

Medical Princess 971

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Chapter 971: A New-come Playboy in the Capital

“My grandmother said that she would only follow the decision of the Old Madam of your manor. She was not willing to offend the Empress for me. My mother insisted on breaking off the engagement. She said that we must do it even if she had to support me later on!” Luo Xiaowan could not hold back her tears when she thought of how her mother had been punished by her grandmother. If it were not for her, her mother would not have been forced to kneel for four hours by her grandmother.

“The wife of Duke Yangqu was obviously afraid of being punished by the Empress. But in fact, the weak relationship between the family and the Empress has long gone. I’m afraid that she just agreed with the marriage casually and might not even remember this matter now. There is no need for her to report it to the Empress. You can break off the engagement directly!”

Zhang Qilan said grumpily.

The wife of Duke Yangqu was useless while the Old Madam of Marquis Xing’s Mansion was so shrewd that she wouldn’t take the responsibility. In the end, the matter dragged on and on and hadn’t been settled even after so many years. Now the man’s family came to them instead.

Shao Wanru shifted her watery eyes and asked, “That is to say, without the guidance of the Old Madam of our mansion, the family couldn’t see the Empress?”

“Yes, indeed. That family is neither a wealthy nor a noble family, but an ordinary aristocratic family. Moreover, they left the capital early, so they couldn’t compare with the Duke Yangqu’s Mansion. At that time, because that family was inferior to the Duke Yangqu’s Mansion and the wife of Duke Yangqu’s son felt that the marriage was not bad, so she agreed!”

Zhang Qilan said. She had a good relationship with Luo Xiaowan since their childhood. Since Luo Xiaowan hadn’t appeared in front of others for several years, she went to visit her in private. Thus, she knew a lot about Duke Yangqu’s Mansion.

She became more and more indignant at the unfair treatment to Luo Xiaowan!

Luo Xiaowan was too weak to defend her rights. She was fine under the protection of the wife of Duke Yangqu’s son. But if she married into other noble families, she might not handle it. So, it would be better for her to marry someone inferior to her. In that case, her family could take care of her. This was also the original intention of the wife of Duke Yangqu’s son.

However, she did not expect that although the family could not compare with Duke Yangqu’s Mansion, it had something to do with the Empress. In the end, the Empress mentioned the marriage and appointed the Old Madam of Duke Xing’s Manor to be the marriage matcher.

“That is to say, as long as the Old Madam of our mansion agrees, she can help you end the engagement without disturbing the Empress?”

Shao Wanru had roughly sorted out the whole story.

"That's true. But the Old Madam of your mansion is so smart. How could she be willing to do such a thing? The wife of Duke Yangqu's son had visited her several times. Yet the Old Madam pretended to be sick and only met her briefly. Then she left in a hurry, saying that she had something urgent to deal with. She avoided us again and again, but she had never returned these gifts!"

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Zhang Qilan sneered and said, "The older a person becomes, the smarter he will become. She won't take action before seeing the benefits."

This matter sounded like an easy one. As an aristocratic family, Duke Yangqu's mansion could easily refuse the engagement even if the son of the aristocratic family had done nothing wrong.

However, since the Empress was involved in this matter, the matter turned much more complex. It was not because the Empress favored this family, but because the failure of their marriage would bring shame on the Empress.

No matter what, it was the Empress who had brought up this matter. It represented the Empress's intention. It would be fine if the Empress did not know about this. However, if she knew about it, she would only be accused of lying.

Although the Empress was not the emperor, the crime could be either serious or minor! Obviously, the wife of Duke Yangqu would rather give up her granddaughter's happiness than offend the Empress. As for the Old Madam, of course, it had nothing to do with her. She would never offend the Empress for Luo Xiaowan.

Even if the Empress did not know it at this time, it was possible that she would know it in the future.

"Is the son of that family in the capital city now?" Shao Wanru thought for a moment and asked.

"Yes. He is here with a few old maids and servant girls, declaring that he will marry Xiaowan and take her away. He has never thought that he is no match for Xiaowan at all." Zhang Qilan curled her lips. She really didn't like this family. Previously, she secretly asked her elder brother to check it out. He told her that the man was not a decent one at all. Right after entering the capital, he had visited many whorehouses.

In the next few days, whenever he was free, he would go to enjoy himself at such places.

"Boost the impact of the scandal and break off the engagement!" Shao Wanru had an idea in her mind and said with a smile.

"Make a big deal out of it?" Luo Xiaowan looked excited. "Can I really get rid of this engagement by escalating it?"

She really didn't want to marry such a man, and she didn't want her mother to suffer more because of her. If Zhang Qilan hadn't dragged her here today, she wouldn't have come.

"Sister Xiaowan, are you afraid that your reputation will be ruined?" Shao Wanru asked.

Zhang Qilan hesitated, and her eyes suddenly flashed twice. She, who used to be the most talkative, fell silent at this time.

"No, I'm not afraid. I fear nothing. My mom said that even if she had to support me, she wouldn't marry me to someone like that," Luo Xiaowan said firmly. It was rare for her to be so determined.

She held the handkerchief tightly and tried hard to cheer herself up. No matter what, she would not give up. Her grandmother had punished her mother several times because of her marriage, but her mother managed to endure all of it. What else could she not bear?

"What if she couldn't get married for the rest of her life?" Her mother had said that it would be better for her to live a single life than to marry someone like that.

With the wife of Duke Yangqu's son at their back, Luo Xiaowan determinedly made the decision.

"Princess Chen, do you have any idea?" Zhang Qilan asked, "Do you want them to take the initiative to break off the engagement, or be forced to do that?"

This way of breaking off the engagement would only bring the least harm to the woman. In fact, in whatever way, breaking off the engagement would always a little hurt the woman's reputation. The world was not so tolerant of women. Even though it was the man's mistake, people would blame the woman.

"Let's go and have a look first!" Shao Wanru thought for a while and stood up.

"Okay, let's go now. Just now, my Eldest Brother told me the man's whereabouts!" Zhang Qilan also pulled Luo Xiaowan to stand up.

Luo Xiaowan bit her lips and nodded.

The tavern was not big and was not in the most prosperous street. However, many people had heard about its name. It was quite famous in the capital city. Some people would choose the tavern even if they had to make a few more turns to come there.

It was because the wine in this tavern was really good. Well, another reason was that the tavern wasn't located at the busy streets.

It would be safer in the tavern out of the way if he'd like to have some fun with a few prostitutes. After all, it would be quite disappointing when others saw him.

There were many rich playboys in the capital city, but most of them didn't want others to see them enjoying drinking and jesting with whores.

Some of them had already gotten married and some had to obey the strict rules of their family. Anyway, for various reasons, it was better for them to stay away from the crowd.

Of course, it was not necessary to hide that deep. They just needed to avoid the busiest places. Anyway, this tavern was never a secret place in the capital city.

After Liu Xincheng arrived in the capital, the tavern was the place that he visited the most frequently.

Their family had been in the capital city at the very beginning. After they were released out of the capital city, they had never had a chance to go back to the capital city. But even so, Liu Xincheng would

still come to the capital city from time to time. He was actually quite familiar with some romantic places here and had a few good friends with him.

In the capital city, he was beyond his elders' reach, so he could do whatever he wanted to do with his friends. Each day, they could enjoy themselves to the full by drinking and singing with prostitutes, having a good time.

In fact, Liu Xincheng didn't want to get married at all. He didn't want to marry Miss Luo whom he had met three years ago. She looked thin and small, like a little girl. He really didn't like her, who was not as good-looking as his lovers in the entertainment venues. All the girls there looked quite enchanting with their nice figures.

The Duke Yangqu's Mansion had delayed their marriage for three years. Yet, he was not in a hurry. Without a legal wife in the house, he could not enjoy his life with any kind of woman. Sometimes, he could take the woman he liked back to the manor. When he liked her, he could keep her a little longer. But if he was a little bored with her, he could simply give her away.

It's a pity that he couldn't continue such a leisure life now. When his father went out, he made it clear to him that if he didn't complete the marriage with the Duke Yangqu's Mansion, he would have to keep an eye on him in the future and never allow him to live a lavish life as before.

Upon hearing this, Liu Xincheng went to the capital city without delay. He thought that after he entered the capital city and said a few good words, the Duke Yangqu's Mansion would accept the marriage happily. To his great surprise, he received no reply.

Originally, he didn't want to get married, but he was displeased by his father's words and the cavalier attitude of Duke Yangqu's Mansion.

He should be the person to refuse the marriage. How could such a little girl look down on him?

Liu Xincheng was very unhappy. At this time, he was holding a charming woman in his arms. He drank up the wine in the glass, put it down heavily, and scolded, "She thinks so highly of herself. Doesn't she know that? How dare she be so picky? If I don't marry her, who else will marry such a boring and thin woman?"

"That's right. If it weren't for the previous engagement, you would have married another beautiful lady long ago. How could the Duke Yangqu's Mansion take advantage of you? It's said that the woman in this mansion is quite incapable. Not only is she not good-looking, but she is also timid. How can such a woman be the hostess?"

Someone said, trying to curry favor with him.

Since Liu Xincheng was the one who invited them and paid the bill, they would say anything to please him.

"If the marriage with her weren't arranged by the Empress, I wouldn't have agreed to it!" Liu Xincheng was a foppish young man with a greasy face. He was good-looking, but there were dark circles around his eyes. His face looked pale and swollen. At first glance, one could tell that he was a man of wine and women. No matter how he dressed himself up, he didn't look like a good person!

At this moment, he pounded the table with his fists and became more and more vigorous.

"Master, how could you like her? Am I the better one?" The woman sitting in his arms teased him with a sweet voice, her soft body leaning against him.

"Of course, it's you. Why would I fall in love with her? There's nothing good about her from head to toe. She can never be as sweet and beautiful as you're!" After saying that, he leaned over and kissed the corner of the beauty's mouth, his hands gently caressing the beauty's delicate body.

"Master, you are so annoying!" The woman said in a mellifluous voice. She reached out and pushed him gently. Then she flung an arm around his shoulders, pulling him closer to her. In front of everyone, they flirted and behaved affectionately toward each other, enjoying the loud cheers from the crowd!

In the private room next door, Luo Xiaowan's face turned ghastly pale. She pressed her hands tightly on the corner of the table and bit her lower lip in shame and anger. Even though she was weak, she could not bear it. How could he mock up a woman who had an engagement with him in that way? Such a be an unreliable fool could never be a good match for her!

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Chapter 972: Do You Dare to Go to the Ministry of Justice?

They found this tavern. Coincidentally, the private box next to Liu Xincheng was empty. The three of them got this box.

Right after they entered, they heard some obscene words from next door. He didn't care about this marriage at all and was still engaged in flirting with those prostitutes.

"Even if I die, I won't marry him!" Luo Xiaowan bit her lips and said with hatred.

Her previous confidence had been built up by the encouraging words of the Princess of Duke Yangqu's son. But now, she followed her heart.

In the previous, she could only get the judgment about him from others. It felt completely different when she heard it with her own ears. Luo Xiaowan had been a little uncertain before. Even though she acted firmly, it was all because of the wife of Duke Yangqu's son.

She embraced the true feelings in her heart. But at this moment, she knew her heart better than before.

Shao Wanru nodded secretly, for she wanted Luo Xiaowan to see her heart clearly and become more determined. By doing so, she would not shrink back when hearing some dejected words from others.

If even the person involved in the engagement backed down, the others' arduous efforts would be fruitless. Anyway, it's a thankless task.

It would the best if she could see everything clearly, which could help her make the best decisions.

"Xiaowan, have you made up your mind?" Zhang Qilan also understood her meaning, so she deliberately confirmed it.

"Qilan, I would rather die than marry someone like him!" Luo Xiaowan said firmly. She glared furiously at the next door, twisting the handkerchief in her hand into a ball.

Then she looked at Shao Wanru expectantly but with some hesitation. She was still a little diffident when facing Shao Wanru. Even when it was three years ago, they were not that familiar with each other. Though they had a nice chat, they didn't talk much. Now that Shao Wanru had become Princess Chen, she was still the Young Madam of Duke Yangqu's Mansion.

"Sister Xiaowan, do you dare to go there?" Shao Wanru asked with a smile.

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"I... I dare!" Luo Xiaowan forced herself to calm down.

"Well, do you dare to pour the water on that person?" Shao Wanru pointed to the teapot on the side. There was some tea in it. Although the tea had been there for a while, it was still hot.

"Yes!" Luo Xiaowan said.

"Princess Chen, what do you mean?" Zhang Qilan asked in surprise.

Shao Wanru said lightly, "Sister Xiaowan, if you dare to do that, do it. That person looks very arrogant. When Sister Xiaowan pours the water on his head in front of so many people, he must feel humiliated and fly into a rage. He will hit her!"

"Then what should she do? It seems that this person is not a good person at all. He will hurt Xiaowan!" Zhang Qilan sat up straight in a hurry.

Luo Xiaowan was such a delicate girl. It was obvious that she would be at a disadvantage.

"It's because I want him to do it. If he does, Sister Xiaowan can escape out of the door. Qilan, does your elder brother know some officials?" Shao Wanru looked at Zhang Qilan with a smile.

"Although my eldest brother is not a very capable man, he knows some people, some of which are officials!" Zhang Qilan said, confidently vouching for it.

Her brother was Prime Minister Zhang's son, so many people were willing to get along well with him despite the fact that he didn't even have a decent job. Besides, although this Young Master Zhang had some peculiar hobbies, he was not a playboy. His acquaintance could be regarded as young talents, many of which were working in various departments.

Shao Wanru smiled slightly and said meaningfully, "Ask your brother to invite several good friends here. As Xiaowan stirs up trouble, lead them to her. It will be best if his friends are from the Ministry of Justice. Let's make this matter known to the Ministry of Justice!"

Zhang Qilan didn't understand what she meant. She blankly blinked her eyes and turned to see Luo Xiaowan. However, Luo Xiaowan looked even more confused. "How can the Ministry of Justice care about such kind of thing? Even if that person beats Xiaowan, it's not a big deal. The matter won't be serious enough to make the Ministry of Justice handle it, right?"

If this matter were reported to the Ministry of Justice, it would be too much of a big deal!

"The Ministry of Justice is our best choice. No matter what, that person will hit Sister Xiaowan on the street. Sister Xiaowan is afraid of this matter being known by the Ministry of Justice. However, since

they witness this matter, people from the Ministry of Justice will intervene. Sister Xiaowan, at that time, you can cling onto whoever comes to you!”

“That is to say... report this matter to the Ministry of Justice...” After all, Zhang Qilan was not stupid. After blinking her eyes a few times, she suddenly understood and nodded repeatedly. “Yes, let’s make it a big deal. If he dares to beat Xiaowan now, he will torture her to death after they get married. Moreover, he is with prostitutes... Even if it’s the Empress, she can’t insist on the engagement.”

Shao Wanru smiled without saying anything more.

At this time, the officials wouldn’t smooth the matter over. After all, Luo Xiaowan was a Miss from a prestigious aristocratic family, not a nobody.

The Madam of Duke Yangqu and the Old Madam of Marquis Xing’s Mansion kept the matter a secret because they were afraid of offending the Empress. Thus, what they had to do was to make a big thing out of this matter. In this case, people would think this engagement was not as perfect as it appeared. There must be hideous secrets behind it.

“But... but I... I’ll rush into there...” Luo Xiaowan panicked again. She looked at Zhang Qilan and then at Shao Wanru, looking extremely helpless.

“Making such a big fuss will do no good to your reputation, but... since you’ve heard their filthy words and is furious, you can go over and pour some tea. It’s not too much!” Shao Wanru said slowly.

Although she could offer some ideas, she couldn’t make the final decision for Luo Xiaowan. If Luo Xiaowan still held a suspicious attitude, they could not accomplish it!

This time, she could help Luo Xiaowan, but she could not help her for the rest of her life, nor could she bear all the following consequences for her. However, since Luo Xiaowan didn’t fear death, she could handle other things. The wife of Duke Yangqu’s son was also a dominant person and would definitely protect her daughter.

Under the strict restrictions of filial piety, she was tough enough to keep her daughter by her side for three years.

However, though the wife of Duke Yangqu’s son was strong-willed, her daughter was fragile. Luo Xiaowan had just said that without hesitation, but she became a little hesitant after a while.

She had to goad her into being strong.

“Xiaowan, if you don’t do this, your marriage will be settled. Even worse, the Old Madam of Marquis Xing’s Mansion can even bring it up again in the palace. If you want to cancel the engagement, you can’t just inform the Empress about it. You may have to ask for an imperial edict from her! You will have to marry that man no matter what!”

Zhang Qilan also saw Luo Xiaowan’s hesitation and became unhappy. “If you think it doesn’t matter, Princess Chen and I won’t make you lose face in public. You have to depend on yourself to deal with such a big thing in your life. We won’t do it for you if you can’t, for our assistance now may hurt you!”

Her words were a little harsh, but she and Luo Xiaowan had grown up together, so they maintained a firm friendship. Others might not be able to say that to Luo Xiaowan, but Zhang Qilan could.

“Qilan, I was wrong. Well, I’ll do it. I’m not afraid of anything!” Hearing their words, Luo Xiaowan realized that she had hesitated and said with shame.

She stood up and bowed deeply to Shao Wanru and Zhang Qilan. “Princess Chen, Qilan, it’s my fault. Since this matter can’t be settled peacefully, let’s make a big thing out of it!”

“Sister Xiaowan, have you really decided?” Shao Wanru raised her watery eyes and asked.

“Yes, I’ve decided!” Luo Xiaowan gritted her teeth.

“In that case, you’ll have to provoke him to be angry and hit you. Can you?”

Luo Xiaowan was shocked. After all, they barely discussed the violent details before, but then she nodded firmly. No matter what, she had to do it!

Seeing that she had made up her mind to face the harsh reality, Shao Wanru nodded, and they went to make arrangements separately.

Zhang Qilan went to discuss it with her Eldest Brother, and Shao Wanru returned to the mansion. Because she was now Princess Chen, she’d better not show up. Zhang Qilan and Luo Xiaowan advised her to go back first, leaving only Luo Xiaowan and two servant girls here.

When the others left, Luo Xiaowan sat in the private room and listened to the man and woman next door chat and joke together. The more she listened, the angrier she became. When the appointed time had come, she gritted her teeth, stood up, and picked up the teapot on the table. The flames of anger had already burnt up her fear.

From time to time, they would make off-color remarks about her. She was a Young Madam of Duke Yang’s Manor, but in their eyes, she was not as good as a prostitute. Luo Xiaowan wiped her tears with bloodshot eyes and walked out. Even if she had to die today, she would lose face together with this man.

If she couldn’t stop this marriage, she would bump into the pillar and kill herself in the hall of the Ministry of Justice.

With such steely determination, she was no longer a timid and weak girl. The two servant girls also went furious when they heard those shameful words. So, they followed Luo Xiaowan to the next door in anger.

The man next door was in high spirits, talking about the prostitute’s figure while groping her. Meanwhile, he didn’t forget to tease Luo Xiaowan. He said that Luo Xiaowan didn’t have a good figure, nor did she have a beautiful face. What’s worse, life with her would be no savor. He knew that her face would turn pale with fear if he approached her. How disappointing would that be!

“A joyless and useless woman! My father insists on me marrying her, saying he won’t allow me to break the engagement between the two families. If it weren’t for him, I would rather die than get such a woman as my wife. I don’t want her even if I can marry her for free! Would you want such a woman?” Liu Xincheng, already a little drunk, gabbled.

“Of course not!”

“No one wants such a woman!”

“There are so many beauties here, and every one of them is better than her!” Immediately, many people echoed. When men were together with prostitutes, they could say whatever dirty words they liked. No one cared what they said at this time, as long as they could be happy.

“Master, is she not as good as me?” One of the prostitutes joined in their conversation.

“Of course not. I bet she would be as lifeless as a dead fish in bed. She must be dull and dry. How can you be so sensible as you?”

Liu Xincheng started to tease her. He reached out to pull the prostitute over and kissed her, putting his hands all over her!

The door was violently pushed open. Luo Xiaowan entered with a kettle in her hand. There were two maids behind her. Everyone in the room was shocked when they saw how furious she was.

Before they came to their senses, Luo Xiaowan had already recognized Liu Xincheng, who was sitting on the right. She came over, picked up the kettle in her hand, and poured the water on his head. With anger, she shouted, “Let me clean your mouth!”

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Chapter 973: Not Easy to Escalate the Cancellation of the Engagement

The water chilled Liu Xincheng. He couldn't even open his eyes and didn't know what was going on. Water dripped down his chin, and some broken tea leaves were on his head.

In the end, Luo Xiaowan threw the teapot in her hand right at his head. When Princess Chen left, she specially told her to make him angry because a hoodlum like him would even hit a woman.

“How dare you talk nonsense about our miss!” The two maids went up, dragged the tablecloth, and scolded him for Luo Xiaowan.

“Who wants to marry you? Look at yourself in the mirror and see how disgraceful you are. How dare you think of marrying our Miss? You are nobody but an ugly toad wishing to eat swan meat.”

The two sharp-tongued maids smashed the plates as they cursed.

Some people reacted and immediately understood that this lady was the legitimate Young Madam of Duke Yangqu's Mansion, whom everyone had just mentioned. She must have heard the words just now and came to the door.

“You bastard!” Luo Xiaowan scolded Liu Xincheng, who had just wiped the water off his face and opened his eyes. Then she threw another plate of dishes at him.

At this time, Liu Xincheng finally caught on. He avoided the dishes and plates smashed to him and tried to take Luo Xiaowan's hand.

The maid next to her slammed into Luo Xiaowan. Luo Xiaowan slapped Liu Xincheng hard in the face. Liu Xincheng, covering his face, immediately became furious. “Bitch, how dare you!”

Liu Xincheng had been doted on since he was a child, so he had never been beaten once. At this time, Luo Xiaowan, whom he despised the most, actually beat him up. Looking at these scared “friends” around him who had just been happily talking about Luo Xiaowan with him, he felt sick to his stomach.

He reached out to drag Luo Xiaowan, intending to teach her a lesson.

It was too late for Luo Xiaowan to run away, for he had taken one of her hands. In a panic, she raised her other hand and slapped him again.

Liu Xincheng jumped up in a frenzy when she slapped him the second time. He raised his hand to hit Luo Xiaowan in the face.

When the maid saw it, she hurriedly stepped forward to block the slap. So, half of the slap landed on the maid, while the other half still reached Luo Xiaowan’s face.

The impact was not serious, but his nails scratched her face, leaving a faint bloody line on her face.

“Someone is killed! Help! Somebody!” Another maid screamed.

Her shrill voice was so harsh that Liu Xincheng was frightened and loosened his grip on Luo Xiaowan. The two maids hurriedly escorted her out. At this time, there was no need to do anything else. Many people in the tavern heard the noise and looked at the private box in shock. They saw a Young Madam running out of the room with two servant girls. The Young Madam looked frightened, her face scratched and pale. It was obvious that she had been beaten.

“Please save our Young Madam! That man wants to beat and kill her!” The maid screamed as she ran.

Liu Xincheng chased after her from the inside. He was eager to stop Luo Xiaowan. Judging from the current situation, they realized that things were not going well.

He was much faster than Luo Xiaowan and was about to catch up with her in two or three steps.

A servant girl rushed to him, held his legs, and pleaded with him, “Please let go of our Miss. Please, please!”

While crying, she dragged Liu Xincheng’s legs and didn’t let him go forward.

Liu Xincheng lifted his leg impatiently and kicked her away. She fell heavily to one side and knocked over the table on the other side.

Some people couldn’t stand the scene, so they helped the maid stand up.

Taking advantage of this delay, Luo Xiaowan rushed out of the door with another maid. A group of people came in and almost bumped into them. Fortunately, the people at the door reacted quickly and hurriedly dodged them.

The maid ran slowly and fell at the door. She turned around, cried, and turned to stop Liu Xincheng.

“You... please let go of our Miss. You hit her. What else do you want to do? Do you even want to kill her? For a prostitute? You... how can you do this... She is your fiancée!”

Her meaningful words made many people stare at him in shock.

Someone couldn't help but curse, "Asshole!"

"You're mean and humble. How could you beat your wife to death for a prostitute?"

"Not my legal wife, but fiancée!"

"Why would anyone want such a marriage? Hurry up and get away from him. If you really marry him, she won't live in peace for a day!" While they were talking, Liu Xincheng had already reached the door. Luo Xiaowan fell down outside the door, and he could catch her in a few steps.

In the current situation, it was better to catch Luo Xiaowan as soon as possible. Thus, without caring about anything else, he kicked the maid who was blocking the door again.

This time, his foot didn't land on her, yet he was stopped by a youngster from the group of people who had just arrived.

"Hey, you've gone too far!" The young man said. He lamented in his heart. "It's so unlucky for me. How could I encounter such a troublesome thing when I go out and have a drink with a few friends?" Since he worked in the Ministry of Justice, he must bear the responsibility and intervene.

"What did I do? She's my unmarried wife!" Liu Xincheng was about to grab hold of Luo Xiaowan when he was kicked. He gritted his teeth in anger and lifted his leg again. This time, he targeted at the young man.

"Does this man really want to fight with me?" The young man was very angry. His fighting skills were not bad. He turned aside, avoided Liu Xincheng's foot, and stamped hard on it. This kick was much fiercer than Liu Xincheng's. "Since she hasn't married you yet, she has nothing to do with you. Even if she is your wife, you have committed a crime by beating her violently."

"Our Young Master is working in the Ministry of Justice!" The servant next to him cleverly added.

Since he was working in the Ministry of Justice, it was his responsibility to meddle in this.

"Your Excellency, please save our Miss." The eyes of the maid at the door lit up, and she immediately burst into tears before the young man.

At this time, Luo Xiaowan also stood up and walked to the young man. Suddenly, she knelt down and sobbed, "My lord, I want to sue this person. Not only did he deceive me into marriage, but he also wanted to beat me to death. I can't accept this marriage. I beg you to break off the engagement!"

"This... But the Ministry of Justice... doesn't take care of this matter..." The young man said awkwardly. It was true that the Ministry of Justice wouldn't handle this kind of thing. "Shouldn't they go back and discuss it with their families to break off the engagement?" He was a little confused.

"Your Excellency. Your Excellency, if their engagement continues, our Miss will die. Please help us establish the case, otherwise, we won't be able to go back now!"

The maid who had bumped into the table just now also rushed out and knelt on the ground, crying.

They looked miserable.

"Your Excellency, please help this lady. This man is not a good man at first glance. He called many prostitutes over to accompany him. I heard they had been drinking and flirting in the box for quite a while!" Someone saw Liu Xincheng go in with several prostitutes. They teased each other loudly upstairs. Sure enough, he was not a Childe from a decent family.

"See how pitiful this young lady is. The people who arranged this marriage were sending her to death!"

"Pitiful. This lady will lose her life if she marries that man!"

"Who is this rich playboy? How could he even want to kill his fiancée?"

Some people were asking, some were sighing, and some were observing Liu Xincheng's face, which had turned livid with anger. Luo Xiaowan slapped him twice, but since she was not strong, his face didn't swell up at all. However, the moment he touched Luo Xiaowan's face, the scratch became red and swollen in a short while, which looked scary on her white and tender face.

Luo Xiaowan had always been fragile. Now, with her eyes filled with tears, she looked miserable.

After hearing what they said, she staggered to her feet and looked straight at Liu Xincheng. Such a firm look made him panic, and he looked away. He didn't know how to deal with this now.

"Since there's no one to uphold justice for me, then I... I'm going to die!" Luo Xiaowan was about to hit the pillar next to her.

Seeing this, the two servant girls rushed over and hugged her, crying sadly. "Miss, Miss, don't do anything stupid!"

"Miss, there will be someone who will help you!"

Luo Xiaowan was held in the arms of two maids and could not move. She struggled hard but failed to get rid of them. Then she lowered her head and shed tears with grievance.

"Just help her. She looks so pitiful!" Zhang Lanjue pulled the young man's sleeve as if he couldn't stand it.

"Yes, help her. Set up a case for her first. If it fails, she may think of a way later. At least she can get help now!" Someone among the group of people said to help her. From the words of the people around them, the people from the Ministry of Justice learned about the whole matter and got an extremely low opinion of Liu Xincheng.

The man who could do such an evil thing must have given up his humanity!

For a prostitute, he beat his fiancée to the ground in public, begging for mercy. No human being was capable of doing this! Those young people brought here by Zhang Lanjue were from decent families and had good character. Thus, they were willing to speak for her.

"Okay, I'll arrange a case for this lady!" The young man said helplessly. It was best just to file a case in this situation. It would be best if there were nothing wrong. But if not, it was reasonable to do that.

"What? It's just a matter of marriage!" Hearing that they were really going to file a case in the Ministry of Justice, Liu Xincheng became anxious and shouted. He stood up with the help of the doorframe and

defended himself. "We're engaged to be married, and I have a contract to prove it. How could you establish a case? Yes, we had this small conflict because of a trivial misunderstanding. It's not a big deal. Stay out of my business!"

Liu Xincheng was also a tyrant in his own territory. In the past, he could easily get what he wanted from others. Never had he given in for others. What he said made others even more disgusted. Looking at his arrogant face and the poor look of Luo Xiaowan at the door, they felt that he was not worthy of this lady at all.

Many people were standing on Luo Xiaowan's side. When they heard what Liu Xincheng said, they could not help but say, "Are you engaged? Not with the prostitute upstairs? You make a good match with the prostitute upstairs. A perfect couple!"

"Why don't you let others take care of the young lady? You just gave her a violent beating. Do you think that you're the owner of the capital city? Do you consider yourself a royal or the crown prince?"

"Don't you know how miserable you look? There can't be any Young Madam from a good family willing to marry you. I say you should stay in jail for a few days. Don't you think so?" Someone asked the angry crowd.

"Yes, that's right. We're all witnesses when you hit people on the street. Stay in the Ministry of Justice jail for a few days first. Then you'll have to deal with the case!" Someone else chimed in. When some looked upstairs, they saw people come out of the private box. Among them, there were indeed a few women dressed in lurid clothes. At first glance, one could tell that they were not decent women.

"Come on, take them to the Ministry of Justice and set up a case first!" Seeing that Liu Xincheng had irritated many onlookers, the young man ordered his servant to take him away.

Fighting in public could surely be treated as a criminal offense...

[Medical Princess](#)

Chapter 974: Escape? No Way!

"What? She went to the court?" When she heard such news, the Madam of Duke Yangqu almost fainted. She supported herself by the table corner and ordered anxiously, "Hurry... Hurry up and invite Princess to come over!"

The wife of Duke Yangqu's son came very quickly. She had also received news that her daughter had sent Liu Xincheng to the Ministry of Justice. It was said that he chased her daughter to the street and beat her up. He wanted to beat her daughter to death for a prostitute.

The wife of Duke Yangqu's son was born in a military family and had a bad temper. How could she bear this? She gathered all her men and was about to go to the Ministry of Justice. She did not expect that the Madam of Duke Yangqu would ask her to come at this time.

Therefore, she brought the large group of people with her to the wife of Duke Yangqu.

As soon as she entered the door, a teacup flew over. She slightly moved to the side, and the teacup smashed heavily on the doorframe and fell to the ground.

"You are so unfilial. I told you to marry her as soon as possible, but you refused. See what has happened!" The Madam of Duke Yangqu pointed at her and abused her.

"Mother, you're right. I'll go and have a look now. I can't believe he could be shameless to mess around with prostitutes. How could he look down on our family? If we silently swallow the insult and humiliation, how can my husband and yours keep their dignity in the future? We're not selling her for the sake of glory!"

The wife of Duke Yangqu's son intentionally misinterpreted her words. She bowed to the Madam and said respectfully, "I'm going to bring Xiaowan back now."

"You... Hurry up!" Although the Madam of Duke Yangqu knew that the Princess was playing the fool again, she had no choice but to let her go.

How could a Miss from an aristocratic family really stay in the Ministry of Justice? Furthermore, her daughter-in-law had mentioned her husband and son just now. Even if it was for their reputation, she could not allow Luo Xiaowan to stay in the Ministry of Justice. She had to get her back as soon as possible. This marriage... Well, the marriage was no longer an important thing for the Madam of Duke Yangqu now.

This matter had blown up. If she did not agree to break off the engagement, others might say she was an inhuman social climber who sacrificed her granddaughter to curry favor with the Empress for wealth and power.

Even if she really wanted to please the Empress with this marriage, she could not reveal her intention at this time.

She couldn't hinder the official career of her husband and son!

Even though she was very upset with her daughter-in-law, she had no choice but to ask her to bring Luo Xiaowan back first.

"Yes, mother. I will go right away!" Hearing this, the wife of Duke Yangqu's son immediately nodded. She turned around and led a large group of people to the Ministry of Justice. She wanted to see how that incapable man dared to do such a thing!

Since the matter had gotten out of hand, it didn't matter how big it was. Anyway, her daughter's reputation had been harmed by this good-for-nothing man. She wouldn't swallow the grievances in silence.

They arrived at the Ministry of Justice. As the official there heard that the wife of Duke Yangqu's son came, he led her in. Then, she saw the shivering Luo Xiaowan in the room.

Her hair was messy, and there was a scratch on her face. Her fair and tender face looked a little red and swollen. The wife of Duke Yangqu's son was furious. She turned around and asked the official behind her, "Where's Liu Xincheng?"

"In the next room!" the official said.

"I'll go and take a look!" She instantly turned around and walked towards the room on the side. The official of the Ministry of Justice, knowing she would do something bad, hurried over.

But he was still a few moments late. In the jail, she lifted Liu Xincheng up, pushing him violently to a corner of the table on one side. Liu Xincheng instantly bent over in pain.

“You... you...”

“You bastard, how could you marry my daughter? Who do you think you’re? Don’t you know what kind of trash you are?” The wife of Duke Yangqu’s son said with hatred. Thinking of her daughter’s miserable look just now, she gnashed her teeth.

They were never a good match. Because of what the Empress said, the Old Madam of Marquis Xing’s Mansion followed her words wholeheartedly. She agreed to be the matchmaker just to please the Empress. As for her mother-in-law, she also didn’t want to displease the Empress, so she never allowed them to break off the engagement.

This engagement was canceled, but her daughter’s reputation was almost ruined. When she thought of this, the wife of Duke Yangqu’s son wanted to skin and eat Liu Xincheng alive.

She didn’t hit him in the face, no matter how much she hated him. Since he was a prisoner, it was not convenient for her to slap him in the face at this time. She could only give him a hard push.

“Princess, let’s talk outside!” The official of the Ministry of Justice arrived. The scene brought him out in a cold sweat. He could only ask her to go out. If they came to blows here, he would be responsible for it.

She glared at Liu Xincheng again and returned to the previous room. With her daughter in her arms, she felt sorry for her and secretly made up her mind: no matter what, she couldn’t let him go. She couldn’t let her daughter have anything to do with this playboy. Although her daughter’s reputation was damaged, it was much better than ruining it after marrying that man!

It would be terrible if they got married and were forced to divorce!

Thinking of this, she felt a little relieved. She immediately asked someone to negotiate with the Ministry of Justice. Luo Xiaowan was the accuser, but she was a Miss from an aristocratic family. Of course, it was inconvenient for her to show up, so she left a servant girl to speak on her behalf. Luo Xiaowan returned with her mother, who left her capable old maid to help the servant girl go to court.

In fact, this case about a quarrel between the two families was not a big deal. At most, it would hurt their reputation. Originally, they were not supposed to be sent to the Ministry of Justice. In addition, the two sides were related by marriage. With someone mediating between them, this matter was settled in the evening.

On the face of it, the case was settled. However, due to this matter involving the Ministry of Justice, they had no choice but to break off the engagement. Duke Yangqu’s Mansion could not let others scold them for selling their Young Madam for glory.

On the same day, the Madam of Duke Yangqu invited the Old Madam of Marquis Xing’s Mansion. Since she was the matchmaker, it also should be her responsibility to break off the engagement.

“Does the Empress know about it?” The Old Madam said lightly and frowned. It was obvious that she was not very happy.

"I think she has learned about it. It's not trivial, after all. Now the two families are like enemies. The engagement is no longer a happy event. Let's cancel it!" The Madam of Duke Yangqu smiled bitterly. She had wanted to curry favor with the Empress, but she did not expect such a big thing to happen.

"How could it be so simple? You'd better go to the imperial palace in person!" Old Madam didn't want to take the responsibility alone, so she pushed this matter to the Madam.

At that time, she pushed the matter through with a few words to please the Empress. However, she did not expect that she did not win the favor. Instead, she was in trouble. This matter greatly humiliated her, the so-called matchmaker.

"I'd better go to see the Empress afterward." said the Madam of Duke Yangqu. In the current situation, she had to discard the engagement. The marquis had also told her that it would be difficult to end this matter if the Empress interfered. Thus, they'd better deal with it by themselves first and then inform the Empress about it. Even if she would be a little unhappy, she could only accept the result.

This matter was a disgraceful thing to everyone. The fewer people knew, the better.

"I can't make the decision for you, but since you have decided, then let's call it an end!" The Old Madam said faintly. She was also occupied with a lot of matters in her family, so she really didn't want to be worried about the affairs of Duke Yangqu's Mansion.

She asked Nanny Yu to handle this matter and sent her to find Liu Xincheng to get the engagement contract. At first, everyone thought it was a simple task, but unexpectedly, something unexpected happened again. After Liu Xincheng came out of the Ministry of Justice, he left immediately and said he was going home.

When Nanny Yu went over, he had already left!

If he was back, they couldn't end this engagement, and Luo Xiaowan had to wait again. A man could get married at an old age, but women could not. How long would it take?

The wife of Duke Yangqu's son was shocked when she heard that. She hurriedly sent some people to chase after him, ordering them to get him back.

The people she sent out chased after them all the way, but they couldn't catch up with him. The wife of Duke Yangqu's son anxiously paced around the room, thinking that if Liu Xincheng were determined to put it off, there would be no solution for this marriage!

"My daughter's life will really be ruined. Liu Xincheng is really vicious. How could he come up with such a method to drag on it?" She thought to herself in worry.

When Luo Xiaowan heard the news, she burst out crying. No maids beside her could make her stop.

By nightfall, the people sent by the wife of Duke Yangqu's son had yet found Liu Xincheng.

"Miss, Princess Chen has sent someone here. This is a letter for you!" A servant girl hurriedly brought a letter over. Luo Xiaowan wiped her tears and took it. She opened the letter and finished it with no delay. Then, she stood up happily, lifting the hem of her skirt regardless of others, and ran hurriedly to her mother.

When her mother read Shao Wanru's letter, she was overjoyed and sent someone out in a hurry. It didn't take long for her to find Liu Xincheng in a yard northeast of the capital.

It turned out that he didn't leave at all, so the people sent by Duke Yangqu's Mansion couldn't catch up with him, even at top speed.

Even after he was found, Liu Xincheng was still unwilling to break off the engagement. Later on, when both people from Marquis Xing's Mansion and the wife of Duke Yangqu's son appeared, he reluctantly took out the engagement contract. Finally, the engagement ended as scheduled.

Shao Wanru returned to the mansion in the evening. She went to the Palace of Benevolent Peace and talked with Empress Dowager for a while, telling her what she happened to see on the way. When Liu Xincheng chased to beat Luo Xiaowan, Shao Wanru's carriage "happened" to be on the street and saw that scene.

After hearing about this, Empress Dowager pitied Luo Xiaowan very much. How could a Young Madam from an aristocratic family be engaged to such a playboy? This marriage was not good at all!

After that, Shao Wanru accompanied Empress Dowager and chatted with her for a while, and then she returned to Prince Chen's Mansion from the side door. She had arranged everything before entering the palace.

As soon as they arrived at Prince Chen's Mansion, Qing'er came to report. "My Lady, Liu Xincheng has been found. I followed your instructions and sent someone to keep an eye on him. When he is settled down, they will send a message to Miss Luo."

They did this to be sure, but they didn't expect Liu Xincheng to do something unusual!

Medical Princess

Chapter 975: Something Bizarre in the Marriage

"Has anyone informed him?" Shao Wanru sat down, picked up the teacup, and asked after taking a sip.

"No one. I've sent people to watch him closely. After he returned to his previous residence, he asked people to pack up the things and left immediately. He even left some things that he had no time to clean up. It could be seen that he was really in a hurry." Qing'er felt uncertain. If Liu Xincheng was really so sharp-witted, such a thing would not happen.

Even for the sake of his decisiveness to leave, she would think highly of him.

"Really?" Shao Wanru didn't think so. At first glance she saw him, she knew that Liu Xincheng was a boastful good-for-nothing.

The words he had said to tease Luo Xiaowan in the private box would also bring shame to Duke Yangqu's Mansion. Even worse, it was also a disgrace to the Empress. In this case, he was far from a thoughtful and cautious person. Then, how could such a person leave quickly after the incident and push Duke Yangqu's Mansion to a dead-end street?

Such an action was entirely beyond Liu Xincheng.

Someone must have secretly come up with this idea for him.

"My Lady, it's impossible for anyone to be there for him. Right after he came back and got off the carriage, Liu Xincheng asked a few servants to clean everything up as soon as possible. He did all of this without hesitation, so he must have made up his mind when he was in the carriage. But except for his servant, there were no others staying in the carriage with him. The servant standing aside meekly appeared to be a little smart, but he didn't look like a person who could come up with such a brilliant idea!" Qing'er replied. It made her a little disconcerting. In any way, Liu Xincheng shouldn't have reacted like this.

Fortunately, Shao Wanru had arranged for her to keep an eye on Liu Xincheng before entering the palace. Otherwise, if he successfully escaped this time, everyone would think that Liu Xincheng had left the capital and headed for his hometown. They would chase him in the wrong way. They could never catch up with him if they arrived at his home.

"The person does not belong to his mansion and isn't anyone around him. Then he must be someone from the Ministry of Justice!" Shao Wanru said. A name astonished her all of a sudden.

"Go and check if Qi Tianyu from the Ministry of Justice was there that day."

"My Lady, are you suspecting him?" Qing'er asked in surprise. This was an answer that no one could have imagined.

"Go and check it out. He used to have a good relationship with Qiu Yu from the Ministry of Justice!" Shao Wanru reminded her.

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"Yes, Miss, I'll do it now!" Qing'er nodded. In a short while, she came in with the news.

"Miss, the First Young Master of the Qi Family happened to visit Lord Qiu in the Ministry of Justice today. He did see Liu Xincheng who looked pitiful. He even asked Lord Qiu to find a doctor to check him over, so as not to cause any other accidents." Qing'er reported. Since it was not a secret, she could easily find it out.

Qi Tianyu talked about it casually while Qiu Yu did it in passing. Neither of them did it on purpose, so no one paid attention.

"It should be Qi Tianyu!" Shao Wanru weighed the process in her heart and said with understanding.

"Why do you think it's Young Master Qi instead of Lord Qiu?" Qing'er asked in confusion. In her opinion, many people in the Ministry of Justice had been in touch with Liu Xincheng. Qiu Yu also held a position in the Ministry of Justice. It would be much easier for him to say or do something than Qi Tianyu!

In other aspects, Qiu Yu had all the more reason to offer help than Qi Tianyu. Those aristocratic families in the capital city had never united as one. No one knew if there was a conflict between the Qiu's Mansion and the Luo's Mansion.

Qi Tianyu was a complete outsider.

Since arriving in the capital city, he barely had any close contact with other aristocratic families. He had been alone in the official circles and didn't even get engaged. Besides, he didn't know Liu Xincheng. Anyway, it couldn't be him.

Of course, this was just an outsider's idea. Shao Wanru had never looked down upon Qi Tianyu. In her previous life, Qi Tianyu maintained a successful official career with the help of Qin Yuru, Duke Yong's Mansion, and Duke Xing's Mansion. Even without help from his father, he took to the capital city like a duck to water.

He should be a Prince's man. Otherwise, it would be impossible for him to live such a good life.

But Shao Wanru didn't know which prince he worked for exactly. Her last life faded, so she didn't pay close attention to other things, let alone discover these esoteric things. As she pondered over the matter now, the answer became evident.

In this life, also because of Qin Yuru, Qi Tianyu suffered some setbacks. Nevertheless, he developed his career at a quite steady pace.

She must not underestimate such a person.

Of course, Qi Tianyu would not do it for no reason. Neither him nor other people in the Ministry of Justice would lend a hand for nothing. Qi Tianyu was the first person she suspected, according to the experience of her last life.

She hadn't yet found any reason for his intervention, but she was almost sure that he was related to this matter because he was in the Ministry of Justice at that time and talked to Liu Xincheng.

Qi Rongzhi would be in Prince Zhou's Mansion, but she couldn't guarantee that the person behind Qi Tianyu was Prince Zhou.

Most likely, it would be Chu Liuyue.

She had to be careful.

"Qi Tianyu is more likely to be the person. Have you dealt with this matter now?" Shao Wanru shook her head and put away the doubts in her heart. That was what she could do with Qi Tianyu for the time being.

"The engagement has been canceled, finally!" Qing'er said with a smile.

Shao Wanru smiled and nodded. It was a good thing that they did it. Anyway, Luo Xiaowan, who had not married into the family, was much luckier than in her previous life.

It harmed her reputation, but it was Liu Xincheng's fault. Some sensible families would not blame Luo Xiaowan. Though there weren't many, Luo Xiaowan, a Young Madam of Duke Yangqu's Mansion, still had a chance to get a promising and decent husband.

Now that the Palace Examination was over, some talents from humble families must have managed to get into the list of successful candidates. It was the best time to choose a husband from the candidates of the Palace Examination.

It was the best time for Luo Xiaowan to withdraw from this marriage.

"Miss, Miss, His Highness has sent a letter!" Yujie suddenly ran in excitedly and shouted.

"Where's it?" Shao Wanru couldn't help showing a smile on her face, but she looked at her empty hands and asked with her watery eyes flashing with doubts.

"It's with the Second Young Master!" Yujie wiped the sweat from her face.

"Second Young Master?" Shao Wanru didn't know who exactly she was referring to!

"It's the Second Young Master Qi. His Highness asked him to send a letter to you. Now he is waiting outside!" Yujie said with a smile.

It turned out to be Qi Baiyu. Shao Wanru stood up happily and said, "Let him in!"

Shao Wanru hadn't seen him for a long time. When she met him again, she found that Qi Baiyu was no longer the thin teenager he used to be. He looked stronger and darker, and he was full of spirit.

"Second Young Master Qi!" Shao Wanru said joyfully, delighted to see her old friend at this time.

"Princess Chen!" Qi Baiyu cupped one hand in the other before his chest to salute.

The two of them were no longer the children in the past, and he should be courteous.

"Sit down, and let's talk!" Shao Wanru invited him to take a seat with a smile. After they sat down, the maid served them the tea.

"When did you work for Prince Chen?" Seeing Qi Tianyu take out the letter, Shao Wanru asked with a flicker in her eyes.

"It has been almost three years. Fights brought us together!" Qi Baiyu handed the letter to Yujie with a smile.

"Three years. So long ago?" Shao Wanru blinked her watery eyes.

"Almost. Maybe shorter. At that time, you had already gone to the Yuhui Nunnery. I went to visit you once, but not only did I not see you, but Prince Chen also caught me. Sure enough, I was not convinced, so I started a fight with him. I didn't expect him to be so good at fighting!" Qi Baiyu said casually.

Prince Chen seemed sick and weak and couldn't even walk steadily. It had never occurred to Qi Baiyu that he was a master of martial arts who could knock him down. How could he accept this result? After that, he would go to fight with Chu Liuchen from time to time. Then they joined hands.

"I went with Prince Chen this time. However, I had to come back halfway to deal with something. He asked me to bring a letter to you. Well, you'd better take a look first and write a reply by the way. I will catch up with him tomorrow morning!" Qi Baiyu smiled.

"Are you still going back to the mansion?" Shao Wanru asked.

"Yes, and I have to do some other things together. After that, I'll hurry back." Qi Baiyu said with a smile.

"Then come and get it tomorrow morning!" Shao Wanru nodded.

Qi Baiyu stood up without hesitation and said, "I have something to do now, so I have to go. I will come to fetch the letter tomorrow morning. Please get it ready early!"

“How about 3:45 in the morning?”

“Okay!”

Knowing that he was in a hurry to do something else, Shao Wanru didn’t keep him and asked Yujie to send him to the door for her.

After having a little supper, she couldn’t wait to read the letter under the lamp.

Chu Liuchen wrote a lot. He told her what places he had been and what different sceneries he had seen. Those experiences were novel to Chu Liuchen, and it was the same to Shao Wanru. For a time, she read it with great interest.

Chu Liuchen also put a landscape painting in the letter. Although the picture was simply painted, it looked vivid.

At the end of the letter, he mentioned some wonderful things about Xu State. They were the rumors about the past and present lives. He did not know if they were true, but if it was real, he hoped to be with Shao Wanru for the rest of their lives...

Shao Wanru colored a little upon seeing these words, and Chu Liuchen’s idle look seemed to appear in front of her. She couldn’t help smiling. After thinking for a while, she picked up the pen and wrote a reply. Then she drew a simple painting. It was a string of wind bells hanging by the window – Chu Liuchen hung it there for her before he left.

Whenever the wind blew, the bell would tinkle softly!

After that, she thought for a while and drew the profile of a woman looking out into the distance near the window.

“My Lady, it’s time to rest!” Yujie had checked on her several times, but Shao Wanru had been writing and drawing carefully at the desk. Seeing that she finally stopped, Yujie reminded her to sleep.

“Prepare the letter early tomorrow morning and let Second Young Master Qi take it away!” Shao Wanru ordered.

Medical Princess

Chapter 976: A Visit, An Opportunity to Meet Someone

Early the next morning, Qi Baiyu took the letter from Yujie who was waiting for him at the door, and left.

When Shao Wanru got up, Yujie had already caught up on her sleep and got up again.

Qu Le and Qing Yue helped Shao Wanru to dress up. After a while, Yujie also came. When Shao Wanru finished her breakfast, a servant girl outside reported that Luo Xiaowan and Zhang Qilan wanted to see her.

Shao Wanru invited them in.

“Thank you so much, Princess Chen!” Seeing Shao Wanru, Luo Xiaowan sobbed out in gratitude and was about to kneel to pay her highest respect by kowtowing.

Shao Wanru hurriedly stepped forward and helped Luo Xiaowan up. "Sister Xiaowan, you shouldn't have!"

"Princess Chen, if it weren't for you... I... I... My life would be ruined already. If he dragged out the engagement until the Empress made a move... I..." The rims of Luo Xiaowan's eyes started to burn. Though as timid as a little weak, she was not stupid. She was clear that if they could not find Liu Xincheng yesterday, her marriage would be doomed, or she could only wait for the Empress to grant her a marriage.

Fortunately, Prince Chen's Mansion sent a message about Liu Xincheng's whereabouts. Lucky for her, they found him in the end, and there was still room to save her life.

"Sister Xiaowan..."

"Princess Chen, don't call me like that anymore. Please call me Xiaowan!" Luo Xiaowan shook her head.

"Princess Chen, you'd better call her Xiaowan!" Zhang Qilan also tried to persuade her.

Luo Xiaowan and Shao Wanru were not actually connected by blood. It was not appropriate for her to call Luo Xiaowan Sister Xiaowan. It might even cause some unexpected accidents.

Shao Wanru also understood this, so she didn't insist and nodded in agreement. They took their seats.

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Until the servant girl served tea, Shao Wanru asked softly, "How is your engagement? Your grandma didn't make things difficult for you, did she?"

"She also agreed to break off the engagement, and the Old Madam of the Marquis Xing's Mansion also sent someone to deal with it. Now the engagement is canceled!" Luo Xiaowan said, holding a handkerchief.

"That's good!" Shao Wanru nodded. "Then what are you going to do next?"

This marriage had dragged Luo Xiaowan into a much worse situation in her past life.

"My... my mother said... she can choose a son-in-law from the candidates of the Palace Examination..." Luo Xiaowan lowered her head with a red face. She didn't dare to say these words in the past, but now she believed in both Shao Wanru and Zhang Qilan. She could talk about it casually, "I don't care about his family's condition, as long as he himself is promising!"

The Duke Yangqu's Mansion wasn't a declining family. They just proposed a few requirements to Luo Xiaowan's husband-to-be because they wanted her to gain a happy life.

It could be seen that the wife of Duke Yangqu's son was truly good to her daughter.

"The Palace Examination is coming to an end. When the time comes, you can look at those successful candidates who are not married. Take your time and choose a suitable man for yourself!" Zhang Qilan also felt that this was a good thing.

The aristocratic families in the capital had the idea of getting a son-in-law from the candidates of the Palace Examination. Considering Luo Xiaowan's current situation, she might not get the best ones.

Nevertheless, it was still possible for her to find an ordinary one. After all, Luo Xiaowan was the legitimate daughter of Duke Yangqu's Mansion and was favored by the wife of Duke Yangqu's son.

"That's the best!" Shao Wanru nodded. "Has your mother begun to choose?"

Luo Xiaowan's face became redder and redder, and she nodded gently. "Yes... She has begun to choose!"

Even though her mother did not know who would pass the examination, she could choose someone knowledgeable with a good reputation. The Madam of Duke Yangqu truly doted on her daughter. As such, she started to pick early to find the most suitable person for Luo Xiaowan.

"Don't worry. I'll ask my Eldest Brother to check it out and see which ones are most likely to achieve success in the examination. Then Princess can pick them up first. It's better than doing it after the exam result is announced!"

Zhang Qilan also smiled. After that, she clapped her hand on the table and suggested, "Shall we go and have a look now? I learned the exam would be over today."

After counting the days, today was indeed the last day of the exam. In a while, all the candidates would be released.

A few roads were especially blocked to make it easier for the candidates to get into the examination halls.

The roads were still blocked.

"This... Is it appropriate..." Luo Xiaowan blushed. She had always been timid, but she had really thrown caution to the wind yesterday. She thought that if she really had to marry him, she might as well give up her life. When she recalled it last night, she finally got scared, and her hands and feet went limp. How could she be so brave as to rush out at that time?

"It doesn't matter. Let's take a look first. Maybe we can find the right person!" Zhang Qilan said disapprovingly and looked at Shao Wanru expectantly. "What do you think, Princess Chen? Let's go and take a look at them for Xiaowan. We can do it more efficiently when others haven't yet started!"

Seeing that Zhang Qilan was in high spirits, Shao Wanru smiled and slowly picked up the teacup to take a sip. Then she gently put it down and shook her head. "I'd better not go!"

"Why? Anyway, we are free at this time!" Zhang Qilan said in confusion. In her eyes, Shao Wanru was courageous. Why didn't she dare to go with them?

"Yesterday, when I talked with Empress Dowager, she said I should avoid going out too much. Since Prince Chen is not in the mansion now, it's not good for me to go out often!" Shao Wanru explained with a smile.

Hearing this, Zhang Qilan no longer encouraged Shao Wanru to go out. She could only sigh helplessly. "If you don't go out, I won't go there either. What a pity!"

"Why can't you go there if I can't?" Shao Wanru was curious. Her long eyelashes fluttered as she asked with a smile.

"My mother wanted me to learn from you. She said that you had the demeanor of a Princess, but I was ignorant and bold. There must be times that I would get myself into trouble!" Zhang Qilan put on a wry face, frowning deeply.

Luo Xiaowan, who was standing by the side, was amused and laughed.

Shao Wanru smiled and said, "You will be Princess Yue in the future. When I'm with you, I should be the one who needs to learn from you, and not the other way around."

Shao Wanru praised Zhang Qilan while bantering with her. No matter how carefree she looked, Zhang Qilan couldn't help blushing at this time and said, "Tut-tut! Let's talk about it later. Anyway, I can't compare with you in my mother's eyes. She always speaks highly of you for everything you do."

"What did I do?" Shao Wanru's heart gave a brief leap with joy, and she asked with a gentle smile.

"Well, it's about what happened between you and Infanta Yuan'an. My mother said that you did it right. Otherwise, someone might make a fuss about it later on!" Zhang Qilan said.

Shao Wanru had a dispute with Infanta Yuan'an, and Chu Liuchen broke Second Young Master Qu's hand at the palace's gate. This matter had been spread throughout the capital city. Most people thought that Shao Wanru had done the right thing, which was the best way to vent the spleen. Why could Second Young Master Qu do whatever he wanted, but Princess Chen had to eat humble pie?

No matter what, Princess Chen's status was far superior to that of Second Young Master Qu. No one would think it reasonable for her to endure everything without protest merely because she was a woman and Second Young Master Qu was a man.

"I was furious back then, so the servant girl took action. Prince Chen was really pissed off at that time!" Shao Wanru said softly.

She explained everything in a reserved way.

"This kind of person deserved a hard lesson. He must be a man utterly without self-knowledge! How dare he reach out his hand? In the past, Infanta Yuan'an appeared to be benign and righteous. How could she be capable of such a thing? Shame on her!" Zhang Qilan curled her lips.

This matter seemed to have nothing to do with Infanta Yuan'an, but every woman who had fought in the inner courtyard could see it clearly. She was obviously involved, but she pretended to be innocent. So, others couldn't help despising her.

In the past, Infanta Yuan'an had built up an excellent reputation. But now, it seemed that she had nothing worth mentioning.

"Princess Chen, the shop you went to that day was really good. I had been there before and ordered a few sets of clothes. Each one was very good. Later, I ordered a few more sets, but they haven't been sent to me yet," Zhang Qilan said with pity. Suddenly, her eyes lit up. "Princess Chen, can you ask someone to invite this shopkeeper over? I'll order a few more sets, and so will Xiaowan!"

It was indeed inconvenient for Luo Xiaowan to go out, considering her current situation. Hearing Zhang Qilan's words, she was tempted, so she looked up at Shao Wanru with expectations.

Although she didn't echo this suggestion, her desire was apparent!

"Call the shopkeeper over?" Shao Wanru hesitated.

"Yes, ask her to come over. Let's choose the clothes carefully. By the way, she can bring us some cloth and toggle-and-loop buttons. My mother didn't let me go out recently. She said that we should behave ourselves." Seeing a chance, Zhang Qilan hurriedly put on an anxious look, trying to persuade her.

Luo Xiaowan called out timidly, "Princess Chen..."

"Okay!" Shao Wanru had to agree. "Yujie, go and ask the shopkeeper of Butterfly Clothing Shop to come over. Ask her to bring some cloth, embroidery, and toggle-and-loop buttons!"

"Yes, Princess. I will go right away!" Yujie understood and answered in a crisp voice. Then she turned around and left with a brilliant smile.

Since that day, Shao Wanru hadn't contacted Madame Dong to avoid suspicion. Now, with this opportunity, she could meet her here!

Madame Dong came quickly in a carriage and soon arrived here. There were three embroidered maids coming with her. They brought some decent cloth, necessary toggle-and-loop buttons, and embroidery, which had been piled up on the table. The scene made Zhang Qilan and Luo Xiaowan excited. They gathered together and began the selection carefully.

Shao Wanru only chose one set of clothes and sat to rest. Madame Dong stood beside her with a broad smile, leaving the three embroidered maids serving by the table.

"Madame Dong, how's your business going?" Shao Wanru asked with a smile, looking like she was chatting casually.

"We can still do business, but..." Madame Dong sighed when she said this, with a trace of worry on her face.

"If you have any difficulties, just say it. When our princess came back that day, she still felt sorry for you and blamed herself for disturbing your business for no reason!" Qu Le said with a smile.

Medical Princess

Chapter 977: Be a Guarantor, Solve the Butterfly Clothing Shop's Problem

"Well..." At the mention of this matter, Madame Dong seemed more and more hesitant and even lowered her head. At the sight of this, everyone could tell something was wrong.

"What's wrong? Do you have some difficult issues?" Shao Wanru asked gently with a smile.

"Madame Dong, say it. If you really have something difficult to deal with, just say it!" Qu Le said with a smile.

"In fact, there is something difficult... Qu's Mansion..." Madame Dong lowered her head again. "That day, someone from Great Elder Princess' Mansion called me over..."

"Why did they ask you to go there?" Qu Le asked in confusion.

"It's... it's because I didn't do well on the stairs that Second Young Master Qu accidentally fell down the stairs. They said I was lucky. If it were anyone else who fell, he might have died on the spot." Madame Dong said, feeling upset.

"This is too much. What did they base their conclusion on? Obviously, they were deliberately venting their anger on you!" Hearing this, Zhang Qilan turned to look at them.

"What happened later?" Shao Wanru's eyes were very calm, and she said lightly.

This was what she had expected, but it was not convenient for her to go out and ask about it recently. Even sending a maid there might be improper.

"Later, she asked me to pay them some money in compensation. However, since it was a large sum of money, I... I can't collect so much!" Madame Dong's frown grew deeper, and she looked distressed.

"Infanta Yuan'an has gone too far. What happened that day was clearly related to her. Despite the fact, she made it look like an accident and vented her anger on a shopkeeper." Zhang Qilan came over and said disdainfully.

She was going to marry Prince Yue soon, so Infanta Yuan'an, who was going to be Princess Zhou, was like her natural enemy. Just as she heard Madame Dong's words, she immediately pointed out that Infanta Yuan'an was behind this.

Shao Wanru, in calm composure, cast a glance at Zhang Qilan. She didn't expect her to react so quickly. Sure enough, how could the future Princess Yue be simple-minded?

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Shao Wanru didn't know who Princess Yue was in her last life. Maybe it was Zhang Qilan, or maybe not. In her last life, she didn't even have much contact with Chu Liuyue, let alone Princess Yue.

"Infanta Yuan'an wanted a lot of money from you, but you don't have it. What are you going to do?" Luo Xiaowan was the most delicate person. She could not bear the bitterness in Madame Dong's tone. Thus, she put down the brocade in her hands and came over to ask her.

"If there is no better way, then... I can only give away the property!" Madame Dong lowered her head, her smile bitter to the extreme. "We common people don't fight with officials, let alone it is Ruiping Great Elder Princess' Mansion."

"Are you going to give the shares to Ruiping Great Elder Princess?" Shao Wanru suddenly had an idea. A trace of darkness flashed across her watery eyes as she asked.

"If there is still a way, I am not willing to do that. I'd rather give this shop to someone else than be punished for no reason!" Madame Dong said with red-rimmed eyes, "This shop has been running in the capital city for many years, and it's the fruit of our painstaking labor... If... If I have to give it up, I would not have worked so hard to operate it!"

"Well... If it really can't be settled, you can come to me. It is partly because of me. I can't let you take all the consequences!" Shao Wanru calmly took up the topic.

Hearing the meaning of her words, Madame Dong was pleasantly surprised. She suddenly raised her head, looked at Shao Wanru in surprise, and asked in a trembling voice, "My Lady, do you mean to help?"

Shao Wanru said softly, "You can hold on for a while. If you can't do it, you don't have to give away the shop's share. I'll buy the shop and deal with the Ruiping Great Elder Princess' Mansion. You will still be the shopkeeper, and all other things in the shop stay the same. I won't intervene in the internal affairs of your shop!"

She meant that she would buy the shop and handle its problem with Ruiping Great Elder Princess. As for the shop's business, Madame Dong was still the one in charge because Shao Wanru wouldn't take it over. Everything stayed the same as before. It was just that Madame Dong got a big boss with a high position and great power.

This was really a pleasant surprise. Madame Dong was so excited that she couldn't even say a word.

"Madame Dong, thank Princess Chen quickly!" Zhang Qilan reminded her with a smile.

Madame Dong hurriedly knelt down and kowtowed to Shao Wanru three times. She said in a choked voice, "Thank... thank you, Princess Chen."

"Don't call her Princess Chen. Call her Boss Chen!" Luo Xiaowan also had a good impression of Madame Dong, so she helped her to make this happen.

Madame Dong said she was trying to deal with this matter. However, according to the hostile attitude of Ruiping Great Elder Princess's Mansion, she could never settle this matter peacefully. Madame Dong was just a shopkeeper, and how could she confront the Ruiping Great Elder Princess' Mansion? It was better to find a boss that could compete with the Ruiping Great Elder Princess' Mansion.

No one could be more suitable for this than Princess Chen.

Although there were other people who were not afraid of the powerful Ruiping Great Elder Princess' Mansion, they didn't need to offend Ruiping Great Elder Princess for a shop. But Princess Chen was different. It was because of the grudge between Princess Chen and Infanta Yuan'an that Infanta Yuan'an transferred her anger onto Madame Dong. From this point of view, Princess Chen was indeed the most suitable candidate.

What was more, the offer Princess Chen made was so good. No matter how Madame Dong looked at the bargain, she got the best of it.

"Yes... yes... Greetings, Boss..." Madame Dong nodded repeatedly and agreed with Luo Xiaowan.

"Well... Maybe we should try it before making the decision!" Hearing what they said, Shao Wanru thought they might be too anxious. But still, she nodded with a smile and asked Qu Le to help Madame Dong up.

"Let's wait and see. There's no rush!"

Since she said so, Madame Dong couldn't push her. She couldn't help looking at Zhang Qilan and Luo Xiaowan with a pleading look in her eyes.

Once she missed such a good chance, she wouldn't get it the second time. Everyone wanted to rely on Prince Chen's Mansion.

Ruiping Great Elder Princess' Mansion had been utterly defeated when they competed with Princess Chen.

Infanta Yuan'an suffered a lot, and even Second Young Master Qu, who was with her, broke his arm somehow. No matter how others checked it out, it turned out to be an unexpected accident. Though everyone knew who was behind this, no one dared to stand up and speak up for him.

Prince Chen broke his arm. Yes, he did it. So what?

Could it be possible to break Prince Chen's arm? Besides, although Second Young Master Qu was innocent, Infanta Yuan'an was not. No one was blind.

"Madame Dong, let's see how much Ruiping Great Elder Princess' Mansion wants. If you really can't bear it, come to Princess Chen. Xiaowan and I will be witnesses!" Zhang Qilan made the arrangement, trying her best to help her.

"Yes, Qilan and I are witnesses. Princess Chen will help you!" Luo Xiaowan was very kind. She had just broken away from the painful situation and felt much sympathy for others. She also wanted to help Madame Dong, so she said it sincerely after Zhang Qilan.

"Thank you, ladies!" Madame Dong was deeply moved.

Shao Wanru coughed softly and said, "Madame Dong, if anything happens in the future, you can report it to me directly."

Initially, she wanted Madame Dong to report to a supervisor of Prince Chen's Mansion. However, because of the matter concerning Infanta Yuan'an, it seemed that a supervisor could not take the responsibility. Coincidentally, Zhang Qilan was also there. It was reasonable for her to take the Butterfly Clothing Shop in.

Of course, she couldn't let others see that she was determined to buy the Butterfly Clothing Shop. Thus, she couldn't be in a hurry. It was the best attitude to show that she didn't care so much about this matter.

After all, Zhang Qilan would marry into Prince Yue's Mansion. She and Chu Liuyue would be husband and wife. There were some things that shouldn't be arranged by an outsider like her.

In fact, Shao Wanru was not optimistic about Zhang Qilan's marriage to Chu Liuyue.

Chu Liuyue was excessively ambitious and could sacrifice anything for his grand ambition. All the things he did, he did them to achieve his great goal.

Moreover, the relationship between Chu Liuyue and Shao Yanru was ambiguous in the last life. It seemed they had nothing to do with each other in this life, but with Shao Yanru's character, how could she let go of Chu Liuyue? The person Shao Yanru favored most was Chu Liuyue. She would make the best out of him to achieve more!

What if she was in the imperial harem now? Too many hideous things had happened in the imperial palace.

How could an imperial concubine, who had entered the imperial harem, have no real purpose? Especially Shao Yanru. Shao Wanru was almost sure that Shao Yanru would not be at ease and would never stay in the palace to serve the current Emperor wholeheartedly.

However, although she was not optimistic about the marriage between Zhang Qilan and Chu Liuyue, she would not intervene rashly. It was The Emperor who decided their marriage, and it was not something she could change. Unless Zhang Qilan died, she must marry Chu Liuyue.

In this regard, she could do nothing about it!

“Thank you, Princess Chen. Thank you so much!” Madame Dong was moved and thanked her repeatedly with a relaxed smile. Shao Wanru’s promise was equivalent to a guarantee for Butterfly Clothing Shop to survive. Surely, Madame Dong felt she owed Shao Wanru a great debt of gratitude.

Shao Wanru waved her hand, and Madame Dong obediently stepped aside and consciously treated herself as one of her subordinates.

Her well-behaved behavior made Zhang Qilan think even more highly of her. Madame Dong was bright enough to act smartly here, though she was just a shopkeeper in a marketplace. No wonder she managed the Butterfly Clothing Shop so well that it was almost as good as those clothing shops that had been running for several generations.

“Miss Zhang, have you seen Prince Yue?” Shao Wanru asked with a smile in her watery eyes, looking very kind.

She still couldn’t help but ask, and she looked at Zhang Qilan calmly.

She asked this question suddenly, as if it just hit her mind out of the blue. However, it was not abrupt for Zhang Qilan. After all, only she could answer it.

“I...” Hearing the straightforward question about Chu Liuyue, Zhang Qilan immediately blushed and lowered her head shyly. “I have seen Prince Yue... He... he looks decent!”

The last word revealed her feelings for him. If she didn’t like Chu Liuyue, Zhang Qilan wouldn’t have reacted like this!

Shao Wanru sighed in her heart. As expected, Zhang Qilan really cared about Chu Liuyue. No wonder Zhang Qilan was like this. Chu Liuyue, handsome and tall, had always been calm and aloof in front of others, but he was meticulous in doing things. Compared with Prince Zhou, he was more favored by women. Shao Wanru heard that many women vied for being his wife when he decided to get married!

She felt helpless in her heart but there was nothing she could do about it. It was rare to find a friend she liked. She was afraid that their friendship would not last long...

An old maid, who was a supervisor, came in and whispered something to Qing Yue, who was standing at the door of the room. Then Qing Yue’s face changed dramatically...

Medical Princess

Chapter 978: Who's Behind the Trouble-making!

"My Lady, the people of Butterfly Clothing Shop are looking for Madame Dong!" Qing Yue took two steps forward and reported to Shao Wanru in a low voice.

Shao Wanru thought for a moment and said, "Go and ask what it is!"

"Yes, I will go now!" Qing Yue nodded and answered.

Though Madame Dong remained silent, she looked pretty flustered. From time to time, she would look out of the window in panic. She came to the Prince Chen's Mansion at this time, which showed that it was not a small matter.

She said nothing, but the anxiety was evident from her eyes.

Luo Xiaowan had just extricated herself from a predicament, so she couldn't bear to see others suffer. She could not help but say, "Aunt Dong, don't worry. With Princess Chen here, it doesn't matter even if something happens!"

"I know. Thank you very much, Miss Luo!" Madame Dong forced a smile, in a state of preoccupation.

Shao Wanru didn't say anything. She reached out and picked up the teacup on the table. After taking a sip, she slowly put it down, her eyes deep and indifferent. "Miss Zhang, Miss Luo, why don't you pick some more?"

Seeing that she looked calm and unhurried, Luo Xiaowan was relieved. She pulled Zhang Qilan, and they went to the table to choose again.

Qing Yue came back soon. She walked into the room and bowed to Shao Wanru, saying, "Indeed, someone was making trouble. They complained about how bad the clothes in the shop were. They wrinkled after being washed. Worse still, the toggle-and-loop buttons came loose only when worn a few days, revealing the lining inside. Somehow, there were stains on the embroidery, which made those clothes appear filthy."

"Infanta Yuan'an has gone too far!" Zhang Qilan, outraged, put down the cloth in her hands.

Everyone was as angry as her, feeling it was a sheer fabrication from Ruiping Great Elder Princess' Mansion. How could there be any quality issues with their products? The Butterfly Clothing Shop had been known for its high-quality productions. How could such a thing ever happen? It must be Infanta Yuan'an who fabricated all of this.

Infanta Yuan'an was even bold enough to target Princess Chen. It was a piece of cake for her to pick on a merchant of no account.

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But in truth, they wronged Infanta Yuan'an this time!

Shao Wanru looked into Madame Dong's eyes calmly. Both of them knew that it was not Infanta Yuan'an but Prince Yue.

It would be best if he discarded the official means and used tricks from the folk instead!

Infanta Yuan'an happened to get involved in this, well, without herself being aware of it.

What a coincidence...

"It may not be Princess Yuan An!" Shao Wanru said implicitly.

"How could it not be her? She heard Madame Dong was in Prince Chen's Mansion and deliberately made up such a thing! It's way too much! I've seen her before, a nice and fair Young Madam among the noble ladies in the capital city. I would never have expected her to behave in such an underhand way!" Zhang Qilan snapped.

She and Infanta Yuan'an, two of the few widely-known noble Young Madams in the capital city, belonged to the same social sphere. In the past, they got along quite well, but now, she felt rather indignant at being deceived by Infanta Yuan'an. Never had Infanta Yuan'an been a lovely lady. Zhang Qilan accused her of bullying and back-stabbing, a villain with evil intentions!

"Let's go and have a look!" After that, she turned around and walked out. Luo Xiaowan, somewhat at a loss, looked at Shao Wanru and then Zhang Qilan.

"Let's go with her!" Shao Wanru smiled.

Then she stood up and walked out. Almost instantly, Luo Xiaowan followed up. Deep down, she was immensely grateful to Princess Chen, who freed her from a disastrous marriage.

Her mother had also analyzed it for her. This man surnamed Liu wanted to wear down her resistance. As a woman, she couldn't afford the price of delay, but Liu could. Besides, the Empress might bestow marriage upon her. At that time, unable to go against it, she had to marry Liu. No one could save her from the dead end then.

Although her reputation had been damaged at the moment, at least she was still fine.

Because of this, Luo Xiaowan was filled with gratitude for Shao Wanru.

The three of them got on the carriage together and went to the Butterfly Clothing Shop with Madame Dong and a group of maids. Before they reached the door, they saw a large group of people around the door, quarreling fiercely.

Nanny Dong squeezed her way over first. Shao Wanru asked the servant to park the carriage by the roadside. After putting on curtain hats, they stepped out of the carriage and headed for the Butterfly Clothing Shop.

A middle-aged woman at the entrance scolded loudly with her hands clasping a shop boy's clothes. On the ground scattered some brocades, stained embroidery, and toggle-and-loop buttons. Beside them were a few huge bags and a large piece of cloth. The cloth spread on the ground was crumpled, not a good thing at first glance.

"Your shop must be run by brigands. I told you I brought these things to sell them out. So, I expected you to sell them to me at a set wholesale price. Yes, indeed, the price was fair, but all things I received were

inferior goods. My husband is still lying on the bed. We run a small business, and now, who would buy such things from me? You are killing my whole family!”

The middle-aged woman shouted out, not letting go of the shop-boy. “Where is your black-hearted boss? Ask her to come out. What did she tell me that day? All products from her shop have high quality, better than those from other shops, even at a favorable price. But, see? Look at this pile of rubbish!”

The more she hollered, the angrier she became. She withdrew her hands and violently pushed the shop-boy, who hit the doorframe heavily and bent over in pain.

As the middle-aged woman stepped forward, another shop-boy stood out and stopped her. “Lady, take your time!”

“Take my time... how can I slow down? My husband is waiting for me to buy his life-saving medicine after selling some goods. You have no conscience at all! You treat the poor and the rich differently. Seeing that I was poor, you deliberately gave me some moldy cloth. If my husband can’t get the medicine because of this matter, I will die in front of your evil-hearted shop.” She grew increasingly enraged and even poured out a whole ocean of abuse loudly.

The crowd began to talk about it animatedly, looking at the Butterfly Clothing Shop with some sort of unfriendly eyes. If what the middle-aged woman said was true, the Butterfly Clothing Shop brand would fall. Whether it could make up for the mess or not, it would be difficult for the shop to remedy such a big mistake.

In business, the worst danger is serving different customers accordingly. It would be devastating if others knew they sold out inferior products.

Reputation matters a lot. Only with a good reputation could a shop develop. Different from other things, the business world takes reputation seriously.

“Lady, but we’ve never met before. Are you sure you got this batch of cloth from me?” Madame Dong came in from behind the crowd, looked the middle-aged woman up and down, and asked.

The middle-aged woman avoided her eyes but immediately growled, “Madame Dong! It’s you who agreed with the deal. How dare you say that you don’t even know me? You’re not going to admit it now, right? But aren’t all these things from your shop? Look at these toggle-and-loop buttons and the embroidery. No other shops sell the same patterns.”

The middle-aged woman squatted down and spilled out the scattered embroidery and buttons on the ground.

Some onlookers caught a few toggle-and-loop buttons and embroidery, closely examining them.

“They’re from the Butterfly Clothing Shop!”

“These items are indeed from the Butterfly Clothing Shop. The pattern of toggle-and-loop buttons is new. No other places sell the same kind. It’s the same with the embroidery, which is released lately!”

“That’s right. I’ve checked it before. It’s still shockingly expensive!”

There were many discussions, and the majority chose to believe the middle-aged woman. They stared at Madame Dong with increasingly unfriendly eyes.

Facing such an unfavorable situation, Madame Dong knew that the woman held some hideous intentions. The toggle-and-and-loop buttons and embroidery were all new designs of the Butterfly Clothing Shop. To increase competitiveness, the Butterfly Clothing Shop would introduce some new fine works for their customers. This was the reason why it became more and more famous and popular in the past three years.

There was always something new in the Butterfly Clothing Shop.

But now, the unique and successful business model was used as a weapon against them!

Madame Dong did not know the middle-aged woman, but it was obvious that the woman knew her. Well, it was actually not difficult to do that. As long as she spent some time staying outside the Butterfly Clothing Shop, the woman could see her.

"You have said that the buttons were ours. How can you prove it?" She squatted to pick up a button from the ground after calming herself down and asked.

"Do you want me to tell you whether it belongs to you or not? All the people around you know it. Nice try, but you can never deny it!" The middle-aged woman shouted loudly. She reached out to pick up the item on the ground and threw it up hard at Madame Dong.

Madame Dong was caught off guard and fell to the ground.

"You'll have to pay for that, you know!"

With this, the woman picked up the things on the ground and threw them at her like mad. Madame Dong couldn't stand it and hurriedly covered her head.

"Hey, can you speak nicely? It's wrong for you to smash her like this. When the local yamen runners come over later, they'll bring all of you away!" Shao Wanru came forward with Yujie. Seeing the scene in front of her, she winked at Yujie, who then stepped forward and grabbed the middle-aged woman's hand.

The middle-aged woman, not convinced, struggled hard to get rid of her grip. However, since Yujie clenched her hands, she could not squirm free. With a furious glare, she thundered, "Who are you? How dare you meddle in other people's business!"

How could she care about Yujie, who dressed as a servant girl? A little servant girl dared to meddle in this matter. Who did she think she was?

"I didn't want to meddle in your business at first, but seeing that you are deliberately making trouble, I can't stand it anymore!" Shao Wanru said while slowly walking out of the crowd.

She walked to the messy embroidery and picked up a piece. Looking at the yellow stains on it, she said, "Didn't you see such stains when the shop delivered them to you? You made an ugly scene after you checked and received them. Tell me, how can you prove that you did not make these stains?"

Indeed, the yellow stains on the side of the embroidery were noticeable, but it could have been done by the shop owner or the middle-aged woman!

Hearing what she said, the onlookers nodded repeatedly. Her words were reasonable. When getting them from the shop, she failed to see the flaws, but after she moved the goods back home, she claimed to get shoddy products. It simply sounded wrong!

In fact, either of them could be the wrong side!

Medical Princess

Chapter 979: Material from the Imperial Workshop

“Nonsense, how could I do such a thing? Why should I frame this shop for no reason? I have been doing this for a long time, and I know some people in this business. In the past, I would go to other places to buy goods. This is my first time to do business with this shop. I heard that the goods in her shop were good, but I didn’t expect they would cheat new customers!”

The middle-aged woman flew into a rage but couldn’t get rid of Yujie’s hands. So, she could only goggle in anger and barked.

“Then say it, why didn’t you see these stains when receiving them?” Shao Wanru said calmly as if she didn’t notice the middle-aged woman’s struggling red face.

The middle-aged woman shouted, “They were rolled up together. How could I see them all?”

It was possible for so many goods to be wrapped together. Someone in the crowd nodded and said, “Yes, if there are many goods, basically all of them are pressed tight together, let alone the wholesale goods. Those sincere shopkeepers would be generous enough to give more pieces of material, expecting that they may do business together next time!”

“That’s how business is usually done. It’s never supposed to be a one-time deal, so there are always giveaways. As the saying goes: a kind and gentle manner brings in money. It’s not necessary at all to check each item when there are too many goods. Most of the time, the customers would merely take a brief look at the batch. If they do business with some shops with a good reputation, they would only examine a few important items!”

Hearing that some people in the crowd were defending her, the middle-aged woman became more and more exhilarated. She pointed at Madame Dong with the other hand, shouting and cussing with her eyes bulging, “She looked like an honesty shop owner, so I didn’t bother to all the goods. I didn’t expect her to deceive me and give me those useless materials. What should I do? I have to support my family!”

The middle-aged woman, seemingly also a good actor, intended to clap her legs while accusing in tears. However, Yujie clutched one of her hands, deliberately putting forth some strength. Thus, even before she could start her performance, she gritted her teeth in pain. Not in the mood to shed tears, she could turn around to pull back Yujie’s hand.

Yujie, maintaining her calm composure, exerted more strength to grab the middle-aged woman. On the contrary, the middle-aged woman was distracted. It seemed that she was holding Yujie’s hands with great force. Her exaggerated action aroused some people suspicious.

Did she fake it?

“The embroidery doesn’t seem like a product from this shop!” Shao Wanru asked smoothly.

“No way. It belongs to this shop!” The middle-aged woman gritted her teeth. “If you don’t believe me, you can compare it to theirs!”

This item was made of the material from the Butterfly Clothing Shop, so she was not afraid of the comparison.

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“Are they also from the Butterfly Clothing Shop?” Shao Wanru picked up two more toggle-and-loop buttons on the ground, looked at the broken threads in them, and asked.

“Of course, they are from the Butterfly Clothing Shop. If you don’t believe me, you can check it out!” The middle-aged woman said loudly. These things were indeed from the Butterfly Clothing Shop, no matter how many times they checked it.

“Miss Zhang, take a look at this!” Shao Wanru ignored the middle-aged woman and handed the button in her hand to Zhang Qilan. Zhang Qilan took it and frowned slightly.

With those broken threads, the button appeared to be crudely made. Upon taking a closer look, she saw those dense and exquisite stitches on it. It didn’t look like a shoddy piece of work at all. How could the button get broken threads when having been so carefully processed?

“Er... Could these threads be deliberately cut off?” Luo Xiaowan leaned over to take a look and asked in a low voice.

“That’s possible!” Zhang Qilan also thought of this possibility and nodded repeatedly. “Yes, it may be that someone deliberately broke the stitches. See, the other stitches remain closely packed!”

Hearing what they said, some people picked up a button curiously. After looking closely at it, they all felt that their words made sense.

“How could these stitches break so easily when they had been delicately handled?”

“They wouldn’t. I’ve made buttons with less dense stitches, and they could remain on the clothes for a long time!”

“The remaining stitches can be the evidence!”

Many people echoed.

The middle-aged woman was a little flustered. Before she could say anything, Shao Wanru had already picked up a piece of crumpled cloth. She looked at the cloth, turned to Madame Dong, and said, “Are these pieces of cloth from your shop?”

At this time, Madame Dong had already stood up. She came over, picked up the cloth, and looked at it. Then she shook her head repeatedly and said, “No, it’s not from our shop. There is no such material in our shop!”

"If it's not the material from your shop, who else can it belong to?" The middle-aged woman argued loudly. Feeling guilty about the matter of buttons, she looked at Shao Wanru with vigilance. "Young Madam, which mansion are you come from? How could you know this kind of thing?"

Shao Wanru and the others were all wearing curtain hats, so the woman couldn't see their face clearly. However, judging by their imposing manner and crowd of maids, she knew these ladies were either rich or noble.

In any case, she'd better not offend them.

In the capital city, influential officials were as many as the hairs on an ox. No one knew when they would run into someone that they couldn't afford to offend.

The middle-aged woman, living in the capital city, was fully aware of who she couldn't provoke. That was why she hadn't yet said anything bad to Shao Wanru.

However, Shao Wanru didn't even cast a glance at the middle-aged woman. She still looked at Madame Dong and asked, "You have said this material wasn't from your shop. How did you know it?"

Madame Dong shook her head and said, "I'm very familiar with our materials. Even if the designs and colors look similar, they are not like this. None of them would crinkle after being washed in the water!"

"I've bought this design in your shop!"

"I also bought it, not a long time ago!" Two people couldn't help but speak!

"Absolutely! Some people have also bought the same kind. How dare you say that you don't have anything like that? They must have come together with that batch of goods. After you sold out the good ones, you cheated petty dealers like me into buying the rest inferior goods. It's a pity that my husband is still lying on the bed, waiting to take medicine. If something really happens to this batch of goods from your shop, how can my family survive?"

The middle-aged woman wanted to howl again, but her wrist was violently pinched. The corners of her eyes twisted in pain. How could she cry out at this time?

She could only stamp her feet in frustrated rage.

"We have sold products with this color once, but it was not made of the same material batch, which was actually from some other place. The material was not originally from our shop!" Madame Dong felt calmer and more in control.

"Where did you get your material?" Shao Wanru asked.

"It's... it's from the Imperial Workshop. We purchased some goods from there. If you don't believe it, you can check our account directly. These goods were definitely not such poorly-manufactured items! Please trust me. Or, you can take the goods you brought from us at that time and compare them with hers!"

"Is their material from the Imperial Workshop?"

The news silenced everyone all of a sudden!

The owner of the Imperial Workshop was surely the Emperor. But not all the items there were for the Emperor. Some things not chosen by the imperial palace would go into the business run by the Imperial Household Department. However, whether the batch from the Imperial Workshop went directly to the Emperor or the Imperial Household Department, its quality must be guaranteed. Otherwise, it would not just be a case of closing the shop, but a case of losing some people's heads, once the disqualified batch related to them was discovered.

The accounts of the Imperial Workshop were very clear. It was unlikely that there would be something inferior. It was said that the Imperial Household Department was under strict management, so it was not easy for others to intervene. If anything went wrong with the affairs in the Imperial Workshop, some officials of the Imperial Household Department would get beheaded.

In this way, this kind of thing was more serious than a matter in the business world!

The onlookers did not dare to make any more judgments. If the matter was under investigation, everyone present would be part of it, and maybe none of them could get out of the way.

It was good to watch the fun, but it would be troublesome if they got themselves involved.

"Do you mean that there is something wrong with the material from the Imperial Workshop?" Shao Wanru turned to look at the middle-aged woman.

The woman immediately panicked. She just wanted to extort money from them, but never had she planned to sacrifice her life. Once this matter was linked with the Imperial Workshop, she would become the one who accused it of producing bad-quality items. As a businesswoman living in the capital city, she knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that she would be put in jail.

"I... I meant that there was something wrong with the clothes of Butterfly Clothing Shop. I... I never mentioned the Imperial Workshop..."

"But all the recent batches of material in our shop were from the Imperial Workshop. You can go check it out. Even if the officials come, I won't change my words!" Madame Dong said, her heart secretly throbbing with fear. "Thank goodness, I followed the Princess' suggestions and changed to purchase the material from the Imperial Workshop. Since then, nearly all material we use is from there."

"You... but you might go to get some from other places!" The middle-aged woman stammered.

"Since it is related to the Imperial Workshop, we can invite officials from yamen over here to investigate. If there is anything dishonest, they will not let me go!" Madame Dong said with sincerity, not panicking at all. She came over and reached out to hold the middle-aged woman's hand. "Come on, let's go to the yamen together, telling them that the goods from the Imperial Workshop were inferior ones!"

Yujie quietly put down her hand and retreated to the back of Shao Wanru.

"I... I won't go. It's your fault, not theirs..." The middle-aged woman looked around in a fluster. After all, how could she be bold enough to sue the Imperial Workshop for selling seconds at best quality prices? She was going to cause herself big trouble!

"If my account book is faked, the yamen will definitely seal my shop. Take these things back as evidence to find out the truth!" Madame Dong was very persistent. She even reached out and picked up a button

from the ground. "Check the matter of these buttons. Who deliberately broke the threads inside and framed our shop? After all, those remained stitches are clearly well-made!"

If their conflict had nothing to do with the Imperial Workshop, the yamen would never establish a case for such a trivial matter. But ever since the Imperial Workshop was mentioned, it was no longer a case in the control of ordinary people.

The middle-aged woman, who just came to make a scene for some extra benefits, wouldn't dare to go to the yamen. Thus, almost instantly, she pulled herself free from Madame Dong's hands and said, "I... I run a small business, and I have elders and children to feed, so I won't go to the yamen with you. If you... if you want to prove your innocence, you can go there to inquire about this matter!"

After saying that, she didn't care about Madame Dong anymore. She pushed the crowd aside and walked out, leaving the cloth and buttons behind.

It was obvious from her guilty look that what she said was false. Everyone could see that she didn't dare to verify this matter. At last, she was too ignorant to admit her sinister purpose and even asked Madame Dong to verify the fabricated charge.

"She did come to stir up trouble on purpose. I don't know which mansion is willing to spend so much effort to deal with a small shop!" Zhang Qilan curled her lips behind the curtained hat and said disdainfully!

Medical Princess

Chapter 980: The Scene in the Previous Life Reappeared: the Woman Jumped to Her Death

Seeing the middle-aged woman run away, the crowd gave a burst of mocking laughter. Finally, many people suddenly realized that the woman was here to blackmail. Now that she had been exposed and might get involved in a serious lawsuit, how could she dare to stay?

A moment ago, she was a righteous businesswoman, but now her receding figure looked a little obscene in the eyes of the crowd.

"Which mansion sent her to stir up trouble? Aren't all the coming and going customers Young Madams and Madams?" Someone asked in surprise. Zhang Qilan's shocking words diverted their attention.

"Perhaps it's done by their competitors. Red eyes are always in the same business!" Another person commented.

"Have you ever heard of what happened in the Butterfly Clothing Shop..." A well-informed busybody suddenly thought of something and mentioned it in a low voice.

Seeing that he would share a secret, many people immediately listened carefully. Someone couldn't help but ask, "Tell What's the matter? Does it have anything to do with what happened today?"

The man lowered his voice and continued, "I heard that a few days ago, Princess Chen had a dispute with Infanta Yuan'an here, at the stairs. Later, they even took the matter to the Palace, and Infanta Yuan'an suffered a great loss!"

Because this matter was related to Infanta Yuan'an and Princess Chen, few rumors spread out widely, so not many people knew about it!

“Ruiping Great Elder Princess’ Mansion?” Someone got it and gasped.

“It must be...”

“It should be...” Many people chimed in with others. Sure they would think so, for Ruiping Great Elder Princess’ Mansion had down many similar things.

In the past, people from the Great Elder Princess’ Mansion had vented their anger on many people who were not to blame. No one knew what had happened to these people.

Their words made sense. They hadn’t ever heard the Butterfly Clothing Shop had any conflict with anyone. Then, except for the Ruiping Great Elder Princess’ Mansion, who else could it be behind this plot?

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Someone who knew Madame Dong tried to soothe her. “Forget it. What else can you do? We common people don’t fight with officials!”

“That’s right. You can’t argue with them, can you? They are not rich and powerful!”

“Madame Dong, admit that it’s your bad luck. Peace breeds wealth. Give out some gifts to avoid the trouble!” Someone came up with an idea for Madame Dong!

... Madame Dong nodded and bowed to those warmhearted people around her, her face full of gratitude.

Witnessing her humble attitude, they were even more convinced that Madame Dong must have been wronged. They all felt sympathy for her. Since the Ruiping Great Elder Princess’ Mansion picked on her, she’d better pay to avoid the misfortune. The Butterfly Clothing Shop could never afford to offend such a family.

At this time, there was no more fun to watch. After giving Madame Dong several kind suggestions, they left while discussing talk about it!

“Go and find out who that person is!” Shao Wanru rolled her watery eyes and looked at the onlooker who mentioned the grudge between Infanta Yuan’an and her.

It was this person who had brought up the matter between her and Infanta Yuan’an.

In that situation, the statement beneficial to Shao Wanru attracted everyone’s attention and shifted the responsibility to Infanta Yuan’an.

Although it was to Shao Wanru’s advantage, the matter that Madame Dong involved had already been solved without it. It was just that they didn’t know who was behind the dirty trick. Now, since the responsibility fell on the Ruiping Great Elder Princess’ Mansion, the suspicion of Chu Liuyue had been removed.

It was true that the Ruiping Great Elder Princess’ Mansion vented their anger on the Butterfly Clothing Shop. However, before Madame Dong gave a clear reply, people from Ruiping Great Elder Princess’ Mansion would not deal with her. Then, the Prince Yue’s Mansion was the only suspect left.

Compared with the Ruiping Great Elder Princess' Mansion, the Prince Yue's Mansion was also angry with the Butterfly Clothing Shop!

Few people knew the hidden reason: the two account books of the Fanglan Embroidery Shop led the Duke Yong's Mansion to its tragic situation.

Only some people in the Prince Yue's Mansion knew about this.

Qing'er nodded and withdrew silently. She was the most inconspicuous servant girl around Shao Wanru. It appeared that she wasn't that favored either. Moreover, before she got promoted, she was a servant girl doing manual jobs. Thus, compared with other servants who began to serve Shao Wanru when they were young, Qing'er might not be so close to her.

When they went out, she always stayed aside, as if she had been sidelined.

But in fact, such an unfavorable situation made it the easiest for her to perform tasks outside without being noticed.

After Qing'er left, Shao Wanru looked at Zhang Qilan and asked, "Shall we go in or go back?"

"Since we're out, let's go for a walk!" Zhang Qilan was unwilling to leave like this. She turned her eyes and pointed to the intersection in front of them. "Let's go there. The matter of Xiaowan has been solved, and we have nothing to do!"

Luo Xiaowan, also in a good mood, looked at Shao Wanru with eager eyes.

Seeing that both of them agreed, Shao Wanru could only nod and say, "Let's go!"

They chose not to take the carriage and walked forward casually with their maids. No elders or old Nannies were around to stop them from doing the things they liked to try. The three of them strolled around joyfully and walked all the way to the Imperial Ancestral Temple.

Seeing the crowd flood back, they hurriedly entered a shop on the side to avoid others.

It turned out that those candidates attending the Palace Examination came out!

Shao Wanru abruptly raised her head and her face changed drastically. The memory of her last life popped into her mind. "It's almost this place. Yes! It's around here!"

She lifted the hem of her skirt and took a quick step forward, hurriedly looking out. Eventually, her gaze landed on a pavilion diagonally across the street from her. There should be a restaurant.

The four-floor building of the restaurant was high, which was the place for hanging the list of successful candidates. On the day the list was released, most of the candidates for the Palace Examination would be waiting there. Therefore, the business here was better than that in other places. Since the building was high enough, others could see whether the list had come out or not. The restaurant had a delightful name: Number One Scholar Restaurant!

It was actually the Number One Scholar Restaurant!

"My Lady, what's wrong with you?" Yujie asked anxiously when she saw Shao Wanru's face ghastly pale!

Her slightly flushed face suddenly became pale, and even the color of her lips faded, almost as transparent and cold as ice.

Shao Wanru held Yujie's hand and barely stood firm with her support. Memories of the last life rushed into her mind. The time was not right, but the position was.

"Where was I at that time?" She turned her watery eyes and spotted a carriage at the entrance of another shop. "Yes, right! Near that carriage, I saw the maid jumping off the building!"

The list was released, and many people knew their rankings. Those who failed the exam would return to their hometown while those who succeeded were giving the former a farewell dinner. Therefore, many people were enjoying their feast in the Number One Scholar Restaurant. It was very lively. "At that time, Yan Xi also passed the exam. He should also be drinking in this restaurant back then."

"The people were right, the time was not right, and the position was right." Shao Wanru's watery eyes suddenly turned to a private room with open windows on the fourth floor in horror. She could not clearly see who was in the box from her position. It seemed to be a woman.

It gave her gooseflesh, and she shuddered all over.

She might have misjudged the time. Her present life was different from her last life. In her previous life, it was easy for Wang Shengxue to scheme against Yan Xi. However, with her unique presence in this life, Wang Shengxue could no longer scheme against Yan Xi smoothly, and hence some changes happened.

"Let's go there and have a look!" Shao Wanru didn't have time to explain and walked straight to the Number One Scholar Restaurant diagonally opposite.

"Well, I am also hungry. That restaurant is perfect!" Zhang Qilan readily agreed. After walking for such a long time, she wanted to find a place to rest. The Number One Scholar Restaurant was just right for her. When she used to think about visiting it, her Eldest Brother didn't allow her to go. He said that it was a place filled with self-satisfied and dissolute scholars, definitely not a place for girls!

What he said instead tempted Zhang Qilan even more. Now that Shao Wanru had told her she would go there, she naturally had to follow up. She pulled Luo Xiaowan to go after Shao Wanru and entered the restaurant.

Those candidates for the Palace Examination had just finished the exam, so they were not in the mood to eat here. They would all go back to wash up and go to bed.

At present, the people waiting here were their families and friends, most of whom had gone out to pick up the candidates. It was rare for the Number One Scholar Restaurant to appear the less hustle and bustle.

The waiter was sharp-eyed. At first glance, he knew that Shao Wanru and the others were not from ordinary families, so he hurried to greet them with a smile.

"Is there any private room on the fourth floor?" Shao Wanru had calmed down at this time and asked softly.

"Yes... Sure, yes! Only one room is occupied, and the other rooms are available. Miss, you can choose as you like!" The waiter bowed and led the way.

Shao Wanru nodded and followed the waiter upstairs.

On the top floor, they didn't see many private rooms. There was only one circle of ten or so rooms, much less than the private rooms downstairs. Most of the doors were slightly opened, and only one was tightly closed.

"It should be this room." Shao Wanru walked to the door, looked at the entrance of the private room, and said, "This looks good. I want it!"

"Miss, I'm afraid it won't work. There are guests inside!" The waiter said with a bitter face.

"The view of this room must be fantastic. How long has it been since the people inside entered?" Yujie, who understood Shao Wanru's intention, went forward and asked. She then handed over a piece of silver in her hand and added, "Our master has taken a fancy to this room. Would you kindly make an exception for us and ask the guests inside to change a place?"

The waiter was overjoyed when he saw the two taels of silver in his hand. He hastily said, "The guests inside are also two ladies. One of them left, and the other stayed inside. It's been a long time since we last met. Perhaps she would leave soon. Miss, please wait for a moment. I'll go in and ask her!"

"Thank you!" Yujie nodded.

The waiter pushed the door open and saw a woman sitting inside. Because both sides were women, the waiter did not close the door.

Through the door, Shao Wanru could see the woman inside. She was the woman who jumped out of the building that she saw in her previous life. After accusing Yan Xi of abandoning his wife and child, she jumped off the building and died.

Shao Wanru's face suddenly turned ice-cold. How could there also be such a woman in this life?

"Miss, may I trouble you..." The waiter came in and bowed to the woman first. Seeing that she turned her head to look out of the window and did not seem to notice him coming in, he coughed.

As he spoke, he saw the woman stand up and turn around. Her scary smile gave him a rude shock, and he took two steps back in horror.