you insane woman!"

Qin Yuru stepped forward and followed Di Yan inside, wanting to continue the argument against him, but he walked so fast that she couldn't catch up with him at all.

They entered Old Madam's courtyard one after the other and then walked into the main room, only to find that not only Old Madam but also Countess Yong was there with a displeased face. Countess Yong's eyes were a little wet. Obviously, she had just complained to Old Madam with tears.

Di Yan and Qin Yuru bowed to Old Madam, who later waved to Qin Yuru and said, "Yuru, come here!"

"Grandma..." Qin Yuru walked to Old Madam with wet eyes.

"Sit down!" Old Madam took Qin Yuru's hand, leading the latter to sit next to her. Then Old Madam sighed and patted Qin Yuru's hand. "Yuru, don't be angry with your mother-in-law. She has no choice, otherwise, she wouldn't have done such a thing!"

Qin Yuru felt a chill in her heart. She wiped her tears and stared at Countess Yong with hatred. "What do you mean, Grandma? Was Countess Yong forced by someone to do that? My mother trusted her so much, handing everything over to her! But Countess Yong has even been stealing money from us! For so many years! It has no difference whether we have those dowry shops or not! Why did she bother making such a dowry list at that time?"

Her questions deeply embarrassed Old Madam, who sighed gently and comforted Qin Yuru, "It's not what you think, Yuru! They were indeed awarded to your mother. So they all belong to your mother. But your mother-in-law got in a financial strait and she needed your mother's shares!"

"So, Grandma, you have known it early, haven't you?" Qin Yuru stared at Old Madam and said with hatred.

"No, I didn't mean..." It was hard for Old Madam to explain within a second.

"Grandma, my mother also trusted you so much! She listened to you in everything! But you... you..." Qin Yuru covered her face with a handkerchief and burst into tears.

Old Madam was irritated. She frowned tightly and then glared at Countess Yong.

Countess Yong hastened to explain, "Yuru, we were indeed trapped in a dilemma! Your father-in-law ran into trouble at that time. He might lose his position if we didn't pay to avoid it. I had no choice but to embezzle your mother's money. I intended to make up for it after our mansion got through the difficult position, but I didn't expect to delay it. Then more and more of your money was spent as time went by."

"So, do you mean that you won't make up for it now, Countess Yong?" Qin Yuru put down her handkerchief and asked coldly.

"No! We are about to get through everything! Don't worry, Yuru! I will definitely give all the money back to you and your mother after I settle all our problems!" Countess Yong promised.

"Oh, will you? You would have never intended to make up for it if I didn't figure out your secret, wouldn't you? Countess Yong, I have been married into your family for three years, and I have been obedient to you in everything. But you never paid attention to me and always picked on me. You helped Di Yan torture me and raised his concubines above me. I think that I will lose my life here soon!" Qin Yuru said coldly.

Since she had made the trouble, she didn't intend to end it so easily.

"Yuru, how can you judge your mother-in-law like that? I admit that she is partial, but she will not do what you said!" Old Madam rebuked her.

"Countess Yong herself knows best whether it is true or not! She used to give me doses of herbal medicine when I lost my last baby. Today, I asked a doctor to check them, in which he found a drug that prevents pregnancy! She either wants to kill me or wants me to be infertile. Then I will have to give way to other women, and my dowries, and everything I have, will belong to Di Yan!" Qin Yuru said in a harsh voice.

"Stop talking nonsense, Yuru!" Old Madam banged on the table heavily and shouted in a sharp voice after hearing Qin Yuru's accusation.

"Someone will know whether I am talking nonsense or not!" Qin Yuru was so angry that she trembled all over. "Grandma knows about it. She is no longer the Grandma who cares about me!"

"Qin Yuru, I will divorce you if you keep talking such nonsense! Don't think that Grandma will ask me to give way to you again!" Qin Yuru's aggressive attitude infuriated Di Yan so much that he couldn't help standing up and scolding her, with his finger pointing at her nose.

"Divorce me? Fine! Let's make clear the property division before that!" Qin Yuru pounded the table, stood up and said, "In the past 20 years, you have owed my mother and me a large sum of money. It is within reason that you make up for it with the whole Duke Yong's Mansion, isn't it?"

"You... what an evil woman!" Di Yan was so angry that he reached out to be about to hit her.

However, he was stopped by Countess Yong. She winked at him when speaking to Qin Yuru with a smile. "Yuru, don't get mad at him. He has always been like this since he was a child, but he is good to his family. He took good care of us when you and I were ill, right?"

"Wasn't he enjoying himself with those sluts in the garden when I was sick?" On remembering this, Qin Yuru couldn't help gnashing her teeth in anger.

She married into Duke Yong's Mansion for three years, but Di Yan had never liked her. They quarreled with each other every time they met. When Di Yan was in Duke Yong's Mansion, most of the time he was fooling around in the courtyards of those concubines. And no one knew where he went when he was out. He came to take care of Qin Yuru when she was ill because Old Madam and Duke Yong forced him to do that.

If Di Yan was not forced, how would he have been willing to show up in front of her?

Di Yan did come to visit her, but he sneered at her and said a lot of sarcastic remarks.

In the beginning, she had ever expected to win Di Yan's heart. So, even if she was angry, she would try her best to suppress her temper, though she would occasionally complain to Old Madam. But now Qin Yuru was full of hatred for the entire Duke Yong's Mansion, so how could she wish to get along well with Di Yan?

"Watch your mouth, Qin Yuru! What do you mean by saying 'sluts'? No matter how low they are, they were completely virginal when they married into the mansion. They are not like some arrogant woman who got married with a dirty body..." Di Yan raised his head and sneered loudly.

But before he finished his words, he was slapped hard in the face, which made him lose his balance and stagger back. He looked at Countess Yong in front of him in astonishment and asked in disbelief, "Mother, why did you slap me?"

"Yuru is in poor health and a bad mood now. How can you say such annoying words to her? Why can't a couple sit down and talk to each other in peace? Is there a need to make such a scene?" Countess Yong said with her hands trembling. She had to do that. If Di Yan finished his words, it would be more troublesome.

Old Madam was sitting there with a numb face.

Di Yan didn't hear Countess Yong's words at all. He shouted with grievances after he staggered back, "Mother, you slapped me for that dirty woman?" Then he turned around and strode away. He didn't want to get involved in it anymore. Anyway, it was none of his business.

"Yan'er, Yan'er..." Countess Yong stepped forward, trying to grab Di Yan's clothes, but he ran so fast that she didn't even catch a corner of his clothes.

"Grandma, I have sent the supervisor of Fanglan Embroidery Shop and the two sets of account books to the government office, as well as the medicine sent to me by Countess Yong!" Qin Yuru couldn't help sneering when she saw Di Yan leaving. She had no other ideas about Di Yan, but she would never let him go.

"What? You have sent them to the government?" Countess Yong cried, nearly losing her consciousness and falling down to the ground. Fortunately, an old maid next to her quickly helped her up.

"Mother..." Countess Yong turned to Old Madam and said in despair.

If the matter was exposed, her life as the Countess would come to an end soon!

"Yuru, call them back!" Old Madam's face darkened, and she shouted at Qin Yuru in an anxious voice.

This was the first time she spoke to Qin Yuru in such a way.

Qin Yuru laughed so insanely that she lost control of her tears.

"Yuru, what's wrong with you? Just call them back!" Old Madam banged on the table heavily and said, "I will explain to you about your mother-in-law's thing. What will others think of our mansion when the family is in such a mess?"

"Family?" Qin Yuru laughed and said with an insane look, "Are we a family? I am afraid that I will lose my life if I keep being one of your family. Before I came here, I have informed my father that I would go back to the General's Mansion. I will divorce Di Yan!"

"What are you talking about?" Old Madam stood up in shock. She didn't expect that Qin Yuru would do such a thing.

"Don't you understand what I'm talking about, Grandma? If I hadn't been set up by someone, how could I have had abortions again and again? Don't tell me that Madam Shi knows nothing about it. Apparently, she wants to kill me! Even if she doesn't want my life, she wants to suppress me and prevent me from giving birth to a child!" Qin Yuru pointed at Countess Yong and gritted her teeth.

Countess Yong covered her face and burst into tears. "Mother, mother, it's not the truth. How... how could I do such a thing? Yuru misunderstood me!"

"Go and call them back!" Old Madam raised her eyebrows and shouted at Qin Yuru with a gloomy face.

In the past, when Old Madam faced Qin Yuru, she was full of love. No matter how much trouble Qin Yuru made, Old Madam would help her.

Old Madam's changed attitude was both surprising and expected for Qin Yuru.

"I won't. This time, I must expose her crime in the court!" Qin Yuru screamed.

"Come and take the Princess away!" Old Madam said with disappointment with a livid face. Two strong old maids showed up to take Qin Yuru away.

"Old Madam, what did Yuru do to offend you? Why do you treat her like this?" A cold voice suddenly came from the door!

Chapter 913 Question! It Would Be Suppressed?

Qin Huaiyong came!

"Father! Save me, Father!" Qin Yuru took a step back and cried when she heard Qin Huaiyong's voice.

Qin Huaiyong stood at the open door with a cold face. The servant girls and old maids beside him stepped backward, not daring to stop him anymore.

How could the servants resist a general with a murderous aura brought from the battlefield?

Qin Huaiyong walked in calmly. Qin Yuru rushed to stand behind him and cried when wiping the tears, "Father, save me! Father, save me!"

Qin Huaiyong's arrival made both Old Madam and Countess Yong deeply embarrassed.

"Old Madam, Countess Yong, I don't understand! Why did you do that? If you don't want to pay for Madam Di's wedding with dowries, you didn't have to give her these shops at that time. We would never force you to do so even if you didn't give her any dowry! Why did Duke Yong's Mansion embezzle money?"

Qin Huaiyong had learned about the matter. He cast cold eyes at the two women.

Old Madam and Countess Yong blushed due to his questions and didn't know how to deal with him.

"You not only took back the management of those dowry shops but also cooked the books! When Madam Di and I just returned to the capital, you used to ask us for money, saying that you had been suffering a loss for many years. Now I just heard a different version. I wonder whether Old Madam and Countess Yong have ever felt guilty for your greed. Aren't you afraid that your devil deeds to your family will disappoint them?" Qin Huaiyong said in a cold voice.

He had never had a good impression of Duke Yong's Mansion. "Qin Yuru wouldn't have made such a scene if Duke Yong's Mansion had treated Madam Di well." Thinking of this, he felt even angrier.

Since Old Madam and Countess Yong did not speak, Qin Huaiyong said again, "I can't believe that you treated your family like that! What will you do to other people? Since Old Madam and Countess Yong don't like Yuru, I will take her home. No matter how wrong she is, she should not be sentenced to death!" Then he cupped his hands to them and turned to go out.

Qin Yuru hurriedly followed up.

Old Madam wanted to stop them, but she didn't know what to say. She could only watch them leave.

"Mother, what should we do now? What should we do?" Countess Yong sat down weak and limp in the chair and burst into tears. "This is not only my own fault but... Mother..."

"Shut up!" Old Madam reproached. She waved her hand and asked all the servants in the room to leave.

After everyone else left, Old Madam sat down with a tight frown between her eyebrows. It was really hard to deal with this matter at the moment.

"Mother, what should we do now? If it is exposed... our whole mansion will be in trouble..." Countess Yong cried in a low voice.

She was at a loss for what to do next. If Qin Yuru fought against her to the end, she would fail. She had expected to suppress Qin Yuru with elders' identity. But it seemed that Qin Yuru had decided to pursue it unless she died. Countess Yong didn't know what to do at the moment.

When it came to the false accounts, she felt very aggrieved too. She did do that by herself.

"I didn't steal much of her money, though I did do the stealing! Now I am the one taking all the blame. How can I take the blame alone?"

"Shut up! I'll think about it!" Old Madam of Duke Yong's Mansion was in a bad mood now. She banged the table with her hand again and said in a harsh voice. She was unable to deal with it now. She didn't expect that Qin Yuru would expose the whole thing and even tell the government regardless of anything.

Since it had been spread to the yamen, how would Qin's Mansion react? It was hard to say!

At least, Duke Yong's Mansion might not be powerful enough to deal with the government.

"Invite Duke Yong here! I want to ask him to deal with this matter. Just say... I can't deal with it anymore. If the whole thing is exposed, Duke Yong's Mansion will become a tragedy!" Old Madam's face looked very dark through the half-closed door.

"Yes, yes! I'll go now!" Countess Yong seemed to be granted amnesty. She stood up in a hurry and staggered out. She almost tripped at the door. Luckily, she reached out to hold the door frame in time to steady herself. Then she rushed away.

All the servant girls and old maids who followed her hurried to catch up with her.

"What a sin... what a sin..." In the main room, Old Madam sighed heavily...

"You guessed it, Miss! Everyone in the capital has known about it. They are now gossiping about Countess Yong's misconducts, saying that she coveted her daughter-in-law's dowries and occupied her sister-in-law's dowries, and she has taken charge of a shop for many years since her sister-in-law married out. The two sets of account books have been sent to the lord mayor's yamen, and everyone is waiting for a public trial there!" Qing'er reported the message she got to Shao Wanru.

Shao Wanru sealed the sachet, on which there were a few stalks of purple bamboo embroidered. Under the bamboo was a small grassland with a few small flowers attached to it. It looked very elegant.

The sachet was filled with herbal medicines that could drive snakes and insects away. So she had to be very careful when sealing the mouth with so many herbals in it. It couldn't be sewn too tightly or too loosely, or it would lose its original shape and become ugly.

After hearing Qing'er's words, Shao Wanru was very calm and carefully moved the needle. When the mouth of the sachet was completely sealed, she cut off the thread and said, "There won't be a public trial!"

"Why, Miss? Many people saw it happen. There are witnesses and testimonies! They can be considered the ironclad evidence!" Qu Le took the scissors handed over by Shao Wanru and asked in confusion. "I don't think it can be suppressed. Since First Miss Qin wants to uncover it, she shouldn't want to let it go easily!"

"Whether she wants to let it go or not, it doesn't matter anymore!" Shao Wanru said with a slight smile. Her black hair that had just been washed causally scattered on her back. The faint light softened the charm in her eyes, which changed her charming nature into a gentle one. She looked more delicate and beautiful.

The voices of "Your Highness" came from the door one after another. Chu Liuchen came back.

As soon as Shao Wanru stood up, the curtain was lifted, and Chu Liuchen had come in. He looked handsome and elegant with a navy robe with golden bamboo patterns.

The servant girls in the room left carefully.

"Why are you still making it? Didn't I tell you to go to bed early?" Chu Liuchen reached out to pick up the sachet put on the table, and then said with a gentle look and in a doting voice, "Such a dark light hurts your eyes. You can ask the servant girls to make it if you want it finished!"

"There are some made by the servant girls! You can give them to your followers. The one I made is only for you!" Shao Wanru handed the sachet to Chu Liuchen and said, "Look, it's filled with the smell you like. It has the smell of not only the insect repellent but also the good incense you often use. Do you like it?"

The smell of the herbal medicines in the sachet was very strong, but there was indeed a different fragrance mixed with it. It smelt very light under the strong herbals. But if the sachet was carefully sniffed, it could be told that the fragrance was the same one in Chu Liuchen's study.

"I certainly like what you made for me, Zhuozhuo! But I will feel distressed. You haven't been asleep at this time. I told you that I would come back later tonight, didn't I?" Chu Liuchen led Shao Wanru to sit on the couch and hold her in his arms habitually.

"I can't fall asleep anyway. We were talking about Qin Yuru!" Shao Wanru didn't intend to hide it from Chu Liuchen. "I asked Qing'er to inquire about it before. She has just come back!" Shao Wanru said.

Chu Liuchen removed the strand of black hair between her eyebrows. Her half-dry hair fell over, which made her face look as small as a palm. She looked unbelievably gorgeous with delicate eyebrows and watery eyes.

"What did you get?" Chu Liuchen asked casually, leaning back against the cushion on the couch and holding Shao Wanru in his arms, who was made to lie on his body.

Shao Wanru blushed. So she closed her eyes to deal with her shyness. "Qin Yuru made trouble that caused Duke Yong's Mansion to be the target of public criticism! Qing'er had gone to inquire about it! She said that lord mayor's yamen has accepted and heard the case!"

"It must be suppressed!" Chu Liuchen said lazily. He helped Shao Wanru to sit in a different position—she leaned on one of his arms so that she would be more comfortable.

"Is it because of Prince Yue?" Shao Wanru raised her watery eyes to look at him and asked. It was not a question, though she sounded like she was asking one.

"Chu Liuyue does involve himself too many domains. The Empress won't like it," Chu Liuchen replied meaningfully. Shao Wanru had told him before that it was proved that Chu Liuyue was the secret supporter of Duke Yong's Mansion.

"What about His Majesty?" Shao Wanru asked after thinking for a while. The Empress would not like it even if she thought of her daughter.

"Uncle the Emperor doesn't like it even more, he..." Chu Liuchen raised the corner of his mouth, with his long eyelashes reflected in his eyes. "He never lets others know what he likes or dislikes!"

Such words seemed to have a different meaning. Shao Wanru pondered for a moment and did not ask more questions. Chu Liuchen would deal with the Emperor, and she believed that he could deal with it well.

However, Shao Wanru was worried about something else. She understood that Aunt Shui had nothing to do with the matter, but she was afraid there would be a deviation, so she subconsciously asked Chu

Liuchen, "How will Ningyuan Army General's Mansion deal with it? Will it implicate people of the General's Mansion?"

"Of course not. Ningyuan Army General is not a stupid man. He is not as simple as you see!" Chu Liuchen said, "You don't have to be worried. I have told you before that I will help you even when you are in big trouble! Don't worry!"

Then he patted her back gently and opened his eyes with a smile. His eyes were vivid and handsome.

Shao Wanru looked up subconsciously and met his eyes. She felt a sweetness in her heart. After her rebirth, she found it hard to believe others, but Chu Liuchen was not one of them.

It seemed that he would protect her at any time, which made her feel inexplicably at ease...

"Although the matter will be suppressed soon, it might cause another storm in the Palace!"

Chapter 914 Confidence! It Has Always Been My Kingdom!

"It will make trouble in the Palace?" Shao Wanru asked with her watery eyes full of confusion, "Then, why it will be suppressed outside the Palace?"

In fact, both its suppression outside and the trouble it would cause in the Palace were the Emperor's orders! He would never allow the issue that would implicate the reputation of the royal family to be kept alive.

"Uncle the Emperor cares about his reputation very much!" Chu Liuchen slightly narrowed his beautiful eyes. His words sounded very confusing.

Shao Wanru frowned and thought for a while, but she couldn't understand what he meant in the end. She couldn't help catching his sleeve and asked, "What do you mean, Your highness?"

"We are married, so you don't have to call me Your highness in private!" Chu Liuchen squinted at her with discontent.

"Master?" Shao Wanru asked tentatively.

"Call me by my name!" Chu Liuchen looked down at Shao Wanru with his charming eyes, with his mind full of Shao Wanru's figure. When looking at Shao Wanru like this, he felt she was his whole world.

Shao Wanru blushed again. She was hesitant and shy, but she called "Chu Liuchen" in the end.

Her low and soft voice made him feel that something soft was tickling and scratching in the heart. Chu Liuchen was pleased. The happiness flowed from the bottom of his heart to his face. He smiled, lifting Shao Wanru's little face with his fingers. The sight of her pink, petal-like lips made him breathe faster.

"You don't have to say my family name!" Chu Liuchen gently induced her.

His eyes were shining with his love for her under the light, making him look more handsome. No one except Chu Liuchen could deserve the title of the handsome and romantic young man described in the book!

Shao Wanru seemed to be bewitched. She opened her mouth with cherry lips and said, "Liuchen!"

Chu Liuchen leaned to one side, pressed her under his body, and kissed her red lips that he had been coveting for a long time. The kiss was long and mild.

Shao Wanru was so shocked that she came to herself with a stiff body. In her two lives, she had never been so close to anyone like this. Although they had been husband and wife now, Chu Liuchen had repeatedly said he would keep a distance from her. Unexpectedly, he would be so passionate.

Yes, he was as passionate as fire.

Chu Liuchen was on fire, which made Shao Wanru also become hot. The heat intoxicated her, but she came to herself again in a panic and subconsciously pushed him away.

Chu Liuchen lay down beside her.

Shao Wanru tried hard to calm her breath and suppress her passion. Chu Liuchen, who was lying beside her, didn't speak a word. She couldn't help turning to look at him with a blush. Then a pair of handsome eyes came into her sight. Chu Liuchen was silently looking sideways at her shy look.

"What are you looking at?" Shao Wanru retorted.

Her face became more blushed after she said so.

"I am enjoying my Zhuozhuo!" Chu Liuchen leaned sideways and held Shao Wanru in his arms. His body temperature had decreased a lot now.

Shao Wanru buried her head in his arms and curled her lips. "What's good about me?"

"Undoubtedly, my princess is the most beautiful woman. Of course, no one else but I can appreciate you!" Shao Wanru looked even more charming with a blushed face. Chu Liuchen thought that he needed to hide his Zhuozhuo better.

Anyone else was not allowed to covet the most precious thing in his heart!

"You are talking nonsense again!" Shao Wanru reached out and gently pinched Chu Liuchen in the waist.

Chu Liuchen pretended that he was in great pain and cried out exaggeratedly, "Please show mercy, my lady. If Imperial Grandmother sees the bruise, maybe she will punish you!"

Chu Liuchen's teasing words reminded Shao Wanru, who poked her head out of Chu Liuchen's arms slightly and asked, "Will the imperial physician come to treat you tomorrow, Your Highness?"

Chu Liuchen had almost recovered, about which, of course, only a few people knew. Although Empress Dowager and the Emperor knew that Chu Liuchen was much better, they were still worried about him, so they specially asked the imperial physician to feel his pulse every week.

But they told the public that they needed to treat Chu Liuchen with acupuncture.

Since he had to do acupuncture, he needed to take off his clothes even if it was just for show.

Chu Liuchen had mentioned it to Shao Wanru on the day she entered the mansion. Shao Wanru had always remembered it. But she couldn't help asking when it came into her mind at this time.

"It's not a big deal. They just come to feel the pulse!" Chu Liuchen said casually.

"Since you have recovered, there is no need to let them feel your pulse anymore. Anyway, there are doctors in our mansion! Why do we need to ask people from the Palace?" Shao Wanru was worried after all.

The imperial physician, who felt the pulse for Chu Liuchen, was also his private physician. He was very loyal to Empress Dowager, and only he knew Chu Liuchen's health condition. But Shao Wanru felt that it was better to keep an eye on him. If someone targeted the imperial physician, Chu Liuchen might be implicated.

"Zhuzhuo, are you worried about me?" Chu Liuchen asked with a smile. He was in a very good mood. Thinking that the girl in front of him was worried about him, he felt soft in the heart.

He was a cold-hearted man, both towards others and himself, never expecting that he would fall in love with a woman as an ordinary man did. Apart from the woman in front of him, he didn't care about anyone else. Any other beautiful women in his eyes were just ordinary people.

"I'm talking about something serious with you!" Shao Wanru blushed and pushed him.

"I'm talking seriously! Don't worry. Even if someone wants to set me up, he won't succeed because of you. I heard that you have quite good medical skills and once saved Marquis Xing's Mansion's Old Madam's life. If such an ignorant person falls ill in front of you again, Zhuzhuo, you don't have to save her. If such a person like her dies, so be it. Don't care about her too much. You just need to care about me!" Chu Liuchen said seriously, but his eyes were full of happiness.

Shao Wanru reached out to cover his eyes. She sighed, "Fortunately, he is a cold-blooded man! Otherwise, how many women in the world will be bewitched by his appearance and target him? Even if they can merely look at him silently on the side, they are willing to do so!"

Chu Liuchen pulled her hand away from his face and kissed it gently with the corner of his mouth.

The soft touch made Shao Wanru subconsciously draw back her hand, blushing with red cheeks. He made fun of her all the time!

Prince Chen was totally different from what he had been when she first met him that day.

When it came to the first time they met, she frowned slightly. She remembered the headwear in her last life. It seemed that she and Chu Liuchen knew each other because of it! Though she thought so, there was no factual evidence to prove it. Everything was just her supposition.

She first met Chu Liuchen at that time. Was it the same time when they first met in her last life?

Suddenly, she felt sorrowful and reached out to hug Chu Liuchen's strong waist. She knew that she was living her second life, but she lost the memories between Chu Liuchen and her in the previous life!

But she was sure that they knew each other in her last life. And they were more than acquaintances to each other.

Chu Liuchen was full of joy with Shao Wanru's initiative to get close to him, but he was still dissatisfied with her frowned eyebrows. He rubbed her eyebrows gently to remove the sadness there.

"No unhappy thinking!"

“Okay!” Shao Wanru said softly and raised her watery eyes. The faint smile on her tender face highlighted her pink cheeks and red lips, which made her look gorgeous.

Shao Wanru bit her lip and looked away to avoid Chu Liuchen’s burning eyes. Then she blinked her eyes and asked, “You haven’t told me yet! Why will the matter cause trouble in the Palace and why won’t it do the same outside the Palace?”

Chu Liuchen realized that she was shy, so he gave up teasing her. He just held her hand with a smile and said, “Uncle the Emperor cares about his reputation most. The trouble is involved in Chu Liuyue, so he won’t let people outside the Palace laugh at the royal family. However, he must be furious with the consequences. He has no intention to abdicate now!”

“Why not?” Shao Wanru was surprised. One of his descendants would succeed to the throne anyway. She was still confused why the Emperor titled Chu Liuchen as the Crown Prince. Even if Prince Zhou and Prince Xin were disqualified at that time, Chu Liuyue was still eligible.

Or we could say that Chu Liuyue was the Emperor’s only choice. He could only pass down the throne to Chu Liuyue.

After all, no one would pass down his title to his nephew when he had sons. But, out of expectation, it was Chu Liuchen instead of Chu Liuyue who was titled the Crown Prince.

“Could there be any secrets behind it?”

“Maybe he can’t make the decision now. Anyway, I am not anxious about it. Let’s just wait and see. Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou are rivals, and they have advantages. It’s hard to decide!” Chu Liuchen said lazily and stroked Shao Wanru’s hair with his hand.

Shao Wanru felt like he was stroking her hair as she was touching a cat by stroking its thick and soft fur. It felt comfortable. “Is he treating me as a cat?”

Shao Wanru glared at Chu Liuchen and caught his big hand in case he touched her again. However, she didn’t expect that it was just what he wanted. Chu Liuchen enjoyed the holding of a jade-like hand of the beauty in his arms.

“How can you not be anxious? The next Emperor should be decided as soon as possible!” Shao Wanru said. After thinking for a few seconds, she bit her cherry lips and made a decision. She was eager to get the answer to the question hidden in her heart for a long time. The current atmosphere or something else made her feel that it was just the right moment, so she looked at Chu Liuchen and asked, “Liuchen, what do you think of that?”

Her question was very abrupt, but Chu Liuchen understood it. He held Shao Wanru’s small hand and gently pinched her palm. Then he said naturally, “It has always been my kingdom! How can I give it up? Anyone who disobeys the god will be punished!”

Chapter 915 Help! The Master Behind the Scene

“The Emperor is your uncle...” Shao Wanru said.

It was quite surprising that he intended to pass down the throne to his nephew rather than his son.

"The Emperor took over the throne from his elder brother! Of course, I can take over it from my uncle!" Chu Liuchen said. He held Shao Wanru's hand and touched it gently, but his eyes were cold and unfathomable. He seemed to be thinking of something dark in his heart.

Shao Wanru's heartbeat was calm. She listened to him quietly. It was not surprising for her that Chu Liuchen said such bold and defiant words.

He was like this in her previous life.

She didn't know why he was so cruel and looked so in despair in her previous life, but she felt distressed about that.

"He lived a very hard life in his previous life, didn't he?"

Even though he had finally reached a higher status, he was not happy!

"Do you like it, Your Highness?" Shao Wanru suppressed the bitterness in her heart and asked softly.

"If I don't take this step, I will end up in hell. But with Zhuozhuo's company, I like it very much!" Chu Liuchen said with a smile, "At least I won't be lonely! I am very happy to have your company, Zhuozhuo!"

His voice was so gentle, quiet and steady that it made people calm and peaceful. It sounded like nothing could stop him.

Her restless heart somehow calmed down a little. For a moment, some memories hit her heart and she felt sour and astringent. "How did Chu Liuchen live his last life, in which bloody corpses of women were everywhere in the Palace... and his desperate and languished eyes..."

"I will be there for you!" Shao Wanru said in a low voice with slightly wet eyes.

It sounded like both a soliloquy to and a promise to Chu Liuchen. It was just a light sentence that disappeared in an instant, but it left an eternal mark in Chu Liuchen's heart.

Chu Liuchen looked at the beautiful girl in front of him and smiled with his gentle eyes full of happiness.

With her, he would not be lonely anymore. With her, it was more obligatory for him to stand higher. If he couldn't protect her, what does it matter if he was good to her?

"I should have had everything! No one can take it away from me! No one is allowed to covet my treasure!"

It was quiet at night in Prince Chen's Mansion. A beautiful couple lying side by side could be seen through the window, covered by gentle warm light. A layer of faint yellow halo dyed their delicate and beautiful eyebrows and eyes, making them extremely pretty!

Here was Chu Liuyue's study in Prince Yue's Mansion.

"Explain!" Chu Liuyue stared at the middle-aged man in front of him with a livid face. Di Rufeng, Duke Yong, was sweating profusely and dared not raise his head.

"Your Highness, it is an incident!" Di Rufeng stammered.

He was often a sedate middle-aged man, but his face turned pale when he was scolded at this time.

He was just a duke of the declined kind. He was mediocre, and his son was even less promising. Almost no one thought highly of Duke Yong's Mansion or took him seriously, but he had depended on Prince Yue early.

More precisely, Prince Yue's mother Consort of Virtue was the master Duke Yong depended on for a long time. He secretly worked for Consort of Virtue and helped Prince Yue cultivate beautiful women rather than create a great career.

His job was to make those women look more like obedient girls from humble families instead of charming and coquettish beauties from a brothel. The goal was that even when they worked as servants girls in others' mansions, people must regard them as girls from ordinary families who met difficulties in their lives.

After all, compared with prostitutes, such girls would be embraced by Madams, some of who would even help them make up and dress up so that they could be given to those Madams' husbands. They thought that it was easier to manipulate obedient girls. As long as they controlled the girls' parents, they could order the girls to do anything.

It was easier for a man to feel tender and protective toward a delicate and beautiful woman who had to be forced into a dilemma. Although she was not as dignified and decent as the madams of noble families, she was elegant like a young lady from a humble family. Like a dewdrop in the morning, she tempted men, especially the officials who had been in the officialdom for a long time.

Sometimes, they hoped to have a pure and good woman with them. They hoped she was just an innocent girl who would bring no intrigue or other conflict of interest. She would stay with them wholeheartedly in need of their love.

Therefore, obedient girls of ordinary families were sometimes even more charming and attractive than those from the brothel!

Duke Yong's Mansion had arranged several villas in the far suburbs, where they helped Prince Yue's Mansion raise such women. In case other people found out its connection with Prince Yue's Mansion from the financing, Duke Yong's Mansion handled everything by themselves and took all the responsibilities.

For others, Duke Yong's Mansion was still a declining family which was not valued.

Duke Yong himself did not have much money to support the secret deal, neither did his falling mansion. Therefore, he set his eyes on Madam Di's dowry shops.

When Madam Di left, Countess Yong was in charge of those shops. So the latter began to make use of the former's shops to make a profit for her family.

She embezzled money from the shops and invest it into the girl cultivation.

To ensure that the girls were cultivated perfectly, they would naturally spend a lot of money. Although Chu Liuyue would sometimes send some money to them in secret, he didn't dare to do so too many times. He was afraid to be exposed by others. So Duke Yong handled it by himself most of the time.

Chu Liuyue had always praised Duke Yong in secret. But the deal was dug out by Qin Yuru. How could Chu Liuyue not be angry?

"Your Highness, we have to suppress it first!" Mr. Liu, the advisor of Chu Liuyue, said with frowned eyebrows.

"What should we do now? My father will get the news." Chu Liuyue was so angry that he walked around the study many times. Recently, everything seemed to go against him. Now bad thing even happened to Duke Yong's Mansion. "Your daughter-in-law doesn't know about our secret business at all! Just kill her as soon as possible. Why did you let her make such trouble?"

"Your Highness, she is anyhow my mother's granddaughter..." Di Rufeng said with a wry smile. He also regretted it now. If he had known things would turn on like this, he would not have been soft-hearted. He should kill her directly at that time.

"As your daughter-in-law, she has never been a decent woman. No wonder your son doesn't want to go home. What a squandering behavior to take such a daughter-in-law!" Chu Liuyue said coldly and then sat down in the chair behind the desk with a gloomy face. Ignoring Di Rufeng, he turned to Mr. Liu.

"What do you think we should do now, Mr. Liu? If my father investigates it carefully, he will target me!"

Although Prince Yue's Mansion had no connection with Duke Yong's Mansion on the surface, and Duke Yong's Mansion almost ran the business alone, some key clues were likely to be got if the Emperor wanted the truth. Chu Liuyue could not assure himself that his father would never find out his secret.

"Your Highness, we should prepare for the worst..." Mr. Liu frowned and said slowly. "It is indeed difficult to deal with the matter at the moment."

"What's the plan?"

"If those women are found, Duke Yong will insist that it is he who trained them to serve you in Prince Yue's Mansion. Duke Yong's Mansion does that because they want to curry favor with you, Your Highness!" Mr. Liu said.

"How, how could you..." Di Rufeng was stunned and said in a hurry.

Chu Liuyue waved his hand with discontent and said, "Shut up and listen to Mr. Liu!"

Mr. Liu looked at Di Rufeng, who was so anxious that his eyes were about to pop out, and then said slowly, "Your Highness, if His Majesty knows that you raise these girls and plan to send them to various mansions to collect information for you, he will not spare you. His Majesty is in the prime of his life. If you let him know your secret plan, you will bring disaster to yourself. What's more, the Empress and Prince Zhou have been waiting for the chance to defeat you!"

Chu Liuyue fell silent. He knew that Mr. Liu was reminding him. If his father knew his secret actions of plotting against his ministers, he wouldn't be able to defend himself in front of his father. In addition, if the Empress added fuel to the fire behind the scenes, he would be done.

Since the situation was so urgent, he had no choice but to deal with it at once.

"Okay, we'll do as you say, Mr. Liu!" Chu Liuyue nodded vigorously. For him, it was like cutting his flesh to carry out such a plan. He felt very distressed, but he had no other choices now. If he couldn't bear it, he would mess up the big plan.

"Your Highness... but, Your Highness, it is my painstaking efforts for so many years, and some of the women have been sent out..." Di Rufeng said with cold sweats all over. He was unable to take all the responsibilities alone.

At the very beginning, Duke Yong decided to handle everything by himself to show his loyalty to Prince Yue. Now he regretted it. He shouldn't have taken the responsibilities for the sake of taking credits for Prince Yue in the future. When they ran into difficulties now, Prince Yue was reluctant to share the responsibilities.

"We should cut off the connection with the people who have been sent out. They will be girls from ordinary families and have nothing to do with you!" Mr. Liu suggested.

Chu Liuyue nodded repeatedly to agree on the suggestion. At this time, he must hide his relationship with them and warn them to stop collecting information.

In fact, some women had already infiltrated the ministers' mansions and become their concubines.

"But, Your Highness, if His Majesty figures out that it has something to do with my mansion, he won't spare me!" Di Rufeng pleaded.

Duke Yong's Mansion was just a mansion on the wane, and it could not bear the anger of the Emperor.

"However, there are other possible methods. If Duke Yong can make do as I say, you may be able to get away from it!" Mr. Liu stood aside and said slowly.

His words made Di Rufeng widen his eyes. In a hopeless dilemma, he took it as his last hope...

Chapter 916 Palace Maids Who Teach

"Actually, Countess Yong could take responsibility for this matter!" Mr. Liu said meaningfully.

This time, Mr. Liu not only attracted Duke Yong and Di Rufeng's attention but also attracted Chu Liuyue's attention. Chu Liuyue asked, "What do you mean?"

"Your Highness, what I just said is the worst plan. Now, this matter has just started. If Princess goes to the yamen and takes responsibility for it, saying that it is just a misunderstanding, the Emperor will not dig too deep in this matter. He would think it is just a dispute of the inner court between the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law and he does not have that much energy to deal with the matters in the backyard!" Mr. Liu said.

"A dispute between the mother-in-law and the daughter-in-law?" Chu Liuyue repeated. Then his eyes lit up, and he couldn't help clapping his hands, saying, "Great, great!"

If it was a dispute between the mother-in-law and the daughter-in-law, then it would be the least serious matter. Even if it was a scandal, it was impossible for the Emperor to carefully investigate such a trivial dispute between the mother-in-law and the daughter-in-law that happened in the backyard.

"But... who should take the responsibility for this?" Di Rufeng said in a pained voice. He had a bad feeling.

"Of course, Countess Yong will suffer from some grievances to admit that it was her mistake. Comfort the Princess. I heard that Prince doesn't treat Princess well, so you should ask Prince to accompany Countess Yong to go and persuade Princess to withdraw her complaint from the yamen. Whoever started the trouble should end it. That's the best!" Mr. Liu analyzed.

"But the reputation..." Di Rufeng said in a low voice. Although he had no special feelings for Countess Yong, if Countess Yong took the blame, it would inevitably involve him and affect the reputation of the entire Duke Yong's Mansion.

Moreover, in this case, Countess Yong would end up meditating in the Buddha Hall if she was not divorced.

It was not that he felt bad about making Countess Yong meditate in the Buddha Hall, but because most of these girls he kept were managed by Countess Yong and Old Madam. If Countess Yong was unhappy and made a scene about it, it would be a big deal!

"My wife knows that I've been keeping a group of girls, and she oversees it. If she takes the responsibility this time, I'm afraid... I'm afraid that she will make a big deal out of it!" Di Rufeng said unpleasantly.

He had to say that.

Mr. Liu thought for a moment and said, "If that's the case, maybe you... you will have to do more things!"

"What... what kind of things?" Di Rufeng asked, and his face changed dramatically.

After a pause, Mr. Liu said, "After Countess Yong invite the Princess back, Countess Yong could pretend to fall ill and couldn't even get up. In this way, there will be less talking about Duke Yong's Mansion and the Emperor won't suspect us!"

"Uh... okay!" Di Rufeng said with his hands trembling.

"Duke Yong, I will remember your kindness. Don't worry. I will only need your wife to look sick, and nothing should happen to her. If there is a chance in the future, I will definitely make your son an official. After all, I am grateful to the Duke Yong's Mansion!" Chu Liuyue stood up, bowed deeply to Di Rufeng, and said to him.

How could Di Rufeng dare to accept his courtesy? He hurriedly leaned to avoid it and said with a bitter and mixed expression on his face, "I'm at your command, Your Highness!"

What else could he do at the moment? He could only do what Prince Yue wanted. Otherwise, the whole mansion could not bear the anger of the Emperor. He had done this kind of thing for Prince Yue earlier. In fact, he was on Prince Yue's side. But Prince Yue had not yet become the new emperor, so it would be a disaster for his family if the Emperor found out he chose the other side.

Compared to his wife, the execution of his entire family was much more horrifying...

It was dark. Chu Liuchen got up from the darkness. He looked at the petite girl in his arms and then walked over quietly. He put on the outdoor robe, and when he got outside, Xiao Xuanzi had already been waiting outside.

"How is it going?" Chu Liuchen stood in the yard with his hands clasped behind his back and asked coldly.

"Everything is ready. Don't worry, master!" Xiao Xuanzi said in a low voice.

"What about Chu Liuzhou?" Chu Liuchen asked with cold eyes.

"The matter has been exposed. Prince Zhou is still awake and so is Prince Yue. Duke Yong has entered Prince Yue's Mansion and hasn't come out yet!" Xiao Xuanzi said.

Chu Liuchen raised his head. Under the moonlight, his handsome face showed a trace of coldness and cruelty that he had hidden in the past. At the moment, he was more like an elegant Asura looking down at the world in his cold eyes.

When Shao Wanru told him that Chu Liuyue was Fanglan Embroidery Shop's secret boss, everything had been set up. He had been waiting for a suitable opportunity to reveal it.

Chu Liuyue would inevitably avoid trouble, but no matter how hard he tried, it would be difficult for him to adapt to the volatile situation. Moreover, Chu Liuzhou was cruel, and he had also been keeping an eye on Chu Liuyue...

When Shao Wanru woke up, Chu Liuchen was nowhere to be seen.

She guessed that he went to practice martial arts. After marrying into Prince Chen's Mansion, she knew that although Chu Liuchen looked a little weak, like a sick noble young master, in fact, he had good health. Especially, he began practicing martial arts at an early age. Although he was interrupted from time to time due to his illness later, generally he had been keeping this habit for many years.

Moreover, his martial arts skills were quite good!

This reminded Shao Wanru of an incident that happened a long time ago. At that time, Chu Liuchen climbed over the wall to look for her.

Hearing Shao Wanru's voice, Yujie and Qu Le immediately came in to serve her.

"Where is the Prince?" Shao Wanru sat in front of the dressing table and asked. It was getting late and there were no elders in Prince Chen's Mansion that Shao Wanru had to greet. She felt embarrassed that she went to bed so late recently. She went to bed after they talked for a long time yesterday.

"Prince has already had breakfast. He said you can have breakfast by yourself. He went to deal with the affairs in the front yard!" Yujie answered with a smile.

Before their master got married into Prince Chen's Mansion, Yujie and Qu Le were a little worried, but now all their worries were gone. Prince Chen really cared about their master. Princess was the only one that he cared about, and there were no other girls. Moreover, all the servants serving Prince were eunuchs. There was never any young girl close to him.

Thinking of this, Yujie suddenly thought of something and said, "Miss, the supervisor asked for your opinion about how to deal with the two palace maids."

"The palace maids?" Shao Wanru froze for a moment and did not catch what she meant.

Her confusion was completely different from her usual shrewdness and powerfulness. In fact, she looked like a little girl now. The two servant girls couldn't help laughing.

"Princess, they are the two girls sent from the palace to teach Prince how to consummate his marriage!" Qu Le explained with a red face.

Her words were obscure. Shao Wanru blinked her eyes twice, suddenly realized what they meant, and couldn't help blushing.

"What did Prince say?" Shao Wanru asked.

"Prince said it's for you to decide. If you don't like them, you can throw them out of the mansion straight away!" Yujie said with a smile.

How could she like this kind of girls? Shao Wanru rolled her eyes secretly. A legal wife who had just married into the mansion would never like these girls who taught her husband how to consummate his marriage.

Fortunately, Chu Liuchen did not allow them to get close. He left them in a secluded courtyard since Empress sent them over.

But the current situation was indeed a bit difficult to deal with.

"Princess, I heard that the two palace maids both have powerful backgrounds. That's why they can get into Prince Chen's Mansion. They are unlike the palace maids sent by the Empress in the past; those maids were directly thrown out or even killed!" Yujie said in a low voice.

Before Shao Wanru got up, Yujie specially inquired about the two palace maids. She had heard that previously none of the palace maids could stay in Prince Chen's Mansion. What backgrounds did they have?

"What do you mean?" Shao Wanru asked curiously.

If they were ordinary palace maids, they could not stay in Prince Chen's Mansion. According to her understanding of Chu Liuchen, he would not listen to anyone's advice. If he wanted to throw them out, he would. If they made him unhappy and dared to seduce him, they would not even get out of the Prince Chen's Mansion alive.

With such a bad reputation, no palace maid dared to come to Prince Chen's Mansion after that.

"Princess, I've inquired about it. One of the two palace maids was sent by Empress Dowager, and the other was chosen by the Empress. The one sent by Empress Dowager seems to be related to Nanny Wei. She seems to be Nanny Wei's niece. Although the relationship is far-fetched, she is related to Nanny Wei. The Empress Dowager also likes her very much in the past," Yujie said.

"The palace maid sent by the Empress also has something to do with the Empress. She seems to be a relative of the Empress' family. Her ancestor was a palace official. Later, something happened, and her whole family became servants. The Empress pitied her and left her in the palace. Now she is favored by the Empress!" Yujie added.

Shao Wanru's eyes darkened, so both of them had powerful backgrounds and could not be treated as before.

"They want to see me?" Shao Wanru's watery eyes were slightly cold, and she had an idea in her mind. No one had mentioned this matter in the past few days. It could be seen that these two people had been restraining themselves. Now they couldn't restrain themselves anymore?

"According to the supervisor, it seems to be true!" Yujie said with anger.

Their identities were unusual, so it was not easy to deal with them. Thinking that her master had just married into the mansion and there was already so much trouble, Yujie was angry on behalf of Shao Wanru.

No matter what, they were just two palace maids. It was impossible for them to get superior to Princess.

"Let them be. I don't have time for them now!" Shao Wanru waved her hand lazily and said. Not everybody could meet her at their will. "Do they really think they have become superior to me?" Shao Wanru sneered in her mind.

She didn't care what their backgrounds were. Since they got into Prince Chen's Mansion, they had to obey the rules of Prince Chen's Mansion. Of course, it would be better if they got anxious.

Subconsciously, she knew that these two palace maids were not ordinary people. They were closely related to the Empress Dowager and the Empress. If they were ordinary people, they would not be sent into the mansion. "What are they after? Is it only Chu Liuchen? They know that Chu Liuchen would not like them. Even if they are backed by the Empress Dowager and the Empress, so what?

"Then, why did they enter the mansion?

"Are they trying to drive a wedge between the Empress Dowager and Chu Liuchen, or are they trying to drive a wedge between me and Chu Liuchen, or do they have other purposes?" Shao Wanru wondered.

At present, she was not sure, so she decided to stay calm and deal with it. She wanted to see if the two palace maids who got into Prince Chen's Mansion would feel anxious!

Anyway, they would feel anxious, and she just needed to bide her time...

Chapter 917 Prince Zhou Capitalized on Prince Yue's Disasters

It ended up that Duke Yong's Mansion stood trial in the imperial court. Inspectors impeached Duke Yong for his lax management and accused Countess Yong of coveting her sister-in-law's and daughter-in-law's dowries for a long time. As a Madam of an aristocratic family, what she did had disgraced her whole family!

Some of them even suggested that Duke Yong divorce his wife.

Some others said Countess Yong had no womanly virtues and proposed to send her to the temple and order her to pray for blessings for her family there for the rest of her life.

Some people reported that Countess Yong, in order to monopolize the shops of her daughter-in-law, made the latter have a miscarriage, and later gave her the medicine that would cause permanent infertility!

She was an unbelievably vicious woman...

Faced with the charge and indictments of their crimes, Di Rufeng couldn't speak a word but kneel in the hall trembling all over!

The Emperor was furious that he smashed all the memorials on Di Rufeng. Then he ordered everyone not to discuss it for the time being but to focus on more important affairs.

The intense accusation finally subsided thanks to the Emperor's words. The ministers and officials returned to their positions and reported their political affairs.

Chu Liuchen, lazy, sat on a wide chair and squinted at the scene in front of him, with his head resting on one of his hands. The chair he sat was still there, though he was in good health now.

Chu Liuyue stood in his position with a calm look, and Chu Liuzhou stood behind him with the same peaceful face. So no one could see from the two faces that they were actually enemies of each other, hoping that the other would die as soon as possible. Right at the moment, one was flustered in his heart while the other was secretly complacent.

Chu Qing looked quite excited. Although he did not know the specific details, he faintly felt that it would not be simple.

The officials reported their events one by one, and the Emperor handled them with a majestic look. Everyone seemed to turn a blind eye to Duke Yong, Di Rufeng, who was still kneeling in the hall.

The helpless and desolate situation scared Di Rufeng. He took a deep breath. Then he remembered what Prince Yue said yesterday and what his wife and son had promised before he went out today. They said they would coax Qin Yuru back with the promise of satisfying all her demands, no matter what they would be. So the whole thing would be suppressed.

"How is it going on outside the Palace? It will be great if it ends up here!"

Di Rufeng felt extremely anxious, his back soaked in cold sweats. The Emperor's emotional violence almost took his consciousness and forced him to faint in the hall.

Finally, the meeting was over. The Emperor went to the Imperial Study, followed by the princes, and Di Rufeng who was dragged by a eunuch.

When they arrived at the Imperial Study, the eunuch let go of Di Rufeng, who immediately fell to his knees. He was trembling all over.

It was a critical moment for him. He had no idea what the consequence would be at all, so he was haunted by fear now. The longer he stayed, the more pressure he stood.

A guard presented a memorial to the Emperor as soon as the latter entered the Imperial Study.

Derong took the memorial and handed it to the Emperor respectfully. He read it and then showed a cold face. He sneered and said, "A fight between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law? How energetic Duke Yong's Mansion is! They even started a fight between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law in a yamen!"

"Your Majesty! I admit the loose family rules should be to blame for this!" Di Rufeng felt that he came alive. He swayed and almost collapsed to the ground, but he was excited in his heart. The Emperor's guard had delivered the result of the investigation, which was good to him. It was going in the direction that he had wished.

"Can the loose family rules justify your family's taking the yamen as their own house at will?" Chu Liuzhou sneered and questioned.

"Second Brother, it's Duke Yong's Mansion's domestic affair. Duke Yong must be reluctant to see it happen. It is inevitable for a man to have an unethical wife!" Chu Liuyue seemed to be more tolerant.

Chu Liuchen sat on a chair and half-closed his eyes. His long eyelashes fluttered slightly. It was hard to tell whether he was asleep or awake.

"You are so kind, Eldest Brother! You rarely defended your officials like this in the past. You always took Father's idea as the top priority!" Chu Liuzhou sneered.

"Second Brother, I will always obey Father! But this matter is indeed..." Chu Liuyue shook his head calmly as if he didn't know what to say. It seemed that he didn't want to argue against Chu Liuzhou, as he looked much calmer than the latter.

Falling into a disadvantage, Chu Liuzhou immediately became angry. Then he stepped forward and said, "Father, I have something to report!"

"What's the matter?" the Emperor asked coldly.

"Father, there is another reason for the case of Duke Yong's Mansion!" Chu Liuzhou said.

Di Rufeng swayed back and forth and almost fell over. He tried his best to calm himself down. "No matter how powerful Prince Zhou is, he can't dig something out. Those girls are hidden in the houses outside the city. What's more, they rarely showed up in front of people in the past. I didn't investigate it on my own so I couldn't expose myself. Prince Yue has warned me not to panic..."

"Father, I got the news yesterday. Please verify it!" Chu Liuzhou handed over a memorial. Derong took it and handed it to the Emperor.

The Emperor read it with a solemn face. After finishing it, he showed a cold expression and suddenly threw the memorial at Chu Liuyue's head.

Chu Liuyue was shocked, but he didn't dare to avoid it. He suffered a blow that happened to hit him on the nose. He felt pain, and then tears came out of the corners of his eyes.

He hurriedly knelt without wiping away the tears. "Father!"

“Excellent! You have infiltrated your people into lots of areas, haven’t you?” the Emperor scolded in a fury, pointing at his nose.

“Father, I didn’t dare!” Chu Liuyue lowered his head and said in a hurry. He didn’t know what was wrong with his father. He couldn’t help feeling panic in his heart. He wondered what Chu Liuzhou had shown his father and why it made his father angry with him.

He raised his hand to wipe away the tears in the corners of his eyes and calmed himself down. But in a daze, he seemed to be confused about why the Emperor scolded him.

“You didn’t dare? Is there anything that you don’t dare to do? What good sons you are! I brought you up, but you have even become so ambitious!” the Emperor said with anger, pointing at both Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou with his fingers.

“Father!” Chu Liuzhou was frightened and knelt.

However, Chu Liuchen was still indifferent to them. He only cast a casual glance at the two brothers and then continued to rest with his eyes closed. If other princes dared to be so disrespectful, the Emperor would have lost his temper. But it was Chu Liuchen. When the Emperor’s eyes swept over him, he did not blame Chu Liuchen at all. Instead, the Emperor suddenly remembered that later he needed to ask the imperial physician to feel pulses for Chu Liuchen.

“If you are tired, you can leave now, Prince Chen!” the Emperor said.

Chu Liuchen opened his eyes, sat up, and replied in a gentle voice, “No, I am not tired, Uncle the Emperor! I am not busy, so I want to listen to it!”

His reply infuriated Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou so much. They might be tolerant of Chu Liuchen’s indifferent attitude, but they couldn’t stand that he even saw them as jokes. They were princes but not clowns, so how could he be so contemptuous of them?

However, he was Chu Liuchen, so they had no choice but to swallow their anger.

As was expected, after hearing Chu Liuchen’s words, the Emperor nodded and no longer paid attention to him. He didn’t even blame Chu Liuchen for his frivolous attitude in his words.

“Take a look at this!” the Emperor pointed at the memorial on the ground and said to Chu Liuyue angrily.

Chu Liuyue hastened to pick up the memorial and read it quickly. When he finished, he showed an angry and sad face. He looked up at Chu Liuzhou with deep sadness in his eyes and asked, “Second Brother, why... why do you think it has something to do with me? How... how could I...”

“Don’t you have anything to do with it?” the Emperor asked coldly.

“Father, I know nothing about it! How could I...” Chu Liuyue kowtowed to the Emperor and then raised his head with an extremely sad face.

Di Rufeng was so nervous that his lips trembled. He looked at Chu Liuyue in despair. He didn’t read the memorial, so he didn’t know what was on it. If the Emperor knew their crimes, he didn’t know what

would happen to Prince Yue, but he knew that none of his family would get away with it. It had been very generous if only the title was removed. They might be all sentenced to death!

"You don't know?" the Emperor said coldly and pointed at Di Rufeng, "If you have nothing to do with his thing, why did you ask your people to connect with him? Was it because he gave you money to spend?"

"Father, I really don't know why this person has contact with the supervisor of Duke Yong's Mansion. Although he is the supervisor of my mansion, he only works in the outer court. He used to be a scholar who failed the exam and didn't have the money to return home. I met him and appreciated his talent, so I employed him to be the supervisor of the outer court."

It was Supervisor Ji's matter that Chu Liuzhou's memorial was about. It claimed that some people witnessed that he, as a servant of Chu Liuyue, was sent to form gangs everywhere for the sake of spying on the masters of different mansions.

Supervisor Ji had a good relationship with not only Duke Yong but also a supervisor of Chu Liuzhou's Mansion. Of course, apart from the two mansions, he also had contact with Marquis Xing's Mansion! There was no denying that Supervisor Ji had a wide range of connections.

"Father, I didn't know about this in the beginning. But after Duke Yong's Mansion's event got about, my supervisor told me that the supervisor of Eldest Brother's mansion used to give him some money to show kindness. But he didn't say what he wanted! I felt it strange, so I sent someone to investigate him. I didn't expect to find out that Supervisor Ji also used to bribe Duke Yong with a large amount of money, and he did so more than once!" Chu Liuzhou said with anger.

Chu Liuzhou looked very angry. Anyone would show such a face when he was told that he had been set up by a brother in whom he had always believed. However, there had never been such a thing as mutual trust between Chu Liuzhou and Chu Liuyue. Even though they looked like brothers on the surface, they were eager to kill each other in secret. Therefore, the so-called betrayal didn't exist at all.

"Father, I really didn't know about it!" Chu Liuyue defended himself with the grievance.

"Father, I don't think a small supervisor can have so much money. Besides, he has given more than one sum of money!" Chu Liuzhou was furious. "Eldest Brother, if you want to know about me, you can just ask me directly. Why do you bother paying others to keep an eye on my mansion? No wonder you always knew what happened in my mansion before anyone else did!"

Chapter 918 Duke Yong Was Driven into a Dead End

"Father, I'm wronged! I didn't bribe anyone! I don't know where Supervisor Ji got the money. If you don't believe me, you can summon Supervisor Ji here, and I will confront him!" Chu Liuyue cried out his grievances in a tough voice.

The Emperor looked at his two sons with suspicion. One had the evidence—the supervisor of Prince Zhou's Mansion—to charge the other. But the witness was Prince Zhou's servant, which made him less convincing.

But Chu Liuzhou had physical evidence to prove that Duke Yong's Mansion made deals with Supervisor Ji twice with banknotes. Although the interval was long, the supervisor of the money house paid special attention to them because of the large sum of money.

According to the supervisor of the money house, Supervisor Ji of Prince Yue's Mansion deposited the money, and someone from Duke Yong's Mansion withdrew it.

Normally, the person who received such a large amount of money should have been invisible, but the accountant working in the money house was an astute man with a photographic memory. He specially paid more attention to the payer and payee at that time. When he saw the two people the next time, he realized that they were from different aristocratic families, one from Prince Yue's Mansion and the other Duke Yong's Mansion. The bank accountant was confused because he had been told that the two mansions had no connection.

All the information was collected by Chu Liuzhou. There were witnesses and physical evidence in his statement, so it was hard not to believe it.

"Why did you give money to Duke Yong's Mansion?" the Emperor snapped. How could he be unaware of the intrigue between his sons?

"Father, I swear I am wronged. I don't know anything!" How could Chu Liuyue admit it? At this time, he gritted his teeth and held on to himself.

Though Chu Liuyue was surprised that Chu Liuzhou could dig Supervisor Ji out, he was not afraid of it. After all, Supervisor Ji would lose his life before he showed up to testify against him if there was even the slightest incident.

"Bring him here!" the Emperor ordered the guard.

The guard took the order and left, but he came back soon with a message. When he went to find Supervisor Ji, the latter had hung himself in his room.

"Father, I'm really innocent. If Second Brother hadn't mentioned him, I wouldn't even have remembered such a person. How could I have given him such a large sum of money and ordered him to bribe other officials with it? Father, please trust me!" Chu Liuyue said.

In his words, he not only just defended himself but also implied that Chu Liuzhou framed him up. Chu Liuzhou couldn't know what he didn't know, unless the former told a lie.

Chu Liuzhou was furious and said, "Father, obviously Eldest Brother is the person behind the scenes. The evidence is conclusive! Please make a clear judgment!"

"Supervisor Ji is involved in the trouble, but now he is dead! Second Brother, why do you insist that I am the mastermind? What did I do to offend you?" Chu Liuyue looked sad and distressed.

"How dare you argue now?"

"I am not distorting the fact, Second Brother. You have two witnesses, one a servant of your mansion and the other of my mansion. But the one from my mansion is dead now. A dead man can't say anything, so you can say whatever you want! I believe that Father will find out the truth to prove my innocence!"

"What a good plan, Eldest Brother! You killed Supervisor Ji so that there is no witness to testify against you, didn't you?"

“Second Brother, I am really wronged. Is it appropriate for you to say that?”

The two of them started a verbal fight in the Imperial Study. Chu Liuzhou insisted that Chu Liuyue conspired against the Emperor by secretly bribing some officials with a financial relationship. While Chu Liuyue kept declaring his innocence and hinted that Chu Liuzhou was the one behind the scenes who had ulterior motives.

The Emperor was angrier and angrier when hearing their quarrel. He smashed the writing brushes on the desk to the two people.

The writing brushes were not heavy, but the black ink on them splashed on their faces, marking their handsome faces with several black lines.

But neither of them dared to wipe them away with hands. They fell to their knees and didn't dare to make a move.

“Duke Yong, tell me where you got the money. Why did the payer give you money? Since he gave you money, he must need your help.” The Emperor ignored his two sons and looked at Duke Yong.

The Emperor couldn't tell who was right or wrong for a moment, Chu Liuzhou or Chu Liuyue. But it was sure that Di Rufeng was involved in it. The Emperor slammed his hand on the desk and questioned, “Has Duke Yong's Mansion been at such a loss of money? You not only stole money from your sister and daughter-in-law, but also took money from the prince's mansion! What do you want to do?”

Di Rufeng had never thought that he would be linked to it again.

It was too surprising for him, as it was not what he had discussed with Chu Liuyue in Prince Yue's Mansion yesterday. He was indeed the one who had contact with Supervisor Ji, and the money he received was indeed given by Prince Yue in private. It was also a large amount of money.

Di Rufeng stole a glance at Chu Liuyue, only to see that he ignored him with his head lowered. Di Rufeng became anxious and annoyed.

“Di Rufeng, can't you talk without looking at Prince Yue?” The Emperor's voice became colder.

“Duke Yong, if you have something to say, you can tell Father. Just tell him the truth! I am not afraid of Father's investigation because I am innocent!” Chu Liuyue said aloud.

Di Rufeng was forced into a dead end. He, with his forehead full of drops of sweats, slowly closed his eyes and then opened them, clenched his teeth, and said, “Your Majesty, Supervisor Ji of Prince Yue's Mansion did give me some money!”

“What did he ask you to do?” the Emperor asked with a calm face.

“He didn't ask me to do anything for him. He just said that Prince Yue appreciated me. He heard that my mansion was in a financial strait, so he gave me some money. At that time, my mansion did have some money problems. And... and Prince Yue didn't ask for anything else, so I just accepted the money!” Di Rufeng said with a bitter face.

“Did Prince Yue tell you in person?” the Emperor asked again.

"How could I meet Prince Yue in the flesh? It was... it was Supervisor Ji who said so and gave me the money. He also mentioned that he was the supervisor of Prince Yue's Mansion. I watched him enter Prince Yue's Mansion. Later, I asked the people in Prince Yue's Mansion, and they all said that he was indeed the supervisor of Prince Yue's Mansion!" Di Rufeng said with his head lowered.

Since Supervisor Ji was confirmed to be implicated, he had to say so. Otherwise, he couldn't keep his own life. At this time, he had to declare his innocence to get rid of the danger.

"When you knew nothing but that he was the supervisor of Prince Yue's Mansion, how dare you accept the money he gave?" The Emperor sneered.

"Your... Your Majesty, I had no choice! Since I wasn't asked to do anything, I just took it as Prince Yue's pity for me! I have a disappointing son, who squandered money on drink and women and owed a lot of debts... When Supervisor Ji sent me the money, I was just in short of it. Otherwise, there would be a scandal in my mansion!" Di Rufeng covered his face and burst into tears.

"I only have one sister, and I have always doted on her! If I had not been in such a difficult situation, I would not have swallowed her dowries. How useless I am!" Di Rufeng became more and more excited. He pounded his chest hard with a regretful face.

The Emperor had known early that Duke Yong's son was a black sheep that shamed his family lots of times. "The heir of Duke Yong is not a promising man. He is just a useless playboy addicted to sensual pleasures!"

But it was hard for him to determine whether Chu Liuyue or Chu Liuzhou was telling the truth. He just looked at Di Rufeng, who was crying silently, with unpredictable eyes.

"Father, I swear I didn't give any money to Duke Yong! My mansion is not wealthy, and I am not rich enough to give others such an amount of money, though Mother gave me some allowances sometimes. If you don't believe me, Father, you can check the accounts in my mansion and see how much money I have!"

Chu Liuyue cried out his grievances again. Actually, the money he offered was not relevant to the business of Prince Yue's Mansion. Chu Liuyue earned it somewhere else.

Since he mentioned his mother Consort of Virtue, people naturally thought of the Empress.

Consort of Virtue, as one of the four consorts of the first rank, was the second most powerful woman in the harem. However, the Empress was on the top, always oppressing her. Therefore, when it came to supporting their sons, she certainly could not do it better and easier than the Empress.

According to this, the person behind Supervisor Ji was more likely to be Chu Liuzhou! After all, Chu Liuzhou had the Empress behind him, so he must be richer than Chu Liuyue!

Chu Liuzhou was infuriated. He said with his eyes wide open, "Chu Liuyue, don't falsely accuse me of doing what you committed!" His hatred for Chu Liuyue, for new and old wrongs, welled up in his heart with the memories flashing in his mind that they had battled against each other in public or secret and they had a physical fight in Marquis Xing's Mansion.

After that fight, they felt something wrong, but they had given vent to their anger and hatred. At least, they had punched each other on the bodies.

“Second Brother, we are in the Imperial Study. You can’t be presumptuous!” Compared with Chu Liuzhou, Chu Liuyue was much calmer. He even had the mood to remind Chu Liuzhou.

Suppressing his anger, Chu Liuzhou said to the Emperor, “Father, Chu Liuyue is ambitious. Obviously, he hooks up with some officials in secret. But he just came up with such excuses to deny his crime. Supervisor Ji worked for him and even has inquired about my information, so he must be Chu Liuyue’s henchman!”

“Father, I think someone wants to frame me up in this matter. Please uphold justice for me!” Chu Liuyue also said to the Emperor.

His two sons started another quarrel, and neither of them gave his way to the other. The Emperor became furious and the blue veins on his forehead stood out. “Someone comes and takes them out of the hall! You two kneel outside and reflect yourselves! You can’t come back until you think it clearly!”

A eunuch showed up and caught them, so they had to stand up and leave together after casting a fierce glance at each other. When they walked out of the door, they knelt side by side outside the Imperial Study.

“Duke Yong, if you don’t tell the truth, I don’t know what will happen to my Eldest Brother and Second Brother, but I am quite sure what will happen to you!” Chu Liuchen looked at Di Rufeng with gentle eyes and said with an elegant smile...

Chapter 919 The Heir of Duke Yong Lost His Title

But Di Rufeng was frightened of Chu Liuchen’s smile, which looked like a sharp cold blade in his eyes. Moreover, Prince Yue, the only person who could support him, was not with him here.

“Are you waiting for someone to come to save you? So you still want to struggle for a while, Duke Yong?” Chu Liuchen said slowly, calm and unhurried.

“I don’t know what you mean, Your Highness!” Di Rufeng gritted his teeth. He didn’t believe that Prince Chen could manage to make him tell the truth.

Chu Liuchen took out a handkerchief to clean his slender fingers, raised his head, and said without a trace of anger, “So you admit your son’s incompetence and your wife’s dishonesty and that you have received other people’s bribes with ulterior motives?”

“Your Highness...”

“Uncle the Emperor, since Duke Yong has admitted his guilt, let’s punish him!” Chu Liuchen looked at the Emperor and said with a smile.

His gentle and handsome smile could comfort people’s hearts. The Emperor had been angry, but now he was calm. He thought for a second and nodded.

“Your Majesty, Your Majesty, I didn’t say anything! Your Majesty, I didn’t admit my guilt! I don’t understand what I have done?” Di Rufeng panicked and hastened to explain himself.

"Duke Yong, I just gave you the chance to explain, but you didn't cherish it!" Chu Liuchen still kept smiling gently, but the smile was evil and cold in Di Rufeng's eyes.

"Transmit an imperial edict. Strip the title of the Heir of Duke Yong! Deprive his family of hereditary peerages from now on!" the Emperor said with no expression on his face.

"Your, Your Majesty..." Duke Yong was shocked a lot. His face was frozen, his body trembling, and he nearly lost consciousness and fainted.

It was because their ancestors had spared no pains that an aristocratic family could wear such a title, not to mention that it was a hereditary title that was even more precious! Now Di Yan's title of heir of a duke was stripped, which meant that the title of Duke Yong would disappear. Though Di Rufeng still had the title, his descendants would become ordinary people once he died.

Only to take the imperial examination could they stage a comeback.

However, Di Yan couldn't pass the imperial exam.

"Since he is the cause of everything, we punish him. His Majesty considered that both you and your wife committed the crime for your son, so he just punished your son. Thank him for his kindness!" Chu Liuchen said slowly.

"Thank, thank you for your mercy, Your Majesty!" Di Rufeng kowtowed with tears in his eyes.

"You may leave!" the Emperor waved his hand and said impatiently. The whole thing caused by Di Rufeng involved his two sons, for whom he held high hopes. No wonder the Emperor was annoyed with Di Rufeng.

"Yes, Your Majesty!" Di Rufeng answered and left. He staggered to the door, where he suddenly felt dizzy under the bright sun. Everything around was spinning in his eyes, including the two princes kneeling outside.

"Duke Yong, Duke Yong!" The young eunuch outside the door found that something wrong was with Di Rufeng, so he hurriedly reached out to help.

Di Rufeng held the young eunuch's hand and steadied his body. He closed his eyes and then slowly opened them. He thought with his eyes wet, "I lost the title of nobility passed down by our ancestors. How should I face them?"

How he wished that he was the one who lost the title instead of his son, so his son could take over it! He didn't want his son to take the responsibility. He had thought that the Emperor merely regarded Di Yan as a useless playboy from an aristocratic family and would never vent his anger on Di Yan. Unexpectedly, the Emperor even removed the peerage of Duke Yong's Mansion!

"If I knew it, I would have been an honest declined Duke Yong at the beginning. At least, I could have kept the title and dignity."

"Duke Yong, how are you?" The young eunuch's voice vaguely came in Di Rufeng's ears. It took him a lot of effort to hear it clearly. He shook his shoulders slightly to get rid of the eunuch's support and staggered to the harem.

He couldn't leave now. He had to meet Zhaoyi Di and ask her to plead with the Emperor. He couldn't give up the position of the heir of the duke.

When Di Yufeng passed by the two princes, Chu Liuyue called him in a low voice, "Duke Yong?" However, at this time, Di Rufeng's mind was fully occupied with his son's title, so he even ignored his master.

"Duke Yong seemed to be severely punished by Father, Eldest Brother. He can't help you anymore!" Chu Liuzhou sneered.

"Second Brother, Duke Yong might be framed up by others too. Who just got Duke Yong's Mansion involved while he was smearing my reputation?" Chu Liuyue stayed calm because he was afraid that Chu Liuzhou would make trouble with him again.

He was not afraid of what Chu Liuzhou would say but that he would make up some nonsense again.

Chu Liuyue slowly looked down and clenched his fists under the sleeves. "Could it be that the Chu Liuzhou has infiltrated his people into my places? Otherwise, how could he know so much?"

It seemed that he had to clean up his mansion after going back. "I thought I have cleaned all the spies out. Is there any more?"

It was quiet in the Imperial Study. The Emperor was frowning with a gloomy face.

Chu Liuchen stood up and said goodbye to the Emperor.

"Don't leave yet! Help me analyze this matter!" The Emperor reached out to stop him.

"Uncle the Emperor, it's not convenient for me to intervene in it!" Chu Liuchen said with a wry smile.

"I trust you!" The Emperor waved his hand and cut in on him. "It is very likely that both of them are relevant to it. It is really shameful for the royal family to end up like this!"

"Do you mean to smooth it out, Uncle the Emperor?" Chu Liuchen asked casually. He had expected such a result early.

Seeing that his nephew was not interested in anything, the Emperor couldn't help sighing in his heart. He really trusted Chu Liuchen. In the past, Chu Liuchen was in poor health, so the Emperor couldn't bear to tire him out. The imperial physician said his health was much better now, so the Emperor asked him a few more questions.

"What will happen if we go on the investigation on it?" the Emperor asked with a solemn face.

"It's hard to say, Uncle the Emperor!" Chu Liuchen said helplessly with a mysterious smile on his handsome face.

The Emperor understood what he meant. In fact, he had the same scruples. He had not yet decided who would be the crown prince. Before it was settled, Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou were both suitable successors to the throne in the Emperor's heart. There were not many princes the Emperor was fond of. He only thought highly of four princes including Chu Liuchen, so each of them was precious.

If the four of them didn't kill each other, the Emperor wouldn't end their lives at will.

At this moment, both Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou seemed to be relevant to this bewildering case. The more details they found, the more difficult it would be to deal with it in the future. In fact, nothing serious had happened to the royal family by now. The involved Duke Yong had been punished for the trouble made by his family, so they could push all the blame on his wife and daughter-in-law. Then the royal family would get rid of it.

"Tell me your opinion! I will forgive you!"

"Uncle the Emperor, why not just let it go? After all, we can't let other people gossip about us anymore, especially those outside the Palace! Because of the previous incident involving First Miss of Marquis Xing's Mansion and wedding banquet held in her parent's home before, Eldest Brother and Second Brother have been suffering lots of controversies!" Chu Liuchen said implicitly.

Originally, it was a private secret that the two princes were at odds with each other, but now it was well known to everyone.

The Emperor nodded repeatedly. He became unhappy when he remembered Marquis Xing, Shao Jing. "Marquis Xing's Mansion is also getting worse and worse generation by generation. The former Duke Xing and the former Heir of Duke Xing were great heroes. How could the family end up like this? Of course, his daughter was not a good woman either."

"Let's put all the blame on the heir of Duke Yong! We can claim that according to Duke Yong's confession, it was due to their disappointing son Di Yan that his mother and her daughter-in-law fought for money in the mansion. So it was reasonable to deprive him of the title. After all, his parents have taken up others' dowries for such a long time. No one has ever expected that a young master from a good aristocratic family could be so useless," Chu Liuchen analyzed lazily.

The Emperor nodded and felt it reasonable.

"As for how to punish Eldest Brother and Second Brother, it's up to you, Uncle the Emperor! But they are somehow Imperial Grandmother's grandsons. She must be distressed if they are punished too heavily!" Chu Liuchen said, seeming to hint the Emperor to punish the two princes in a relatively gentle way.

His suggestion was exactly what the Emperor wanted! The Emperor was indifferent toward the punishment on Duke Yong, but he struggled a lot when it came to that on the two princes. After all, they were his sons and might be the future crown prince of the Eastern Palace.

"If I don't teach the two evil creatures a lesson, they will think that I can't do anything to them!" the Emperor said angrily. He was in a fury in his heart! He had thought that his eldest son was relatively staid, but it turned out that the eldest son was even not as reassuring as the third one in front of him. Moreover, Prince Chen never formed cliques, for which the Emperor rested assured and thought of him as a considerate person.

"Uncle the Emperor, Imperial Grandmother will be distressed!" Chu Liuchen said.

"I know. Go and visit your Imperial Grandmother now. Don't tell her about the two evil creatures!" the Emperor waved his hand and said.

When hearing that Empress Dowager would be worried about them, the Emperor did feel that he could not punish them too severely. But after Chu Liuchen finished his words, he started to feel that his sons had been spoiled by their elders, especially by their grandmother, who would dote more on her grandchildren than their parents did. "Could the two evil spirits make use of this?"

Thinking of it, the Emperor was immediately infuriated. "I don't believe I will fail again to get the two evil creatures educated!"

As the Emperor had made up his mind, Chu Liuchen said goodbye to him. Eunuch Derong saw off Chu Liuchen to the door. When he was about to leave, Xiao Xuanzi rushed over in a hurry.

"Your Highness, Your Highness, please go home now! The imperial physician is waiting for you in the mansion, preparing to treat you by acupuncture!"

"Okay, I am going!" Chu Liuchen nodded lazily and then said to Derong with a smile, "Eunuch Derong, please inform Imperial Grandmother that I'm going back to the mansion now. I'll go to visit her after the acupuncture treatment is done!"

"Yes, Your Highness! I'll send someone to inform Empress Dowager immediately!" Eunuch Derong responded with a smile.

Chu Liuchen saluted him and left with Xiao Xuanzi. When he met Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou, he passed by them without casting a glance at them.

Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou knelt there and did not dare to vent their anger on Chu Liuchen, because they were well aware of Chu Liuchen's temper. He was a cold person who never got close to others! They never felt puzzled, unless he stopped to greet them just now...

Chapter 920 The Punishment Is Over Now

The imperial physician had indeed been waiting in Prince Chen's Mansion for a long time! He took the exclusive shortcut linking the Palace to Prince Chen's Mansion, and Chu Liuchen went back home through the same shortcut.

The imperial physician first felt Chu Liuchen's pulse, and then he took out needles to treat Chu Liuchen by acupuncture as usual.

Shao Wanru stayed by Chu Liuchen's side. She watched with a serious face the imperial physician stab Chu Liuchen with the needles and slowly remove them.

It was very quiet in the room. Only the sound of the needles being put into the cover could be heard when the physician changed the needles.

Shao Wanru held Chu Liuchen's hand tightly, but she paid all her attention to the imperial physician.

The imperial physician was under a lot of pressure when Princess Chen was next to him. "She pays too much attention to the treatment!"

Time passed much slower than usual because of the serious atmosphere.

The imperial physician performed a set of acupuncture, his forehead covered with sweats. Shao Wanru's stare did panic him!

Only after performing the last needle did the imperial physician wipe his forehead with a handkerchief! He said to Chu Liuchen with a smile, "Your Highness, you look well. You are in good condition now!"

"Any more acupuncture treatments?" Shao Wanru asked with a restrained expression.

"Well... It's better to keep the treatment. It is a long-standing disease anyway," the imperial physician put the handkerchief into his pocket and said.

"Can't it be completely cured?" Shao Wanru asked again with her eyes as deep as flowing water.

"His Highness is in good health now, but he has carried the fetus poison for so many years! So he needs to preserve his health, though the fetus poison has been cleared," the imperial physician answered calmly with a serious face.

What he said did make sense.

Chu Liuchen's health could not be dealt with in a short time, so he needed to take time to receive treatments. Even if he had recovered now, he still needed to be more cautious than others.

"Imperial Physician, do you think His Highness needs to consolidate his health with medicines?" Shao Wanru asked again. She was very concerned about Chu Liuchen's health.

"No, it's unnecessary. What's more, Doctor Jue is in your mansion, so you don't need other doctors' prescriptions anymore. Otherwise, they might give a prescription in conflict with Doctor Jue's. Of course, if you insist on having one, it's better to refer to the previous prescription first!" the imperial physician said amiably.

Then he bowed to Shao Wanru and Chu Liuchen and said, "Your Highness, I'll leave now!"

Chu Liuchen waved his hand, and the imperial physician left.

"Have you really recovered?" Shao Wanru asked with concern after the imperial physician left.

Chu Liuchen put his wrist in Shao Wanru's hand. With a naughty smile, he signaled to her to feel his pulse.

Shao Wanru was very worried about Chu Liuchen's health condition. The imperial physician's explanations sounded flawless, but she believed in her own diagnosis more, especially after Chu Liuchen had just been treated with needles.

Shao Wanru once felt Chu Liuchen's pulse before. Now she could sense his pulse seemed to be more energetic. It was a good situation!

However, Shao Wanru didn't show a happy smile on her face. She looked at the door and found that the imperial physician had been away. Nowhere could he be found now.

She felt a little confused.

"Is there any problem?" Chu Liuchen led Shao Wanru to sit on the bed. He waved his wide sleeves, looking unrestrained.

"Your Highness, since you have recovered, why aren't you the same as you were before being treated with needles? Does it mean that you were not in your best health before?" Shao Wanru couldn't help asking with a frown after hearing Chu Liuchen's question.

She had observed Chu Liuchen's condition and thought he had always been very good, but the pulse she felt now made her draw a different conclusion from what she had thought before.

"You find it out?" Chu Liuchen looked at Shao Wanru with a faint smile. He held Shao Wanru's hand and gently rubbed it. Suddenly he used some strength, and Shao Wanru felt pains and cried out in a low voice. Her eyes lit up and she immediately understood. "Your Highness, is it your plan?"

"I have been sick for so many years! How can I be cured so easily? I have to be weak again! If I recover now, it is such a waste of others' plots!" Chu Liuchen laughed.

"Is it because Prince Yue and Prince Zhou have been keeping an eye on you?" Shao Wanru finally figured it out. She looked quite surprised with her watery eyes wide open.

Chu Liuchen was amused by her lovely expression. He let go of Shao Wanru's hand and reached out to hold Shao Wanru into his arms. Instantly, he felt satisfied in his heart with her soft and fragrant body.

"The two of them have been straining their efforts for the information about my health. Until now, they still can't believe that I am getting better. Since then, why not make them more suspicious? I asked Qi Jue to prescribe some medicines, which will make my pulse feel different before and after the acupuncture treatment. Anyway, the imperial physician will compare them, but sometimes they won't," Chu Liuchen said lazily.

"Will they... even question the imperial physician about you?" Shao Wanru took a deep breath and immediately understood what Chu Liuchen meant. But that imperial physician was the trusted subordinate of Empress Dowager and the Emperor!

"The Empress and Consort of Virtue have been in the palace for so many years, so they have a lot of people working for them," Chu Liuchen smiled and said meaningfully.

Shao Wanru understood what he meant. She nodded and leaned against his chest obediently.

"Master, here comes another person from the Palace!" Xiao Xuanzi reported outside the door.

Shao Wanru wanted to sit up, but she was stopped by Chu Liuchen. She heard the word "another" clearly but didn't know what it meant. She had been in the room all the time, but she had never seen Xiao Xuanzi come to report! Actually, Chu Liuchen had predicted it early, so he had instructed Xiao Xuanzi before.

"How many people have ever come by now?" Chu Liuchen asked lazily.

"It's been the third one!" Xiao Xuanzi said, "The first one was sent by Consort of Virtue and the second by the Empress. Now the third one is sent by both of them. When the last two people came, I told them that you were acupunctured and couldn't enter the Palace. But now the imperial physician has left for the Palace."

"Then I'll have to go to the Palace now!" Chu Liuchen said.

"I will go to prepare for it!" Xiao Xuanzi understood and left to get ready for his master's entering the Palace.

"Are you going to the Palace now?" Shao Wanru stood up with Chu Liuchen.

"Yes! The two princes were punished by flogging, so Consort of Virtue and the Empress wanted to turn to me. But I couldn't leave just now. I think the punishment is over now!" Chu Liuchen said slowly.

Shao Wanru suddenly burst out laughing, with her watery eyes becoming more and more charming. She understood Chu Liuchen's words. He did it on purpose! He pretended to be busy and couldn't go and persuade the Emperor in a short time, so the two princes suffered a full punishment.

After all, it was known that acupuncture treatment was so important to his health that no one could blame him for not pleading for mercy from the Emperor for his two brothers when he was receiving acupuncture.

"Since the Empress and Consort of Virtue are in such a hurry, why don't they plead with the Emperor themselves?" Shao Wanru asked with a smile.

"Of course they do! They should still be at Uncle the Emperor's now. But it didn't work!" Chu Liuchen raised his handsome eyebrows with an enchanting smile. His eyes were not as gentle as before but were full of evil coldness.

Only at this moment would the Empress and Consort of Virtue think of the importance of him and turn to him for help!

"You've just finished the acupuncture, and you are not in excellent health. You don't have to go!" Shao Wanru thought for a moment and said.

"Of course, I can choose not to go! But since they are longing for my arrival, I'll just go and have fun," Chu Liuchen said lazily, with his eyes softened. "You must be tired now. Go and have a rest! I'll be back soon!"

Since he had made up his mind to enter the Palace, Shao Wanru nodded and held his hand. "Be careful yourself!"

She knew it was just a redundant warning. "He is clever and scheming! How can he be tricked by others?" However, those words just blurted out, with concern in her watery eyes.

Chu Liuchen smiled, with elegance and joyfulness. Anyone could tell that now he was happy from the bottom of his heart!

"Don't worry. I'll be back soon. Have a rest!"

Xiao Xuanzi had already prepared a wheelchair at the gate of the courtyard. Chu Liuchen sat on the wheelchair, and Xiao Xuanzi slowly pushed him to the Palace through the side door.

Two noble ladies were kneeling in front of the Imperial Study. The one in front was the Empress, and Consort of Virtue was a step behind her.

They looked miserable kneeling there. Not far behind them knelt Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou, who were struggling.

The two princes were not in good condition. They had just suffered the flogging punishment, and now they were struggling not to faint. They glared at each other, wishing to see the other fall down first.

"Your Highness, this way, please!" A eunuch led Chu Liuchen in. The wheelchair stopped under the roof of Imperial Study, and Chu Liuchen stood up and walked into it.

No one stopped when passing by Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou. They passed by Consort of Virtue and finally stopped beside the Empress. Chu Liuchen greeted her, "Your Majesty!"

"Prince Chen, please intercede for Prince Yue and Prince Zhou! Now the Emperor should have vented out his anger. I hope the Emperor can let them go, considering that they are implicated by Duke Yong's Mansion's disaster!" the Empress looked up and said to Chu Liuchen.

Even though she looked very awkward at this time, the Empress still kept a calm face.

"Uncle the Emperor should know what to do!" Chu Liuchen said lightly and then walked to the Imperial Study.

The Empress darkened her face, with a trace of cold light in her eyes. She had no choice. Otherwise, she would not have asked Chu Liuchen to plead for her son.

She wished in her heart that Chu Liuyue had been beaten to death, but she had to maintain her demeanor of a motherly model in front of others.

But such a demeanor was humiliated by Chu Liuchen. "I have lowered my head to him, but he didn't even give a promise!" How could she not be angry?

But she understood in her heart that Chu Liuchen had always kept an arrogant attitude, telling everyone that he was a noble young master high above. She could only clench her teeth secretly!

"I have to stand it! What can't I stand? One day, I will trample everyone under my feet..."