

## Medical Princess 941

### Chapter 941 Shao Jie'er Enters Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion

"Can it be covered without any trace?" A ghostly voice came slowly from the darkness.

"Yes, it has been well handled. Don't worry! No one will figure it out!" a woman said in a low and soft voice, which sounded pleasant and weird in the dark.

"Good! If you hadn't succeeded, I would never help you again!" The ghostly voice was so intermittent and unreal that it wasn't like a human being's voice.

"I never fail. Besides, it was just a piece of cake!" the woman replied indifferently with a hint of disapproval.

"You should be careful even if you are dealing with a trivial matter! Even the Empress suffered losses. Are you the Empress?" The unpleasant voice came again, and then it became impolite. "Let's call it a day. You can leave now. I'll contact you when it is necessary. You'd better not make any rash act in the near future!"

"Do you mean that we take no more action until Prince Chen leaves the capital?" The woman sounded a little unconvinced.

"If you can't bear to wait, don't come to see me again!" The weird voice became harsh and cold.

"Fine! I'll keep a low profile!" The woman submitted. Then she listened carefully and only heard the sound of the wind in the dark.

She was in a towering old Buddhist pagoda close to the Cold Palace, so people rarely would go there.

The Cold Palace was located in the outer peripheral areas of the Imperial Palace. The old Buddhist pagoda near it was easy to be seen outside the Imperial Palace. Such a deserted place didn't even have a ghost visitor, let alone the possibility that an imperial concubine came here to enjoy the scenery.

The woman showed up from the shadow of the pagoda. She looked up at the dark sky and saw a waning moon with faint light. Her whole body, including the head, was wrapped in a cloak. When raising her head, she showed her beautiful outline. That was Shao Yanru!

She was on the third floor of the pagoda and carefully went down the broken stairs along the side of the building. She stood still after reaching the ground and turned around to look behind with caution.

Moyan came out from behind a tree and whispered, "Young mistress!"

Marquis Xing's Mansion had just sent her to serve Shao Yanru.

"Let's go!" Shao Yanru said with cold eyes.

"Are you not going to stay and have a peep?" Moyan looked up and reminded Shao Yanru carefully. They had not known who the person was yet.

"No! We might expose ourselves to others if we stay here longer!" Shao Yanru shook her head and looked up at the sky again. She could no longer stay here. Once she was exposed, she couldn't explain herself.

It was not her wish to become a Secondary Consort, the imperial concubine of the lowest rank. But there was only an advantage. At least the Emperor had no interest in her, which made her feel hopeful.

The Emperor didn't like her, nor would she like him. She still aimed at Chu Liuyue. She wanted to be Chu Liuyue's wife, the future Empress, who could stand high in the Imperial Palace overlooking all the women in the world.

In history, it indeed once happened that a low-level imperial concubine became the empress of the next emperor. With such a truth, Shao Yanru persuaded her father to send helpers to her. It was not hopeless. It could even say that she had great hope. At least in the Palace, it was no surprise to meet a prince!

It was much more possible than outside the Palace!

As for the person she met in the pagoda, she was shocked and panicked, but more surprised to find that the person not only had no evil intentions towards her but also offered her help after guessing right all her secret thoughts. She wanted to know who he was, but she did not dare to offend him.

"It doesn't matter who he is now. I can figure it out later. At least keeping a friend is much better than having an enemy in the Palace."

Moreover, Shao Yanru was sure that there must be a secret path in the pagoda, and that person knew it well. Every time he showed up or disappeared, he left no trace at all.

It was good for her. A person offering secret help to her was the best support.

Han Dan had been waiting there for a long time when Shao Yanru returned to her residence. When hearing the knocking, Han Dan hastened to open the door and let them in. After they entered the room, Han Dan looked behind them and quietly closed the door. The outside became quiet again, only shadows of trees swaying.

"Young mistress!" When Han Dan entered the inner room, Shao Yanru sat there calmly drinking tea.

"Did you send the letter?" Shao Yanru looked up and asked.

"Yes, I did. You can rest assured, young mistress!" Han Dan answered.

"Good!" Shao Yanru's eyes fell on Han Dan's face, which made the latter lower her head. Then Shao Yanru said slowly, "Both of you are my most trustworthy servant girls. As long as I make it in the future, I will definitely make you enjoy wealth forever!"

"Thank you, young mistress!" Moyan and Han Dan knelt down to express their gratitude!

"Don't mention it! I am in a predicament in the Palace now, and you two are the only ones I trust. Though we are master and servants, we have been going through many difficulties together. I have long regarded you as my confidantes. If I ascend to a high position in the future, you are the only people I will

care about!” Shao Yanru sighed with her head slightly raised. Her delicate face looked soft in the dim light, making her words sound sincere.

Moyan trembled, but Han Dan looked very excited.

They looked at each other, stood up together, and moved to stand behind Shao Yanru with quite different expressions.

“Tomorrow... tomorrow...” Shao Yanru murmured some obscure words in a low voice. But she didn’t go on, leaving infinite space for their imagination...

Fortunately, there was not too much publicity about what had happened in Prince Chen’s Mansion. At least the civilians in the capital knew nothing about it. They only knew about the affairs of Duke Yong’s Mansion and Marquis Xing’s Mansion. Obviously, Duke Yong’s Mansion would lose its title of nobility soon. The heir of Duke Yong was so infuriated that he even ran away from home. But soon after that he was found and brought back home.

Marquis Xing’s Mansion also became notorious for being degraded from a Duke’s Mansion to a Marquis one.

Old Madam of Marquis Xing’s Mansion lost her reputation for oppressing her juniors. The scandal that Shao Caihuan replaced Shao Jie’er to marry Commandery Prince Qing brought disgrace upon all the other sisters. “How could Marquis Xing’s Mansion defy the seniority and do such a thing? Who dare to marry a Miss of Marquis Xing’s Mansion from now on?”

Under such circumstances, Shao Jie’er was carried into Commandery Prince Qing’s Mansion by a small sedan chair. According to the Empress, Shao Jie’er had to enter the mansion first, though she didn’t like Commandery Prince Qing, one of the royal members. As for her status, it all depended on whether Commandery Prince Qing would give her a title.

Soon after Chu Qing rescued Shao Jie’er from the water in the Imperial Palace, the Emperor suggested Chu Qing take her as a consort and even asked an official and the Grand Prince to help register her name on the royal family list. However, now Shao Jie’er finally entered the mansion, but she was merely an inferior concubine without a title. And the Emperor said that he did not want to intervene.

“Chu Qing will make the decision himself,” the Emperor thought.

It was the order by the Empress when she was in a fury that Shao Jie’er must enter Commandery Prince Qing’s Mansion. No one from Marquis Xing’s Mansion dared to defy the Empress, because it was not Duke Xing’s Mansion as it had been before. Nothing would change no matter how much Shao Jie’er cried. She could do nothing but be put into the sedan chair and carried to Commandery Prince Qing’s Mansion to suppress the scandal.

As for Shao Caihuan, she had no intention to get married these days. She told her mother that she didn’t care what others said, nor did she want to marry anyone. She would rather live a lonely life.

Third Madam could do nothing but return to her courtyard to cry. Neither her eldest daughter nor second daughter could marry out. After all, all the girls in Marquis Xing’s Mansion had lost their reputations. On thinking that it was Old Madam’s fault, Third Madam couldn’t help gnashing her teeth with hatred in her heart.

"If it weren't for that old woman, my two daughters wouldn't have ended up like this!"

Shao Yanru was in the Palace, Shao Wanru had married into Prince Chen's Mansion, and Shao Jie'er had just entered Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion. For a time, Marquis Xing's Mansion, which had been in constant disputes, became peaceful now. It was said that Old Madam fell ill again. Her new granddaughter-in-law was said to be a virtuous woman. She would go to take care of Old Madam as long as she was free.

Third Madam was also sick, and Fourth Miss served her every day!

The whole Marquis Xing's Mansion became depressed. The servants who used to be self-righteous outside behaved themselves now and did not dare to have any ulterior motives.

There was nothing to be proud of in their mansion anymore!

A small sedan chair was carried out of Duke Yong's Mansion through the back door, followed by a servant girl who was wiping the tears on her face with her head lowered.

After making several turns, the sedan chair entered a big mansion through the back door.

After the sedan chair went into the mansion, an old maid there stepped forward and greeted the person inside. "First Miss!"

The servant girl stepped forward and lifted the curtain, behind which Qin Yuru appeared. She got off with Mei Xue's help.

Mei Xue's face was swollen with red and the corner of her mouth was broken. However, Qin Yuru looked more miserable, with messy hair and swollen face with a bruise. It was obvious that she had been beaten. The makeup on her face was a mess, making her no longer as beautiful as before.

Her gloomy eyes full of hatred, Qin Yuru ignored the old maid and directly went inside with Mei Xue's help.

She was about to meet Madam Di, the only one she could rely on.

The old maid stood up and looked at Qin Yuru's back, secretly taunting her. "First Miss is becoming more and more disgraceful now. No wonder her husband's family taught her a lesson. It seems that she made trouble again. Messes come in succession to us! Who can bear to live such a life?"

"Neither First Miss nor her husband is right!"

"Fortunately, our general has Madam Shui and Young Master. Otherwise, General's Mansion would have fallen. In the past, General would take care of First Miss and his son-in-law, but now he just leaves them alone. Duke Yong's Mansion once asked our mansion for help when it was in trouble last time, which, however, caused more trouble.

"Duke Yong's Mansion is indeed not a good family!"

"First... First Miss..." When Qin Yuru walked inside gnashing her teeth, a surprised voice stopped her. She combed her hair back and then saw a beautiful servant girl. Qin Yuru didn't recognize her, so she just looked at her coldly.

"First Miss, I am Qing Xue. Do you not remember me?" Qing Xue was excited and looked at Qin Yuru with red eyes.

"Why are you here?" Qin Yuru asked. She remembered Qing Xue was Madam Di's servant girl. She looked around to be sure that they were in the garden, but Qing Xue didn't dress like a first-class servant girl.

Qin Yuru rarely went home. If she did, she came back because she had a quarrel with her husband's family. Moreover, she would be sent or invited back to Duke Yong's Mansion soon. That was why she paid little attention to the affairs in her parents' home, let alone Madam Di. She didn't even notice the change in Madam Di's servants.

"I... I live here now!" Qing Xue lowered her head and murmured.

### **Chapter 942 Madam Di's Final Resort**

"You work here as a second-class servant girl?" Qin Yuru asked with a ridiculing smile, which made her feel pain on her face.

"Yes, I do... I am a second-class servant girl now..." Qing Xue lowered her head even more.

"Come with me. Mother will take you as her servant girl if she likes you!" said Qin Yuru.

"No, I can't. Madam Shui and Old Madam won't allow me!" Qing Xue panicked. She took a step back and shook her head.

Speaking of Shui Ruolan and Old Madam Qin, Qin Yuru became angry and hateful. But she couldn't do anything to them. Now she wasn't powerful enough.

Qin Yuru gritted her teeth to suppress the anger in her heart. As a married-out woman, she had no right to cut into the affairs of Qin's Mansion. At this time, she shouldn't be angry with Shui Ruolan for a servant girl. She even had to pretend to be intimate with Shui Ruolan to please her father. If she caused one more trouble again, she would not be allowed to come home, just as her father had warned her before.

He would pretend that he had never had such a daughter like her!

"I will mention you to Madam Shui at a proper time!" Qin Yuru waved her hand impatiently.

"Thank you! Thank you, First Miss!" Qing Xue answered with a grateful face. She hurriedly stepped aside and made way for Qin Yuru.

Qin Yuru and Mei Xue left for Yulan Pavilion, where Madam Di lived. After they left, Qing Xue raised her head and looked in the direction of Qin Yuru.

"First Miss made big trouble a few days ago! The day after the General brought her back from Duke Yong's Mansion, Countess Yong and the heir of Duke Yong came and managed to persuade First Miss to go back to Duke Yong's Mansion. But bad news came the next day. The heir of Duke Yong lost his title because of First Miss!

"What does she intend to do now?"

After thinking for a while, Qing Xue turned around and went to the inner court. She had to tell Madam Shui that First Miss came back through the back door. Madam Shui might not know about it.

Qin Yuru rushed to Yulan Pavilion. When she arrived there, she violently pushed the door, only to find that an old maid was cleaning the floor in the empty courtyard. The old maid was shocked by Qin Yuru's messy appearance and didn't recognize her at once. She just stared at Qin Yuru, who was with disheveled hair and a dirty face, and stammered, "Who... who are you...?"

"Get off! First Miss comes back!" Mei Xue stepped forward to push the old maid away and said sharply.

Qin Yuru ignored them and went into the main room, in which there was a sour smell that almost made her vomit.

There was an inferior servant girl in the main room. Hearing Qin Yuru's voice, she turned around. She recognized Qin Yuru, but she was also stunned by Qin Yuru's current image.

"Get out!" Qin Yuru scolded.

The servant girl dared not say anything but left the room. She met Mei Xue at the door and bowed to her. As an inferior servant girl, she by no means dared to offend a principal maid like Mei Xue.

"Stay far away. First Miss and Madam are about to discuss something!" Mei Xue waved her hand as if she were chasing away a fly and ordered the servant girl to leave.

The servant girl looked at Mei Xue and then at the old maid who had been driven out. She sensibly retreated to the door of the courtyard and stood outside with the old maid.

Qin Yuru walked into the inner room.

Madam Di was lying on the bed in the inner room. She was skinny and had few strands of withered hair on her head. There was no trace of beauty on her face. She looked scary, with blue veins bulging on her hands. People who didn't know her would think that she was in her seventies or eighties!

"Yuru... Yuru..." Madam Di stammered on catching sight of Qin Yuru.

She got her throat hurt three years ago and didn't receive good treatment. So she couldn't speak fluently. Once she spoke hard, she would show the horizontal muscles and bones on her neck.

"Mother, I... I can't live anymore! They want me divorced..." Qin Yuru rushed to the bed and cried aloud, with disgust in her covered eyes. If she had a choice, she wouldn't have come back to beg Madam Di for help.

Madam Di's haggard face made her very uncomfortable because it reminded her of what had happened before. Qin Yuru never thought that Madam Di ended up like this because of her. Instead, she believed she had helped Madam Di deal with Shao Wanru. But things didn't go on as they thought. She didn't mean to see such a result.

Madam Di looked like a ghost now. Qin Yuru didn't want to see Madam Di again if she could.

"How, how dare they..." Madam Di said in a hoarse voice and reached out to hold Qin Yuru's hand, though she was unable to move freely.

Qin Yuru tried hard to suppress her disgust and grabbed Madam Di's hand. "Mother, what should I do? What should I do now? Father said he wouldn't help me before!"

Qin Yuru burst into tears.

She hated everyone here. She used to live a good life in Jiangzhou, but now she fell into such a predicament here. It was all those people's fault!

Shao Wanru, Shui Ruolan, Old Madam Qin, Qi Rongzhi and Shao Yanru...

Of course, Duke Yong's Mansion should take most of the blame. It was they who took everything she had and made her feel guilty about her biological mother.

"Qin... Qin Huaiyong... You bastard!" Madam Di cursed angrily and kicked the quilt hard. It seemed that she wasn't beyond remedy though she was in poor health.

"Mother, I... I would rather die than get divorced! Anyway, I have no children. I have nothing!" Qin Yuru cried even more sadly, "Mother, I have been feeling guilty for hurting you that day. Now... now I will pay you back. I will hang myself here later to show my last love for you!"

Qin Yuru choked with sobs, looking even more desperate now with her messy appearance. No matter how much resentment Madam Di had, she couldn't bear to see her own daughter die in front of her.

She tightened her grip on Qin Yuru's hand for fear that Qin Yuru would really commit suicide. Madam Di tried her best to persuade her daughter. "Yuru... they... they won't dare to get you divorced!"

"Mother! How come they won't dare to? Aunt announced their decision in front of me, Grandmother showed no intention to support me, and Di Yan even beat me and made me like this! Mother, how can I continue to live such a life?" Qin Yuru cried.

"How, how dare they..." Madam Di was so angry that she became out of breath and glassy-eyed. Qin Yuru hurriedly reached out to pat her mother on the back a few times to help the latter relax.

"Di Yan... hit you...?" Madam Di asked in a hoarse voice and gritted her teeth with strange coldness in her eyes.

"Yes, Mother. He hit me! But Grandma and other people just watched. None of them spoke a word for me. Aunt said it was a losing proposition to marry me. Mother, if it weren't for them, how would I have broken off the engagement with Qi Tianyu?"

Qin Yuru had been regretting her decision all the time in the past three years. How she wished that it could be retracted! Di Yan could not be compared with Qi Tianyu at all.

During the past three years, Qin Yuru used to drop a hint to Qi Tianyu that she wanted to meet him in secret several times. However, as a well-educated man, Qi Tianyu didn't accept her invitation and repeatedly suggested Qin Yuru be a good wife of the Di family and not have any unethical ideas.

But the more he said so, the more tenacious Qin Yuru became. "I should have married Qi Tianyu! Why did Di Yan cut in us and force me to break off the engagement with Qi Tianyu with the help of his family background? And after I married into Duke Xing's Mansion, they don't treat me well!"

In Qin Yuru's heart, there was a reason for everything she did. It was others who made her fall into such a dilemma.

"Your, your grandma..." Madam Di tried hard to express herself.

"Grandma stands on Di Yan's side. Mother, I'd better die. No one cares about me! They don't care about whether I live a good life or not!" Qin Yuru cried so hard that her whole body trembled.

"She... she promised me that she would take... take care of you!" Madam Di was so anxious that her face and neck turned red. She held Qin Yuru tightly.

"Mother, everything is different now. Since you have been ill like this, I am afraid that I have no people to rely on anymore. Grandma dotes on Di Yan more. Mother, do you know that Aunt made a false account early to embezzle our dowries? When you just came back to the capital, she told you that your shop had been at a loss for more than ten years and asked us for money to make up for the loss! Do you still remember that?"

Qin Yuru became angrier and angrier. "Duke Yong's Mansion should take all the blame for the dowry event. Why should I have to take it for them? I shouldn't have publicized it! Otherwise, Duke Yong's Mansion couldn't have put all the blame on me! As for Di Yan, he lost his title as the heir of Duke Yong because of his own incompetence, which had nothing to do with me!

"Why was I punished for it?"

The last time Qin Yuru came back home, she didn't visit Madam Di, so Madam Di knew nothing about it. After hearing Qin Yuru's detailed statement, Madam Di turned livid with rage. "I knew it earlier that Madam Shi, that evil woman, would make use of my shop!" Actually, Madam Di suspected when she was told that her shop was at a huge loss because her mother told her that the shop had always made fortunes when she married Qin Huanyong.

"It turned out that Madam Shi played a trick!"

"What a wicked woman! What a wicked woman!" Madam Di gnashed her teeth in anger. She would have killed Madam Shi if the latter were in front of her. "I would not have fallen into such a predicament if I hadn't lacked money at that time! Madam Shi had done a lot of harm to me!"

"Mother, they not only refuse to admit their mistakes but also pin all the blame on us. Mother, Mother! They also said that we brought trouble to ourselves. I don't have a way out of it, Mother! Father doesn't help me... Duke Yong's Mansion doesn't accept me! I... I..."

Qin Yuru became sadder and sadder. She looked at Madam Di with despair in her eyes, as if she were going to kill herself to find a way out the next moment.

"Well! How wicked they are! I will not be benevolent to them anymore!" Madam Di cursed. She let go of Qin Yuru's hand, took out something from under her pillow, handed it to Qin Yuru, and said, "Go to find him. He... he will help you!"

## **Chapter 943 Unbearable Truth**

"Why... why do I have to meet this person?" Under the influence of Madam Di, Qin Yuru unconsciously asked in a low and trembling voice.



In fact, Qin Yuru didn't just come back to complain to Madam Di. Her real purpose was to get Madam Di's help.

Otherwise, she wouldn't have come back to the General's Mansion!

"Mo-Mother, who is this person?"

She tightly held the stuff wrapped in a handkerchief Madam Di had just given her and fixed her eyes on Madam Di, while in her mind flashed every word from Countess Yong and Old Madam Di's conversation on which she eavesdropped last night.

"Mother, I want to get her out of our family!" said Countess Yong in a sharp voice, which was completely different from her usual generous and decent one.

"She is your younger sister's biological daughter. How can you do this?" Old Madam said sadly, "Even though you don't care about your sister's feelings, you need to consider Qin Huaiyong. The Emperor thinks highly of him and will send him to Xu State soon. If Di Yan divorces Yuru now, our family must estrange from hers, which means burning Yan'er's bridges!"

"Mother, what are you worried about? Qin Yuru is just a bastard. If General Qin makes a punitive expedition against us, I'll make it public. At that time, he hastily married Madam Di to cover her premarital pregnancy, didn't he?" said Countess Yong in an angry and harsh tone.

"You... How can you say that..."

"Why can't I say that? Mother, all the people in our mansion have been living an unpeaceful life because of her! What a scourge she is! Are you going to keep taking care of that bastard until all of us are tortured to death?" Countess Yong's voice became angrier and angrier.

"She is not a bastard!" Old Madam retorted with great determination.

"Isn't she? Then, why didn't the guy show up and marry Madam Di at that time? He made her pregnant and then disappeared!" said Countess Yong in a vulgar voice like a termagant in the marketplace, without any dignity of an aristocratic family. That showed how much she hated Qin Yuru.

"She... she had no other choices at that time... The guy... had... had a wife..." Old Madam argued for Madam Di.

"Sister-in-law had no other choices? You must be joking, Mother. If General Qin hadn't married her, she would have secretly given birth to Qin Yuru in our Duke Yong's Mansion, wouldn't she? As the old saying, like parents, like daughter! How can Qin Yuru be a good woman if she has bad parents?" Countess Yong sneered and cursed.

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"Don't talk nonsense... Her biological father is also from a distinguished family..." Old Madam felt embarrassed and rebuked her.

"Distinguished family member? What kind of distinguished man would do such a disreputable thing like that? If he is from an aristocratic family, why didn't he bring Sister-in-law back to his mansion? Sister-in-law might be willing to be even a concubine!" Countess Yong sneered relentlessly.

At first, Countess Yong actually knew nothing about it. She didn't dare to ask too much about her spoiled sister-in-law at that time. After all, she had just married into Duke Yong's Mansion. Moreover, Old Madam Di doted on her sister-in-law. But later, after knowing about Madam Di's hasty marriage with Qin Huaiyong, Countess Yong began to regard Madam Di as an immoral woman, who had to marry Qin Huaiyong after having sex with another man.

Qin's Mansion was not in power at that time. At first, Duke Yong's Mansion wanted to break off the engagement between Madam Di and Qin Huaiyong. However, they had no choice but to let them marry.

After Madam Di got married, she gave birth to Qin Yuru "in her early pregnancy".

Actually, it was not a premature birth but a full-term normal delivery. It was a lie to trick Qin Huaiyong.

Countess Yong didn't know who Qin Yuru's biological father was.

"You... you'd better not ask..." Old Madam Di shook her head.

"How can you still keep it a secret in such a situation? It might help us reverse our downward situation if you make it public!" said Countess Yong. In the beginning, she didn't intend to dig it out because, in her previous conversation with Duke Yong, she seemed to know that Madam Di's lover was not an ordinary person. However, she wanted to catch every chance now.

She would do anything as long as Di Yan could get his title back!

"I... I..."

"Mother, just tell me whether that person can help us or not. Does he have a good reputation? You don't want to see Yan'er lose everything, do you? Yan'er has never been a good scholar. If he loses his title, our mansion will fall and we will be no different from the ordinary people outside!" Countess Yong burst into tears.

"I... I..." Old Madam Di couldn't speak clearly.

"Mother, please! If that guy can help us, let Sister-in-law ask him for help! If he can't, I won't keep Yuru as my daughter-in-law. Yan'er must divorce her and marry another woman from a noble family. In such cases, Yan'er might get a promotion with the help of his new wife's family..."

Qin Yuru couldn't hear what Countess Yong said later. In the whole process of eavesdropping on them, Qin Yuru could only hear some broken sentences, but she could understand them and find the big secret about herself.

She was not Qin Huaiyong's biological daughter! Her mother had sex with another man and got pregnant with her before marrying Qin Huaiyong! Moreover, her biological father might be powerful enough to make Countess Yong compromise. "If that is the case, I don't mind changing my father."

Anyway, Qin Huaiyong had never paid attention to her.

The most important thing now was to find the person. Her maternal grandmother would definitely not tell her. That was why she came home and saw her mother, Madam Di. "Since she has given birth to me, she has to be responsible for me. I can't divorce Di Yan. How can I become a divorced woman and let him seek another way out..."

“Yuru... Yuru...” Qin Yuru didn’t wake up from the memory of last night until Madam Di shook her. When she was looking at Madam Di’s gaunt face, a trace of disgust flashed in her eyes. “With such a mother, it is no wonder that I have fallen into such a situation. It must be that I suffer these to pay for her fault!”

“Go... to find him... He is your... father...” said Madam Di. She had kept it in her heart for years, and she had thought that she would never have a chance to say it out.

“Qin Huaiyong no longer takes notice of me, only trying hard to keep me alive for the sake of Duke Yong’s Mansion. How can I expect a better life when Duke Yong’s Mansion is declining?” Madam Di thought.

“Go... go to tell him... to warn your uncle...” Madam Di gnashed her teeth with hatred in her eyes. “If they dare to treat you like that again... your biological father will avenge you...”

Madam Di had thought that her parents’ home was her reliable backup. But she realized that it was such a naive notion after witnessing what her daughter had suffered. Duke Yong’s Mansion intended to put all the blame on her and her daughter!

“How can I let them have their way!”

“Does Father have ascendancy over them?” Qin Yuru was so excited that her eyes were shining after hearing Madam Di’s confident words. “My father is actually a powerful man, isn’t he? He didn’t marry Mother because he was not allowed at that time. If that’s the case, I might become a Miss of a bigger aristocratic family in the future. Compared with it, the declining Duke Yong’s Mansion is nothing!”

Qin Yuru dreamt of seeing Di Yan kneel in front of her, beg her not to leave, and beat his other concubines to death or sell them to the dirtiest place!

Qin Yuru’s eyes lit up when she was thinking of that.

“If so, I am very willing to call him Father!”

“No, no! You, you go to Grand Prince’s Mansion... to... find... Fourth Master Chu...” said Madam Di with difficulty.

“The fourth lineal son of Old Grand Prince?” Qin Yuru asked in a trembling voice.

There was no excitement in her tone anymore. Instead, there was rage, hopelessness and hatred. It was Grand Prince’s fourth son, Chu Huairan!

Everyone knew that Chu Huairan was the most famous playboy in the capital city.

When it came to Old Grand Prince, he was one of the well-known figures in the capital city, as the Emperor’s senior uncle. However, he was just a powerless prince and never entered the Imperial Court.

So Grand Prince’s Mansion was just speciously powerful. Chu Huairan was even such a playboy that he would bring different women home and send them away when he was weary of them. As long as Fourth Master Chu was mentioned in the talk, everyone would shake his head and feel sorry for his incompetence. “He has never done anything agreeable.

“He is a typical example to explain what a loafer is!

“What a waste of his identity as a royal family member!”

“Just go!” Madam Di urged Qin Yuru anxiously. Since she had uncovered the secret, she certainly hoped that Qin Yuru could take advantage of it as soon as possible in case any incident happened.

“Mother... are you sure that it will work?” Qin Yuru was not satisfied and looked at Madam Di coldly.

“Yes, of course! Just go!” Madam Di nodded repeatedly and urged Qin Yuru again.

Qin Yuru could only wrap the stuff with the handkerchief and put it in her pocket. She asked Mei Xue to come in and help her to dress up. Then she left with Mei Xue.

Madam Di breathed a sigh of relief after Qin Yuru left. She leaned on the cushion and stared at the door with fierce eyes. “Don’t blame me for my ruthlessness! You ask for it!”

There were in the stuff not only the tokens of their relationship but also some evidence that could accuse Duke Yong’s Mansion. Madam Di thought in her heart, “Countess Yong thought I knew nothing. But Mother has early informed me of something about it.” Different from Qin Yuru, Madam Di had doubted Duke Yong’s Mansion early.

For example, Madam Di found that some servant girls in her courtyard, especially those who were attractive and looked like good girls, had secrets.

They looked like daughters from good families, but what they did was far beyond their appearances. Madam Di had been secretly investigating the servants sent by Duke Yong’s Mansion and dug out many secrets, part of which could benefit her a lot, and with which she could threaten Chu Huairan to help her in case he didn’t want to.

A crazy smile appeared on her face. “Of course, I won’t die. I will witness the death of those who want to hurt me. None of them is going to escape from my trap!

“Let’s get started from Qin’s Mansion! The first one will be Shui Ruolan as well as her bastard...”

“It’s on fire! Fire! Hurry up and put out the fire!” Madam Di didn’t realize that her bed curtain was on fire until a scream suddenly came from outside.

#### **Chapter 944 The Recognition Isn’t As Simple As It Looks**

“Yes! It was Yuru. It was Qin Yuru who set the fire!”

Madam Di struggled hard to get up from the bed. However, her body was so stiff that she couldn’t coordinate her limbs. Every time she was deep in her thought, she couldn’t even notice the surrounding environment.

But she was well aware now that her daughter wanted to murder her!

She wanted to live. She rolled off the bed and tried hard to crawl towards the door with a ferocious and resentful face. “If I had known that she is such an unfilial daughter, I should have strangled her to death when she was born...”

When the fire broke out, Qin Yuru had been at the outside of the inner court. She looked back at the fire and then left with a calm face.

When she returned to Ningyuan Army General's Mansion, Qin Yuru had decided to kill her mother, which she thought was the best choice!

Madam Di could not live on after she confessed everything!

"I won't regain my reputation if I have an unfaithful mother. Only when she is dead can I gain people's sympathy, and Duke Yong's Mansion will give up the idea of divorcing me!

"Anyway, Mother is the daughter of Duke Yong's Mansion. Everyone knows that Countess Yong once coveted her dowries and mine, and now Mother is dead. If Di Yan divorces me in such a situation, the whole world will spurn him!"

Qin Yuru realized that Madam Di's death would bring her a chance. Moreover, she had the stuff Madam Di gave her. After getting on the carriage, Qin Yuru ordered the carriage to leave for Grand Prince's Mansion.

Nevertheless, Qin Yuru didn't notice that Qing Xue stalked her. Qing Xue also called an ordinary oil-walled carriage and followed Qin Yuru to Grand Prince's Mansion.

Qin Yuru took out the bundle from her pocket and opened it. She found there was an old hairpin. It should be exquisite when it was new, but now it looked inconspicuous.

Under the hairpin was an old note.

She unfolded the note and found it was a simple address, from which she couldn't see anything special. It seemed to be a place where they dated in secret.

Updates by

Then there was another letter. Unlike the note, it was new, sealed with seal paste. Obviously, it was carefully sealed by Madam Di.

Qin Yuru was in a dilemma for a few seconds and finally decided to keep it sealed. She could not touch Madam Di's things now so that everything she planned would look convincing.

"Mother is dead, so I have no second chance!"

Qin Yuru took a deep breath. She wrapped them up, put them into her sleeve, and straightened up.

"Though he is a black sheep, he is my father! From this point of view, I am a member of the royal family.

"I am a granddaughter of the Emperor's uncle! I am of much higher rank than Duke Yong's Mansion!"

Her carriage stopped in front of Grand Prince's Mansion, and Mei Xue got off and knocked on the door.

"Who is it?" the gatekeeper looked at Mei Xue's embarrassed face and asked in a strange voice.

"Our Young Madam wants to see Fourth Master Chu!" Grand Prince's sons were no longer young, and his fourth son had been the famous Fourth Master in the capital city now.

"Your Young Madam?" The gatekeeper poked his head out to look at the carriage parked outside and then at Mei Xue's swollen face. He just waved his hand and said impatiently, "Get off! Grand Prince said

he would never recognize you no matter what happened to you and our Fourth Master. All of you only want to curry favor with Fourth Master! Just think over whether you are qualified!"

Fourth Master Chu kept having visitors, most of whom were women from indecent families. The gatekeeper got accustomed to it, so he didn't think much of it and just waved to ask them to leave.

Mei Xue didn't understand what he meant at first, but later she blushed with shame.

"Our Young Madam has something to talk with Fourth Master!"

"Okay, okay! Everyone came and said the same line. Which brothel do your Young Madam come from?" the gatekeeper puckered his lips and said disdainfully, "Grand Prince said their family would not embrace your Young Madam no matter who she was or what Fourth Master had promised her. How can you take what a man promised in bed seriously?"

The gatekeeper became more and more relentless. He just regarded Qin Yuru as one of those women from a brothel and didn't respect her at all. "Even if they can enter our mansion, Fourth Master must send them out a few days later. Do they really think they can turn into noble swans from ugly ducklings? Think how much sincerity Fourth Master has as a playboy!"

However, even though they knew that Fourth Master was not sincere to them, they still came one after another, trying to become a member of Grand Prince's Mansion.

"What are you talking about? Our Young Madam... is Fourth Master's daughter!" Mei Xue was so ashamed that she almost couldn't speak a word. She stamped her foot hard and handed the hairpin and note over. "These are the tokens from your Fourth Master!"

"Daughter?" The gatekeeper looked at her in shock and took the tokens.

The old tokens and Mei Xue's serious look shocked the gatekeeper so hard that he could not speak. He had never met a woman who called herself Fourth Master's daughter. Studying the hairpin and the note in his hand for a moment, he found that they were old. Finally, he decided not to refuse them and hurriedly ran into the mansion.

Qing Xue's carriage followed and stopped behind Qin Yuru's. She saw Mei Xue go to the door and talk with the gatekeeper. After a long time, someone opened the side door and let Qin Yuru's carriage enter Grand Prince's Mansion.

Qing Xue kept watch outside. It was not until two hours later that she saw Qin Yuru's carriage come out of Grand Prince's Mansion and leave for Duke Yong's Mansion. Qin Yuru did it to pretend that she didn't know what happened to Madam Di...

After thinking for a while, Qing Xue ordered her coachman to drive to Prince Chen's Mansion. After all, Shao Wanru told her that she had to come back and report if anything happened.

"No soon had I left Qin's Mansion than something bad happened to Madam Di. First Miss was the last person Madam Di met before the fire! How vicious First Miss is!" Qing Xue thought.

"Qin Yuru went to Grand Prince's Mansion and asked them to recognize her as a family member?" Shao Wanru put down the teacup and asked in surprise. She had never thought that Madam Di would be such a person, though she didn't like Madam Di at all.

“Qin Yuru is not Qin Huaiyong’s daughter! So this is the secret Madam Di has kept for long! Old Madam of Duke Yong’s Mansion should have known it early, so she treats Qin Yuru so well.” Shao Wanru started to figure out the answer to the question that had puzzled her for a long time.

In fact, Shao Wanru had such a guess when Madam Di did nothing under threat. But Shao Wanru felt that it was too ridiculous.

“I had never heard about the story in my last life! How unexpected it is that it’s uncovered now!” Shao Wanru thought in her heart.

She rubbed the teacup with her fingers and frowned slightly. “Did it not happen in the last life? Or it indeed happened, but I was blocked from the news?”

In Shao Wanru’s last life, Qin Yuru lived a good life like a noble lady in the capital city, with Duke Xing’s Mansion and General’s Mansion as her backup. “Was it because Grand Prince’s Mansion was the power behind her?”

“If that was the case, it could explain why she lived a better life than Shao Yanru!

“Shao Yanru, as the First Miss of Duke Xing’s Mansion, entered the Palace but didn’t get what she wanted. However, Qin Yuru achieved her goals. So, Qin Yuru seemed to have taken advantage of the power behind her in the last life! It was unclear whether Qin Huaiyong knew about the secret or not...”

A thought suddenly entered Shao Wanru’s mind. “At that time, I no longer paid attention to Ningyuan Army General’s Mansion. How would Qin Huaiyong treat Madam Di as usual if he knew that his only daughter was not his biological daughter?”

“Yes! I had followed First Miss since she came back to Qin’s Mansion. But later... when Madam Di’s main room was on fire and smoke was rising in the direction of her courtyard... I saw First Miss pause at the back door for a while,” said Qing Xue.

Qing Xue had been keeping an eye on Qin Yuru after she reported to Madam Shui that Qin Yuru had returned home. She sneaked to Madam Di’s window outside and eavesdropped on parts of the conversation between Madam Di and her daughter, but she left soon and sneaked out of the courtyard and waited outside in case she was discovered.

Since Qing Xue had served Madam Di in the courtyard for a long time, she was very clear about the layout of Madam Di’s courtyard, which was the main reason why Qing Xue could come and go at will and was not discovered by Qin Yuru and her servant girl.

Moreover, Qing Xue saw Qin Yuru walk out of Madam Di’s room and then followed her up. However, Qing Xue didn’t see what Qin Yuru did before she left Madam Di’s room! So Qing Xue didn’t expect that Qin Yuru would be so cruel that she even wanted to burn her mother to death!

“How is Madam Di?” Shao Wanru asked.

Shao Wanru didn’t feel sorry for Madam Di. “Madam Di herself is such a vicious woman that she deserves what she has suffered. On the other hand, she gave birth to a more vicious daughter, who could even live a wealthy and glorious life in my last life! How unfair it was!”

However, no matter how vicious Madam Di was, she still treated her daughter well. But she had never expected that she would be murdered by her beloved daughter one day.

“Something must have happened to Madam Di! She is in poor health with a stiff body that causes her slow reaction. When she’s deep in thought, she seems to lose her senses and doesn’t even notice the screams of the people around her!” said Qing Xue. She knew Madam Di’s condition well because she used to serve the poor patient.

Anyone familiar with Madam Di knew that she was dull and abnormal when they saw her!

“Qing Xue, you go back first,” Shao Wanru nodded and said, “and report it to General Qin!” After all, Qing Xue shouldn’t stay outside for too long.

“That First Miss wanted to murder Madam Di with fire?” Qing Xue asked.

“And that First Miss is not General Qin’s daughter. Just tell him that you only heard part of their talk. Then you followed First Miss and saw her enter Grand Prince’s Mansion recognizing her father!” said Shao Wanru lightly with deep eyes.

She felt the whole thing was as not simple as it looked. “I am unable to deal with it alone. So I have to ask His Highness about Grand Prince and his fourth son!

“The stuff Madam Di took out must be something very important, because she knows that such a playboy as her former lover won’t carry out his promise that easily. Otherwise, she would have asked Qin Yuru to recognize her father earlier.

“But why does Madam Di think that an unreliable person like Fourth Master of Grand Prince’s Mansion would be willing to help Qin Yuru wholeheartedly for the sake of their past relationship?

“It is definitely not as simple as it looks. It is more like a trick that Madam Di asked Qin Yuru to find her biological father...”

## **Chapter 945 I Cannot Resist**

After Qing Xue left, Shao Wanru thought for a moment and went to find Chu Liuchen.

Chu Liuchen was at the study. A guard retreated as soon as he led Shao Wanru to the hidden stairs on the second floor.

Shao Wanru had been here before. She went on up the stairs to the third floor people couldn’t see from the outside. They would only take it for a two-floor building with a slightly higher roof. After all, all the royal buildings had high roofs, so this one was not eye-catching!

She entered the study and saw Chu Liuchen sitting leisurely in the chair. He waved to her as soon as seeing her come in.

Shao Wanru went close to him, and then she felt a tight catch on her wrist before she said anything. Chu Liuchen drew her into his arms! The chair was wide, but it was uncomfortable for them to sit together.

Shao Wanru moved and adjusted her sitting position, but Chu Liuchen made her sit on his lap at once!



“There was a sudden fire in Ningyuan Army General’s Mansion. Madam Di’s courtyard was the origin. Madam Di didn’t survive it because the servants failed to come to her rescue in time!” said Chu Liuchen casually with a pleased smile on his face.

If Shao Wanru hadn’t stopped him, he would have taken Madam Di’s life earlier! Therefore, when he heard that Madam Di was dead, he felt pretty pleased! “That woman should have died a long time ago!”

Shao Wanru was not surprised that Chu Liuchen knew about the accident. “How do the people talk about it?” Shao Wanru asked lightly as she played with the jade pendant hanging on Chu Liuchen’s waist.

“They said that Madam Di failed to divert herself from negative emotions and set the fire to burn herself. They were told that the First Miss of Qin’s Mansion Qin Yuru had been living a terrible life in Duke Yong’s Mansion. She was beaten by Di Yan, so she went back to her parent’s home and cried about her grievances to her mother Madam Di. After Qin Yuru left, Madam Di felt more and more sorrowful for her daughter, and for a moment she couldn’t accept it!” said Chu Liuchen with a smile.

Shao Wanru blinked her watery eyes and asked, “They got the news so quickly!”

Shao Wanru’s quick reaction made Chu Liuchen chuckle in a pleasant voice. “They did because Grand Prince’s people spread the news!”

No matter how hard Grand Prince’s people concealed themselves, Chu Liuchen figured them out very soon. Chu Liuchen was only curious about why Grand Prince’s Mansion had something to do with Ningyuan Army General’s Mansion. “It seems that they want to protect Qin Yuru.

“But I don’t have to dig it out now. Their secrets will definitely be exposed one day as long as I investigate them carefully!” Chu Liuchen thought.

Grand Prince had been staying away from the circle of the influential for long. Though he was an official member of the royal family, he was actually powerless. Moreover, Grand Prince should be a smart person who would not get involved in such a thing. That was why his involvement surprised Chu Liuchen a lot.

Shao Wanru immediately knew the key point. Her long eyelashes fluttered and she said bluntly, “Qin Yuru is the daughter of Madam Di and the fourth son of Grand Prince!”

She came here to tell Chu Liuchen about this.

Chu Liuchen didn’t know about it! So Shao Wanru’s words slightly stunned him at first, but soon he smiled with bright eyes, which showed that he was really happy.

“In the past, Qin Huaiyong always doted on his only daughter and had never taken a fancy to you. After he knew that you were not his biological daughter, he even turned a blind eye to Madam Di and his daughter’s harm to you. Now. God helps you and he’s got his retribution!”

Shao Wanru looked at him and felt helpless. How could a pretty man like him say such evil words!

A prince shouldn’t have said such words that made him look mean and stingy! But Shao Wanru was attractive to him like that! A smile slowly appeared on her pink and tender face. She nodded hard and said, “I am happy too!”

She was glad to hear that such retribution fell on Qin Huaiyong today. In her last life, he just watched with cold eyes when Madam Di and Qin Yuru tried to murder her, and later he was in league with Duke Xing's Mansion.

Although Qin Huaiyong never took the initiative to hurt Shao Wanru, he had always been selfish no matter whether in her last life or this life.

There was an old saying that to raise a child was better than to give birth to a child. Even though Shao Wanru had known that she was the daughter of the former Heir of Duke Xing, she still respected Qin Huaiyong as a father. However, nothing she had done could even move Qin Huaiyong a bit!

"No matter what Qin Huaiyong's purpose was, it would not change the fact that he never intended to help me when I was set up," Shao Wanru complained in her heart.

Even in this life, Shao Wanru didn't realize it at first. She had ever thought that Qin Huaiyong had some father-daughter feelings for her, though she was not his biological daughter. But later, she found that Qin Huaiyong had never considered her a daughter. If Shui Ruolan had not married him at that time, Shao Wanru would not have helped them to become intimate with each other!

"I am a vengeful person. I have been planning to punish Qin Huaiyong on our way to Xu State. But now I think he's been punished heavily, for he has wasted more than ten years of his efforts raising a daughter of his wife and another man!" said Chu Liuchen as he tightened his arm around Shao Wanru.

Shao Wanru was smiling, but there was a trace of sadness in her eyes.

Shao Wanru was an orphan. Despite raising her, Qin Huaiyong never cared about her and always doted on Qin Yuru. When Qin Yuru humiliated Shao Wanru, he didn't say a word to stop it until big trouble almost happened.

Regardless of this, he was still partial to Qin Yuru.

Chu Liuchen felt very distressed when thinking of Shao Wanru's past. She was the only girl he would dote on, but she had suffered so much!

"You have me now! Don't care about them!"

She didn't have to mind anyone else. From now on, there was always a man who would dote on her and spoil her!

It was quiet in the room. Shao Wanru leaned her head against Chu Liuchen's chest, feeling bitter in her heart. She didn't dare to open her eyes for fear that she would shed tears.

In her last life, she had never heard such words before she died, spending her whole life in a void of loneliness.

"You don't have to care about those people or anything about them. You are Princess Chen, who is under my protection!" Chu Liuchen looked down at Shao Wanru and said. Even though her eyes were closed, he could feel the sadness in them. Her long eyelashes fluttered and stirred his deep heart, making him feel pity for her.

In this life, she was the one and only!

Shao Wanru didn't say anything but just put her arms around Chu Liuchen's waist with a slight and sweet smile. She might have forgotten that she used to be protected like this in her last life.

"I don't care about them!" said Shao Wanru with her eyes closed. With a smile on her face, she looked relieved. In this life, she was optimistic, and she didn't care about those who didn't care about her!

Chu Liuchen gently touched her face as a response, and she couldn't help blushing.

"What is Grand Prince like?" Shao Wanru stopped his hand and asked.

"Equivalent to the patriarch, he is the director of the Imperial Clan, who is mainly in charge of some family affairs. After all, Uncle the Emperor doesn't have the leisure to deal with things like that. The royal family is such a complicated clan, so it is better to have someone to deal with them.

"Grand Prince is the Emperor's distant uncle, so he actually has quite a weak bond with the royal family. However, he is a senior and very popular with the royals. That was why he was appointed the director of the Imperial Clan and later awarded the title of Grand Prince. He always has a good reputation in the royal circle, though his fourth son is an unagreeable person," said Chu Liuchen slowly.

He knew what Shao Wanru wanted to know just from one question of hers.

"His fourth son Chu Huairan is very dissolute. He was notorious for his dissolute behaviors when he was young. But I didn't hear anything about his other aspects. As for the other sons, they are also mediocre in school work and personality. Grand Prince, as the director of the Imperial Clan, seems to be ordinary in every aspect...

"But this time, he acted differently!" said Chu Liuchen meaningfully.

Shao Wanru blinked her watery eyes and then looked up at him and asked, "Is it because of Qin Yuru?"

"It seems that I have underestimated him! He even could make up gossip benefiting Qin Yuru in such a short time," said Chu Liuchen lazily.

"Will Grand Prince recognize Qin Yuru?" Shao Wanru asked subconsciously. She felt that things had gone too smoothly for Qin Yuru. "There must be a reason why Grand Prince has not recognized Qin Yuru for so many years. Now, he even helped Qin Yuru get away with her crime. Is he really going to take Qin Yuru as one of his family members?"

"It depends on what Madam Di has given them! They should be more than some tokens. Anyway, Grand Prince is a person who plays safe. He won't recognize Qin Yuru unless something makes him do so. There is no shortage of granddaughters in Grand Prince's Mansion! Moreover, Qin Yuru is such a notorious woman," said Chu Liuchen meaningfully with an evil smile on his handsome face.

His eyes fell on the courtyard opposite through the window. "I really underestimated him before!"

"Don't worry. You don't have to deal with him. Since Grand Prince has done such a thing, he must have a backup plan. His target might be Duke Yong's Mansion!" said Chu Liuchen.

An idea entered her mind, and Shao Wanru asked, "Those good families?"

“Yes. The backup of those good families!” Chu Liuchen gently kissed Shao Wanru on her cheek, and then looked at her blushed face and comforted her with little sincerity. “Sorry, I really couldn’t resist! I won’t do that again!”

His teasing words made Shao Wanru’s face become even more blushed. She pushed Chu Liuchen hard, pressed his hand and stood up. Then she said in a coquettish tone, “I have to go and get ready to meet the guest from Qin’s Mansion!”

She turned around and left before Chu Liuchen answered!

With his eyes falling on her petite figure, Chu Liuchen couldn’t help smiling. He knew that she would be angry if he continued to make fun of her. So he stopped teasing her, just laughing and watching her go downstairs...

### **Chapter 946 Duke Yong’s Mansion’s Punitive Expedition Against Qin’s Mansion**

The messenger from Qin’s Mansion arrived soon. They were the servants of Old Madam Qin. When they saw Shao Wanru, they said in a panic, “Something bad happened to Madam Di, Your Highness! Old Madam wanted to invite you to our mansion!”

“I can go now!” Shao Wanru nodded and went out with Yujie.

She had a good relationship with Old Madam Qin. Shao Wanru had promised Old Madam Qin that she would be always available if Old Madam Qin needed her help.

When Shao Wanru arrived at General’s Mansion, Shui Ruolan came out to welcome her with a pale face. “Who would expect such an accident!” In fact, Shui Ruolan was such a kind person that she had never complained about Madam Di’s losing her temper and smashing things. As long as Madam Di didn’t make trouble in General’s Mansion, Shui Ruolan was relieved.

“Anyway, Madam Di is Qin Yuru’s mother. It won’t be any problem as long as Madam Di doesn’t cause trouble!” Shui Ruolan had thought.

“Is the flame extinguished, Aunt Shui?” Shao Wanru looked in the direction of Yulan Pavilion and asked.

“Yes, it is! But I am afraid that Madam Di... is gone!” Shui Ruolan frowned tightly and answered. Without a powerful background, Shui Ruolan was always scared of Duke Yong’s Mansion. She was afraid that they would make a big deal out of Madam Di.

“Don’t worry, Aunt Shui. Everything will be fine!” Shao Wanru comforted her, and then they went to Old Madam Qin’s courtyard together.

Old Madam Qin was already waiting for them in the main room. When she saw Shao Wanru, she hurriedly stood up and bowed to her.

Shao Wanru hurriedly took a step forward and held her up. “Don’t stand on ceremony with me, Grandma!”

Shao Wanru helped Old Madam Qin sit down.

Old Madam Qin reached out to hold Shao Wanru's hand and sighed. Although she didn't like Madam Di, she never expected to see that Madam Di was burned to death.

After a long while, Old Madam Qin said, "Yuru has been here!"

"You can rest assured, Grandma! Duke Yong's Mansion won't be too aggressive against you!" said Shao Wanru softly. She knew what Old Madam Qin was worried about and why she was invited to General's Mansion. "Grandma wants me to back them up!"

It might be really hard to end in peace if Duke Yong's Mansion made a big deal out of Madam Di's death.

"Duke Yong's Mansion always showed hostile attitudes when there was a trivial dispute between us in the past. How can they be kind when Madam Di has been dead now?" Old Madam Qin sighed again, "When Duke Yong's Mansion's people come, you don't have to say anything but watch. As long as you are here, they won't be too far! As for their conditions, they don't matter! We can pay!"

Old Madam Qin just wanted to settle peacefully without messing with people from Duke Yong's Mansion!

After all, the accident was nothing glorious. The more people knew about it, the more embarrassed she would feel!

It deeply touched Shao Wanru that Old Madam Qin even considered her feelings in such a situation. So she made up her mind to give Ningyuan Army General's Mansion a hand to deal with the accident, for the sake of Old Madam Qin's love and care she received in her childhood. Moreover, Shao Wanru was worried that Shui Ruolan and Old Madam Qin couldn't handle it.

"Grandma, don't worry! Everything will be fine! Everyone said that Madam Di burned herself because she couldn't let it go after hearing Qin Yuru's complaint about her miserable suffering in Duke Yong's Mansion!" said Shao Wanru.

"Chu Liuchen knows how the people interpret the story, but Old Madam Qin might not!" Shao Wanru thought.

Sure enough, not only Old Madam Qin but also Shui Ruolan was stunned by the rumor, according to which, Ningyuan Army General's Mansion was innocent while Duke Yong's Mansion took all the responsibilities. "Yes! it is all Duke Yong's Mansion's fault, isn't it?"

"Who... who spread it?" Shui Ruolan immediately asked with her eyes wide open. She was not stupid. "If someone hadn't made it up, how could there have been such an explanation?"

"I don't know either. Anyway, lots of people hold such an opinion and it is spread rapidly!" said Shao Wanru casually. Then she went straight to the point. "Grandma, does it have anything to do with Qin Yuru?"

"The... the fire broke out after Yuru left! Maybe... it was just an accident!" Old Madam Qin replied with difficulty. It was hard for her to believe that her granddaughter was a murderer! "How vicious a person would be if she killed her mother!"

"Grandma, Qin Yuru did it, didn't she?" Compared with Old Madam Qin, Shao Wanru was very firm with it. She said bluntly, "Grandma, Aunt Shui, I am sure that you know about Madam Di well. She is not the

kind of person who will commit suicide. As for Qin Yuru, she has been wanting to kill her mother since three years ago! What else did she not dare to do?"

"But... that's her biological mother!" Shui Ruolan gasped. She also didn't want to believe that Qin Yuru was the murderer.

"If Aunt Shui and Grandma don't believe it, General will accept the truth!" said Shao Wanru calmly.

Qin Huaiyong must be in a rage if he knew that Qin Yuru was not his biological daughter. He raised Qin Yuru for so many years, but it turned out to be worthless. He essentially raised for his wife's lover a kid who even shamed the whole General's Mansion. No man could bear it!

Moreover, Qin Huaiyong was a general.

"Old Madam, people from Duke Yong's Mansion have arrived!" An old maid rushed in with a panicked face. They didn't come with kindness!

A large group of people came with aggressive faces.

"Mother, I'll go and take a look. Don't go out!" Shui Ruolan stood up and said, though she was a little flustered.

"Aunt Shui, I'll go with you!" Shao Wanru looked very calm.

"No, I have to go!" Old Madam Qin didn't rest assured. She took Shao Wanru's hand and was about to stand up. "Since it has been a big deal now, I have to go to settle it!"

"General Qin will handle it!" said Shao Wanru.

"It is not appropriate for a man to deal with this kind of thing!" Old Madam Qin shook her head, believing that her son couldn't handle it while women in charge of the inner court were more suitable to deal with Madam Di's problem. He shouldn't intervene unless the women failed. After all, Madam Di was his legal wife.

Since Shui Ruolan had no background, Old Madam Qin was afraid that people from Duke Yong's Mansion would target Shui Ruolan.

"Shui Ruolan is too gentle to deal with Countess Yong," Old Madam Qin thought.

Since Old Madam Qin insisted, Shao Wanru quit persuading her. Then, three of them went out to see the people from Duke Yong's Mansion. On the other hand, Qin Huaiyong wouldn't stand it anymore after hearing that people from Duke Yong's Mansion had come.

He happened to have nowhere to vent his anger. How could he bear to stay calm when Duke Yong's Mansion's people came?

The people from the two families met at the second gate in General's Mansion.

Countess Yong was the head of the group of Duke Yong's Mansion, accompanied by Qin Yuru and Duke Yong. They looked very hostile!

Duke Yong did not go to find Qin Huaiyong but followed his wife to the inner court to get even with Old Madam Qin and Shui Ruolan.

On catching sight of Old Madam Qin and Shui Ruolan, Countess Yong pointed at Shui Ruolan and ordered the old maids behind her. "Go and beat that woman to death! As a secondary legal wife, she even dared to frame my sister-in-law and forced her to kill herself. What a vicious woman! Today, we are here to revenge ourselves on my sister-in-law's murderer. Beat her hard! I will be responsible for the result!"

Several old maids immediately raised their sticks and rushed to Shui Ruolan on hearing Countess Yong's order and promise.

Qin Yuru took a step back calmly and looked at Shui Ruolan with a sneer. Though she had known that she was not Qin Huaiyong's daughter, she still hated Shui Ruolan. "It will be best if Countess Yong can beat her to death. If Shao Ruolan dies, no one can oppress me from now on!

"If Countess Yong finally causes big trouble, will she get retribution and be beaten to death too? I don't care! Anyway, I don't like either side!"

Of course, Qin Yuru hated Shao Wanru most. Shao Wanru looked so delicate and beautiful, with her skin as white as snow, and her complexion and appearance were much better than Qin Yuru's. All of these indicated that Shao Wanru lived a happy life, made Qin Yuru lose her confidence in front of Shao Wanru, and reminded Qin Yuru every minute that there was a huge difference between them two.

"I was the most beautiful woman at that time! And Shao Wanru was just a toy I could play with as I wanted!

"Fortunately, I have been confirmed to be also one of the royal family members now. What's more, I am much closer to the Imperial Clan than Shao Wanru, who is just the granddaughter of Great Elder Princess! In the future, I will have more opportunities to hook up with one of the princes, go higher and then trample on Shao Wanru..." Thinking of this, Qin Yuru felt her heart burning with excitement.

"It will be best if Shao Wanru also gets involved later. At least, make her disfigured if they don't make her dead or disabled!"

Qin Yuru looked around and saw a branch on the ground, and then an idea entered her mind. "I am going to destroy Shao Wanru's face with that branch when the chaos breaks out later. Anyway, no one will notice who destroys her face when so many people are fighting!" Only when Shao Wanru was disfigured could Qin Yuru feel happy.

Qin Yuru always felt that everything Shao Wanru had should have belonged to her. "I should have owned everything she has!"

Qin Yuru was taking notice of Shao Wanru, and so was the latter. Shao Wanru gave a glance at Qin Yuru and saw the evilness in Qin Yuru's eyes. She sneered in her heart, "Does Qin Yuru really think that she has got a good father and become a swan from an ugly duckling?"

"Protect Princess Chen!" Yujie shouted as soon as she realized that things were about to be out of control. The two guards of Shao Wanru unsheathed their swords and pointed them at the old maids rushing over.

There seemed to be blood dripping off the blades reflecting cold light. No matter how fierce those inferior old maids were, they did not dare to rush to the swords. All of them stopped and stood still on the spot.

Some of them with sharp ears heard the word “princess” and then their eyes couldn’t help falling on Shao Wanru!

“Is that... Princess Chen?”

“Princess Chen, this is the family business between our mansion and General’s Mansion, so it has nothing to do with you. Please ask the guards of Prince Chen’s Mansion to get out of the way. Moreover, it doesn’t benefit Prince Chen if you get involved in the trouble. After all, it is just a family matter. As a prince, Prince Chen should not intervene in any family business of an official, should he?” said Countess Yong coldly.

After all, Countess Yong came here to make trouble and get benefits. “If I can force Qin Huaiyong to put a good word for Duke Yong’s Mansion, Di Yan might get the position of Heir of Duke Yong back!”

At first, Countess Yong planned to do so with an excuse. But now, she got one directly. On hearing the news about Madam Di’s death, she was ecstatic and immediately came to ask for benefits with Qin Yuru, who had just returned to Duke Yong’s Mansion at that time.

Countess Yong didn’t live a good life either...

#### **Chapter 947 Break Off Relationship!**

“Family business?” Annoyed by Countess Yong’s shrewish manner, Old Madam Qin took a few steps forward and said, “If you hadn’t oppressed Yuru, she wouldn’t have come back and complained to Madam Di, and Madam Di wouldn’t have set the fire. God knows what you have done, Madam Shi! He knows who started everything! Then again, don’t you think it too greedy of you to steal money from their dowry shop for so many years, Madam Shi? It is really not what a Madam of a noble family should do!”

Old Madam Qin was in a rage. In the past, Duke Yong’s Mansion always suppressed General’s Mansion. Because of Qin Yuru’s bad reputation, General’s Mansion was always at a disadvantage when facing Duke Yong’s Mansion.

But now, Old Madam Qin fought back regardless of all consequences!

She said harsh words, almost stating that Countess Yong was a shrew and directly pushing all the blame on Duke Yong’s Mansion.

It had never happened in the past three years!

Countess Yong was stunned for a few seconds, and then she also flew into a rage. “Since when do the womenfolk of General’s Mansion dare to talk back?”

“Old Madam Qin, don’t blame us for showing no respect in public! I am afraid that your mansion should take all the responsibilities! And I don’t want to argue about the past, and let’s talk about now! My sister-in-law died in your mansion! She shouldn’t have been burned to death in the daytime unless



someone had set the fire! Why don't you take an investigation but make a fuss about some small things in the past? I doubt whether you deliberately change the topic!

"Old Madam Qin, if you disagree with me and don't want to be our in-laws anymore, Yuru can divorce our Yan'er! But we won't give up revenging Sister-in-law!" said Countess Yong peremptorily.

Countess Yong was always respected by Qin's Mansion, except for the last time when she came to General's Mansion and apologized for the dowry shop.

At the moment, she was as imperious as usual and used Qin Yuru's marriage to threaten Qin's Mansion. She had been making use of it for the past three years!

Countess Yong raised her chin proudly after finishing her words. "I don't believe that Qin's Mansion will disregard Qin Yuru! Qin Huaiyong has a son, but the son is too young to be as important as his sister in their father's eyes. After all, Qin Huaiyong has raised Qin Yuru for so many years!"

Countess Yong's hostile attitude made Old Madam Qin so angry that she trembled all over. Shao Wanru hurriedly stepped forward to help her, and then she raised her beautiful eyes and looked at Qin Yuru on the opposite side with a slight smile. "Countess Yong thinks it is a beneficial excuse, but Qin Huaiyong must fly into a rage if he hears this!"

Qin Yuru lowered her head, as if the quarrel between the two families had nothing to do with her. However, her eyes were full of sarcasm.

"Yes! Just fight!

"It will be best if the two families break up! Grandpa said that only in this way can we reap the benefits!"

Thinking of her newly recognized grandfather and the Grand Prince's Mansion in majestic splendor, Qin Yuru became excited and clenched her handkerchief.

"General's Mansion is a young noble family, while Duke Yong's Mansion is declining. Neither of the two families can be compared with Grand Prince's Mansion, one of the royal family branches! Even though Grandpa is just a powerless director of the Imperial Clan, he has the title of Grand Prince, so Duke Yong's Mansion can never bear comparison with his mansion!

"Grand Prince is my biological grandfather! I didn't meet Father yesterday, but Grandfather was very kind to me. He recognized me after asking me a few questions and reminded me not to act rashly!

"I have nothing to be afraid of with Grand Prince's Mansion behind me!

"Sure enough, Madam Di's death helps a lot! When Grand Prince showed a guilty look in front of me, I knew I had made the right decision. In addition, Mother was in such a poor condition, so the earlier she was reincarnated, the better it would be for her. It was not a cruel decision! I just wanted to help her free herself from pain and get some benefits for myself!"

Thinking of this, Qin Yuru couldn't help feeling complacent and showing a smile on her face. But then she came to her senses and straightened her face in a hurry.

Although she just smiled for a short time, some people caught sight of it.

Shao Wanru had been keeping an eye on Qin Yuru, so she naturally saw the fleeting smile on Qin Yuru's face, and then she sneered in her heart, "Madam Di is vicious, but Qin Yuru is even more vicious than her mother. Qin Yuru can do anything to get a promotion. Actually, she used to frame Madam Di once before. Therefore, it was not surprising that she did it again!"

"Like mother, like daughter!"

Another person catching sight of her secret smile was Qin Huaiyong, who came over in a hurry. Before that, he pondered what Qing Xue had reported to him and what had happened in the past, and then he immediately understood something that didn't make sense before. "It was not a premature delivery but a normal one. Qin Yuru was born in a relatively big size, and she has always been very healthy. A premature baby would not be like that!"

On thinking that Madam Di had deceived him for so many years and that he had suffered so much in front of Duke Yong's Mansion, Qin Huaiyong got infuriated.

"If it weren't for Madam Di and Qin Yuru, I wouldn't have had to give in and allow such a useless person as Duke Yong to oppress me!"

When hearing the people of Duke Yong's Mansion and Qin Yuru paid an aggressive visit to his mansion, Qin Huaiyong took a sword from the wall and rushed over. When he arrived and heard Countess Yong's threatening words, he subconsciously looked at Qin Yuru and saw her smiling.

He couldn't bear it anymore and lost his temper instantly!

He strode over and pointed with the sword in his hand at Duke Yong, who was silently standing aside.

Faced with a cold sword, even Countess Yong was shocked and pulled Duke Yong back in a hurry. It was all because of Duke Yong that she could be a Countess, so she wouldn't let anything happen to her husband!

"Brother-in-law, what do you mean?" Countess Yong asked with a cold face.

She wanted to suppress Qin Huaiyong with her attitude, which Duke Yong's Mansion had commonly adopted in the past three years when they confronted Qin's Mansion.

Countess Yong was very experienced. "As long as I am tough enough, Qin's Mansion will finally give in. After all, Qin Yuru is the biological daughter of Qin Huaiyong!"

"Qin Yuru is not an adopted daughter like Shao Wanru. Qin Huaiyong will not care about her if she is not his biological child! No one can deny there is a huge difference between a biological kid and an adopted one!"

Qin Huaiyong's sword followed to point at Duke Yong. Qin Huaiyong's face was livid, with blue veins bulging on his forehead. If Qin Huaiyong had not been rational, he might have stabbed Duke Yong with the sword.

He was a general but not a scholar who had never seen blood on the battlefield. It was not a big deal for him to kill a person!

Duke Yong was also annoyed. He pushed Countess Yong away and asked harshly, "Brother-in-law, what do you mean?"

"Take her and Madam Di with you. From now on, General's Mansion no longer has anything to do with your mansion!" said Qin Huaiyong coldly as he shook the sword in his hand and pointed it at Qin Yuru.

This was almost the limit of his restraint.

Old Madam Qin found Qin Huaiyong weird. She wanted to get close to him, but Shao Wanru stopped her, pinching Old Madam Qin's arm quietly and drawing her back.

Shui Ruolan also noticed that something was wrong with him. She frowned and stood still, staring at Qin Huaiyong, but did not go forward.

Shao Wanru calmly pulled Old Madam Qin to stand beside her.

"Are you out of your mind, Brother-in-law..." Hearing Qin Huaiyong's words, Duke Yong gasped and was stunned for a moment.

However, he was cut in by Countess Yong. "Brother-in-law, do you intend to break off the relationship between us? Great! That's also what we want. Since Yuru has come, she doesn't need to go back with us. We don't have the good fortune to have such a Miss from your mansion, who has made us lose our title. If you take her back, I can't wait to buy some firecrackers to clean away the bad luck she brought. But we won't make a concession in my sister-in-law's death. Since she married into your mansion, she has helped manage your mansion for so many years and gave birth to a daughter for you. Now, she died without a reason! You have to give us an explanation!" said Countess Yong.

"If we can't figure it out now, we will report it to the yamen. We two families cannot completely break off the engagement until we find the truth!" Countess Yong became increasingly aggressive. She still didn't believe Qin Huaiyong would break off the relationship with Duke Yong's Mansion or abandon Qin Yuru.

"Break off the relationship?" Qin Huaiyong sneered and repeated her words.

"Yes! Di Yan will divorce Qin Yuru after my sister-in-law's matter is settled. No matter how much your mansion begs us, we will not change our mind!" Countess Yong raised her head high with a sense of superiority, and her manner became more and more hostile.

She was not afraid that Qin Huaiyong would break off!

"What do you think of it, Duke Yong?" Qin Huaiyong still pointed his sword at Duke Yong and asked sharply.

"I agree to break off if you insist on doing this to me!" said Duke Yong angrily. "Qin Yuru is pathetic, but we have to make a decision at this time!" Pointed at by Qin Huaiyong with a sword, Duke Yong had lost his good temper. "How can Qin Huaiyong be so shameless and point a sword at me after my biological sister died in their mansion?"

Duke Yong was so angry that he glared at Qin Huaiyong and gnashed his teeth with a livid face.

"Come and carry Madam Di here!" Qin Huaiyong took a deep breath and shouted at the servant beside him.

The servant hastened to rush away. Soon, two servants showed up with a wooden board, on which was a charred body covered by a white sheet, with one of the hands exposed in the air.

"Sister... Sister!" Duke Yong wailed and wanted to get closer as soon as he saw his sister's body. But Qin Huaiyong flipped his hand and pointed the sword at Duke Yong on the chest again.

"Take the body away. It's all yours! And you can cry as much as you like. Never bother me with anything about Qin Yuru. You can deal with her however you want. Your mansion has nothing to do with mine, and we will never contact each other for the rest of our lives!" said Qin Huaiyong by putting stress on almost every word in a clear and fierce tone, making people feel inexplicably guilty.

"Father!" Qin Yuru couldn't stay calm anymore. She raised her head in a hurry and cried sadly with her tearful eyes fixed on Qin Huaiyong, "Father! Without your care and love, I would rather die here today!"

On finishing her words, she rushed to the trunk on the side!

#### **Chapter 948 Shed All Pretense of Cordiality...**

A servant girl of Duke Yong's Mansion reacted fast and hurried forward to stop Qin Yuru.

Countess Yong suddenly burst into tears. "You've made Sister-in-law suffer and kill herself, and now you even want to do the same to Yuru. How cruel you are! Oh, my poor sister-in-law! You married into a wolf's den... No wonder you died at such a young age!"

"We caused Madam Di's death?" Qin Huaiyong sneered and pointed the sword at Countess Yong. The cold light shocked Countess Yong so much that her face turned pale.

She knew Qin Huaiyong wouldn't stab her, but it was another thing when she faced the fierce sword.

Countess Yong went weak at the knees and almost fell down.

"It was Qin Yuru who killed Madam Di. Ask her for the explanation you want!" Qin Huaiyong shouted in a sharp tone.

Everyone present was shocked when they heard that.

Shao Wanru calmly glanced at Qin Huaiyong, who was about to lose his mind, and thought, "Countess Yong's words made him burst into anger.

"I was thinking about how to make Qin Huaiyong say it out, but now I don't have to!

"Countess Yong's aggressive attitude is really a good helper!"

"What are you talking about, Father?" Qin Yuru was the one who came to her senses first. She couldn't believe that Qin Huaiyong would say that. But she had to pretend to be hurt at the moment.

According to her previous experiences, Qin Yuru had thought that Qin Huaiyong would finally stand on her side even if he found she did it. "Just think about what I did to Shao Wanru in the past! He always turned a blind eye to them!

“He knew what I did, but he pretended not to and stood on my side. He will be the same as he was!

“His daughter will lose her life if other people know she killed her own mother! So, how can Qin Huaiyong want his daughter to die?

“There must be something wrong!”

After those words came out of his mouth, Qin Huaiyong regretted it. But he couldn’t take them back because so many people had heard it, so he could only sneer, “You burned Madam Di, didn’t you?”

Shui Ruolan swayed and almost fainted. She was so kind-hearted that she never thought of such a thing. Though there was no evidence to prove what Qin Huaiyong said, she believed it.

“Don’t be afraid, Aunt Shui! Qin Yuru won’t harm you and Xuange’er. You will be fine!” Shao Wanru supported her and said in a low voice.

Her voice was not loud, but Qin Huaiyong standing beside her heard it clearly in the eerie silence, and his heart immediately beat faster. An idea came to his mind.

“Since Qin Yuru is not my daughter, Xuange’er will be my only child. I can’t let Qin Yuru hurt Shui Ruolan or Xuange’er!

“Qin Yuru is a vicious woman, so she must use her identity as my daughter to plot against Shui Ruolan and Xuange’er when I am out!

“I am about to go to Xu State soon, so I have to deal with Qin Yuru before leaving the capital. Though that might disgrace me, at least I can protect Shui Ruolan and Xuange’er from Qin Yuru.”

Qin Huaiyong considered it carefully and became less guilty than before. “I must make it public that Qin Yuru is not my daughter, though it disgraces me by telling people that I was cheated on. Otherwise, there will be endless trouble in the future, let alone the fact that Grand Prince is involved.”

Qin Huaiyong sensitively felt there were more secrets!

“Anything relevant to the royal family is important!”

“Father, are you really going to abandon me because you have a son?” Qin Yuru looked extremely sad and angry. She covered her chest with her hand and looked at Qin Huaiyong as if she couldn’t believe that he was such a heartless father.

“Brother-in-law, how can you be so cruel? No matter how bad they are, Sister-in-law is your legal wife, and Yuru is your daughter! How can you put all the blame on Yuru? How partial you are to your concubine! You spoil your concubine but ignore your wife!” Countess Yong immediately helped Qin Yuru argue with Qin Huaiyong as she had a bad feeling in her heart.

She couldn’t help thinking, “Qin Huaiyong never showed such an attitude before. What’s wrong with him today? Was it really Qin Yuru who did it?”

Countess Yong had never considered Qin Yuru a good person. She started to suspect Qin Yuru and couldn’t help feeling a sense of fear when thinking of the fact that Qin Yuru had been her daughter-in-

law for three years! The more she thought about it, the more she didn't want to take Qin Yuru back to Duke Yong's Mansion.

"If I quarrel with her again one day, she might kill me and burn my body!"

"Brother-in-law? Do not call me Brother-in-law! Duke Yong, do you really think I don't know anything about it? You have hidden it from me for so long because you want me to take the blame, right? Well, well, well! Let's stop arguing and go to report it to the court! The lord mayor will investigate it!" said Qin Huaiyong in a harsh voice with a livid and pale face. He didn't care about his reputation anymore.

Duke Yong got flurried after noticing something from Qin Huaiyong's words. He took a few steps forward and grabbed Qin Huaiyong's hand holding the sword. "Brother-in-law, it will be a complete disgrace for us both if it is exposed to the public. We'd better discuss it slowly!"

"Discuss? About what? That you hid it from me to make me take the blame?" Qin Huaiyong sneered. On thinking that he had treated Qin Yuru as his own daughter and doted on her in everything for so many years, he got so angry that his eyes turned red.

He hated Qin Yuru now as much as he tolerated Qin Yuru before!

However, at the moment, he hated Duke Yong's Mansion the most! If it weren't for them, he wouldn't have been cuckolded for so many years!

He looked at Duke Yong with flaming eyes as if he were about to burn Duke Yong the next minute.

"General..." Shui Ruolan reached out and wanted to catch Qin Huaiyong's sleeve.

But Shao Wanru tugged at her clothes, dropping a hint to her that she should not move.

Shui Ruolan hesitated for a moment and took her hand back. She realized they were talking about something secret, and it was almost uncovered, though she did not know what it exactly was.

"Duke Yong's Mansion... Madam Di and Qin Yuru... You're quite something! I am willing to put my dignity into my pocket to deal with these. So we don't need any more discussion!" Qin Huaiyong shouted angrily.

"Brother-in-law, let's talk about it!" Duke Yong softened his position.

"We are a family, Brother-in-law! Besides, nothing will be settled when you are in a rage. No matter what Yuru has done, she is your biological daughter. You don't want to see your biological daughter die, do you?" Countess Yong also softened and persuaded.

Her words indicated she agreed with the statement that Qin Yuru killed Madam Di.

"I didn't... Mother!" Qin Yuru was furious with a flush of hatred for Countess Yong growing in her heart. "Though I am now one of the royal family members, I can't bear such a crime!"

"Come and see them off!" Qin Huaiyong ignored them and said harshly.

A few strong servants came forward and intended to drive out all the people of Duke Yong's Mansion.

“What do you mean, Qin Huaiyong?” Duke Yong flew into a rage after being pushed by an old maid. He pushed the old maid away and angrily rushed over to Qin Huaiyong.

“We’ll see each other in court!” said Qin Huaiyong scornfully. As a military general, he attached great importance to reputation, but he did so less than a civil official.

“What on earth do you want, Brother-in-law? How can we make a big deal out of this?” Duke Yong became flurried and couldn’t help softening his voice when realizing that Qin Huaiyong was seriously about to throw caution to the wind. “Our two families have been in-laws for years. How can we make such a big deal out of this matter and become gossip for others!”

“He’s right, Brother-in-law! I apologize for my impoliteness just now because the bad news about my sister really shocked me! Please forgive us!” Countess Yong’s attitude softened, and there was even a smile on her face. “But you shouldn’t let Yuru take all the blame for her mother’s death. She is just a woman, who will be forced into death if she bears the crime!” said Countess Yong with a worried face.

It sounded like Qin Huaiyong’s accusation would definitely make Qin Yuru die.

“And that’s what I want! I want her to die!” Qin Huaiyong said scornfully and turned his back on them in case he would be pissed off by the couple’s evil faces and go forward to teach them a lesson. “Send them out!”

Hearing the same order from their master the second time, the servants of Qin’s Mansion no longer hesitated and began to expel Duke Yong and Countess Yong, forcing them towards the gate.

Although Duke Yong’s Mansion bought lots of people, there were more from Qin’s Mansion. Everyone from Duke Yong’s Mansion suffered and was driven out of Ningyuan Army General’s Mansion.

Many busybodies were waiting at the gate for a scene of bustle. Duke Yong’s Mansion didn’t hide their track here from these on-lookers.

They burst into laughter when seeing Duke Yong’s Mansion’s people were driven out in such a wretched way.

“Duke Yong’s Mansion has been keeping a bad reputation in the past few days!”

“Let’s go!” said Duke Yong at the gate of Ningyuan Army General’s Mansion, wiping away the tears from pain at the corners of his eyes. Then he angrily left for his mansion with everyone else from Duke Yong’s Mansion.

“I will submit a memorial to the emperor to accuse Qin Huaiyong of not giving equal treatment to his concubine and his wife so that Qin Huaiyong will understand that I am not a pushover!”

After people from Duke Yong’s Mansion left, Qin Huaiyong asked a servant to report the event to the yamen and then helped Old Madam Qin go back to her courtyard.

Everyone remained silent on their way back. They only made the sound of their feet stepping on the ground!

They felt so heavy in their hearts that they could hardly breathe.

With Qin Huaiyong walking on one side of Old Madam Qin, Shao Wanru lowered her eyes and went on the other side, helping Old Madam Qin walk. After they all got seated in the main room of Old Madam Qin's courtyard, Shao Wanru said, "Grandma, General Qin and Aunt Shui, now that there is nothing else for me to do, I am leaving!"

Now it was time for the people of Qin's Mansion to have a discussion. As an outsider, she should not stay!

Of course, Shao Wanru just stood on ceremony. She believed that Qin Huaiyong would ask her to stay!

#### **Chapter 949 Ask for Help**

"No, no! You're not an outsider, Your Highness! Please stay!" Qin Huaiyong bowed to Shao Wanru and said softly with regret in his eyes.

"Uh... okay!" Shao Wanru hesitated for a moment and no longer stood on ceremony. She was not a member of Qin's Mansion now, but she used to live in Qin's Mansion for many years and almost knew everything about it. "It will only be beneficial for them if I stay!"

"No! You'd better leave, Your Highness! It's not appropriate for you to get involved in such things!" Old Madam Qin shook her head.

Qin Huaiyong lowered his head and explained with a bitter face, "Mother, I am going to say something really important. When Her Highness was living with us, she was oppressed by Madam Di and Qin Yuru, and I was fooled to ignore their devilry every time. Now I know the truth, so I should publish it and uphold justice for Her Highness!"

Shui Ruolan looked at Old Madam Qin and then Qin Huaiyong, not knowing what to say.

"I want to know about the truth, Grandma. It won't be troublesome for me!" Shao Wanru comforted Old Madam Qin in a soft voice. She was sincerely grateful to Old Madam Qin.

"Old Madam Qin is always my grandmother, though I have no blood relations with her."

Since Shao Wanru and Qin Huaiyong insisted, Old Madam Qin could only nod helplessly.

After they took a seat, Qin Huaiyong waved his hand, and all the servants in the room left.

"Mother, I have just been informed of something, and I have to tell you in case Duke Yong's Mansion threatens you and Ruolan with it!" Qin Huaiyong went straight to the point after the servants left.

"What is it?" Old Madam Qin sat up straight. She had realized that it was not simple. "His abnormal behavior just now should have something to do with what he is going to say!"

"Mother, Qin Yuru is not my daughter! Madam Di, that shameless woman, fooled around with another man and got pregnant with Qin Yuru before she married into our family!" Qin Huaiyong was upset and angry.

No man could remain silent if he was cuckolded and forced like this.

"What... what? What did you say?" Old Madam Qin looked at Qin Huaiyong in shock, and her lips trembled before she made a sound.



"General, you can't make jokes on things like that!" With a pale face, Shui Ruolan pinched the handkerchief in her hand with fingers in spasm.

However, Shao Wanru was very calm. She looked at Qin Huaiyong with her watery eyes full of curiosity and extremely faint surprise.

Stared at by such a pair of eyes, Qin Huaiyong felt even more embarrassed. "Shao Wanru used to be my adopted daughter. I had raised her for many years! How could I have no feelings for her? If it weren't for Madam Di and her daughter, how should we look like strangers at the moment?"

He supported Qin Yuru again and again in Duke Xing's Mansion before, which, to some extent, broke off the father-daughter relationship between Shao Wanru and him!

Qin Huaiyong gnashed his teeth with hatred when thinking of something more than the fact that he was cuckolded.

"It's true, Mother. It was because Qin Yuru had known about her biological father that she burned Madam Di to death. She wants to keep it secret! Of course, she may have gotten some benefits from her biological father and wants to take control of our mansion!" Qin Huaiyong sneered, and his eyes turned red with anger.

"How... how could this be possible...?"

Even Old Madam Qin's fingers were trembling. "How could such an absurd thing be true? How could there be such shameless people in the world?" But her son's expression made Old Madam Qin have to believe it. "How... how could it be like this?"

"Madam Di... Madam Di..." Shui Ruolan stammered, but she didn't know what to say.

"Mother, I won't hide it. Since we have reported to the official about Madam Di's death, let's just make it public too. Mother, Ruolan, please check the inner court and find out what happened and who was there before and after Qin Yuru left that day. They are all the evidence. Except for Qin Yuru, no one had ever been to Madam Di's courtyard. Before she walked out of Qin's Mansion, Madam Di's courtyard had been on fire!" Qin Huaiyong composed himself and said.

"Okay, I'll arrange for people to investigate it right away!" Old Madam Qin took a deep breath and calmed herself down soon. After all, she had experienced a lot.

"General, you..." Shui Ruolan asked worriedly.

"I'm fine," Qin Huaiyong shook his head and replied. He knew Shui Ruolan was worried about his reputation. "After everything is settled, I am leaving the capital city. When I come back, it will be a few months later and everything must fade away. If I make more contributions, no one will look down on me!"

"The most important thing for men is power and influence. Such a little mistake is nothing!"

"Besides, I have a son, who is still very young. Reputation is not a big deal for him now!"

"Ruolan, you will help Mother deal with the affairs in the inner court! As for the..." Qin Huaiyong paused for a moment and glanced at Shao Wanru's face. He just said such a big secret, but Shao Wanru was only a little surprised. She was much calmer than Old Madam Qin and Shui Ruolan.

"If she were still my daughter, though nominally..."

At the thought of that, Qin Huaiyong immediately dismissed such a tempting idea from his mind. "There is no such hypothesis! I can't count it on such a flimsy hypothesis!"

It was like he was always partial to his biological daughter in the past! He was never softhearted when his daughter was wronged.

Generally, it was natural that he, as a father, doted on his daughter. But now it sounded pretty sarcastic.

"Qin Yuru is the illegitimate child of Madam Di and Chu Huairan, the fourth son of Grand Prince. Madam Di had been pregnant with her before marrying me! Qin Yuru went to Grand Prince's Mansion as soon as Madam Di told her the secret. I think she has been accepted into that family!" said Qin Huaiyong with his cold eyes full of anger.

Of course, Qin Huaiyong knew about Grand Prince's fourth son Chu Huairan. A few days ago, he even met that old playboy, who, together with several other men of his kind, hooked up with several prostitutes and caused some trouble. Qin Huaiyong passed by with the Imperial Guards Team and dealt with it.

At that time, Qin Huaiyong secretly laughed at that royal family member. "He is such a loser that he disgraces himself and the old Grand Prince! So what if Grand Prince is the Emperor's uncle? His son is such a black sheep who brings shame to his whole family!"

On thinking of it, Qin Huaiyong got infuriated that his face turned livid. "I suddenly remember that Chu Huairan, with a faint smile on his face, turned his head sideways, looked at my face, and kept asking the people beside him whether I was the Ningyuan Army General at that time!"

Qin Huaiyong thought it was because of his fame that Chu Huairan asked about him.

"Grand Prince's fourth son?" Old Madam Qin was too shocked, and then she murmured, "What should we do now?"

"Mother and Ruolan will deal with the affairs in the inner court, and I will deal with those in the outer court. Don't worry, Mother. We are in the upper hand in this matter. Both Duke Yong's Mansion and Grand Prince's Mansion will not get away from it!" Qin Huaiyong stood up and said goodbye to Old Madam Qin. Then he cupped his hands to Shao Wanru and said, "Please take care of my mother, Your Highness!"

"Take care of yourself, General!" Shao Wanru nodded with a smile.

Qin Huaiyong turned around and left. "I will not take it lying down. The bigger it gets, the better it is for us! I am leaving for Xu State, so the Emperor will not hurt me!"

Duke Yong didn't go back to Duke Yong's Mansion with Countess Yong. On their way back, he secretly turned his way to Prince Yue's Mansion.

He entered Prince Yue's Mansion through the back door and went straight to Chu Liuyue's study.

In the study, Chu Liuyue looked at Duke Yong with cold eyes. After Duke Yong told him what had happened just now, he asked coldly, "Who is your sister's adulterer?"

Duke Yong only told Chu Liuyue how Qin Huaiyong reacted in Qin's Mansion and did not mention the past. Anyway, it was not anything glorious, and Duke Yong was too ashamed to mention it.

Chu Liuyue's question made Duke Yong's face darken, but Duke Yong shook his head and said, "I don't know much about it. Only my mother and sister do. At that time... at that time... it had been too late when I found it!"

"You don't even know it? How can you take charge of a mansion?" Chu Liuyue questioned sharply, "If I had known that you were so unreliable, I wouldn't have put you in an important position at that time. Look how much trouble you have caused! Should I help you deal with this too?"

"Your Highness!" Duke Yong knelt down and said, "Please save us, Your Highness!"

"I can't help you this time!" said Chu Liuyue in a sharp voice. He did hate Duke Yong now. "I am afraid that this matter can't end peacefully. Duke Yong's Mansion can't afford to be investigated at this time. It even took a lot of effort to get away from the last trouble!"

"Help us, Your Highness!" Duke Yong cried, "I am your servant, and you don't want other people to discover that I am raising many women illegally, do you?"

"Are you threatening me?" Chu Liuyue sneered. Then he grabbed an inkstone beside him and smashed it heavily on Duke Yong's head. Blood instantly flowed down his face.

"If possible, how I wish I could smash him to death!" Chu Liuyue thought.

Suddenly, an idea entered his mind, so he said to Duke Yong with a calm face, "You go back and find out who the adulterer is. And then report to me. He can't be an ordinary person! Since your sister has given birth to his child, he can't escape his responsibility when your mansion is in trouble, can he?"

"Yes, yes, Your Highness! I'll go and ask my mother right away!" said Duke Yong in a panic. He was really flustered.

Everything relevant to his mansion was in a mess, and he didn't know how to deal with them. But Chu Liuyue's order gave him a way out. Duke Yong couldn't help nodding.

Chu Liuyue threw a handkerchief onto Duke Yong's head and said, "Go back to your mansion! Be quick. Don't let the officials beat you!"

"Yes, Your Highness!" When Duke Yong was standing up, he staggered and almost fell down. Chu Liuyue reached out to hold him and said in a friendlier voice, "Are you all right, Duke Yong? Sorry, I was too angry just now!"

"Don't worry, Your Highness... I... I'm fine!" Duke Yong shook his head repeatedly. Prince Yue didn't abandon him! Duke Yong suddenly felt hopeful and confident!

“Go to Prince Zhou’s Mansion first and then to Prince Xin’s Mansion... Don’t go to Prince Chen’s Mansion...” Chu Liuyue thought for a moment and ordered slowly.

“Yes, Your Highness!” Duke Yong replied. That was what he used to do carefully! He had done the same thing many times before to confuse other people in case Prince Yue was exposed as the person behind the scene.

Chu Liuyue nodded. As Duke Yong staggered away, Chu Liuyue ordered slowly with coldness in his eyes, “Keep an eye on him!”

## **Chapter 950 Appeal to the Imperial Court**

As usual, Duke Yong went to the back door of Prince Zhou’s Mansion. He didn’t enter the mansion. He asked his servant to knock on the door and his coachman to go inside. It had been a long time before the coachman came out.

Later, Duke Yong turned to Prince Xin’s Mansion. This time, he entered the mansion through the front door and asked his servant to send an invitation letter. But Chu Liuxin didn’t meet him. Then Duke Yong’s carriage headed for Commandery Prince Qing’s Mansion.

Chu Qing was stunned for a while when his servant reported to him, and then he was overjoyed and immediately asked the servant to lead Duke Yong in.

In the capital city, few nobles were close to Chu Qing. Duke Yong was one noble without too much power, but Chu Qing would seize the chance to get acquainted with him.

Duke Yong came in, bowed to Chu Qing, and just went straight to the point. “I need your help for something important, Commandery Prince Qing!”

“What’s the matter?” Chu Qing asked in surprise. He didn’t understand why Duke Yong, who had never been to his mansion before, would ask him for help. “I don’t mind interfering if it is something trivial and simple.”

“Commandery Prince Qing, please help my son regain the title of Heir of Duke Yong!” Duke Yong stood up with tears in his eyes and said in a trembling voice, “I have gone to different mansions and asked several princes to help me submit memorials to His Majesty for that!”

Chu Qing didn’t know how Di Yan lost the title, but it sounded not simple. He comforted Duke Yong gently and asked, “Take it easy, Duke Yong! What did the other brothers say?”

“They said...” Duke Yong hesitated and couldn’t speak a word again. He looked sullen. Chu Qing thought, “It seems that my brothers just ignored him!”

A smile was on Chu Qing’s face, but a hint of sarcasm was in his eyes. “No wonder he turned to me! He wouldn’t have done that if they were willing to help! He came to beg me after he was refused!

“What a selfish guy! Never flatter me until he is in trouble!”

“Why don’t you go back and wait for the news, Duke Yong? If my brothers submit a memorial to Father, I will stand on your side!” said Chu Qing.

What he said actually didn't make a difference.

"Echo with a few words if some of them submit a memorial, and keep silent if they don't!" No matter which situation it would be, nothing would harm Chu Qing.

"Commandery Prince Qing..." Duke Yong wanted to say something more. But he was rudely interrupted by Chu Qing. "Duke Yong, you'd better go back first. I know what to do! Now I have something else to do, and I won't keep you here!"

Since Duke Yong had never come and complimented Chu Qing until the former was in trouble and in need of help, Chu Qing was extremely dissatisfied with Duke Yong! Moreover, Duke Yong was in big trouble. Chu Qing might have agreed to help him if it were just something small! Anyway, Duke Yong had some good old friends, though he himself was useless.

As a noble, Chu Qing would sometimes feel sad about the loss of another noble family. "But it is reasonable for me to make a name for myself by taking advantage of the affairs of Duke Yong's Mansion. However, the problem is that Duke Yong's trouble is not something that can be handled easily!" As Chu Qing thought so, he decided not to intervene.

"None of my brothers intends to involve themselves in that mess, so what makes him think I will? I am not stupid!"

"Thank you, Commandery Prince Qing!" Duke Yong with red-rimmed eyes was led to the gate of the mansion. He took a deep breath, calmed himself down, and then went to his carriage.

He got on the carriage and directly went back to Duke Yong's Mansion.

A fire suddenly broke out and caused a casualty during the day? After the Emperor was informed of the news in the Imperial Study, he asked to meet Qin Huaiyong at once!

"A fire usually breaks out at night! How could the fire break out during the day and even burn a madam with Royal Mandate to death?"

"Minister Qin, what happened? Did anyone intend to murder your wife?" the Emperor asked directly when he met Qin Huaiyong.

Qin Huaiyong knelt down and burst into tears. He couldn't say a word.

Qin Huaiyong's behavior told the Emperor that there must be something wrong. He asked again with his expression changing slightly, "Is there something fishy?"

"Your Majesty..." Qin Huaiyong said and cried again.

"General Qin, take your time and tell us everything! His Majesty will uphold justice for you!" An elegant, gentle and reliable voice came. Qin Huaiyong wiped his tears and looked up, only to find that Prince Chen was also in the Imperial Study.

"Thank you, Your Majesty! Thank you, Your Highness! I have something to say, but I don't know where to start... Your Majesty, I feel wronged... I regret..." Qin Huaiyong cried.

Qin Huaiyong pounded his chest hard with a bitter face, which even made banging sounds. He indeed hit his chest with force!

"You regret it? Was it you who did that to your wife?" the Emperor asked in shock.

The Emperor would punish Qin Huaiyong if he was indeed the murderer. Even though Qin Huaiyong was leaving for Xu State, the Emperor couldn't tolerate his crime.

"General Qin, you'd better make it clear. Uncle the Emperor will make a judgment for you!" said Chu Liuchen lazily.

Though his voice was usually gentle and pleasant, Qin Huaiyong did not dare to underestimate him. Having socialized with Prince Chen for years since they met in Jiangzhou, Qin Huaiyong understood that Prince Chen was definitely not as gentle and kind as he looked.

"He covers his true colors with elegance and gentleness!

"Prince Chen must be a viper, who is good at concealing his true colors!"

Qin Huaiyong did not dare to regard King Chen's gentleness as a friendly gesture.

"Thank you, Your Highness!" Qin Huaiyong thanked Chu Liuchen and then kowtowed to the Emperor again. "Your Majesty, I regret marrying Madam Di. I want to break off all bonds with Duke Yong's Mansion!"

"Why? Did it have anything to do with Duke Yong's Mansion?" the Emperor asked with confusion and put down the memorial book in his hand.

"Your Majesty! Qin Yuru is not my daughter! I was raising the daughter of Madam Di and her adulterer these years. Qin Yuru went back home and was informed that she was not my biological daughter, so she... she murdered her biological mother with the fire!"

After Qin Huaiyong related everything in detail, he pounded his chest so hard that blood flowed out from the corner of his mouth, showing how hateful he was now!

"What? Your daughter... the daughter who you have been raising... is not your biological daughter?" The Emperor froze and thought for a while. Then he subconsciously looked at Chu Liuchen. He remembered that Fifth Miss Shao from Marquis Xing's Mansion used to be raised by Qin Huaiyong as a daughter for many years too.

"It is not my wife, Uncle the Emperor. It's the one who always had conflicts with my wife before! She used to frame my wife with her mother Madam Di. The First Miss of Duke Xing's Mansion, Qin Yuru attended the relatives recognizing ceremony in Marquis Xing's Mansion and Uncle Cheng's engagement banquet!" Chu Liuchen explained.

Then he glanced at Qin Huaiyong with some other meanings in his eyes.

In fact, the Emperor knew all these things, but they didn't impress him because they came one by one. After Chu Liuchen put them into a series, he immediately frowned tightly and remembered, "Prince Cheng was about to get married at that time, which was a load off my mind. But later it was ruined by a shameless woman!"

“Even Princess Chen was almost set up by that woman!” At that time, Shao Wanru was a nobody to the Emperor, so he didn’t pay attention to it. Now, when he heard it again, he couldn’t help snorting and said, “You must be partial to your daughter, Ningyuan Army General. If she were born into an ordinary family, she might not have survived!”

A vicious and shameless woman like her from an ordinary family would have been strangled to death so that she would not frame people.

“Your Majesty, she is not my daughter. I was cheated to raise her as my daughter!” Qin Huaiyong felt ashamed and guilty. He really hated himself for being stupid. “If I had known that Madam Di cheated on me, I would not have been partial to Qin Yuru so that I would not have been estranged from Princess Chen!”

“So she is another man’s daughter?” the Emperor repeated. Then he remembered what Qin Huaiyong had said before and asked, “How did you know that after you have been cheated for so many years?”

“A servant girl in my mansion told me. Today, Qin Yuru went back home to see Madam Di. When they were talking in the room, the servant girl happened to hear their conversation. She heard Madam Di admit that Qin Yuru was not my daughter. Instead...”

Speaking of this, Qin Huaiyong covered his face and cried again, “Your Majesty, please uphold justice for me!”

He didn’t want to conceal it or lose out because of it. Since Madam Di dared to do it, he dared to say it out! As a general, he didn’t care about dignity anymore. Once thinking that Madam Di had cheated on him in the past years, Qin Huaiyong wished to chop her into pieces!

“I wouldn’t let her live if Qin Yuru hadn’t killed her this time!”

“Your Majesty, I’ve doted on Qin Yuru since she was born, but I didn’t expect that... she would be Grand Prince’s fourth son’s daughter. After she knew her true identity, she asked Madam Di to give her some evidence. I believe she wanted to kill Madam Di with the fire before she left. The servant girl keeping an eye on Qin Yuru had to keep herself out of Qin Yuru’s notice from time to time, so she didn’t notice Qin Yuru’s criminal movement! When Qin Yuru arrived at the back door, the fire had broken out!”

Qin Huaiyong was not afraid of taking him down even though Grand Prince was a royal. “Since I have disregarded my dignity, I must disgrace Grand Prince’s Mansion too.” As long as he thought of how much he suffered from what he had done for Qin Yuru over the years, he wanted to kill that adulterous couple and Qin Yuru!

“The fourth son of Grand Prince?” The Emperor didn’t remember there was such a person. Honestly, such a playboy like him could never impress the Emperor.

“He is a playboy, Uncle the Emperor. He usually competes for women or has a fight with others of his kind and sometimes takes advantage of the title of Grand Prince to bully others. He has never done anything good except fooling around with women. He has lots of bastardy sons and daughters in the mansion and some outside!” Chu Liuchen explained lightly.

The Emperor flew into a rage when he heard that. He slammed his hand on the table and ordered in a sharp voice, “Summon Grand Prince!”

The Emperor hated people like Chu Huairan most!