

## Medical Princess 931

### Chapter 931 Protection and Extension of Love

At present, the Empress Dowager's attitude was very important. Chu Qing knew that he was not favored by the Emperor. It would be best if he could gain favor from the Empress Dowager first.

The Emperor might not value the Former Emperor that much!

But the Empress Dowager valued the Former Emperor very much. After all, he was her eldest son and an outstanding one. The Empress Dowager would obviously think highly of his children.

Chu Qing had always been holding grudges against the Empress Dowager's favor over Chu Liuchen. If he could also win the Empress Dowager's favor, the Emperor would definitely treat him differently, and he could realize his aspirations. But at present, the Emperor had always been indifferent to him. His identity and status had alienated the officials.

In addition, without the Emperor's favor, Chu Qing had to go on a path that was more difficult than he had imagined.

And now there was an opportunity to show that the Empress Dowager made the decision for him and cared about him. Even if it was just a small matter, it would gradually change the officials' views of him.

He stood up, knelt in front of the Empress Dowager, and said, "Empress Dowager, please make the decision for me!"

He let the Empress Dowager take charge of his marriage without reservation, as if he would listen to whatever she said.

This showed his full trust.

The Empress Dowager kept silent for a while, and then said slowly, "No matter what the Marquis Xing's Mansion has in mind, it should be done as planned!"

"I understand!" Chu Qing said respectfully, completely obeying the Empress Dowager's words.

Seeing that he was so respectful, the Empress Dowager sighed and said, "Get up first. In the future, you can also call me Imperial Grandmother like other princes!"

"Yes..." Chu Qing's eyes turned red with excitement. He turned his head in case the Empress Dowager would see his excitement. He hurriedly wiped a tear and said, "Thank you, Imperial Grandmother!"

This was the first time he called the Empress Dowager "Imperial Grandmother" in front of her. This meant that she recognized him.

After Chu Qing sat down, the Empress Dowager asked, "Since this matter has been settled, you should make a proposal. What about the family that you have engaged with before?"

"We have been engaged very early and that family is not a powerful one. We were just holding the past commitment," Chu Qing said gently.

The Empress Dowager got more and more satisfied with his attitude. "How is the preparation for the wedding going?"

The Empress Dowager had never asked about it before.

"We're choosing the date. When the date is chosen, we will let Imperial Grandmother know," he said.

"That's good. A concubine is different from a legal wife. The concubine could only marry into the family after the legal wife marries into the family. You can send the betrothal gifts to Marquis Xing's Mansion first. She is just a concubine, so you can be casual. Besides, Marquis Xing's Mansion should thank you for this matter..." the Empress Dowager said meaningfully.

Shao Wanru glanced at Chu Qing calmly and saw that there were still traces of tears in the corners of his eyes. He looked at the Empress Dowager with the kindest eyes. Anyone would believe that this grandson was deeply devoted to his grandmother and would agree to whatever his grandmother said. He was a very filial child.

Sure enough, Chu Qing acted exactly as what Shao Wanru had imagined. He nodded repeatedly like a normal grandson in front of his grandmother and said, "Yes, Imperial Grandmother! You are right. I will listen to you!"

They seemed to be close to each other. Although their relationship couldn't compare with that between the Empress Dowager and Chu Liuchen in the past, they were definitely close!

As for who to engage with, Old Madam of Marquis Xing's Mansion still hoped that Shao Wanru would volunteer to nominate Shao Caihuan. But Shao Wanru didn't think it was a good thing.

Although Shao Caihuan had intended to hurt her, she was just going with the flow. In the current situation, it seemed that Shao Caihuan had indeed given up on Chu Liuchen. But even in this case, Shao Wanru was unwilling to give her a hand.

Chu Qing was definitely not a good match for Shao Caihuan. That nominal Second Uncle wanted to marry Shao Caihuan to a better man, Shao Wanru would not let them succeed.

The Empress Dowager made a decision for Chu Qing, so this matter was set in stone. No matter how hard Old Madam and Shao Jing tried, they could not change this matter.

She wanted to see who else would come on board at this time. Would that be Prince Cheng or someone else?

After the Empress Dowager talked with Chu Qing for a while, she sent him out and specially asked Shao Wanru to stay.

After Chu Qing left, the palace maids served tea again. The Empress Dowager held the teacup and fell silent. She looked at the tea in the cup thoughtfully and frowned slightly.

Shao Wanru sat quietly aside and waited for the Empress Dowager to speak.

After a long time, the Empress Dowager asked, "How is Chen'er now?"

"Empress Dowager, Prince Chen is much better now. He is fine!" Shao Wanru answered in a soft voice. Her attitude was very gentle, decent, and calm.

"Chen'er has always been in poor health. Although he is getting better now, you must be careful. He has always been willful and doesn't pay attention to his own health usually. Now you have married into Prince Chen's Mansion, you should pay more attention to his health and care about him. Don't be reckless!" The Empress Dowager looked up at Shao Wanru and said.

As she looked at Shao Wanru's beautiful face, her eyes involuntarily darkened. Her beauty might not be a good thing, but since Chen'er liked her, she certainly had to protect her.

The Empress Dowager said, "I have long known that you are the granddaughter of Rui'an Great Elder Princess and the fourth legitimate daughter of Marquis Xing. Even though your father used to be the heir of the former Duke Xing, he is nobody now. But now you have a new identity. You are Princess Chen and have a close relationship with Prince Chen. As long as Prince Chen is fine, you will be fine!"

"I understand. I will definitely take good care of Prince Chen and won't get him involved in the affairs of Marquis Xing's Mansion!" Shao Wanru answered without hesitation in a soft but firm voice. She stared at the Empress Dowager with her watery eyes. They were amazingly beautiful and convincing.

"You were not so close to Marquis Xing's Mansion, which was not a good thing for you in the past. But in the future, you should keep an eye on matters concerning Marquis Xing's Mansion, and don't get Prince Chen's Mansion involved in it. Chen'er is in poor health, so he can't be too worried!" A smile appeared on the Empress Dowager's face, and her expression became gentle.

"She is different," the Empress Dowager thought to herself, "although all the Princesses are beautiful, it is obvious that she is more responsible. There are many weak women in the imperial family, especially those who have no opinions at all. It is not a good thing to be overly obedient, especially when the woman is supposed to be a legal wife."

Her worries about Shao Wanru's beauty gradually fade away. "At least such a thing would not happen to Chen'er!" The Empress Dowager thought to herself.

"Imperial Grandmother, don't worry. You know that although I had come from Marquis Xing's Mansion, I'm closer to my maternal grandmother. She truly cares about me." Shao Wanru lowered her head, with tears in her sorrowful eyes.

The Empress Dowager had heard about the hatred between Marquis Xing's Mansion and Shao Wanru several times. How could she not know it? She disliked the stupidity of the Old Madam of Marquis Xing's Mansion.

In terms of bloodline, Shao Wanru was indeed the noblest one.

However, Old Madam of Marquis Xing's Mansion attached more importance to the second branch. In the past, the Empress Dowager could not intervene in this kind of thing. After all, these were internal affairs of Marquis Xing's Mansion. No matter how powerful the Empress Dowager was, she had to be unbiased, and she could not be partial to Shao Wanru because of Rui'an Great Elder Princess. But the situation was different now.

With Shao Wanru's current identity, people knew she was nobler than anyone in Marquis Xing's Mansion now.

Marquis Xing's Mansion's position had begun to decline. The Empress Dowager didn't want Shao Wanru to be dragged down by Marquis Xing's Mansion. At present, it was best for Shao Wanru to stay away from Marquis Xing's Mansion.

"Your second sister will marry into Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion in the future, but she is just a concubine, which is different from you. You are a legal wife!" The Empress Dowager reminded Shao Wanru again.

"Imperial Grandmother, I understand. In the husbands' family, only the legal wives can be sisters. As for the concubine..." Shao Wanru paused and then added with a smile, "As for the concubine and the legal wife, of course, they can't be sisters. The concubine should behave like a concubine!"

Before marrying into Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion, Shao Jie'er had already pissed the Empress Dowager off, which was to the delight of Shao Wanru.

Shao Jie'er had never known her place, neither was that nominal Second Uncle. Shao Wanru wanted to know what they would do when they found that Chu Qing insisted on marrying Shao Jie'er. Shao Wanru was really looking forward to it.

The Empress Dowager increasingly felt that Shao Wanru was smart. She had thought that she would have to spend more effort to teach Shao Wanru how to behave. Unexpectedly, Shao Wanru could draw inferences about other cases from one instance. She smiled more and nodded repeatedly while looking at Shao Wanru. Although she lacked the support of Marquis Xing's Mansion and was therefore not so resourceful, she was chosen by Chen'er himself after all. Moreover, she was smart, and that could compensate a lot.

"It's good that you think so. If you need anything in the future, you can come to me. Prince Chen is going to the border in a while. You should pack the luggage for him and make sure he lives comfortably when he is away from home. As for you, after Chen'er leaves, you can come to the palace and spend some time with me if you have time!" The Empress Dowager was satisfied, so she naturally intended to protect Shao Wanru.

"Thank you, Imperial Grandmother!" Shao Wanru said with a big smile. She stood up and bowed deeply to the Empress Dowager again with gratitude on her face. She was really moved. The Empress Dowager reminded her of Old Madam Qin. It felt so good when someone paid attention to her and wanted to protect her.

Different from Chu Qing's affectation, the admiration in Shao Wanru's eyes was more obvious and sincere. Although Shao Wanru didn't cry and had a slight decent smile on her face, the Empress Dowager felt that she really felt close to her.

"She is also a poor child." The Empress Dowager couldn't help but think so...

### **Chapter 932 Obey the Order to Fight**

Shao Wanru was more and more favored by the Empress Dowager. She could not only understand her hints but also cooperate with her. Most importantly, she was sincere.

The Empress Dowager had been flattered by many people. She had been the Empress Dowager for so many years and had always been superior from the previous dynasty to the present. Although there was the Empress in the harem, the power in the harem had always been in the hands of the Empress Dowager. Even if she was not in charge of things, the imperial concubines would come to ingratiate themselves with her.

If the Empress Dowager was willing to meet people, the Palace of Benevolent Peace would always be crowded.

The imperial concubines in the harem had different characteristics. Some were beautiful, intelligent, clever, or eloquent, others were delicate or charming. But in the Empress Dowager's mind, they were all the same. They were all ingratiating themselves with her so that they could have better access to the Emperor.

However, she had a different feeling towards Shao Wanru. Shao Wanru was virtuous. Although part of this feeling was because of Chu Liuchen, the Empress Dowager genuinely felt that Shao Wanru was close to her. It was the kind of closeness that juniors had towards their elders.

This had nothing to do with personal interest.

"Your maternal grandma will arrive soon. Don't go back now. Sit down and listen to what we are going to talk about!" The Empress Dowager said with a smile.

"What is my maternal grandma doing here?" Shao Wanru was certainly happy to see Rui'an Great Elder Princess, but she was still very surprised that she would come to the palace at this time.

Judging from the Empress Dowager's words, she should have specially summoned her maternal grandma to the palace.

"Guess why?" The Empress Dowager asked in a good mood.

Shao Wanru's lips curved in a smile as she said, "Is it about Commandery Prince Qing?"

What had happened before was about Commandery Prince Qing. The Empress Dowager should have summoned her and her maternal grandma at the same time. She arrived a little earlier through the side door, while her grandma arrived a little late through the main door as she had taken a detour.

"Why would I summon your maternal grandma because of Commandery Prince Qing? He has nothing to do with your maternal grandma." The Empress Dowager didn't expect Shao Wanru to be so smart. She became more interested in her and deliberately asked this question.

"Imperial Grandmother invited my maternal grandma here because of Old Madam?" Shao Wanru asked tentatively with a smile in her watery eyes, looking like a cunning child.

"You are so clever!" The Empress Dowager reached out her finger, knocked on Shao Wanru's forehead gently, and said to her with a smile.

Shao Wanru rubbed her forehead gently and said with a little grievance, "Imperial Grandmother, I guessed right. But instead of rewarding me, you punished me. It's so unfair!"

When the Empress Dowager talked to her in a pleasant manner, Shao Wanru had already regarded her as Old Madam Qin in her heart. So she said those affectionate words naturally, as if she was her real granddaughter, which made the Empress Dowager burst into laughter.

“She is a really adorable child.

“However, she is also a poor child. Her biological parents couldn’t take care of her, and her grandmother didn’t treat her as a descendant at all. Seeing that I was kind to her, she proactively got close to me. She is both smart and piteous. What was Old Madam of Marquis Xing’s Mansion thinking? She didn’t care about such a good granddaughter but cared about those shameless people instead.

“Not only is Old Madam shortsighted, but she is also too coldhearted,” The Empress Dowager thought to herself.

“Empress Dowager, Rui’an Great Elder Princess has arrived!” A eunuch came in and reported.

“Let her in!” The Empress Dowager raised her hand and said.

After a while, the eunuch ushered Rui’an Great Elder Princess in. Seeing Shao Wanru, the Great Elder Princess was also very surprised. She bowed to the Empress Dowager and then sat down.

Shao Wanru hurriedly got up and bowed to Rui’an Great Elder Princess.

“Let’s sit down together!” The Great Elder Princess reached out to take Shao Wanru’s hand and sat down with her.

Shao Wanru had only been married for a few days, so she hadn’t visited the Great Elder Princess yet. She had to stay in her husband’s house most of the time, except when she went back to her parents’ house.

Shao Wanru had originally decided to visit the Great Elder Princess’s Mansion in a few days. Unexpectedly, she met her in the Palace of Benevolent Peace, which made her both surprised and happy.

With the Great Elder Princess taking her hand, she smiled gently, looking a little like a girl spending time with her elders.

She would only show such a charming manner in front of the elders who really loved her.

She had always been delicate, but she used to look cold and distant, which made her look composed at such a young age, lacking the young girl’s unique pettishness and charm.

But now she had shown that part. She looked like an ordinary girl, which made people love her tenderly from their hearts.

“Is everything alright with you and Prince Chen these days?” With the Empress Dowager present, the Great Elder Princess couldn’t play straight, so she could only ask Shao Wanru implicitly. However, her question was unnecessary. Chu Liuchen promised her that he would never hurt Zhuozhuo or make her live as a widow at such a young age. At her question, Shao Wanru’s face turned red instantly. The shyness on her face all showed that she was living a good life.

The Great Elder Princess felt relieved.

“Grandma, we are fine!” Shao Wanru blushed and lowered her head. Being stared at by the two elders with burning eyes, she felt that she could not bear it. After all, she was not as cheeky as Chu Liuchen.

“It’s good that you two are fine. I heard that you went to Marquis Xing’s Mansion again today. What were you doing there? You are now married, so you can live a good life with Prince Chen from now on. The affairs of Marquis Xing’s Mansion have nothing to do with you. They didn’t treat you as a family in the past, so you don’t have to care about them. They have treated you badly before, how dare they have the nerves to ask you for help!?” The Great Elder Princess sneered and said rudely.

She really hated the people from Marquis Xing’s Mansion. Starting with Old Madam of Marquis Xing’s Mansion, she disliked every one of them. Of course, her grandson and granddaughter were different from those people.

“Grandma, it’s about Commandery Prince Qing!” Shao Wanru said implicitly. Since the Empress Dowager had asked her maternal grandma to come over, she must have something to say. She could not become the center of attention.

“Empress Dowager, why did you summon me here? Is it because of Marquis Xing’s Mansion?” Rui’an Great Elder Princess nodded and turned to the Empress Dowager. The eunuch who read the imperial edict had told her that it was because Commandery Prince Qing went to Marquis Xing’s Mansion, but she didn’t know the specific details.

“Great Elder Princess, Wanru is now the legal wife of Chen’er. Marquis Xing’s Mansion should not always ask for help from Wanru. It’s inconvenient for me to say it, but it’s convenient for you to do so!” The Empress Dowager didn’t intend to be reserved and said straight.

She didn’t want Shao Wanru to be involved in the affairs of Marquis Xing’s Mansion and got Chu Liuchen involved at that time.

The Emperor increasingly disliked Marquis Xing Shao Jing. He even got angry the other day at her palace and called Shao Jing a villain.

If the next generation of Marquis Xing’s Mansion was good-for-nothing, Marquis Xing’s Mansion would be deposed. The Emperor disliked Marquis Xing’s Mansion very much now.

First, it was Shao Yanru, and then it was Shao Hua’an’s wedding. The Emperor was satisfied with all these things, and they were Shao Jing’s children. It was said that they had the best reputations before.

Of course, Shao Jing’s wife, who had an excellent reputation, was now proved to be kind on the outside but selfish and vicious on the inside.

The Emperor was not satisfied with anyone in Marquis Xing’s Mansion now. The next generation of Marquis Xing’s Mansion started with Shao Hua’an, but the Emperor disliked Shao Hua’an because of what had happened on the wedding day.

The Empress Dowager was afraid that once Marquis Xing’s Mansion lost its power and influence, Shao Wanru would be involved. This was extremely unfavorable to Chu Liuchen.

“Empress Dowager, do you want me to make trouble in Marquis Xing’s Mansion about this matter?” Rui’an Great Elder Princess understood the Empress Dowager’s meaning as soon as she heard this. She sat up straight and asked.

She was happy to do this kind of thing. She had disliked Old Madam of Marquis Xing’s Mansion for a long time!

“We should expose today’s matter and let people see that Old Madam forced Wanru to do this. Wanru has married into Prince Chen’s Mansion and has nothing to do with Marquis Xing’s Mansion. She has not been raised in Marquis Xing’s Mansion. She has been framed again and again before, so she has no feelings for Marquis Xing’s Mansion. In the future, she’d better stay away from Marquis Xing’s Mansion, in case Prince Chen’s Mansion gets involved again!” Rui’an Great Elder Princess said.

The Empress Dowager nodded. She had come up with this idea just now. Shao Wanru did not need her family’s resources, but she could not be pestered by Marquis Xing’s Mansion. As a junior, she could not say these words. How could she say such unfilial words?

However, Rui’an Great Elder Princess could do that. She had been at odds with Old Madam of Marquis Xing’s Mansion. Even if she exposed this matter now, others would not say anything about her. On the contrary, they would get to know Marquis Xing’s Mansion’s selfish behavior. In the future, Marquis Xing’s Mansion could not use Prince Chen’s Mansion to achieve its goals.

Marquis Xing’s Mansion had been leveraging filial piety to make Shao Wanru submit to their intentions.

Since Shao Wanru was the girl chosen by Chu Liuchen, and that had not changed for three years, the Empress Dowager knew that Chu Liuchen favored Shao Wanru, so she had to protect her for him.

She would not let Marquis Xing’s Mansion ruin her reputation!

There was a good opportunity at the moment. There would be such an opportunity in the future. Of course, the Empress Dowager would not let Shao Wanru cut off her ties with Marquis Xing’s Mansion immediately. However, after a few more incidents like this happened, Marquis Xing’s Mansion could no longer leverage righteousness and order Shao Wanru at will.

“Empress Dowager, I understand. I’ll go now, in case a long delay causes trouble!” Rui’an Great Elder Princess’s eyes lit up. This time was different. She had the Empress Dowager support her and was not afraid of the imperial censor speaking evil of her in front of the Emperor. She stood up and felt that this matter could not be delayed.

“You are in such a hurry!” The Empress Dowager burst into laughter.

“I am indeed in a hurry. I have waited for this day for more than ten years!” Speaking of this, Rui’an Great Elder Princess thought of her daughter and son-in-law who had died young, and her eyes turned red. If she could, she really wanted to go and fight with the vicious Old Madam of Marquis Xing’s Mansion to vent her anger that had been held back for so many years!

### **Chapter 933 Old Madam Was Speechless**

The Great Elder Princess stormed toward Marquis Xing’s Mansion with a large group of servant girls and old maids.

The carriage on the front moved slowly, followed by two rows of brawny old maids and servant girls who used to do heavy jobs. They looked sturdier and fiercer than ordinary servant girls. Moreover, they were going in the direction of Marquis Xing's Mansion. Needless to say, they were surely going to challenge Marquis Xing's Mansion again.

Although many people had heard that Old Madam of Marquis Xing's Mansion and Rui'an Great Elder Princess didn't get along with each other before, most of them had only heard about it. But recently, they had seen the two mansions fighting against each other several times.

Many people were wondering, "Are they going to fight against each other again? For what this time? Fifth Miss Shao has married Prince Chen. Did something happen?"

Many pleasure-seekers were so excited that they couldn't help but follow the carriage of Rui'an Great Elder Princess and go to Marquis Xing's Mansion with a large group of people to watch what was going on.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess's carriage moved slowly, so those people could follow it.

When they arrived at Marquis Xing's Mansion, there were already many people following the Great Elder Princess's carriage.

Marquis Xing's Mansion had heard the news earlier, and Old Madam got very angry. She didn't know what Rui'an Great Elder Princess was going to do.

"Grandma, what should we do?" Zhao Xiran was also a little panicky. She had heard that Rui'an Great Elder Princess had been hostile to Old Madam of Marquis Xing's Mansion, but she had never seen it herself.

"Let's go to the door to meet her!" Old Madam was also in a panic. She had never beat Rui'an Great Elder Princess. At this moment, she could only show the white feather and made Rui'an Great Elder Princess see their sincerity.

"Grandmother, I'll go with you!" In fact, Zhao Xiran wanted to leave, but obviously, there was no one else in Marquis Xing's Mansion to accompany Old Madam now. She had to bite the bullet and go with Old Madam.

They hurried to the door with some servant girls and old maids. They wanted to wait at the gate before Rui'an Great Elder Princess arrived to show their sincerity.

"Grandma, why did Rui'an Great Elder Princess come here? I heard that she cares about Fifth Sister the most!" Zhao Xiran asked circumspectly while walking.

She didn't care about these things at the beginning. Because Shao Wanru had married, there should not be any discord between the Great Elder Princess and Marquis Xing's Mansion.

But now she had to ask a few more questions. She also regretted it. If she had known that the Great Elder Princess would challenge Marquis Xing's Mansion again, she would have been more cautious at that time.

She would not have let Shao Caihuan get information that could be used against her, in case Old Madam suspected her. Although Old Madam seemed to think highly of her now, in fact, it was because there was no one who could help Old Madam manage the backyard of Marquis Xing's Mansion, except her.

"Is it because of Commandery Prince Qing's matter before?" Old Madam was also thinking about what she had done to make the Great Elder Princess come here.

"We've only invited Fifth Sister to come and give advice on Commandery Prince Qing's matter. It's not a big deal. Why would the Great Elder Princess be so angry?" Zhao Xiran suddenly couldn't figure it out. She literally couldn't figure it out. In her imagination, Rui'an Great Elder Princess was not that narrow-minded!

She heard that Rui'an Great Elder Princess was very arrogant and distant, but she was not a troublemaker.

"It must be because of the Fifth Young Lady. She thinks so highly of that troublesome little girl. She must have forgotten which branch has the nobility title now!" Old Madam scolded in a low voice. She even scolded Shao Wanru.

Old Madam thought she was innocent, but Shao Wanru, who got involved in this matter because of her for no reason, was actually innocent.

Zhao Xiran's eyes darkened, but then she comforted Old Madam with a smile, "Grandma, don't worry. If Rui'an Great Elder Princess has something to say, we'll listen to her. Fifth Sister is married, but it is not a big deal if she goes back to her parents' home sometime!"

While they were talking, they had arrived at the gate. Looking outside the gate, they happened to see that Rui'an Great Elder Princess's carriage had also arrived.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess's carriage was followed by a large group of people. The sight made the people from Marquis Xing's Mansion a little flustered.

They wondered, "It's such a big crowd. Did all the people along the way follow them here?"

The carriage stopped. Seeing Old Madam and Zhao Xiran at the door, someone had already reported it to the Great Elder Princess. The Great Elder Princess got out of the carriage with the help of a servant girl. A servant girl came over and gently tidied her dress, and then the Great Elder Princess walked toward the gate.

Zhao Xiran gently nudged Old Madam and helped her go out.

After they met, Zhao Xiran put down her hand and bowed deeply to Rui'an Great Elder Princess. "Greetings, Great Elder Princess!"

"Forego formalities!" Rui'an Great Elder Princess said coldly.

Old Madam was a little embarrassed, but she suppressed the anger in her heart and also bowed to Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

In the past, when she was still Madam of Duke Xing, although her status couldn't compare with that of Rui'an Great Elder Princess, she was at least the wife of a highest-ranking official. But now her position

was lower than before, so she couldn't behave recklessly in front of the Great Elder Princess. What was more, Rui'an Great Elder Princess didn't come with good intentions.

Old Madam felt unhappy but had to show the white feather.

Duke Xing's Mansion had been reduced to Marquis Xing's Mansion!

"Old Madam, you are too polite. I heard that in order to help Commandery Prince Qing marry the Second Miss or the Third Miss of your mansion, you invited Zhuozhuo, who has been busy taking care of Prince Chen, over, and forced her to go to the palace to inform the Empress Dowager about it. Do you intend to let the Third Miss marry Commandery Prince Qing instead of the Second Miss?" Rui'an Great Elder Princess was very calm, but she raised her chin high. She glanced coldly at Old Madam and asked.

Old Madam's face went crimson. Her fingers trembled, and she grabbed the handkerchief with spasms.

"Great Elder Princess, you mistook our intention. How could we do such a thing? We just invited Fifth Young Lady to come over and give advice on that matter..." Old Madam did not dare to admit it. Not to mention the other things involved in this matter, if she admitted it, she would definitely be seen as an unkind grandma. Fifth Young Lady was no longer who she had been, and she was related to Prince Chen. For this reason, Old Madam did not dare to speak at will.

The Great Elder Princess didn't believe it and still said coldly, "Did I mistake your intention? I heard it from the Empress Dowager. Could the Empress Dowager lie to me?"

Old Madam's face turned pale. If the Empress Dowager said it was true, it had to be true.

"Why, why would the Empress Dowager say such a thing..." Old Madam stammered.

"Since Commandery Prince Qing has pleaded with the Empress Dowager, the Empress Dowager should certainly make a decision. Old Madam, are you saying that the Empress Dowager should not tell me about it, but instead let you keep pressuring Zhuozhuo?" Although the Great Elder Princess did not act out her anger, the anger was burning in her eyes.

The Great Elder Princess continued, "Whether your mansion wants to swap the two sisters' marriages or not, it has nothing to do with Zhuozhuo. She is married and is the youngest sister. She has no obligation to help your mansion with these troubles."

"I... this matter..." It was out of Old Madam's expectations that Rui'an Great Elder Princess didn't fight with her directly but argued with her. However, Rui'an Great Elder Princess took the initiative and said that she was told by the Empress Dowager. Old Madam did not dare to say that such a thing was not true.

However, it was okay to arrange this kind of thing privately, but in front of so many people, no matter what they said, the blame was on Marquis Xing's Mansion!

In the past, Rui'an Great Elder Princess used to fight with Old Madam directly, and Old Madam could deal with it. But now, Rui'an Great Elder Princess had become especially argumentative and suppressed others at the beginning. Old Madam felt unfamiliar and did not know how to fight back. She couldn't help but turn to look at Zhao Xiran. Her granddaughter-in-law was very smart.

“Great Elder Princess, in fact, that’s not what we meant. Commandery Prince Qing has already understood what our mansion meant and was considerate toward our mansion. If Great Elder Princess is unhappy, we would not bother Fifth Sister with the affairs of the mansion in the future. Great Elder Princess, please do not hurt the harmony between us!” Zhao Xiran braced herself to explain with a smile. In fact, she was unwilling to confront Rui’an Great Elder Princess at all, but now she couldn’t pretend that she didn’t get Old Madam’s hint.

The Great Elder Princess squinted at her and then looked at Old Madam again. She didn’t pay any attention to Zhao Xiran at all. “Old Madam, is your Second Miss going to marry into a more powerful family? If she doesn’t like Commandery Prince Qing, why did you ask Commandery Prince Qing to come over to discuss the marriage at that time? And you asked Zhuozhuo to plead with Prince Chen to tell Commandery Prince Qing about it!” Rui’an Great Elder Princess said angrily.

“The Second Miss of Marquis Xing’s Mansion wanted to marry into a more powerful family, so she didn’t want to marry into Commandery Prince Qing’s Mansion?” This news was sensational, and it immediately arouse all kinds of speculations among the onlookers.

In the past, many people knew about the relationship between Second Miss Shao and Commandery Prince Qing. Although it happened in the palace at that time, many people spread it out with different intentions.

When people heard this obscene story, they spread it out, so more and more people knew about it.

The two of them did that kind of thing, but Second Miss Shao still wished to marry into a more powerful family. People who didn’t understand Rui’an Great Elder Princess’s words before had all understood.

So, it was not that the younger sister was willing to marry her elder sister’s fiancé. It was just that the elder sister didn’t want to marry her fiancé, so she forced her younger sister to marry him. Second Miss Shao was a concubine’s daughter. All the daughters in Marquis Xing’s Mansion were legitimate daughters, except her.

Someone in the pleasure-seekers said, “Force a legitimate daughter to marry a concubine’s daughter’s fiancé? Is Marquis Xing’s Mansion crazy?”

“How, how could this happen? Does the concubine’s daughter take a fancy to... someone in there?” Someone pointed in the direction of the imperial palace.

“No matter how unsatisfactory Commandery Prince Qing is, he is still a member of the imperial family and is quite handsome. Why would Second Miss Shao dislike him? But on the contrary, if Second Miss Shao dislikes Commandery Prince Qing, it means that she might take a fancy to the Emperor or the young princes of the Emperor. From this point of view, it seems that Second Miss Shao indeed wants to marry into a more powerful family!” People were guessing.

“For the matter of a concubine’s daughter, they forced a legitimate daughter who married Princess Chen to help with the affairs of her parents’ home again and again, and they also forced another legitimate daughter to marry that concubine’s daughter’s fiancé. How... could a concubine’s daughter be so imperious?” someone said in surprise. It was unbelievable for a concubine’s daughter to be able to do this.

"In the future, if someone tells me that a concubine's daughter would live a hard life, I will tell him about the life Second Miss Shao is living! She can marry whoever she wants. If she doesn't want to marry that person, her legal sisters will marry him for her!" Someone made a crack.

#### **Chapter 934 The Mother and Son Have to Make a Concession!**

Old Madam was purple with anger because of the onlookers!

With the opinion stricken into people's hearts, it was hard for Shao Jie'er to marry any other princes. In other words, Shao Jie'er could only get married to Commandery Prince Qing. Moreover, it was acceptable if Commandery Prince Qing didn't give her any titles like Consort Qing. In others' eyes, now she was just a humble girl who was lucky enough to be a concubine due to Marquis Xing's Mansion.

Shao Jie'er was very useful for Old Madam. Otherwise, Old Madam wouldn't have cared about such a daughter of a concubine.

"Great Elder Princess, how could you confuse right and wrong!" Old Madam had to be tough at this moment. If she gave in, Marquis Xing's Mansion would lose!

"Old Madam, I didn't come to argue with you about what was right or wrong. It's the business of your mansion, which has nothing to do with me no matter how ridiculously you deal with it. I am just worried about Princess Chen. You've made things like this. Just deal with it yourself and don't take her down!"

"You never doted on Princess Chen in the past. You have always been partial to Secondary Consort Shao in the Palace the most. So, don't ask Princess Chen for help from now on! She is now a member of the royal family, Prince Chen's wife! She is no longer the Fifth Miss Shao, whom you can order at your will, and she is no longer the loneliest Miss of the main branch, on whom none of the people in your mansion dotes!"

Great Elder Princess rebuked Old Madam in a cold voice. She looked calm, but everyone could see that she was suppressing her anger.

Everyone nodded. A lot of things had happened in Marquis Xing's Mansion recently, but no one had ever supported Fifth Miss Shao. She had lived a hard life in Marquis Xing's Mansion. For instance, she was forced to cultivate in seclusion in the mountain to observe mourning for her parents for three years. No elders who loved their children would do such a thing!

In addition, Fifth Miss Shao didn't grow up in Marquis Xing's Mansion. It could be said that the people in Marquis Xing's Mansion had not raised her. From this point of view, Marquis Xing's Mansion was even less qualified than Ningyuan Army General's Mansion to ask Princess Chen to do anything.

"How poor Princess Chen is!"

"Indeed. How Princess Chen's parents died is still unknown!"

"The second branch has got all the benefits. A daughter of a concubine from the second branch even thinks she is better than Princess Chen. It's too much!"

People defended justice for Princess Chen with one voice. Everyone was full of sympathy for Princess Chen. "In fact, Marquis Xing's Mansion has never raised her, so how could they ask her to be respectful to them now?"

"Great Elder Princess..." Old Madam wanted to say something but she was interrupted by Great Elder Princess.

"Old Madam, that's all I want to say. Please don't ask Princess Chen to help with the business of your mansion anymore. And don't force her to follow the tradition of your filial piety, which will make things difficult for her. She is Princess Chen, and more importantly, she is a member of the royal family. Don't trick her with the trick you use to deal with your inner court!" Great Elder Princess said.

Then she turned around and left without any hesitation. Out of expectation, she didn't ask those aggressive servant girls and old maids to smash things.

However, that made Old Madam more flustered. If Great Elder Princess behaved rudely, other people would pay attention to criticize Great Elder Princess's violence rather than focus on Marquis Xing's Mansion.

"Great Elder Princess..." Old Madam was stunned for a moment, but she hurriedly tried to remedy the situation. "I have always cared for Fifth Girl! She is also my biological granddaughter, the only daughter of my eldest son! How can't I care about her?"

Just as she said that, Old Madam's eyes turned wet. She kept wiping the corner of her eyes with a handkerchief.

"Great Elder Princess, Grandma really loves Fifth Sister. She didn't mean to trouble Fifth Sister. She just wanted Fifth Sister to know what has happened in the family!" Zhao Xiran hurriedly echoed Old Madam's words.

The two of them sang the same tune and cooperated very well, and some people were confused. "Could it be a misunderstanding between the two families?"

Great Elder Princess stopped and turned to look at Zhao Xiran. She slightly lifted the corners of her mouth and thought, "Zhuozhuo once said that this newly married sister-in-law was a smart woman. It seems to be true! She knows what to say to retrieve their reputation!"

However, she had cast aside all considerations of her reputation before she came here. So, she didn't care about the face thing at all!

Great Elder Princess turned around beside the carriage and questioned coldly, "Old Madam, do you mean that you never planned to ask Third Miss to replace Second Miss to get married?"

"I... I..." Old Madam didn't dare to deny what Empress Dowager had been informed of, but she was unwilling to admit it. She could only pretend that she didn't know what to explain for a while.

"Well, if you have never had such a plan, why did you push such trouble to Princess Chen again?" Great Elder Princess asked again.

Old Madam was choked by the two questions! She felt that the Great Elder Princess in front of her was no longer rude and unreasonable as before, and she was much more cunning. Old Madam disliked Great Elder Princess's rude and irrational behaviors in the past. But now she wished to see her like that.

"Old Madam, God is watching everything you do. Do you think that you will be forgiven by God, though you have done so many evil things?" Great Elder Princess said with cold eyes. Then she ignored Old

Madam, who couldn't speak right now because of her trembling lips, and got on the carriage with Nanny Gao's help.

Zhao Xiran wanted to say something more, but when she made eye contact with Great Elder Princess sitting in the carriage, she was intimidated and immediately lowered her eyes in a panic to hide the nervousness.

"Great Elder Princess's carriage left! She just left like that?"

Looking at the deserted gate and the gossiping onlookers around, Old Madam swayed and almost fainted.

Zhao Xiran hurriedly reached out to hold her and said in a low voice, "Grandma!"

"Help me go to your father's courtyard!" Old Madam whispered. She felt as if she were stepping on a pile of cotton and could not touch the ground. If it were not for Zhao Xiran's help, she might have fainted.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess had gone too far today. Though she didn't smash things, she said something more humiliating than that. Moreover, she revealed in front of others Marquis Xing's Mansion's pretentious kindness to Shao Wanru. If Old Madam wanted to control Shao Wanru with filial piety again, people would suspect her of having a bad intention.

Shao Jing was in the mansion, but it was not suitable for him to deal with Great Elder Princess.

Since Great Elder Princess had made trouble many times before, Shao Jing had thought that she would do the same at most once as usual. So he had planned to report her to the Emperor later by uniting with several imperial censors, who had a good relationship with him.

After all, the imperial censors were well aware of Rui'an Great Elder Princess's hostile attitude to Marquis Xing's Mansion and her repetitive rude behaviors there. Shao Jing thought it was time to fight back. "Marquis Xing's Mansion has always suffered losses in front of her. This time, I have to make her pay a price."

So he stayed in his study and waited for the news.

Unexpectedly, instead of being informed that Rui'an Great Elder Princess caused trouble in Marquis Xing's Mansion, he was told that she exposed his flawless secret plan in front of many people.

He had promised to marry Shao Jie'er into Prince Cheng's Mansion! But how could he do that now? Shao Jing understood that Prince Cheng would not accept Shao Jie'er's entering his mansion after his plot was revealed!

Shao Jing walked around his room for a long while, but he still couldn't calm down. When he finally stood still, he couldn't help asking again, "Mother, did Great Elder Princess really say that?"

"Yes, that was what she said. I doubt whether she knows something, my second son!" Old Madam said in a low voice in nervousness. She had calmed down at this time.

Only two of them were in the study. Zhao Xiran was asked to stand outside. Even Old Madam's servant Nanny Yu was sent to guard the door.

"Impossible!" Shao Jing shook his head decisively. Great Elder Princess could not know anything.

"So, it is Empress Dowager's idea?" Old Madam shivered. This supposition also frightened her.

"It should be that Empress Dowager wants to warn us not to implicate Princess Chen!" Shao Jing said with a gloomy face.

"I just asked Shao Wanru to beg Empress Dowager for mercy. How could it be possible that she will be implicated? If she is not a Miss of Marquis Xing's Mansion, could she be qualified to marry Prince Chen? What an ungrateful woman! How dare she complain to Empress Dowager!" Old Madam couldn't help cursing.

Shao Jing frowned hard and stretched out his hand, wanting to stop Old Madam's curse.

"What should we do now, my son? What are you going to do with Second Girl's thing?" Old Madam felt helpless and changed the topic. Shao Jie'er's problem was the most urgent.

"Let's leave it up to Empress Dowager. There should be news soon, but don't expect too much!" Shao Jing said helplessly.

"No way..." Old Madam stood up and said in a hurry.

"We have no other choice. Dare you disobey Empress Dowager's order?" Shao Jing said in a bad mood.

Of course, Old Madam dared not. She plopped down and became angrier and angrier while reviewing the incident. She couldn't help cursing again, "What a troublemaker! If I had known this, I wouldn't have invited her to come back at that time. What's the use of her coming back? She didn't offer any help to us, and even brought us trouble with Great Elder Princess!"

"Mother, what's the point of talking about this now? Go and tell Jie'er to get ready to marry into Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion. Don't think about anything else anymore!" Shao Jing waved his hand impatiently and said, "Mother, you leave first, please. I need some time to think about it again!"

The most terrible thing was that Prince Cheng was also involved. Shao Jing believed that he would pay a higher price if he offended Prince Cheng, compared with offending Commandery Prince Qing. It seemed that he could not give up Shao Yanru.

"I have to get in touch with Ru'er!" Shao Jing thought, "Though she once said that she didn't want to do that, she has to do it now..."

"It is at least worth a try! Compared with Eldest Daughter, Second Daughter has lost her value! Forget about her! She has never been a good girl!"

After making up his mind, Shao Jing raised his voice and ordered, "Come on, get a carriage. Old Madam is not feeling well. I'm going to ask for a string of Buddhist beads for Old Madam!"

### **Chapter 935 The Introspection with Huaguang Temple's Abbot**

The Wenxin Road along the rugged mountain twisted and turned. Wen Xichi walked on the path, looking as calm as usual.

Even though he worked in the Ministry of Justice, he, as the former Number One Scholar, was still elegant and mild, which was owed to the good upbringing of an aristocratic family.

The young ladies passing along Wenxin Road stole glances at him with blushed faces from time to time when they stood still to rest, because they were fascinated by his charm, though they didn't know who he was!

However, the truth was Wen Xichi was not peaceful as he looked. He stood still and looked up at the stairs extending upward, ignoring the shy gazes of the girls around. Then, he walked up slowly and firmly.

It was not the first time for him to walk along Wenxin Road. He took the road every time he visited Huaguang Temple.

He came to have an introspection in front of the abbot of Huaguang Temple!

This time, he went up step by step without a pause as if he had never been exhausted. With his footsteps kept steady from beginning to end, he stepped on the last stair.

"Third Young Master, the abbot is waiting for you!" A young monk there bowed to Wen Xichi with a smile. He had been waiting there for a long time.

"Is the abbot available?" Wen Xichi nodded and asked as he walked into the temple.

"Yes! He specially makes time for you, Third Young Master!" the monk followed behind Wen Xichi and answered with his palms together. Young as he was, he was very presentable as a Buddhist believer.

The abbot of Huaguang Temple was a man of virtue and prestige. A powerful person could not even get a chance to talk to him at will. But Wen Xichi was different, however. He was an old friend of the abbot. So other monks of Huaguang Temple thought highly of Wen Xichi.

They highly valued Wen Xichi because of his talent rather than his family background.

The abbot of Huaguang Temple met Wen Xichi in a very remote Zen room. There was a chessboard between them. Wen Xichi sat down after saluting the abbot. The latter smiled slightly and put a chessman on the chessboard.

"This is the set we didn't finish last time! But let's continue it by changing our position." The abbot of Huaguang Temple seemed to be in his sixties or seventies. He looked very benevolent. With his eyes cornering upward, he seemed to be able to see through everything in the world, and with his long eyebrows drooping, he seemed to have nothing to do with the secular world.

It seemed that Wen Xichi was quite similar to him. But it was not true.

Both of them seemed to be different from ordinary people. However, different from the abbot, Wen Xichi lived in the secular world as a Young Master from an aristocratic family, so he still belonged to one of the worldly, while the abbot was totally otherworldly. When he cast his eyes on you, you could even not tell whether he was looking at you or reading your mind. It felt like he could see through everything in your head. Anyone around the abbot of Huaguang Temple would feel that they would be seen through.

Wen Xichi was at ease and played chess with him. He didn't ask why the game should be played this way. It was the unfinished set between him and the abbot, but now they switched the positions!

He should have been sitting in the abbot's position now as he did the last time they met. But they changed their positions and continued the game by playing each other's roles this time.

As Wen Xichi didn't speak, the abbot added with a smile, "We can change our roles with each other during a game, so can we do the same in our life!"

Wen Xichi accidentally dropped off his fingers a chessman, which happened to fall on a vacant place on the board. He didn't intend to put it there, so he subconsciously reached out to pick up the chessman.

However, he was stopped by the abbot. The latter said with a smile, "Benefactor Wen, the chessman has touched the board. How can you take it back?"

"Master, it's a mistake. I dropped it accidentally!" Wen Xichi explained in a helpless tone. He was shocked by the abbot's words just now and lost his composure.

"No one is ever allowed to retract a false move in a chess game, Benefactor Wen. You can't regret it even if you want to!" the abbot smiled. Then he put down a chessman on the board with a smile, which happened to break the situation that Wen Xichi was at an advantage.

"You become cunning, Master!" Wen Xichi looked at the shameless old monk and rubbed his forehead helplessly. No one had ever known that the decent old monk was actually an unabashed man when playing chess. Only Wen Xichi had the chance to see him like that sometimes.

"Life is like chess, and there is no regret!" The abbot's smile was gentle; his words stopped Wen Xichi from thinking about the game. He remembered that he came up to the mountain for something today.

"Master, is it possible that we have a second life?" Wen Xichi had thought of it over and over again in the past few days. Various strange thoughts such as dreams and realities kept coming out in his mind, making it difficult for him to distinguish whether his memories about Shao Wanru were true or not!

"Benefactor Wen, your mind is in a mess!" The abbot played another chessman and caught up with Wen Xichi, who had always been better at playing chess than the abbot. But now the abbot was about to win the game. He couldn't help showing a gentle smile.

Wen Xichi stopped playing. He frowned in distress and looked at the abbot. "Master, I keep dreaming of a woman I don't know well. It seems that... I used to have a deep relationship with her. But we are almost strangers now!" Wen Xichi said.

That was the conclusion of all his confusion. "It seems that we were very close to each other in the past. But the truth is that we are not close at all. We barely know each other! However, when I saw Chu Liuchen take her as his wife, I felt inexplicably sad..."

He was annoyed and uncomfortable. It felt like what he loved most was taken away.

It was hard to explain why, but it indeed felt like that. Wen Xichi had been in such a state since Shao Wanru married into Prince Chen's Mansion, and he almost couldn't sleep at night. During the day, he would struggle to think about her when he was free. "Did I miss or forget something?"

He had inquired people around him about Fifth Miss Shao, but they also knew little about her. Though Marquis Xing's Mansion and the Mansion of the Prime Minister were neighbors, the inner courts where women lived were separated from the outer courts. Moreover, Shao Wanru didn't live in Marquis Xing's Mansion until she was recognized as Fifth Miss Shao later, so she was not familiar with the Mansion of the Prime Minister, let alone getting along with the people there.

"There is a predestined relationship in the last life, and so is there in this life. But the past has passed, and it is impossible to get it back!" the abbot said with a smile.

Wen Xichi frowned more tightly because of his words. He put down the chessman in his hand casually and snatched the chessman in the abbot's hand and randomly put it in a place.

"Benefactor Wen, that was my chessman, and you put it in a wrong place!" the abbot said with a smile. Then, he picked up the chess piece that Wen Xichi had just robbed from his hand and put it in another place. "There! We are both saved! If it is in that position, we will both die!"

After hearing the abbot's words, Wen Xichi turned his attention to the chessboard. Only then did he realize that he nearly pushed the game into a dead end again, a deadlock that had happened in their previous game.

It couldn't be settled by either side. And neither side could win the game.

Wen Xichi forced a smile and said with flagging interest, "A deadlock might be a good end. No one can win or lose, and we can take a pause!"

"Sometimes it means a pause, but it might also cause destruction to both sides. If a third party joins, the deadlock will mean death!" the abbot said unhurriedly.

Wen Xichi's expression changed slightly. He looked at the abbot and said, "It will cause death to both sides?"

"Chess is as diverse as life. One game won't decide whether you are the loser or the winner in your whole life. If it is a lose-lose situation, you can choose another strategy. For instance, take away some pieces put in the wrong position and leave those in the right place!" the abbot said in a Zen tone with a leisurely smile.

Wen Xichi became excited. He breathed rapidly and raised his eyes to look at the abbot. Suddenly he stood up with his hands holding against the chessboard. "Since there is something wrong with the game, we can reset it, can't we?"

As he said that, his eyes were flashing with passion. The idea in his head made him breathe with excitement.

"If you restart the game, it will not be a deadlock anymore! However, the game won't be the same as before, and nor will the players be." The abbot slowly tidied up the chessboard that was messed up by Wen Xichi just now as if he hadn't seen the expectation in Wen Xichi's eyes.

Wen Xichi suddenly turned pale. The excited red on his face just now was gone. He pressed his hands on the chessboard with dull eyes. "Do you mean that the players will be also changed?"

“Yes! Since we can’t change the game, we change the players!” The abbot’s smile faded as his eyes became gentler. “Since the game is reset, then don’t pursue the past!”

“What if I insist?” Wen Xichi said in a hoarse voice. He sounded very unwilling.

“That will go against heaven!” the abbot said slowly.

“Will it not if I reset the game?” Wen Xichi asked with anxiety, his hands grasping the chessboard tightly as if he was catching something important for him. He was reluctant to let go of something even though the current game had been a mess.

“Of course, it will too! It means you will pay a high price for it.” The abbot looked down at the chessboard in front of him. He moved his fingers covered in the sleeves and shook his head. “It’s impossible... It’s impossible...”

Wen Xichi took a deep breath and fixed his eyes on the abbot again. He tried his best to suppress his excitement and asked slowly, “What are the conditions if... if... it is possible?”

### **Chapter 936 Rebirth Defies Heaven!**

“It will defy heaven! You can’t do it!” the abbot shook his head and said. His expression was no longer calm.

“What if I insist?” Wen Xichi insisted on getting an exact answer from the abbot.

“Blood will flow like a river, and our dynasty will...” the abbot said with a pale face. Suddenly, he rubbed his forehead and then looked up at Wen Xichi. “Benefactor Wen, stop thinking about it, please! It’s impossible!”

“No! It is possible somehow, right?” Wen Xichi asked eagerly.

“No, no! It’s impossible... it’s impossible!” the abbot repeated as if he didn’t hear Wen Xichi.

It was strangely quiet in the Zen room. Wen Xichi sat down slowly and asked in a low voice, “Is there anyone who can make it happen?”

The abbot calmed himself down and shook his head again. “No one knows! At least no one in our country has ever made it!”

His words were very vague. He seemed to be hiding something.

As an old friend of the abbot’s, Wen Xichi could tell from the abbot’s attitude that he wouldn’t get any more information from the latter.

“Master, can you tell me how long I will live?” Wen Xichi asked casually as he tidied up the chessboard with a softened expression as if he had never lost his composure.

But the abbot showed a serious face. A few years ago, he had read Wen Xichi’s fate and found that he was destined to die early. Therefore, he pitied Wen Xichi even more. He felt it a pity that such a talented man as Wen Xichi would live such a difficult life.

But Wen Xichi himself was very optimistic about his life. After he knew that, he hadn't asked about it and spent his life as usual. Since then, the abbot and Wen Xichi became friends.

"Write a character!" the abbot pointed at the desk by the window and said. He had been looking forward to telling Wen Xichi's fortune again, but he never mentioned his idea in front of Wen Xichi, who cared less about it. It couldn't be forced, though it was about someone's fate.

It was best to obey heaven! A person like the abbot of Huaguang Temple particularly agreed with that!

Wen Xichi took the initiative to ask for fortune-telling this time, which was obeying heaven! The desk by the window with writing brushes, ink sticks, paper, and inkstones on it was where the abbot practiced calligraphy.

Wen Xichi put down the chessman in his hand and walked to the window. He thought for a while, and then an angrily smiling face came into his head. He couldn't help writing the character "Ru" on the paper!

It was the "Ru" in the name Shao Wanru. After finishing it, Wen Xichi was shocked. He threw the brush away and frowned tightly, very dissatisfied with the character he wrote. "I am about to ask for my fortune! Why do I think of Shao Wanru?" Moreover, Shao Wanru was Princess Chen now. It would get her into big trouble if others knew that a man wrote her name!

The abbot came over to the desk. After he saw the character "Ru" written by Wen Xichi and the latter's expression, he suddenly smiled, put his palms together and said, "Great!"

"Great? What do you mean, Master?" Wen Xichi raised his eyebrows.

"You can get rid of the fate of dying early!" the abbot said with a smile. What an unexpected outcome! But it was also reasonable! The first time the abbot told Wen Xichi's fortune, the former had found a slim chance of survival, which, however, was too faint to be believed as true. Now, it showed up in full bloom and presented Wen Xichi's vibrant future.

"The game is changed with a chess piece moved! Benefactor Wen, the character 'Ru' contains the character 'Female', which means the person who will help you in the future is a woman. There are also two characters of 'Mouth' in it, which says that you and that lady will meet and talk with each other one day. Such a fate will save your life. However, it also symbolizes that you cannot have a loving relationship with her!" the abbot said.

"Master, why are you so sure?" Wen Xichi was not convinced.

"You have been very distressed since you came here today, Benefactor Wen. If you are not upset about your unlucky fate, you must be puzzled by love. It is hard to tell your fortune about love... but indeed it has something to do with the chance of your survival!" the abbot said meaningfully.

"If I say I missed it by accident, what can I do?" Wen Xichi didn't intend to give up.

"If you missed it, you miss it forever. It doesn't matter whether you did so by accident or on purpose. The truth is the missing is doomed!" the abbot said.

A monk came in hurriedly and said, "Master, Prince Cheng asks to meet you!"

"Prince Cheng is here?" The abbot was surprised. "The noble who I rarely met in the past come to see me one after another these days!"

Prince Cheng had an instinctive taste for Buddhism. He was eager to become a monk and had no intention of getting married. So he was still unmarried now. But Huaguang Temple was not to blame for that. Prince Cheng preferred a quieter place, so he lived in Yuyun Temple. He rarely paid a visit to Huaguang Temple. But he had come here several times during these days.

Every time he came over, he always asked to meet the abbot. Of course, he wouldn't blame the abbot if the latter was too busy to meet him.

Nevertheless, the abbot couldn't refuse to meet him all the time as he had come many times.

"Don't mind me, Master. I am leaving after staying here for a while!" Wen Xichi said with a smile, "Since Prince Cheng asks for you, he must have something to tell you!"

The abbot nodded. He had refused Prince Cheng several times before, so he couldn't do that again at this time. Despite the fact that Prince Cheng was not a powerful man, he was a member of the royal family, the younger brother of the Emperor!

The abbot put his palms together and bowed to Wen Xichi with a smile. Then he left.

Wen Xichi sat in front of the chessboard and stared at the messy chessmen with a frown.

He kept thinking about what the abbot said just now.

There was a person in his heart now. Shao Wanru! Shao Wanru was his destined Helpful Person. He was sure that Shao Wanru had saved him.

If it hadn't been for Shao Wanru's hint, Wen Xichi wouldn't have investigated his second brother or suspected his cousin sister. "The two of them should be the ones who will take my life! If this is true, Cousin Sister and Second Brother are really vicious. It seems that I have to keep an eye on them.

"As for the impossible loving relationship between her and me," Wen Xichi thought with a trace of coldness flashing in his eyes, "I don't understand. Why can't we have a relationship if we are destined to meet?

"She is the one who saves my life; then we should be together!" As he thought so, the scene in his dream started to become clearer. He remembered the happiness Shao Wanru showed when she first met him. He was surprised at that time that he even felt familiar with it. But now he began to understand why.

"It seemed that she knew me at that time, because she was inexplicably affectionate towards me...

"But later she became distant and cold as if I was totally a stranger. Maybe that's why the abbot said it was impossible for us to fall in love with each other." Wen Xichi believed that Shao Wanru had wanted to get close to him at the beginning. "When did she start to keep a distance away from me?"

His hands holding against the chessboard started to tremble slightly as a supposition came into shape in his mind. "Shao Wanru might know about the last life..."

Wen Xichi had never cared much about the cause and effect of Buddhism in the past. But he chose to read freely. So he would sometimes read idle books, from which he learned some strange stories.

It said that a person could get a second chance to live after he or she died. But in the new life, they were no longer who they used to be but became other people in another place. But they carried the memories of the previous life. So they knew some people and could predict what would happen next in their second life. However, they had never walked out of the place before.

There were many such rumors recorded in some miscellaneous notes. Wen Xichi used to regard them as fictional stories, but now he felt very stunned. "If... if it is true, it means that Shao Wanru and I used to have a previous life, where we were a couple, doesn't it?"

"So, Shao Wanru might know what happened to me in her last life! Or... or..." Wen Xichi suddenly stood up with a pale face and his forehead was covered with sweats. He stepped back and almost fell to the ground. The conclusion was too shocking for him...

He was unwilling to believe it was true, but he had to admit that was the most possible answer.

The sound Wen Xichi made got the young monk's attention. The monk came in and asked with his palms together respectfully, "What's wrong, Benefactor Wen?"

"I... I'm fine. Has Master come back yet?" Wen Xichi's face was as pale as snow. He tried hard to suppress the shocking thought in his mind.

"No, he hasn't. I heard that Prince Cheng was about to talk about Scriptures with the abbot today. I'm afraid that it will cost a long time. Prince Cheng spends a long time talking about his ideas on Scriptures!" the young monk explained to Wen Xichi orderly. The monk looked very young and naive, but he was quite steady.

"Okay. Then I have to leave now. Please say goodbye to Master for me when he comes back!" Wen Xichi said.

"I will, Benefactor Wen!" the young monk replied. Then Wen Xichi left with staggering steps. The monk was confused and thought with his head tilted, "Benefactor Wen is a calm and steady man. What happened to him today? The chessboard in the room was overturned. Was he thinking of something terrible?"

Marquis Xing's Mansion had a conflict with Rui'an Great Elder Princess because of Fifth Miss Shao again! Everyone in the capital knew about it! At first, it might be not a big deal. But the trivial mistakes made in the past were strung together with the new conflict and at last it became more and more serious.

Some censors had started to impeach Marquis Xing's Mansion, saying that Shao Jing was mean to his niece, and Old Madam, as an elder, didn't properly treat her juniors. Old Madam had never raised Fifth Miss Shao, but she often threatened her granddaughter with her filial piety to ask for help. It was too much!

The censor didn't accuse them without evidence, which was said to be provided by an old maid of Marquis Xing's Mansion. According to the old maid, Old Madam of Marquis Xing's Mansion deliberately tortured Fifth Miss Shao. Before Fifth Miss Shao married out, Old Madam used to force her to observe mourning for her parents in the Yuhui Nunnery and later even ordered a servant to murder her in

secret. Now Fifth Miss Shao was Princess Chen, so Old Madam started to ask her for help. But Old Madam even intended to put on Princess Chen all the blame for Commandery Prince Qing's marriage. That was why Rui'an Great Elder Princess was infuriated!

### **Chapter 937 My Princess Is Still Young**

Following the censor's indictment, another imperial censor on Shao Jing's side started to accuse Rui'an Great Elder Princess of sticking her nose into too much official business. "Great Elder Princess, as a royal family member, is of noble status. The officials are respectful to her. But it doesn't mean that she can boss the officials around at will without considering their emotions, especially those aristocrats who have made a great contribution to our country. It is against the imperial court!"

Then two parties were naturally formed in the Imperial Court, one disapproving of Rui'an Great Elder Princess, and the other disagreeing about Marquis Xing's Mansion. The latter insisted that Marquis Xing's Mansion shouldn't force Princess Chen to help them with the marriage issue relevant to the royal family, as there was no intimate relationship between them.

Shao Jing didn't intend to admit that he had planned to replace his daughter with Shao Caihuan to marry Commandery Prince Qing. He said that it was Commandery Prince Qing who had misunderstood. As for the other accusations, Shao Jing insisted that he was innocent.

Both sides had their own reasons. Though fewer people supported Shao Jing, they were very hostile and aggressive in the argument. They might have started a fight if they were not civil officials.

Suddenly the Emperor smashed the memorial book in his hand at a quarreling official, who was so intimidated that he instantly knelt to the ground. All the other officials didn't dare to speak a word. It became quiet in the imperial hall within a second. Then the Emperor asked slowly, "What do you think, Prince Chen?"

Chu Liuchen's beautiful eyes fell on those argumentative officials. "My princess used to live a poor life when she was a child, and no one cared about her. But now she is my wife, so she won't be bullied by others anymore!"

Standing in the front of the line, Shao Jing suddenly had a bad vibe. He had considered how to deal with Rui'an Great Elder Princess but hadn't thought that he might need to deal with Prince Chen!

"Marquis Xing, you haven't taken care of my princess, so how could you threaten her to do something immoral with the so-called filial piety? Are you going to force her to take all the blame for the bad things your mansion has done?"

Chu Liuchen looked at Shao Jing's face with a strange and cold smile on his darkened face.

Shao Jing felt a panic. He hastened to step out of the line and was about to defend himself.

"Marquis Xing, let me be clear. Do not ever bother my princess again even if your mansion gets in trouble in the future. She is still young. What's more, none of the people in your mansion has ever been concerned about her since she was a child, right? You probably have deleted her from your genealogy after she married out, haven't you? If you think that you will suffer a loss, I can return parts of my wife's dowries to you. We just keep the part that belongs to my mother-in-law!" Chu Liuchen said in a cold voice.

He showed a cold smile on his handsome face. Now, he was very different from what he looked like as usual. Anyone could see that Prince Chen was angry.

If such words had come out of another person's mouth, he must have been criticized as an unfilial son-in-law. But it was Chu Liuchen who said that, and everyone was speechless faced with him.

On the one hand, they dared not contradict him because of his high status. On the other hand, they couldn't deny what he said was right and practicable. Since the elder were not concerned about the junior, why should the junior help them? Moreover, Princess Chen was not an ordinary person anymore. As for the proposition of returning the dowries, it sounded like Prince Chen intended to pay to cut off the connection between Princess Chen and Marquis Xing's Mansion.

"Prince Chen, I have never had such a plan!" Shao Jing said with a flushed face.

"Then what on earth do you want, Marquis Xing? What can persuade you to let go of my princess? She is young and immature. If she has offended you, please let me know. If you need help, just turn to me! So she doesn't have to ask me for help again!" Chu Liuchen said.

The smile on his face was cold and scary.

"No... I don't..." Shao Jing stammered. He couldn't even speak clearly. He had never thought that Prince Chen would give him a slap on the face in front of all the officials. He didn't know what to reply.

"Since you don't have any needs, don't disturb Princess Chen again!" Chu Liuchen said, "Come to ask me for help if you are in need in case she is criticized as an unfilial daughter again. She didn't grow up in your mansion, and you were not concerned about her after she moved there... She has suffered a lot for so many years!" Chu Liuchen continued rebuking Shao Jiang.

"You have my promise, Your Highness!" Shao Jing had to agree.

"Marquis Xing, take care of your domestic affairs yourself!" the Emperor said.

"Yes, Your Majesty!" Shao Jing had to accept the accusation with a bitter face. He didn't expect that such an indifferent person as Prince Chen would be so partial to his wife Shao Wanru.

However, though Shao Jing knew that Prince Chen took sides with Shao Wanru, he could not point it out. Moreover, the Emperor took sides with Prince Chen! So what could he say?

Since Shao Jing had admitted his guilt, the imperial sensors of the two sides stopped arguing. They glanced at Chu Liuchen silently and returned to their lines.

Although the imperial censors had the right to remonstrate to Prince Chen, they didn't dare. After all, they had never seen the Emperor scold Prince Chen. No one knew whether the Emperor was really partial to Prince Chen or not, but at least it looked like that! The imperial censors were not stupid men. No one would take risks before they figured out the truth.

More importantly, it was not worthwhile to dispute for a matter of the inner court. They wouldn't benefit a lot even if they won. Moreover, they might lose their reputations.

Then, they started to discuss something else, but Chu Liuchen kept absent-minded. He sat there in a leisurely manner as if he had nothing to do with the ongoing meeting. There was nothing wrong with his

such behaviors. After seeing Prince Chen fall into a rage, they would be frightened when they looked at him, who was said to be in poor health.

As it was seen, the Emperor said nothing after Prince Chen made such an extreme statement and even asked Marquis Xing to take the blame!

The meeting was over, and Chu Liuchen walked out of the hall slowly after all others had been away, and then he went into the Imperial Palace. Different from others, he came to the meeting from the Palace.

It was much closer to take the way through the side door. Considering his weak health, the Emperor and Empress Dowager asked him to take the side door. They had told Chu Liuchen that the side door would always be open for him.

"Third Brother!" Chu Liuyue showed up when he turned the first corner. It seemed that Chu Liuyue was waiting for him here.

"What's wrong?" Chu Liuchen asked with a faint smile, which showed no happiness.

"Nothing serious. I just want to ask what happened and whether you need help," Chu Liuyue said gently with a sincere face.

"Nothing serious! Thank you, Eldest Brother!" Chu Liuchen said casually.

"Well, that's good! But just turn to me if you need help! Anyway, we are brothers, and we grew up together!" Chu Liuyue nodded, cupped his hands to Chu Liuchen, and then took another path to leave.

Chu Liuchen's eyes darkened a little as Chu Liuyue walked along that path. Then he headed for Prince Chen's Mansion.

After Chu Liuchen left, Chu Liuyue showed up again at the place where he left just now. He looked in the direction of Prince Chen's Mansion with jealousy.

"I am the biological son of the Emperor, but how can I be inferior to Chu Liuchen? Who does he think he is? He is just a prince of the previous dynasty. Does he really regard himself as the son of the Emperor?" Chu Liuyue thought with jealousy. Chu Liuchen lived in the Southern Palace, the top mansion among the princes', though it could not be compared with the Eastern Palace. Now, it was called Prince Chen's Mansion, but everything inside was still beyond comparison.

There was no Eastern Palace yet, so Prince Chen's Mansion was the best now.

Living in Prince Chen's Mansion, Chu Liuchen could enter the Imperial Palace without restrictions, because of which, many officials thought more highly of him. In addition, the Emperor doted on Chu Liuchen more than his own sons due to Chu Liuchen's identity as the son of the former Emperor.

"Your Highness!" Xiao Qizi reminded his master who was in a daze.

"Let's go!" Chu Liuyue turned around and went back to the way he came.

"Your Highness, could we go now?" Xiao Qizi looked around with unease and asked in a low voice.

"I'm just wondering. Don't panic!" Chu Liuyue ordered impatiently.

"Yes, Your Highness!" Xiao Qizi nodded and said, "Your Highness, don't worry. I have arranged everything. Anyone who sees it happen will regard it as an accident! No one will see it through!"

"Good!" Chu Liuyue raised his eyebrows coldly. "Of course, I will make full use of that woman, which might do me a big favor! I should give her such a chance to display her last trace of value. What's more, she is a beauty."

Chu Liuyue used to have good feelings for her...

When Chu Liuchen came back, Shao Wanru was playing with the butterflies in the garden with several servant girls.

The garden in Prince Chen's Mansion was not as big as that in the Imperial Palace, but it was much more magnificent than those in other mansions. There were various kinds of flowers and plants in it. Shao Wanru also saw some which were the same as the best in the Imperial Palace. The soil under her feet told her that these flowers had just been planted.

Shao Wanru was having fun with the servant girls. She had been covered with sweats. In the midst of the bustle, Chu Liuchen appeared.

All the servant girls stood still and made no sound.

Shao Wanru turned around. The girl, who was always with a good complexion, looked as beautiful as flowers now. Her florid face was pink-and-white like a peach, her beautiful eyes were like clean water with heart-stirring ripples, and her cherry lips were attractive and delicate.

Though she had a natural aura of distance, she looked much more charming when her exquisite facial features displayed such colors.

Shao Wanru was a little breathless, but when she saw Chu Liuchen, she looked at him with shining eyes and energetically greeted him. "Your Highness!"

The moment she took the first step to Chu Liuchen, she suddenly leaned back and blacked out...

### **Chapter 938 Two Suspicious Palace Maids**

Chu Liuchen was greatly shocked. He hurriedly stepped forward to hold Shao Wanru and ordered Xiao Xuanzi, "Go and get Qi Jue right now!"

"Yes, Master!" Xiao Xuanzi rushed away.

Chu Liuchen held Shao Wanru in his arms and strode back to the courtyard. All the servant girls and old maids he met on the way were horrified by his flustered expression. "Did something serious happen?"

In other people's eyes, Chu Liuchen was always like a banished immortal existing in a painting, though he was in poor health. A banished immortal always acted leisurely. His pace would never be in a hurry. But Chu Liuchen now was walking with long strides, followed by a large group of people trotting to keep up with him, which showed that something serious happened.

The servant girls and old maids kept silent like cicadas in late autumn. No one dared to say anything, lowering their heads and looking at no one.

Qi Jue arrived soon. He frowned tightly after feeling Shao Wanru's pulse.

"How is she?" Chu Liuchen asked impatiently.

"Her Highness is fine! But..." Qi Jue thought for a moment and said.

"Then why is she sick? What's wrong?" Chu Liuchen's eyes became cold and fierce.

"It's not a big deal. It seems that Her Highness is too exhausted!" Qi Jue explained hesitantly because he had confusion.

"Who will pass out all of a sudden because of exhaustion? Besides, Zhuozhuo has always been in good health!" Chu Liuchen became more and more impatient, with his eyes darkening.

"The pulse shows that Her Highness is indeed very tired. But I also find something else. It seems that something bad against her health is in her body!" Qi Jue said slowly. But it was too tiny to be figured out. Qi Jue wouldn't have found it from a normal pulse-feeling if Shao Wanru hadn't fainted today.

"Did someone intend to harm her? Have you got any ideas?" Chu Liuchen asked.

"I have no idea whether Her Highness got it herself accidentally or got targeted by others! However, it was a low dosage. Don't be worried, Your Highness! Her Highness will get better after taking a few doses of medicine. It's not a big deal!" Qi Jue was confused at first, but he rested assured after considering the low dosage, believing that it was nothing serious. "It is not necessarily that someone wants to harm Princess Chen."

"What would have happened if it were a high dosage?" Chu Liuchen asked with a darkened face and slyly narrowed his eyes.

"She will become a little weaker, but it won't be anything serious. Such kind of drug will not do great harm to ordinary people, let alone Her Highness who has always been in better health than others!"

Qi Jue also thought that he himself was making a big deal out of a trifle. It was just a matter of several doses of medicine!

"If it was nothing serious as you said, why did she suddenly lose her consciousness?" Chu Liuchen glanced at Qi Jue coldly and asked again.

Knowing that Prince Chen was a difficult person, Qi Jue could only explain helplessly, "Your Highness, the drug in her body is not the only factor that caused her sudden faint. A sudden large amount of exercise made her heartbeat too fast, which might accelerate the absorption of the drug. What's more, she became too excited when she suddenly caught sight of you! Then, she passed out."

Qi Jue had Xiao Xuanzi about the detailed situation at that time. As soon as he heard Xiao Xuanzi, he knew that it was Princess Chen's excessive exercise, the impact of the drug, and the over-excitement when she saw her husband that together made her suddenly faint.

"She became so excited when she saw me that she fainted?" Chu Liuchen asked with a slight smile as mild as a spring breeze. It should look elegant and clean in people's eyes, but now Qi Jue felt it was evil and cold. Anyone would be frightened if they saw a face change from gloomy and foul into gentle and elegant in a second.

Though Qi Jue was a doctor, he couldn't bear such a change of emotions.

"I can't believe that some people even think Prince Chen is a gentle and elegant man!" Qi Jue thought they were so stupid. If Chu Liuchen was a gentle person, there would be no fierce humans in the world!

"Yes!" Qi Jue replied with a serious face. "Master is a ruthless person who will turn against his people. Never regard his gentle smile as friendly as a spring breeze, because it will change into a gust of cold wind at any minute! Showing a serious face like mine is the best choice!"

"Who wanted to hurt her? How did he drug her? Faint is probably not a serious problem, but the drug will kill her at certain times! Qi Jue, I don't want to see Princess Chen be killed by such a danger one day!"

Chu Liuchen's face became cold, with a strong aura of blood gushing out of his body. Even the air imperceptibly cooled down. Xiao Xuanzi lowered his head and did not dare to move.

"Uh... I'm afraid it's not that easy to find it out!" Qi Jue immediately said in a serious tone.

"I don't care. Just go and investigate! I want to know who Princess Chen has met in the mansion and what's different today!"

"Her Highness met some people from the Palace today, Your Highness!" Yujie suddenly remembered and said.

"People from the Palace?" Chu Liuchen asked coldly.

"Yes! They are the palace maids..." Yujie was too scared to finish her words. So she winked at Xiao Xuanzi. It was really hard for her to say that.

Xiao Xuanzi raised his head slightly and saw Yujie's hint for help. He was puzzled at first, but then he understood. He immediately moved close to Chu Liuchen and whispered, "Master, do you remember that Empress Dowager and the Empress sent some palace maids here before you married?"

They were sent here to give sexual education. But now they lived in the most remote corner of the mansion.

"Have they not been sent back yet?" Chu Liuchen looked at Xiao Xuanzi with a gloomy face and questioned.

"After all, they were sent by Empress Dowager and the Empress, and I didn't dare to make a decision. I was about to ask for your opinion. Moreover, that two people are not ordinary palace maids..." Xiao Xuanzi stammered to explain.

"What's their difference from others? Since they are still here, don't send them back now. Qi Jue, investigate them later and see if they carry the drug or something!" Chu Liuchen ordered coldly.

"Yes, Master! I'll go right now!" Qi Jue felt exhausted staying here. Prince Chen was such a temperamental person! It was really difficult to get along with him. Qi Jue felt much better when he did a doctor's job.

After that, he turned around and left quickly with his medicine chest. Xiao Xuanzi chased after him and asked someone to lead the way for Qi Jue.

"Doctor Qi has no idea where the people are, but he even rushed away without hesitation!" Sure enough, Xiao Xuanzi couldn't understand a doctor's mind.

"Master, one of the two palace maids is Nanny Wei's niece, who used to work for Empress Dowager, and the other is a relative of the Empress!" Xiao Xuanzi reported to Chu Liuchen. At first, Xiao Xuanzi never thought the two palace maids would become trouble one day, though they were the Empress and Empress Dowager's people. After all, no one could force his master to accept anything he didn't like. Xiao Xuanzi had planned to send the two back later.

Xiao Xuanzi once thought at that time, "They don't dare to defy Master at that time, do they?"

Out of expectation, the two palace maids now were suspected to be guilty of harming Princess Chen, about whom his master cared the most.

"Go and get yourself flogged ten times later!" Chu Liuchen said coldly.

"Yes, Master!" Xiao Xuanzi answered with a bitter face. If he had known this earlier, he should have reported it to Prince Chen earlier so that nothing would have happened to Princess Chen.

Suddenly, Chu Liuchen heard some sounds from the bed, and his face changed from cold to gentle in a second. He walked to the bed and sat down as Yujie and Qu Le lifted the gauze curtain and hung it on the hook.

Shao Wanru's long eyelashes slightly fluttered like a butterfly's wings before she opened her eyes. When she saw Chu Liuchen's gentle smile, she couldn't help reaching out to touch his face. Then she sat up with the help of her hands holding against the bed and asked, "Your Highness, what's wrong with me?"

Her movements were extremely natural.

Chu Liuchen hastened to help her, with one hand hugging her in his arm and the other putting a heavy cushion behind her. Then he gently helped her sit leaning against the cushion.

His movement was so careful that it looked like he was holding the most precious treasure in the world.

"Are you feeling unwell?" Chu Liuchen asked softly.

"Is anything wrong with me?" Shao Wanru reached out to hold Chu Liuchen's hand. She remembered the scene of her passing out just now and felt it unbelievable. "I am always in good health. How could I suddenly lose consciousness without reason?"

Shao Wanru had excellent medical knowledge, so she noticed something unusual.

Chu Liuchen knew that he couldn't hide it from her, so he narrowed his beautiful eyes slightly and asked, "Was there anything unusual when you met the two palace maids?"

"No! They were anxious to meet me today, and they said they wanted to go back to the Palace!" Shao Wanru thought for a moment and said.

Shao Wanru had been informed of the information about the two palace maids before. But she didn't pay much attention to them as she was occupied with other plans at that time. Today, they asked to see her, and she didn't refuse to meet them because she also wanted to know what they were going to do. Shao Wanru reached out to feel her pulse carefully, and then a trace of anger flashed in her eyes!

She knew her own body most. It was obvious that something was wrong with her!

The different things she did today were that she saw that two palace maids and caught the butterflies. Generally speaking, it was not an excessive amount of exercise for her.

Shao Wanru was quite strong when she lived in Jiangzhou. At that time, Madam Di and Qing Huaiyong didn't care about her, and Old Madam Qin was too old to do so, so she could sometimes evade their eyes and sneak out of the mansion. She was such a wild girl that she could easily climb over a wall.

Therefore, she was always in good health. She couldn't pass out after taking such an amount of exercise like other Misses.

"Your Highness, I suspect the two palace maids!" Shao Wanru took her hand off her pulse and said with certainty.

Chu Liuchen gently held her in his arms, patted her on the back, and comforted her in a soft voice. "I know. We will figure out the truth!"

Shao Wanru didn't see that Chu Liuchen's eyes were full of rage and malevolence now. He raised the corners of his mouth and showed an evil smile. "Since they have been sent here, they have to bleed for their crimes, no matter whom they are..."

### **Chapter 939 Evidence Is Unnecessary for Me**

The two palace maids were both beautiful. One looked very agreeable with a slim body and a charming face, and the other was a little plumper with a slender waist and ample buttocks. Both of them looked very attractive with their respective uniqueness of beauty. Such pretty women like them were rare even in the Palace!

They knelt next to each other, too timid to look up at the handsome prince sitting in front of them.

In fact, when they were facing Xiao Xuanzi, they were very arrogant, saying that they came from the Imperial Palace and it was Empress Dowager and the Empress who sent them to serve Prince Chen. Therefore, such a eunuch as Xiao Xuanzi had no right to order them.

But the next moment, the two palace maids were forced to watch the two nannies, who were sent here with them at the same time, die of flogging.

With their eyes full of hatred and reluctance fixed on the two palace maids, the two clever nannies were flogged to death. Their stiff corpses were a dim grayness, making the two palace maids lower their arrogant chins and curl up into balls.

As was known in the Palace, Prince Chen was such a handsome and elegant man as a character existing in an ink painting, honourable and unique. Such a man would never be blamed for the rumors about him. At least, now his expression looked mild from a distance, though he seemed to be a little weak in health.

It was said that Prince Chen was a cold-blooded person.

However, any palace maid who had never seen him thought it was an unreliable rumor.

In such cases, the two palace maids did not have any extravagant thoughts anymore. They were so scared that they almost hugged each other.

"Master, their clothes carry some light scent. They were fumigated with some herbals that can expel insects!" Xiao Xuanzi stepped forward and reported.

That was Qi Jue's conclusion. There were many such incenses in the Palace.

Chu Liuchen asked lazily, "It is hard to find the truth, isn't it? Since that is so, flog the two to death! Evidence is not necessary for me to punish people!"

Two guards came in from the door. They still held foul faces after they executed the two nannies.

"Please spare us! Please spare us, Your Highness! We really don't know anything. We really don't know!"

"Please spare our life, Your Highness!"

The two palace maids cried out loud and struggled to get rid of the guards, but they failed because of their weak strength.

"Why does His Highness have to keep you alive, since you can not tell us the truth? What's more, you even intended to set up our Princess Chen. There is no reason to spare your life!" Xiao Xuanzi scolded in a sharp voice. Xiao Xuanzi was a kind person who always kept a smile on his face, but he was carrying an aura of rage then!

...

"Your Highness, Your Highness! I have something important to report. I know something!" one of the palace maids suddenly caught the door frame and shouted, "I know who wanted to hurt the princess, Your Highness!"

"Bring them back!" Chu Liuchen said coldly.

The two guards drew the palace maids back and threw them heavily on the ground.

The two delicate girls fell to the ground in a mess and got their make-ups smudged, looking like deranged women. They lost their charming qualities.

One of them collapsed to the ground, and the other took two steps forward and kowtowed heavily three times. "Your Highness, I didn't intend to visit Princess Chen today. I was abetted by someone!"

"Who?" Chu Liuchen asked.

"She asked me to do that, Your Highness! I am always well-behaved since I entered the mansion a few days ago. But she suddenly asked me to meet Princess Chen today. If anything happened to the princess, it must have something to do with her!" the palace maid collapsing on the ground suddenly struggled to sit up on her knees and cried, with her finger pointing at the other palace maid.

The other palace maid was stunned for a moment, but she soon came to her senses and rebuked her accuser, "You... you're slandering me! Your Highness, it was she who wanted to see Princess Chen! She must have done something. It must be that she intended to plot against Princess Chen!"

They were both smart people. They had early realized that something went wrong from the previous few words. Prince Chen couldn't find them for no reason. "Something must have happened to Princess Chen!" Neither of them dared to take this responsibility, so they chose to blame each other.

"Your Highness, she works for the Empress, while I work for Empress Dowager, who dotes on you the most. How could I do harm to your wife?"

"She's talking nonsense, Your Highness! I indeed serve Her Majesty, but she respects you most. She will feel guilty and regretful if something bad happens to you! How could she do something to displease you, Your Highness? It must be her. She's the one who harbored evil intentions and tried to frame Princess Chen!"

The two palace maids blamed each other.

"Slap them!" Chu Liuchen said tonelessly with his pale face darkening.

"Slap each of them ten times!" Xiao Xuanzi shouted.

The Guards came over and slapped the two palace maids in the face hard. Their faces immediately became swollen and blood overflowed from their mouths.

Chu Liuchen looked at the two miserable palace maids and suddenly said, "Send them back to the Imperial Palace!"

"Yes, Your Highness!" Xiao Xuanzi nodded.

On hearing his words, the two palace maids breathed a sigh of relief. At least they survived.

"Now that they want to keep silent about their crimes, let them keep silent forever!" Chu Liuchen stood up, giving a disdainful glance at the two palace maids kneeling below, and went out. "Send them back as a whole! Don't let them leave anything behind in my mansion!"

"Yes, Your Highness!" Xiao Xuanzi appreciated his master's thoughts. He looked at the two palace maids with coldness in his eyes and ordered, "Cut off their tongues before sending them back to the Palace! Don't forget to ask them to take their parts! Master doesn't want to be misunderstood by the people in the Palace that he had taken advantage of them!"

The guards answered and took the two palace maids away.

The two palace maids were numb with shock for a few seconds, and then they struggled and cried for help. However, no one would order to take them back again, no matter how hard they shouted this time. The penalty was executed at the side door connecting the Palace to Prince Chen's Mansion, which was the place closest to the Palace. Then, two sharp screams came to the Imperial Palace...

The screeches of the two palace maids resounded in the Palace. The palace maids who heard the screams in the Palace were so frightened that their faces turned pale.

Though they had been hearing that Prince Chen was a cruel person, they didn't realize how much his cruelty was until they heard the screams.

Some of them had nightmares at night after they saw the two palace maids sent back to Phoenix Palace that day. Though the two palace maids were not dead, their situation was worse than death to them.

Was Prince Chen handsome and gentle?

It was wrong! Totally wrong! Prince Chen was a horrifying devil, which had been proven by the current state of the two palace maids.

He not only punished the two palace maids with the cruel penalty but also directly sent their cut-off tongues to Phoenix Palace and showed them to Empress.

"Your Majesty, somebody tried to frame up my master and his wife. Therefore, my master wanted you to help dig out that person. As you know, my master and Princess Chen are both unskilled at seeking people behind the scene. When he was thinking about a helper, you were the first person who came to his mind, Your Majesty. What's more, the bad guy probably comes from the Palace. So no one is more suitable than you to do the job!" Xiao Xuanzi smiled as usual and said with a trace of flattery.

...

The Empress was pale. She held the armrests of the chair. If it weren't for her strong perseverance, she would have been passed out at this moment.

Instead of the two palace maids, their bloody tongues were presented in front of her.

"My master said that he was too useless to make the two palace maids confess. He didn't want to hear their endless tricks anymore, so he had to trouble you to help him, Your Majesty. Neither of my master and Princess Chen feel well now, and they need several imperial physicians to come over!"

Xiao Xuanzi said these as if he didn't notice that the Empress's face was as pale as snow and she couldn't voice anything while gritting her teeth.

The Nanny serving the Empress felt a bad vibe and hurriedly mediated between them. "Yes! Tell Prince Chen that Her Majesty has already got his message. But she doesn't feel well either, so she needs to take a rest. Prince Chen can totally rest assured. Her Majesty will send imperial physicians to him later. And she will definitely find out and punish the person who wants to hurt Princess Chen!"

"Sorry to trouble you, Your Majesty. I am leaving!" Xiao Xuanzi said with a kind smile.

The Empress tried to control her hand to wave him back.

Xiao Xuanzi left with smile.

When Xiao Xuanzi was finally absent, the Empress put her hand on the chest and suddenly stood up from the chair. After walking a few steps, she couldn't stand vomiting heavily.

All the palace maids and eunuchs panicked and rushed to the Empress in a hurry.

When she finally stopped vomiting, the Empress was helped to rest in the side hall. After she got freshened up, her face remained pale like snow. Recovering a little strength, she banged the table and said by gnashing her teeth, "Chu Liuchen! Chu Liuchen, how abusive you are!"

"Speak cautiously, Your Majesty!" the servant beside hastened to advise.

"He has stepped on my bottom line!" the Empress said with hatred. Once the scene just then came into her head, she couldn't help thinking of cutting Chu Liuchen into pieces. He humiliated her in front of others, while she was so scared that she couldn't say a word!

"You have to stay calm even if you can't, Your Majesty. Prince Chen is not someone else. His Majesty will definitely pay attention to this matter!" the nanny following the Empress reminded her carefully.

The Empress fell silent with a gloomy face. "Since the matter developed to the extent, it won't have a happy ending." the Empress thought. "Go and investigate it. I want the name of the guy who intended to frame up Prince Chen, Empress Dowager and me!"

Since that thing couldn't be concealed, she could only make it big news.

The Empress was also angry that one of the two involved palace maids was relevant to her. She should have sent two ordinary palace maids instead of a carefully chosen one! At that time, she had thought that Chu Liuchen would keep the girl sent by her as long as he kept the one by Empress Dowager.

No one had ever expected things to go like this!

"His Majesty has arrived!" A sharp voice of a eunuch came from outside the side hall!

### **Chapter 940 Never Let Go!**

The Empress struggled to stand up and walked out with several palace maids and eunuchs. She saw the Emperor striding toward her with a gloomy face before she got out of the side hall.

The Empress stepped forward and knelt to the Emperor, who waved his hand and made no pause to help the Empress stand up.

The Empress felt awkward and stood up with a trace of anger flashing in her eyes, but she hid it in the depths subsequently.

"Empress, who wants to harm Prince Chen?" The Emperor sat down with a darkened face. How could he know nothing about such a serious thing?

Furthermore, Chu Liuchen had sent people to inform him of this matter!

"I have no idea, Your Majesty. I am about to investigate it!" the Empress said with a grievance, "Prince Chen has just sent two suspects here, one of whom is Empress Dowager's servant girl. I was thinking about how to tell this matter to Empress Dowager!"

"You don't have to worry about Empress Dowager. If she knows that someone intended to hurt Prince Chen, she must fall into a rage!" the Emperor said, "I heard that the other suspect is yours. Is she?"

A trace of hatred secretly came into being in the Empress's heart. However, she had no choice but to admit it. At first, she had intended to fool everyone by pushing all the blame on the palace maid of Empress Dowager.

"Yes, Your Majesty! Since Empress Dowager gave a palace maid to Prince Chen, I also sent one, wishing they could teach Prince Chen how to become an adult. But... I didn't expect them to cause such a big trouble!" The Empress felt so wronged that her eyes turned red.

"It doesn't matter whose servant girls they are. Just investigate them! You must find out the guy who intended to hurt Prince Chen. This time, Princess Chen bore the pain for him!" the Emperor said with a cold face, "Empress, you are in charge of the Harem for me. It should not be difficult for you to deal with such a small thing!"

Though Empress Dowager was the top in the Imperial Harem, the Empress was the one who took charge. If anything happened in the Harem, the Empress had to deal with them.

Angry and annoyed as the Empress was, she could do nothing but grit her teeth to suppress the grievance in her heart. "Yes, Your Majesty! But I have a doubt. Did you just say that someone wanted to harm Prince Chen? I thought it was Princess Chen..."

The Empress asked it because she understood that for the Emperor, there was a big difference between hurting Chu Liuchen and framing Shao Wanru.

"The two palace maids were given to Prince Chen! He is always in weak health. Even Princess Chen fainted! What would happen to him if he was the victim at that time? Send an imperial physician to check if Prince Chen is fine right now. Don't let anything bad happen to him!" the Emperor said impatiently.

...

Shao Wanru looked much healthier than Chu Liuchen indeed. On thinking that Chu Liuchen almost got targeted, the Emperor felt furious. He couldn't believe that someone dared to plot against Chu Liuchen under his nose!

"Yes, I'll do that!" The Empress had to undertake it. The Emperor's expression told her that he was in a fury now. She would annoy him if she refused and said anything more.

"I'll leave it to you. You must find out the plotter behind it. The two palace maids can no longer speak, but they can at least write with their hands. Make them write down their confessions. If they refuse again, cut off their hands!" the Emperor stood up and said coldly.

"Understood!" the Empress lowered her head and replied.

"I'm going to inform Mother. Otherwise, she will worry about Prince Chen!" The Emperor strode out.

The Empress respectfully walked the Emperor to the door. Not until the Emperor was away did she return with a dark face. She just made up her mind that she wouldn't let the person who had hurt Shao Wanru escape unscathed. "Princess Chen is not agreeable either, causing such a storm in a teacup! His Majesty even doubted whether I can manage the Imperial Harem well because of her!"

Four imperial physicians came to take Chu Liuchen's pulse one by one. They were all relieved after checking him. "He is fine. Nothing is better than such good news!"

They also took Shao Wanru's pulse. Of course, they did it after they had finished taking Chu Liuchen's.

Shao Wanru's pulse was relatively stable. The imperial physicians couldn't tell what was wrong with her. They just said she was too tired.

Shao Wanru didn't embarrass these imperial physicians and sent them away politely!

Shao Wanru finally felt relaxed after seeing them off. She lay on her side the bed and blinked her watery eyes. She looked at Chu Liuchen, who was sitting by the bed with a cold face, and said with a smile, "I think I'm fine now. I probably fainted due to exhaustion!"

"You feel well now?" Chu Liuchen frowned slightly and asked.

"Really! It may be an accident. Don't worry! It's nothing serious!" Shao Wanru comforted him with a smile, "What if it's just an accident?"

The visit of the four imperial physicians had told Shao Wanru that the matter was inflated.

"How could the Empress be kind to send a servant to me? She must have ulterior motives!" Chu Liuchen said with a trace of darkness across his eyes. Although Qi Jue couldn't find out anything, Chu Liuchen felt something unusual. "There must be something hidden behind it!"

"What should we do now?" Shao Wanru looked at Chu Liuchen with her clear eyes and asked.

"If it gets inflated, so be it. Anyway, they are not kind people!" Chu Liuchen said casually, "When I am not here with you, take good care of yourself."

"Your Highness, take Qi Jue with you! I have Mingqiu Nun with me!" Shao Wanru said.

"No. Qi Jue had better stay with you. He has good medical skills. He can help you when you feel unwell!" Chu Liuchen shook his head and disagreed.

"It's inconvenient for me if Doctor Qi stays. If you leave with him, I can have a reason to ask Mingqiu Nun to come here. It's more convenient for me to have her as a company. Besides, I haven't seen Mingqiu Nun for a long time!" Shao Wanru held Chu Liuchen's hand and said coquettishly.

She was also worried that her husband would get ill when he was on his way abroad.

"Okay!" Chu Liuchen held Shao Wanru's hand and said with sparkles in his eyes, "You won't be bullied again even if I am not here with you. What happened today will make them think twice before they take action against you!"

"If it was not an accident, who did it?" Shao Wanru asked after thinking for a second. She blushed because Chu Liuchen was holding her hand.

In fact, she never thought it was an accident. Since the person behind the scene dared to set the trap in Prince Chen's Mansion in this way, it was not that easy to dig it out.

She didn't feel unwell at this moment, as her current pulse state was different from that just then.

She knew her own health best! She was always in good health!

"You should be more careful from now on. You can refuse to meet anyone if you don't want to. I'll support you!" Chu Liuchen said with a gentle look and reached out to hold Shao Wanru in his arms.

"I know what to do. Don't worry!" Shao Wanru leaned on his chest softly and answered with a sweet smile.

"I've prepared the gifts for Imperial Grandmother's birthday, and Qing'er has some guards. If you are summoned to the Palace again, lie that you feel ill if you don't want to go!" Chu Liuchen urged her anxiously.

Shao Wanru felt a warmth in her heart. Her long eyelashes fluttered as she closed her watery eyes. "It feels so good to be doted on by a man."

In her last life, she had no one to rely on. So when her reputation was ruined, which made her feel inferior and timid, and when she was bullied and forced to a dead end until her parents lost their lives, she could do nothing.

The blood of her whole family dyed the road to the happiness for their enemies.

In this life, no one could ever destroy everything she had again. She would protect her family and those who had helped her and push those who had ruined her last life into hell! For the sake of this, she got tough!

But she wasn't alone anymore with Chu Liuchen. She couldn't help becoming tender every time she thought of him. They had met each other in her last life. "It is so good to meet him again in this life!"

She subconsciously buried her face in Chu Liuchen's chest with coqueties, "I will! Don't worry!"

"I will become a strong support behind him and keep him away from the despair he fell in the last life!"

Chu Liuchen couldn't help smiling more and raising his eyebrows when he sensed her coquetry. He held Shao Wanru more tightly in his arms, with his eyes fixed on her face as if it would never be enough no matter how long he looked at her. Of course, he knew that the girl in his arms was not as weak as she looked.

But he wished her to rely on him more so that he would not be so anxious. If she had not experienced so many things, she would not have been so sensible.

"Don't be scared. You are mine, so you don't have to be afraid of anyone!" Chu Liuchen said in a soft voice. However, that was an arbitrary declaration. His handsome eyes looked full of affection, but he hid a cold world in his heart. No matter who hurt the girl in his arms, he would not forgive him!

In order to protect her, he would go higher and further with her!

"Including the Empress?" Shao Wanru raised the corner of her mouth and made fun of him. He said that in such a childish and arbitrary tone, but it sounded warm and sweet to her. She couldn't believe he was real when she looked at his charming eyes. She touched the corner of his mouth gently. "It feels warm and real!"

“Of course! You are my princess. My princess needs not to be afraid of anyone, including the Empress!”  
Chu Liuchen immediately answered her in a lazy tone.

In the past, he didn't care about anyone and his future. However, he was different then as he had the apple of his eye.

If the Empress dared to harm his girl, he would cut the Empress into pieces!

Now that he had made a decision, Chu Liuchen was not about to show any mercy to anyone who would become his enemies. It was doomed to be a lonely journey towards the goal in his heart, but he would never give up for the sake of her!

His eyes fell on her delicate red lips. He lowered his head and gently kissed her. He had been knowing what he wanted and what he didn't, so he would never let her go unless he died.

Once she belonged to him, she belonged to him forever!

No one knew how paranoid he was...

That was his only obsession at the moment...