

Noble Wife 191

Chapter 191 Jealousy! Why Did It Have To Be Moying?

“Grandmother, why did Duke Qi’s Mansion give us the invitation?” Qu Moying asked the Old Lady curiously. She flipped through Duke Qi’s Mansion’s invitation.

Sitting opposite her was Qu Qiuyan, who was called over by the Old Lady. She was also surprised.

An old aristocratic family like Duke Qi’s Mansion had a distinguished status. Yu’s status wasn’t high enough to communicate with Duchess Qi. As a result, Duke Qi’s Mansion had never sent invitations to Qu Mansion.

“I don’t know either. I heard that your father used some kind of method.” The Old Lady said with a smile. Originally, she didn’t like to go out, but this time, she must go out to take a look. If she didn’t go, Qu Mansion’s several ladies couldn’t go out too. As of now, Yu couldn’t attend the banquet.

Thus, the Old Lady had to be there herself.

The fourth lady’s marriage could not be delayed for too long. It wasn’t just the fourth lady. Efforts had to be put into the first lady’s and the second lady’s marriages, too. As for the third lady’s marriage, the Old Lady didn’t want to care anymore. Her son had clearly expressed his attitude, and the third lady’s attitude was also very obvious. If the Old Lady continued to obstruct them, it would seem that she was being too nosy.

In fact, the Old Lady didn’t think that Lord Jing was a good match. If he really liked the third lady, it would not be this hard to meet him at such a time. In the past, he would come over from time to time. Whatever reason it was, she could always see that Lord Jing cared about Qu Mansion. But now, he was very cold toward Qu Mansion.

The Old Lady wasn’t completely ignorant. She heard the rumor that Lord Jing was going to marry a Princess, but it seemed that it had nothing to do with Qu Mansion.

However, since her second son had decided to interfere in this matter, she had no choice. The Old Lady knew very well what kind of personality her son had.

“Grandmother, do we have to go?” Qu Moying put the invitation on the table and asked.

“Of course, we have to go. It’s rare to have such a chance. Don’t you want to go out for a walk, Ying?” The Old Lady asked with a smile. She did not mention the marriage directly, for fear that Qu Moying would feel antipathy to it.

“With my condition, I can’t go.” Qu Moying shook her head and moved her feet.

“There’s no rush. We just need to send a note first. At least there’s still some time to prepare. Maybe it’ll be a bit later than your visit to Dowager Consort Qu in the palace,” the Old Lady explained.

“Grandmother, Dowager Consort Qu has never been close to our mansion before. I have never even heard of her. Is she really related to our mansion?” The Old Lady attracted Qu Qiuyan’s attention, and Qu Qiuyan asked.

Qu Moying looked up at Qu Qiuyan and did not speak. Qu Qiuyan asked the question that she had not found the opportunity to ask.

“Dowager Consort Qu’s surname is Qu, but she is scarcely related to us. In the past, she was only Concubine Qu. Because she only had one daughter, she was low-key and did not appear in front of people much. She also said that she was not in good health, so she rarely met anyone, and it was an accident that she met me. When she heard that my husband’s surname was Qu, she asked me a few more questions. In terms of ancestors, it was likely that our two families were descended from the same branch, but now that it had been at least several generations apart, the branches then went their own way and no longer contacted each other.”

Old Lady Qu explained.

“Grandmother, did you contact Dowager Consort Qu after that?” Qu Qiuyan asked again.

“No, until now, I have only seen her once. I did not know that she is staying in the palace as a Dowager Consort. I thought she had gone to Xinning Monastery.” The Old Lady shook her head. She had only met

Dowager Consort Qu by chance. After that, Dowager Consort Qu didn't contact them, so she did not dare to take the initiative.

After a long time without any contact, this imperial concubine seldom came to the Old Lady's mind.

"We have not contacted each other for so many years. Why did Dowager Consort Qu suddenly contact us? Moreover, she sent a Discipline Granny to teach Moying etiquette. Why is she so good to Moying?" When Qu Qiuyan said this, a trace of jealousy flashed in her eyes. She was clearly the most respected lady in the mansion. Why was Qu Moying ahead of her now?

At the thought of Qu Moying getting Dowager Consort Qu's attention, Qu Qiuyan felt it difficult to calm down.

She knew that Dowager Consort Qu not only gave many brocades to Qu Moying, but also sent a person called Granny Yan from the palace to Qu Mansion. When Qu Moying's foot was better, Granny Yan would teach Qu Moying the imperial palace etiquette and even the rules of attending to people.

This was what Qu Qiuyan was most jealous of, but she had to suppress the jealousy in her heart. In the past few days, she even purposely ran into Granny Yan several times in order to leave a good impression on the latter. Unexpectedly, Granny Yan was very arrogant. When she saw Qu Qiuyan, she only glanced at Qu Qiuyan indifferently and then walked straight over. It was extremely rude. However, Granny Yan was a female officer in the palace with a rank. Qu Qiuyan could not throw a tantrum at her.

Qu Qiuyan now understood the matter of Madam Duan. With such a person like Granny Yan around, even if Madam Duan had guts, she would not dare to make a scene.

Granny Yan was exactly the reason why the plan failed.

"Maybe the two families haven't contacted each other for a long time, so Dowager Consort Qu is too lonely in the palace and wants to find someone to chat with her," the Old Lady said vaguely.

"Then why must it be Moying? Xuexin has always been gentle and is the most eloquent. She is very popular with the elders," Qu Qiuyan said with a smile. She seemed to be indignant for her eldest sister, Qu Xuexin.

“Although your eldest sister has a good temper, she usually doesn’t go out, and... because of that matter, she even lost her engagement...” the Old Lady sighed. The marriages of her several granddaughters were not going well, and the Old Lady was in a bad mood. “Perhaps Dowager Consort Qu doesn’t feel satisfied with this...”

“Moying’s engagement was also called off.” Qu Qiuyan was at a loss. She acted as if she had just said it casually. However, she immediately came to her senses after she finished speaking. She hurriedly stood up and bowed deeply to Qu Moying with an apologetic expression on her face. “Moying, I’m really sorry. I accidentally hurt you because of Xuexin’s matter.”

Although it was an apology, it sounded very heart-wrenching. Moreover, it repeatedly highlighted that Qu Moying’s engagement had been called off by Marquis Yongning’s Mansion and that she was the one who was disliked.

“It’s fine. I heard that Marquis Yongning’s Mansion has been in trouble recently. Fortunately, Grandmother helped me cancel this engagement.” Qu Moying smiled and said.

These words made Qu Qiuyan’s face flush. She rubbed the handkerchief in her hand hard. Only then did she suppress the hatred in her heart.

She knew best what happened to Yu Qingmeng. Now, Yu Qingmeng was locked up in a yard in Yu Mansion’s backyard. Yu Family was currently discussing how to deal with her.

It was impossible to release her. She had made a fool of herself to such an extent. If she still stayed in the family, it would be a stain on the entire women of Yu Family. It was best to send her far away quickly. They planned to send her out of the capital. When Marquis Yongning’s Mansion sent her over, they also made it clear that Yu Family should announce that she had been kicked out. Otherwise, it would be hard for Marquis Yongning’s Mansion to find a proper response to Duan Mansion.

It could be said that Yu Qingmeng had reaped what she had sown, but it was also caused by the failure of Yu and Qu Qiuyan. Or it could be said that the failure of their scheme against Qu Moying led to Yu Qingmeng’s suffering now.

Originally, they wanted to frame Qu Moying and make Qu Moying bear such suffering, but now the victim turned out to be Yu Qingmeng.

Qu Moying's words were sarcastic. It was not that Marquis Yongning's Mansion had broken off the engagement, but that Qu Mansion had taken the initiative to break off the engagement. And now, the entire Marquis Yongning's Mansion had become a laughing stock in the capital.

"Alright, this matter is over. What happened to Marquis Yongning's Mansion has nothing to do with our mansion. It is Young Master Yongning who hasn't behaved well in his private life, and Yu Qingmeng herself is a vicious person. Also, Second Lady Duan..." The Old Lady paused at this point. In her heart, she was very much in agreement with the cancellation of the engagement. None of these few people was easy to deal with.

Of course, Xu Lipeng was not a good person, and Yu Qingmeng had a cheap temperament. As for the shrewish and domineering Second Lady Duan, the Old Lady had long heard that she was not a good person either.

There were some things that the Old Lady could not say in front of her two granddaughters. After a vague sentence, she stopped.

"Ying's clothes are already being made, and there are quite a few of them. Yan, you should go and get a few clothes made too. There are too many things in the mansion lately, and we have neglected your clothes," the Old Lady said. Then, she deliberately turned around to Qu Qiuyan, "Your father's suggestion is that you and Ying shall be in charge of the family affairs in the future. It makes no difference for your Aunt Luo to teach Ying at the same time as she teaches you. Let's not bother another teacher to teach another one of you."

"Grandmother, do you want Moying to take care of the family affairs with me? But didn't Moying say that she just wanted to stand by?" Qu Qiuyan was stunned and said anxiously.

"That was before. Recently, your father has said that you've learned those things earlier than your sister, so if there's anything she doesn't understand, you should teach her first. If she still doesn't understand, she can come and ask me or Aunt Luo. I have already discussed this with Aunt Luo. Don't worry," the Old Lady ordered.

“Yes, Grandmother.” Qu Qiuyan felt hatred in her heart, but she had no choice but to back down.

“Thank you, Grandmother, and also Father, for worrying about me.” Qu Moying smiled gently, agreeing to this matter and not refusing anymore.

“Alright, you guys can go back first. Ying, you should rest more for the time being. Wait till your feet recover, and then you can start to take care of the affairs step by step. Yan, you have been doing well recently. Start to prepare Duke Qi’s Mansion’s gifts. Draw up the list, and I will help you check it first.”

“Yes!” The two granddaughters stood up and bowed.

As the Old Lady looked at the beautiful granddaughters in front of her, a smile appeared on her face. It was a good thing that Yu was not by the side of the third lady so that she wouldn’t give the latter bad ideas of what to do.

The Old Lady did not want to care about Yu at all. After all, her second son had said that he just wanted to let Yu recuperate like this, and he would pay more attention to the matters in the mansion in the future. Her second son had vaguely expressed that he wanted to marry a noble concubine, but the Old Lady had not agreed to this idea.

Marrying a noble concubine? Wasn’t Yu also a noble concubine when she married into the mansion? Later on, she kicked up a fuss and caused Yue’s death. Although Yu did not live up to the Old Lady’s expectations, she had a son and a daughter. The Old Lady did not want Qu Zhizhen’s family to have a fight between a wife and a concubine again, which could cause the backyard to be in chaos. If he married a noble concubine and if she became his wife again, Qu Mansion would be a joke in the capital again.

Her second son was very talented in other aspects. But when it came to the matter of women and inner yard, he was not good at dealing with it at all, but he himself wasn’t aware of this.

She had to think about this matter again. Even if he wanted to marry another woman, it was better for him to marry a decent concubine. In the future, when her two granddaughters got married, the decent concubine could also take over the duties of managing the mansion.

It could be seen that her second son had made up his mind to imprison Yu this time.

Qu Moying and Qu Qiuyan bid farewell to the Old Lady and left together. They left the Old Lady's yard one after another but did not leave directly. They were heading to East Mansion, as the Old Lady specially ordered them to take this trip, saying that this matter was very important...

Chapter 192 Wait for the Right Time and Protect Concubine Xiang

When they arrived at East Mansion, Qu Qiuyan and Qu Moying did not see Luo from the first branch. They heard that she had just left.

Not managing to see Luo, the two sisters planned to come back, but when they went out, they saw Qu Caiyue.

Since the last time they came back, it was the first time they saw Qu Caiyue.

When Qu Caiyue saw the two of them, she was also slightly stunned.

"Second Sister, why didn't you go out with Aunt Luo? I heard that Aunt Luo brought Eldest Sister out today." Qu Qiuyan had an idea and asked with a smile.

When they went to ask just now, the maid from the first branch told them that Luo had something to do and had gone out of the city with Qu Xuexin. However, the maid didn't explain it in detail.

Qu Moying bowed to Qu Caiyue.

"Qiuyan..." Qu Caiyue didn't seem to be in good spirits. She glanced at Qu Moying with impatience in her eyes, feeling that Qu Moying was an eyesore here.

"Second Sister, Third Sister, since you have something to say, I'll go back first." Qu Moying looked at the two of them and said.

“Alright, Moying, see you.” Qu Qiuyan smiled.

Qu Moying nodded at them and slowly left. Qu Caiyue had something to say, and Qu Qiuyan looked very willing to stay and listen. That meant she was unwanted here.

However, she did not know when Qu Qiuyan had become so enthusiastic. Under the eye veil, Qu Moying’s eyes darkened, and the corners of her lips curved silently. The things that the Old Lady had instructed just now must have made Qu Qiuyan feel antipathy!

However, it was instructed by Qu Moying’s so-called father and the Old Lady. No matter how dissatisfied Qu Qiuyan was, she would not dare to fight!

Seeing Qu Moying leave, Qu Caiyue said to Qu Qiuyan, “Qiuyan, why don’t you come to my place to have a talk?”

“There’s no need. Let’s just sit over there!” Qu Qiuyan pointed to the pavilion aside. The gentle smile on her face faded, and she turned around to go to the pavilion.

She was very familiar with everything about East Mansion.

Although Qu Caiyue felt that it was not very good, she had to follow Qu Qiuyan. In fact, when she saw Qu Qiuyan, she did not want to say anything, but when she saw Qu Qiuyan give her a look, she had to show that she had something to talk to Qu Qiuyan.

“Tell me, what is it?” Qu Qiuyan sat down on the stone bench in the pavilion and said with a cold expression.

Qu Caiyue looked around uneasily and waved to the maids from East Mansion, asking them to retreat. Now, only she, Qu Qiuyan, and Qing Lian were left in the pavilion.

“Qiuyan...” Seeing that everyone had left, Qu Caiyue moved her mouth and looked at Qu Qiuyan dryly.

“Aunt Luo has gone to match Eldest Sister up with blind dates?” Qu Qiuyan got straight to the point. Although East Mansion and West Mansion were separated by a wall, Qu Qiuyan deliberately asked her servants to pay attention to this side. Therefore, she knew some things about East Mansion.

Similarly, if Luo, who managed East Mansion, made her servants pay more attention to West Mansion, she would also know some things about West Mansion.

Bringing Qu Moying over but not mentioning that Luo was not around, Qu Qiuyan did it on purpose.

“Yes.” Qu Caiyue felt extremely wronged when this matter was mentioned. Both of the two sisters were not engaged now, but Madam only cared about the Eldest Sister’s marriage but not hers. It seemed as if her marriage was impossible to arrange unless the Eldest Sister’s was settled. Qu Caiyue thought about it and felt depressed.

“Eldest Sister’s marriage won’t be so easy to settle. Second Sister, do you plan to keep waiting like this? Time flies. If you wait for too long, how could you get a good marriage?” Qu Qiuyan smiled and asked slowly.

Qu Caiyue’s eyes also turned red. She looked up at Qu Qiuyan and begged, “Qiuyan, help me.”

“How can I help you? I am younger than you. Also, even if I were your Elder Sister, I can’t help you, either, because East Mansion is not a place we can meddle in.” Qu Qiuyan refused without hesitation, “What a pity, Second Sister. You have a beautiful face, and you’re one of the most beautiful ladies in the capital, but your marriage had to be delayed... It’s really...”

After saying this, Qu Qiuyan shook her head as if she sincerely felt pity for Qu Caiyue.

“Qiuyan, please help me.” Qu Caiyue’s tears were about to fall. The handkerchief in her hand was crumpled into a ball. She was in a bad mood. This was what she was worried about. The more she thought about it, the more wronged she felt, but there was nothing she could do. She didn’t know when the Eldest Sister’s marriage would be settled. Qu Caiyue knew how picky Madam was about the Eldest Sister’s marriage.

Just based on Madam's enthusiasm for choosing a husband for Eldest Sister, Qu Caiyue felt that when it was her turn, she would probably be left with no good men to choose. At that time, she might really not be able to get married.

"Actually, there is another person who can decide your marriage," Qu Caiyue said slowly.

"Who... who is it?" Qu Caiyue was extremely excited. "Qiuyan, I beg you to give me pointers."

"It's far from giving pointers. It's only for the sake of your favors for me in the past," Qu Qiuyan said indifferently.

"Yes, yes. I understand. Heaven knows how sincere I am to you, Qiuyan." Qu Caiyue nodded repeatedly to show her loyalty.

"Grandmother can help you." Qu Qiuyan was very satisfied with this, and she smiled slightly.

However, these words dispersed Qu Caiyue's expectations in her heart. Her face sank, and she said with a bitter smile, "Qiuyan, how can I tell Grandmother about this? Even if I did, Grandmother wouldn't care about me. Madam has the final say. With Grandmother's personality, she doesn't really want to manage affairs, and she won't argue with Madam because of this matter."

She had once thought of this idea, but how could she, an unmarried noble lady, say such words and act as if she was desperate to get married?

If she really said that, not to mention Madam, even the Old Lady wouldn't forgive her.

"Did I say you should go to say it yourself?" Qu Qiuyan proudly raised her chin and said with a bit of arrogance, "Can't you let others tell Grandmother? For example, since Aunt Luo is not in the mansion today, shouldn't you tell Grandmother if something happened to you?"

Luo not being around was not a rare event in East Mansion recently.

Right now, what Luo was most concerned about was the marriage of her eldest daughter. From time to time, she would bring her eldest daughter out and abandon everything in the mansion just to find a good marriage for her eldest daughter.

“You mean I... I...” Qu Caiyue understood. Her expression changed drastically, and her voice began to tremble.

“It depends on what you want. Aunt Luo has been away from the mansion recently. It shouldn’t be difficult for you to do such a thing, right?” Qu Qiuyan stood up and tugged at the corner of her dress.

She had thought of an idea for Qu Caiyue. Now, it was up to Qu Caiyue herself. Of course, she wasn’t really doing this for Qu Caiyue.

As for whether Qu Caiyue would use this method or not, since Qu Qiuyan had already proposed it, she was naturally certain that Qu Caiyue would definitely do it.

“I understand.” Qu Caiyue was not stupid. She gritted her teeth and said. Right now, this seemed to be her only chance, and she would try her best for it.

If her marriage fell into Grandmother’s hands, it would naturally be much better than falling into the Madam’s hands.

In no way would Madam be sincere enough to find a good marriage for her...

Qu Moying went back to West Mansion first. Upon returning, she asked Granny Miao to report to the Old Lady that Luo was not in East Mansion. That was why Qu Moying came back to West Mansion first. Qu Qiuyan stayed in East Mansion to talk to Qu Caiyue.

After Granny Miao went to report, she brought back another piece of news. It was about Concubine Xiang. At that time, Granny Wu happened to be talking to the Old Lady about Concubine Xiang. Granny Miao waited outside for a while and eavesdropped.

It seemed that the Old Lady was also paying attention to Concubine Xiang.

“My lady, the governor has accepted Concubine Xiang’s case. After Concubine Xiang was beaten up, the governor sent someone to Earl Ling’an’s Mansion to investigate Second Lady Ji, but they didn’t seem to find anything. They only vaguely heard that Second Lady Ji left with someone, and the Ji Family couldn’t find her, and there was no other evidence. Would they say that Concubine Xiang was lodging a false accusation against them, my lady?”

Granny Miao said worriedly.

Qu Moying put down the score in her hand, and her fingers on the zither unconsciously drew two strokes on the strings in front of her. The strings made a crisp sound. Her fingers pressed down, and the sound trembled a few times and gradually calmed down.

“No.”

Qu Moying shook her head, and her eyes darkened slightly. The most important thing when she decided to send Concubine Xiang to Yamen was to protect Concubine Xiang first and then provide a strong premise for the follow-up of the case.

With such a legitimate reason and such great fanfare, the governor had no choice but to accept Concubine Xiang. They needed evidence when investigating a case, and now it was time to collect the evidence.

Concubine Xiang was very safe in Yamen now.

Now, Qu Moying didn’t have a proper identity or solid reason, so she couldn’t provide protection for Concubine Xiang.

This period of time was enough for the matter of Father wanting an heir to be brought up to the Emperor. Right now, all she had to do was wait and see the changes in the situation.

“Granny Miao, ask Granny Zhou to visit Concubine Xiang and send some food and medicine over.” After pondering for a while, Qu Moying said again.

Concubine Xiang and Granny Zhou were both Yue's people, who was from the South. This was something everyone knew. There were even some well-informed people who found out that Concubine Xiang had left the mansion with Qu Moying that day. Although it was said that Concubine Xiang had taken the initiative to leave the carriage to go to Yamen, this matter must have still aroused the suspicion of some people.

Since that was the case, there was no need for her to hide it. She should just let Granny Zhou go and visit Concubine Xiang.

Since they both were Yue's people, it meant they shared a sense of kinship with each other. Therefore, it was no big deal for Qu Moying to interfere. Although it was a bit harmful to her reputation, so what?

"Only Granny Zhou will go? Can I follow?" Granny Miao thought deeper and asked.

This suggestion was good. Qu Moying nodded and said, "Then I'll have to trouble you, Granny Miao, to make a trip with Granny Zhou."

Granny Zhou was going to visit Concubine Xiang in the name of their kinship, while Granny Miao was doing it for the sake of safety. It would indeed be the best if the two of them went together!

Calculating the days, Qu Moying guessed Father's matter should be settled soon.

When this matter reached the Emperor, this kind of thing was only a small and reasonable matter to the Emperor. Since it was Father's last wish and it was verified to be true, there was no reason for the Emperor to not grant the wish of Father, who was a loyal official.

Originally, Qu Moying felt that this matter should have been settled sooner. It seemed that Crown Prince Pei Luo'an and Ji Youran still did not give up, so she would give a push and make it even more difficult for them to make trouble.

If the title of Earl Ling'an fell into the hands of the second branch of the Ji Family, she would rather destroy this title than let them succeed...

The days of Concubine Xiang being released would not be far away!

Chapter 193 The Successor to the Title in the Ji Family

“Your Highness.” Ji Youran hurried to the yard where Crown Prince lived. When she reached the door, she composed herself and asked someone to go in and report. Then, she followed that person inside. When she saw Pei Luo’an, she immediately bowed. Her eyes were weak and red. She looked extremely pitiful!

“What is it?” Pei Luo’an glanced at her indifferently, and a trace of impatience flashed through his eyes.

In the past few days, Ji Youran had used this matter to trouble him a lot. It wasn’t that he didn’t want to help the Ji Family’s second branch inherit the title, but there really was nothing he could do now.

Thinking of how Father had reprimanded him just now, Pei Luo’an felt depressed.

Most importantly, at that time, Pei Yuanjun was still there. Pei Yuanjun’s eyes were as if smiling, and he leaned against the chair railing. Pei Yuanjun looked at Pei Luo’an with a bit of ridicule in his eyes, which made Pei Luo’an even more aggrieved and angry.

Originally, when he went into the palace, he wanted to talk to Father that Ji Yongming’s matter should not be changed so as to avoid the enmity of the Ji Family’s second branch. However, what did Father say? Father said that it was rumored that the Ji Family’s second branch was trying to seize the title of Earl Ling’an and even sent a daughter to Eastern Palace. Their goal was to tempt the Crown Prince so that the Crown Prince would only care about the beauty in front of him and forget the late Crown Princess.

When saying this, Father looked at Pei Luo’an with a bit of doubt and even a bit of indifference.

At that time, Pei Luo’an immediately stopped talking. He did not dare to say anything about directly giving the title to the second branch and even broke out in cold sweat. Pei Luo’an had a rough idea of

what Father meant—Father felt that Pei Luo'an was ungrateful because if he could even give up on Ji Hanyue, what could he not give up?

He could not give Father the impression that he was heartless, greedy for women, and ungrateful.

In that instant, Pei Luo'an understood his own situation. He immediately knelt down and confessed that he was ignorant. He showed his agreement with Father's idea, and then he expressed his love for Ji Hanyue and his respect for Ji Yongming.

Only after he finished speaking did the Emperor's expression become a little better.

"Go back. Your second younger brother will be Young Master Ling'an, and when he comes of age, he will inherit the title." Pei Luo'an suppressed the depression in his heart and said coldly to Ji Youran.

He was obviously the eldest son of the Emperor, and he was wife-born. He was the current Crown Prince and would be the Emperor in the future, but he had never had much dignity in front of Pei Yuanjun. When Pei Luo'an thought of this, he felt aggrieved. He always felt that Father was too good to Pei Yuanjun.

On what basis?

"Your Highness!" Ji Youran looked at Pei Luo'an in shock and said in a sorrowful voice, her hands and feet cold.

Just now, her mother had sent a message saying that something bad was going to happen. That was why she came to the Crown Prince again and asked for help. She had not expected things to be so serious. What was going on? What on earth was she plotting for? Why did it become like this? Now that Ji Hanyue was gone, wasn't everything supposed to be hers?

"Leave!" Pei Luo'an said in a deep voice.

He was also in a bad mood. Seeing Ji Youran now was like seeing himself in the imperial study. How could he be happy?

“Your Highness...” Ji Youran called out miserably.

“Still not leaving? Since you have already married into Eastern Palace, you are a member of Crown Prince’s Mansion from now on. Keep yourself out of the Ji Family’s affairs.” Looking at Ji Youran in front of him, Pei Luo’an was inexplicably upset and said harshly.

If Ji Hanyue were here, according to her way of dealing with affairs, things would not have come to this point, and she would also not come to ask him for help at this time without understanding the actual situation.

The more Ji Youran begged him, the more he felt that he was useless, and he became more and more sullen and annoyed.

He pressed his hand hard on a music score on the table, and his eyes were cold.

It was an old music score. Ji Hanyue had casually placed it here. It was a part of the score that she had not yet finished. Although Ji Hanyue’s embroidery was ordinary, she could be called a talented lady in other aspects. Writing music was her strong suit, and this score was something she had created in Crown Prince’s Mansion when she felt inspired some time back then.

It was a pity that it was not finished yet.

Pei Luo’an was in a bad mood today, so he specially sent someone to look for the score. Originally, he wanted to continue writing it, but now he felt even more irritated. He felt as if a bright and beautiful face had appeared in front of him. With a dignified and appropriate smile, the face looked up and spoke in a delicate voice. Instantly, his heart seemed to be fiercely pulled by something.

He suddenly stood up and walked past Ji Youran, who was still kneeling on the ground. He flung his brocade robe and strode out.

“Your Highness, Your Highness!” The cry of Ji Youran came from behind, but Pei Luo’an left without looking back.

Only Ji Youran, whose face was full of tears, was still kneeling there.

The servants all lowered their heads, as if they couldn't see what was happening. They stood there quietly, but their hearts were throbbing wildly.

Did this mean that Princess Ji had lost favor? So Princess Ji couldn't be the Crown Princess of Eastern Palace, could she?

The matter of Earl Ling'an's Mansion asking for an heir had soon come to an end. The second branch's concubine-born son, Ji Yuanhai, had been moved to the first branch to become Earl Ling'an Ji Yongming's stepson. He was to recognize Ji Yongming as his father and the Crown Princess as his sister. Although he was still young now and had yet to directly inherit the title, he could still be Young Master Ling'an.

Ji Yuanhai was also a smart person. After the eunuch who came over finished announcing the decree, Ji Yuanhai knelt down again and begged the eunuch to ask for the decree from the Emperor to release Concubine Xiang.

He said that Concubine Xiang was the only elder from the first branch, that she accompanied the Madam when the latter married into the mansion, and that she was the concubine specifically assigned to Earl Ling'an by the Madam. Her identity was not ordinary. Moreover, she went to the governor this time for the sake of his younger sister.

Although Ji Yuanhai was young, his manner was calm, and his words and actions did not show any trace of timidity. He seemed to be a capable person. Plus, he was Earl Ling'an's stepson and the Crown Princess's stepbrother, so it was impossible for the Emperor and the Crown Prince to treat him unfairly.

It was just a matter of sending a message. The eunuch, who was the messenger, did Ji Yuanhai a favor and agreed without hesitation.

When he went back to deliver the message, he deliberately pointed this out. What happened after that was much simpler. Concubine Xiang was the plaintiff, and she had already been beaten up. After that, she was sent to prison. As for the matter of Third Lady Ji, nothing was found for the time being. But no

matter what was going to be found out, Concubine Xiang, the plaintiff, was allowed to go back temporarily.

Since the Emperor had given the Ji Family's first branch a favor, it was not difficult for him to make use of this opportunity to do another thing. Therefore, the Emperor announced an oral decree, which was sent to the governor's place. He ordered that Concubine Xiang go back to Earl Ling'an's Mansion for the time being, and that if there were a need, they could bring Concubine Xiang to the court again.

"My lady, Concubine Xiang has returned to the mansion!" Granny Miao excitedly reported the good news she had heard to Qu Moying.

Previously, Granny Miao and Granny Zhou went to see Concubine Xiang and also sent Qu Moying's words to Concubine Xiang to reassure her. Now that what they said to her was true, how could Granny Miao not be happy?

Qu Moying put down the brush in her hand and picked up a wet towel to wipe her hands. She turned around and sat down in the chair. Her ankle was basically healed now, and she did not want to use the wheelchair anymore.

Now, the first branch had Concubine Xiang as well as Ji Yuanhai. They gained a solid foothold in the mansion, but Xiao would not give up so easily.

"Ask Granny Zhou to go see Concubine Xiang again and ask her what she needs. If she needs help, she can come to us." Qu Moying pondered for a moment and said slowly, "Even though Aunt and Cousin Hanyue are gone, there are still other cousins and Concubine Xiang."

Since Ji Yuanhai had been recognized as the first branch's heir, he had become her younger brother.

As long as the Ji Family's first branch was still around, her relationship with the Ji Family would not be broken.

"Understood." Granny Miao nodded knowingly and left. She turned around at the door and went straight to see Granny Zhou.

The people from the embroidery workshop happened to come by, bringing two sets of clothes that had been made for Qu Moying before. The Old Lady wanted them to send the clothes to her as soon as they were done, no matter how many sets there were.

The Old Lady was afraid that Qu Moying would have no decent clothes to wear if she needed them all of a sudden.

After letting Yu Chun take a look, Qu Moying accepted the clothes. Then, she asked Yu Chun to make another trip to the embroidery workshop. Although the clothes sent to her just now were very good, Qu Moying asked them to deal with the details more simply. She only needed to wear clothes that fit her status. She did not need to be too eye-catching or overly gorgeous.

Just after Yu Chun left, Yu Dong came back with a food basket. He had gone to the kitchen to get some snacks for Qu Moying.

Qu Moying did not like to eat snacks that were especially sweet and sticky. She liked salty and fragrant snacks. Coincidentally, the kitchen had made some. The manager in the kitchen specially mentioned it to Yu Dong.

Everyone in the mansion heard that the Fourth Lady was going to manage the family affairs with the Third Lady, so they did not dare to look down on the Fourth Lady.

They had all seen the situation when the Fourth Lady first entered the mansion. Compared to the current situation, there was a big difference. Those who were a little scheming had already made their own plans.

Regardless of whether they were the servants of the Second Madam or the Third Lady in the past, at the very least, if they could form a good relationship with the Fourth Lady now, they should do it.

She was no longer the useless and blind lady who had no backing.

Although they were servants, they had at least this bit of insight. In the past, the Second Madam was the number one person in West Mansion's backyard, and the Old Lady did not manage any affairs, but what about now? Although the Third Lady was not in a disadvantageous position and even surpassed the

Fourth Lady, back then, the Fourth Lady's status was even lower and the Second Madam's was even higher.

Out of the blue, some of the servants were not optimistic about Qu Qiuyan.

"My lady, I saw something happened in East Mansion just now." Yu Dong said after taking out the snacks from the food basket.

"What is it?" Qu Moying raised her watery eyes and looked at Yu Dong.

"I saw one of East Mansion's maids crying and running over. She was in a sorry state and seemed to have stumbled. There was dust on her body and head, and her hair was messy. She cried and came over, looking very anxious." Yu Dong thought about it and said. At that time, he happened to walk through that path. East Mansion's people came over noisily. "That maid seems to be a private maid by the Second Lady's side."

If she were just an ordinary maid of East Mansion, Yu Dong certainly would not recognize her. However, although he did not see clearly, he still recognized she was the Second Lady's private maid. Therefore, Yu Dong stood still and hid behind a tree. He looked a few more times, but he could not find out anything.

"Was she heading to Grandmother's yard?" Qu Moying gently took a bite of the snack and nodded. After carefully tasting it, she asked.

"Yes, she was heading to the Old Lady's yard. My lady, do you want me to inquire about it?" Yu Dong nodded.

"Don't move around too much. Just wait and see!" Qu Moying shook her head and looked at the dessert in her hand. It looked good and tasted good. "Bring one plate of the snacks to Granny Yan. I hear that she also likes this kind of salty dessert."

Did Qu Qiuyan say something to Qu Caiyue?

Chapter 194 Choosing the Princess Consort Depends on the First-sight Attraction

Outside of the Empress' Pepper House Hall, Lord Yun slowly walked over.

"My lord, this way, please. The Empress has been waiting for you for a long time." Pepper House Hall's manager eunuch had been waiting there for a long time. He smiled and said.

"Other than me, who else has come?" Pei Yuanjun said unhurriedly.

He came to the Empress' Pepper House Hall because of the Emperor's order, and he naturally knew the purpose.

"Lord Jing, Lord Wei, and Lord Yan have also come." The manager eunuch smiled. "They have arrived early and are waiting for you."

"Oh, are you blaming me for coming late?" Pei Yuanjun raised his eyebrows, curling up the corner of his mouth.

The manager eunuch was shocked. He hurriedly shook his head. "It's not that. The Empress is not ready yet. It's just that those Lords came early, but you are not late, my lord."

No matter how late Lord Yun was, the manager eunuch did not dare to say anything. Even the Empress could only wait. Even though the eunuch had some dignity in front of the Empress, he was only a servant in front of Lord Yun Pei Yuanjun. This was something that the manager eunuch understood very clearly. The Emperor considered this Lord Yun as his own son, didn't he?

No, not a son. Compared to his son, the Emperor favored this younger brother way more. He was not someone that the few Princes and Lords could compare with.

In the main hall, there were indeed a few Princes waiting.

Seeing Pei Yuanjun come in, Lord Jing stood up and bowed first. Then, it was Lord Yan. Lord Wei's body was not very agile. He came over in a wheelchair.

When he saw the wheelchair, Pei Yuanjun looked at it a few more times, and then his eyes turned away.

"Uncle Yun."

"Uncle Yun!"

"Uncle Yun!" The three Lords were one generation younger, and they were all very respectful when they saw Pei Yuanjun.

"Have a seat." Pei Yuanjun waved his hand and directly sat down in the front seat. It could be seen that it was especially left for him by his nephews.

The seat above was still empty. The Empress had not come out yet.

"Uncle Yun, I heard that the Empress called us here today just for you," Lord Jing said with a smile. It could be seen that he was in a good mood.

"What do you mean?" Pei Yuanjun picked up the tea that the palace servant served to him and elegantly lifted the lid. He skimmed the bubbles and took a sip.

"Uncle Yun, don't you know the Empress had prepared many beautiful ladies for you? Only after you have chosen a wife will it be our turn. We have to wait for you to pick one before we pick the remaining ones. How pitiful!" Lord Yan was the most outgoing and had a close relationship with Pei Yuanjun. Whenever he wanted to say something, he would just say it. When he finished speaking, he saw his two brothers' awkward expressions.

He hurriedly said, "I didn't mean that. It's not picking the remaining ones. Naturally, Uncle Yun, you will be the first to pick the lady you are attracted to. After that, it's our turn to pick the ones we are attracted to at first sight. If you don't marry, we won't be able to marry either."

"I am not old. You guys can pick first," Pei Yuanjun said indifferently. In terms of age, he was indeed the youngest among them. Even the youngest Prince Lord Yan was slightly older than him.

However, no matter how young he was, his seniority was higher. The royals usually marry late, and now it was already very late.

"Uncle Yun, if you don't marry, then Father won't allow us to marry. You don't want to hear rumors that the royals are all single, do you?" Lord Yan spread out his hands.

"The Crown Prince has already married. It's your turn now. I am not in a hurry," Pei Yuanjun said lazily. He leaned back and put one hand on the table. He looked at his nephews with a bit of ease and elegance. His pair of beautiful eyes swept over them with a hint of ridicule.

Naturally, the Crown Prince was older than Pei Yuanjun. Originally, it should have been Pei Yuanjun who married first, but the Crown Prince's engagement had been made early. Moreover, the engagement had been pushed back because of Ji Hanyue. After that, Pei Yuanjun had not decided on his marriage, so the Emperor allowed the Crown Prince to get married first.

"The Crown Prince is different from us. Of course, he has to marry first, but the few of us..." Lord Yan made a gesture and pointed at everyone, including Lord Jing and Lord Wei. "We are all waiting for you, Uncle Yun. Father's meaning is very clear. Uncle Yun, please don't be stubborn!"

If he did not stop being stubborn, they would not be able to get married at all. Lord Yan felt that it was actually time for him to get married.

"Are you guys really in such a hurry to get married?" Pei Yuanjun raised his eyebrows. His gaze swept across the faces of his three nephews. He was smiling while he talked. At this time, no one would think that this Lord Yun in front of them was so malicious and terrifying.

It was as if he was just a handsome and elegant young master of a noble family. His voice was gentle and his tone was light.

“I’m not in a hurry. My health is not good.” Lord Wei coughed in a low voice. He turned his head and gently wiped the corner of his lips with a handkerchief. His pale face also showed a bit of ridicule. “Yanxun is in a hurry. Let him get married first.”

“Even though I’m in a hurry, I will wait until Third Brother gets married. After Uncle Yun gets married, it will be Second Brother, and then Third Brother. Only then will it be me, and maybe even the Crown Prince. No matter how you look at it, my turn will be a few years later. Third Brother, it is better for you to think about what kind of beauty to choose first.”

Seeing that Lord Wei also teased him, Lord Yan blushed in an instant and hurriedly retorted.

“Look, Yanxun is really anxious.” Pei Yuanjun smiled. He reached out and patted the corner of the table. His movements were very wanton, as if he did not know that this was the Empress’ Pepper House Hall.

The few people present having an exciting conversation were of noble status, so no one was surprised. Immediately, the others also laughed.

The Empress, who had just walked over, stopped in her tracks. She suppressed the annoyance between her eyebrows. She really did not like Pei Yuanjun, and even disliked these Princes being impudent in her Pepper House Hall. However, no matter how much she disliked them, she could not show it on her face. The Emperor had repeatedly expressed that Old Lord Yun had been very kind to him and had asked her to respect Lord Yun Mansion.

The Emperor also said that the eldest sister-in-law was like a mother. Old Consort Yun was dead long ago. Now, the only one who should be in charge of the marriage for Lord Yun was the Empress. So, he hoped that she would put more effort into this matter.

However, was it useful to put in so much effort for someone like Pei Yuanjun? Looking at the portraits in the palace servant’s hand behind her, the Empress felt depressed in her heart, and her eyebrows twitched. For this matter, how much effort had she put? Now, there were no benefits, and her help was even rejected each time, making others take her as a joke.

As the dignified Empress of a country, her help actually was rejected by a Lord, and it was not just once.

This time, she even called the other Princes over to create momentum together. What made the Empress angry the most was that she implicitly said that the Crown Prince's Eastern Palace could not be without a hostess. The position of the Crown Princess had to be settled first. However, the Emperor said that the position of Consort Yun had to be settled first. The marriages should be settled in order according to their seniority. She could not mess up the rules.

It had to be in order? In terms of age, the Crown Prince was the oldest. Why would a Lord get married earlier than the Crown Prince?

The Empress was very unconvinced, but she had no choice but to agree. She even said that she would definitely choose a Princess Consort that Lord Yun was satisfied with. The present was different from the past. Lord Yun did not insist on not getting married now, so what else couldn't be done?

Taking a deep breath, the Empress led a group of people out.

A eunuch shrieked, "The Empress has arrived."

Palace maids, who lined up in two rows, walked out from behind neatly, followed by two rows of eunuchs, and finally, it was the Empress.

The Empress sat down on the top. The Princes and Lords came forward to greet her, and then sat down again.

"The Emperor mentioned you to me before, Lord Yun. You are an elder, and you really can't delay your marriage any longer. If you do, the Emperor will say that I don't put in enough effort for you." The Empress smiled and looked at Pei Yuanjun. Her face was full of kindness and concern. She didn't beat around the bush but get straight to the point, but it made people feel a little intimate.

If she didn't treat Pei Yuanjun as her family, how could she say such words?

Lord Jing looked at the lazy Pei Yuanjun and then looked at the gentle Empress who was sitting above. His eyes darkened. He heard that the beauties that the Empress sent to Lord Yun Mansion didn't end up well. Was what he heard fake?

“Thank you, Your Grace. However, I haven’t met a suitable candidate yet. If I do, I will tell you, Your Grace.” Pei Yuanjun gently pushed away the tea set in front of him. His smile was elegant but a little cold.

“Well... you haven’t met your love yet? How about asking the Emperor to hold a selection for you to directly choose from them?” The Empress suggested with a smile.

“If the Princes want to choose, it is a good idea; but when it comes to me, I’ll have to choose on the basis of first-sight attraction.” Pei Yuanjun leaned back and said lazily. He reached out and gracefully tapped the teacup, his voice soft as if he was not disobeying the Empress.

These words sounded polite, but the meaning of rejection in his words was very obvious.

If this were said by any of the Princes present, the Empress would definitely be furious, and she would not be able to control her anger. Even her own son should not go against her wishes in front of so many people.

However, the person in front of her was Pei Yuanjun. The Empress had no choice but to suppress her anger. Others might not know, but she clearly knew the Emperor really raised this Lord Yun in front of her as his son.

The Emperor clearly had many sons, but he raised his uncle’s son, his younger brother, as his son. Moreover, he especially doted on Pei Yuanjun. For this, the Empress had been jealous, but even so, Pei Yuanjun was still doted on by the Emperor. Her gaze swept past his ear. There was a small earring. It was specifically asked from the temple when he was young to bless him for fear that he would suffer from diseases and disasters.

There was a rumor among the folks that if one was worried that boys would not grow up properly, one should treat them as girls. That was why there was an earring on Pei Yuanjun’s ear. The Empress had also heard a rumor that the Emperor personally asked for this earring and then sent it to Lord Yun Mansion to let Pei Yuanjun, who he liked at first sight, wear it.

Even a Prince, who was born in the palace, did not receive this kind of treatment. Why could Pei Yuanjun receive it?

First-sight attraction? The Empress hated hearing this phrase the most. If Pei Yuanjun were the Emperor's biological son, then wouldn't the Empress' own son lose favor? As long as she thought of this, the Empress couldn't control the anger in her heart.

"First-sight attraction is the most uncontrollable and the most intangible thing. What the Emperor means is to let you choose a Princess Consort as well as a Princess first, Lord Yun. If there is anyone else you fancy, then let's decide on the basis of first-sight attraction!" The smile on the Empress' face faded, and the corners of her mouth slightly drooped down.

There was a different meaning in her words.

Chapter 195 What Exactly Was the Goal?

The so-called first-sight attraction referred to Qu Moying!

With Qu Moying's identity, she could at most be a Princess. What the Empress meant in her words was very clear. If Pei Yuanjun did not decide on a Princess Consort, Qu Moying, as the so-called Princess, would not be able to marry into the mansion.

Even if Pei Yuanjun was attracted to Qu Moying at first sight, it was impossible for her to marry into the mansion without Pei Yuanjun marrying a Princess Consort first.

Obviously, the Empress was probing Pei Yuanjun by saying these words. Was the woman who could make Pei Yuanjun stop refusing marriage just a casual excuse?

"Thank you, Your Grace. However, I don't know who my Princess Consort would be. I'm afraid I might not be able to find one so soon. Fortunately, I am not in a hurry to marry. So I'll have to trouble you, Your Grace." Pei Yuanjun stood up, smiled, and cupped his hands slightly. He said with an unknown meaning, "When I went out just now, the Emperor asked me to leave early so that I can go back early. He said that there is an important discussion about the border."

After saying that, he waved his sleeves and turned to leave.

Behind him, the Empress' face was livid with anger. No matter how good her self-restraint was, she almost couldn't control herself at this time.

Pei Yuanjun was really as bold as brass. In front of so many people, he actually gave the Empress such a reason. The Emperor clearly told her that no matter what, she had to make Pei Yuanjun decide on a Princess Consort, no matter out of his own will or as an excuse.

"Lord Yun!" The Empress couldn't help but call out.

"Your Grace, is there anything you want to say to the Emperor?" Pei Yuanjun stopped and turned around with a smile.

The Empress forcefully suppressed her anger and suddenly smiled. "I don't have anything to tell the Emperor. I just feel that the Emperor is the one who ordered you to do this, Lord Yun. If you don't do it well, the Emperor will be dissatisfied."

"Thank you for reminding me, Your Grace. I will personally apologize to the Emperor later." Pei Yuanjun smiled lazily, blocking all the other meanings in the Empress' words. However, it was not rude, as it sounded very polite.

The Empress' face turned livid for a moment, but then she took a deep breath, and a smile reappeared on her face. She waved her hand and said, "In that case, Lord Yun, please take your leave!"

At least one thing was certain. Qu Mansion's Fourth Lady did not really catch Pei Yuanjun's eyes. She was just an excuse. This was good, anyway. As long as there was a chance for Fourth Lady Qu to marry into Lord Yun Mansion, which was agreed by Pei Yuanjun himself, the Empress could win over Fourth Lady Qu and make the latter stand on her side.

The Empress's malicious eyes watched Pei Yuanjun leaving, and then she calmed herself down and collected the gloom in her eyes. She smiled at the three Princes who were sitting on both sides with their heads lowered. Her voice became gentler, "Your Father also said that you should think about what kind of noble lady you want to choose. I will help you take a look. You are not young anymore. None of you married a Princess Consort yet. The Emperor is really worried!"

Meanwhile, Qu Moying did not know that the dispute within Pepper House Hall would eventually implicate her.

She was on her way to visit Qu Caiyue.

Something had happened to Qu Caiyue. The Old Lady had asked Granny Wu to inform her of this news. The Old Lady asked her and Qu Qiuyan to visit Qu Caiyue when they were free. Qu Caiyue was now living in West Mansion's yard and had not gone back to East Mansion.

What exactly happened yesterday? Everyone in the mansion was tight-lipped. Even though Granny Miao went to investigate, she did not find anything. It was only said that Qu Caiyue accidentally fell into the lotus pond and almost drowned. At that time, Luo of East Mansion was not around. After such a thing happened, the servants could only report to the Old Lady.

The Old Lady was furious. After that, she scolded Luo, who had hurried back, and then kept Qu Caiyue in West Mansion.

The Old Lady didn't tell them the details. She only called Qu Qiuyan and Qu Moying over and asked them to comfort Qu Caiyue when they were free.

The so-called comforting Qu Caiyue naturally meant that what happened to Qu Caiyue was not just an accident.

Qu Moying was not too surprised about this speculation. It could be said that when Qu Qiuyan chose to stay to have a talk with Qu Caiyue, Qu Moying had prepared for this in her heart.

The yard where Qu Caiyue lived was not big. It could even be said that it was a little remote. However, it was one of West Mansion's big yards. Qu Moying stood outside the yard and looked at the traces outside the entrance, which showed that it had been cleaned up. Her eyes were obscure.

This yard had not been in use before. West Mansion did not have many Masters, and this yard had always been empty. But now, it was occupied by Qu Caiyue. It seemed that all the daily things had been replaced. After all, it had been so many years, so how could the old things still be in use?

This yard had been empty since Qu Moying's mother passed away. The Old Lady meant to keep a trace of Qu Moying's mother, but in fact, apart from the outside where it seemed to be well-kept, all the objects inside were no longer the same as they used to be when Yue lived here.

Even though there was some furniture, they were not frequently used. They were casually placed here like how things were piled up in a storeroom.

But now, this yard had a new Master justifiably. It seemed that the Old Lady planned to let people of East Mansion come often and live here in the future.

Qu Moying took a deep breath and slowly walked in.

When a maid saw Qu Moying coming over, she hurriedly went in to report. In a short while, another maid came to invite Qu Moying in.

The curtain was raised high, and all the furniture inside was new.

The curtain in the inner room was also raised, and Qu Caiyue should still be resting inside.

Qu Moying went in and walked inside. She saw Qu Caiyue lying in bed with a pale face. No matter how she looked at it, it did not look like Qu Caiyue had recovered.

Was this the utmost reason why Qu Caiyue wanted to live in West Mansion?

"Second Sister, how are you?" Qu Moying looked up and down at Qu Caiyue, who was lying in bed, and said indifferently.

"Moying, sit down first." Qu Caiyue coughed weakly.

Qu Moying nodded and sat down on a chair. "Did something happen to you, Second Sister?"

“No... Nothing happened.” Qu Caiyue lowered her head and said that nothing happened, but her expression made people feel something serious had happened.

“Second Sister, when you’re here, if there is anything you need, just tell Third Sister directly.” Qu Moying’s gaze fell on Qu Caiyue’s face, and she said after a long time.

She actually didn’t ask for any reason and even pushed everything onto Qu Qiuyan.

“Moying, I heard that you and Qiuyan are in charge of West Mansion now.” Qu Caiyue lowered her head and said after a long time.

“That’s what Grandmother said, but actually, it’s Third Sister who is in charge. I haven’t officially learned from her how to manage things yet.” Qu Moying straightened her body, and her smile became more and more flippant.

She had indeed not taken charge of anything yet. Although Qu Qiuyan had asked the manager to come over to report to her since yesterday, she had only listened casually. She still let Qu Qiuyan make the decisions.

“You two are really good.” Qu Caiyue murmured with an envious face.

These words were not said very loudly, but they were heard by Qu Moying.

“Is Eldest Sister not good to you, Second Sister?” Qu Moying smiled slightly.

“Eldest Sister is naturally good to me, but...” Qu Caiyue tried to explain, but when she said this, she immediately knew that she shouldn’t have said this. She hurriedly shook her head, “No, I’m not talking about Madam...”

“Since you are here, Second Sister, you should rest well. If you need anything, just tell Third Sister.” Qu Moying stood up, looking like she was about to leave. She had only been here for a while and had only spoken a few words. She did not even ask Qu Caiyue what had happened.

“Moying, do you have something else to do?” Qu Caiyue raised her head, her pale face carrying a trace of begging, which looked especially pitiful.

“Yes, there is something I need to do. I need to learn the etiquette.” Qu Moying nodded.

“Are you going to learn from the Disciple Granny sent by the palace?” Qu Caiyue moved the corners of her lips and asked.

“Sent by Dowager Consort Qu. The Disciple Granny said she wanted to educate me. Then she’ll take me and Third Sister into the palace to see Dowager Consort Qu,” Qu Moying said generously.

This matter could not be hidden from East Mansion’s people.

“How nice. You two can go together...” Qu Caiyue looked at Qu Moying with a face full of envy. She wanted to say something, but she stopped.

“Second Sister, have a good rest!” Qu Moying seemed to not understand the other meaning behind Qu Caiyue’s words.

Seeing that Qu Moying was about to leave again, Qu Caiyue got anxious. She hurriedly said, “Moying, can... can you do me a favor?”

“What is it?” Qu Moying stopped and asked.

“When you go to the palace... Could you... bring me along? Can I... I follow you into the palace?” Qu Caiyue blushed and lowered her head.

“Follow us into the palace?” Qu Moying raised her eyebrows.

“Yes... I want to go to the palace with you and Qiuyan.” Qu Caiyue nodded vigorously.

“Does Grandmother know that you want this?” Qu Moying asked in surprise.

“The Old Lady doesn’t know... but... but I just want to go into the palace with you two... If I didn’t go into the palace this time, I might never have such a chance in my life.” Qu Caiyue’s expression became sad. She grabbed onto a corner of the quilt, rubbed and smoothed it, and then rubbed it again.

It could be seen that her feelings at the moment were very complicated.

This time, from her current situation and her words, Qu Caiyue could be said to appear much weaker than before.

It was as if she was no longer the Qu Caiyue who used to be aggressive to Qu Moying.

“This is not something I can decide,” Qu Moying said after a moment of silence.

“You don’t need to do much, Moying. You just need to bring it up in front of the Old Lady, and then I will tell the Old Lady everything else myself.” Qu Caiyue looked up at Qu Moying eagerly. She reached out and gently pulled the corner of Qu Moying’s dress. “Moying, can you help me just for once this time? If... If there was another way, I... I wouldn’t be asking you to do such a thing.”

The so-called “such a thing” referred to what had happened to her this time.

Qu Moying’s eyes became deep. It could be seen that this incident Qu Caiyue got into was caused by Qu Caiyue herself. Moreover, she was able to make Luo get reprimanded. It could be seen that Qu Caiyue was quite capable.

Qu Caiyue, who was quite capable, was actually begging for Qu Moying’s help in such a pitiful manner?

“Second Sister, if you really want to go, go find Third Sister. In front of Grandmother, Third Sister has the greatest say. Moreover, everything in the mansion is under Third Sister’s control now. Even if she doesn’t bring it up, there will be someone else who goes to Grandmother to help her mention your

thing. At that time, regardless of whether it will work or not, Third Sister will be able to deal with it easily.”

Qu Moying smiled slightly and came up with an idea for Qu Caiyue. However, she saw Qu Caiyue’s slightly stiff smile.

Chapter 196 The Overly Gentle and Kind Eldest Sister

After Qu Moying finished speaking, she left with her maid. She was not the least bit curious about Qu Caiyue’s incident.

Seeing Qu Moying leave without a care, Qu Caiyue became furious. She crumpled the handkerchief in her hand into a ball and then gritted her teeth. She ordered the maid beside her to invite Qu Qiuyan over.

Qu Qiuyan did not come quickly. Only after a long time did she bring Qing Ju over. She was now a busy person in the mansion. How could she be as relaxed as before?

“Qiuyan, it’s not working.” As soon as she saw Qu Qiuyan come in, Qu Caiyue hurriedly sat up straight on the bed and said.

“Not working?” Qu Qiuyan sat down on a chair by the bed, her face gloomy. “Second Sister, didn’t you say that this is a small matter?”

“That blind girl is really too difficult to deal with,” Qu Caiyue said with a headache.

“If you can’t even handle such a small matter, Second Sister, you can forget about everything else,” Qu Qiuyan said coldly.

“Qiuyan, help me this time. If next time...” Qu Caiyue begged.

Qu Qiuyan waved her hand, "Second Sister, you can't even handle your own thing. What else should I expect from you? I originally wanted to help you, but now it seems that it is useless to help you. In a few days, Grandmother will forgive Aunt Luo, and then you will go back to East Mansion by then. And you'll have to wait until Eldest Sister's marriage is settled. After that, it will finally be your turn to get married."

"No, I don't want to go back." Qu Caiyue panicked.

"What's the use of not going back? How can a person like you win against Aunt Luo?" Qu Qiuyan curled her lips in disapproval with a mocking smile.

"No, I will beg that blind girl," Qu Caiyue said anxiously.

"Then it will depend on your performance, Second Sister. As long as that blind girl mentions it in front of Grandmother, she will be to blame if any accident happens in the future. Or even if it is not caused by her, it will be related to her. If I help you when the time comes, Grandmother won't blame me."

Qu Qiuyan's expression eased up. She reached out and patted Qu Caiyue's hand. Then, she stood up. "Second Sister, since you now live in our mansion, just tell me if you need anything. Of course, you can also tell Moying. After all, she is now starting to manage the affairs, although not much yet."

"I know." Qu Caiyue nodded hard, indicating that she understood what Qu Qiuyan meant.

"Then, Second Sister, take care of yourself. Later, Aunt Luo will send someone to ask about you. I still have to deal with her, so I won't stay to accompany you." Qu Qiuyan smiled.

"Sorry to trouble you, Qiuyan." Qu Caiyue held the maid's hand and was about to get up, but Qu Qiuyan stopped her. "I do hope that you can succeed, Second Sister. When the time comes, you two sisters can get closer. Aunt Luo can't do anything to you anymore. She might even need to listen to your order."

Thinking of being able to make Luo act according to her order and being able to make Eldest Sister Qu Xuexin and the blind Qu Moying kneel in front of her and look up at her, Qu Caiyue became excited and nodded hard. She felt it right to follow Qu Qiuyan. If not for Qu Qiuyan's proposal, she wouldn't have dared to "commit suicide" by throwing herself into the lake, and even more, she wouldn't have dared to bring the matter up to the Old Lady.

Now, the maids spread the news for Qu Caiyue that Luo only cared about Qu Xuexin's marriage and neglected Qu Caiyue, the concubine-born daughter, which caused the servants in the mansion to mock her, and that was why she felt depressed and threw herself into the lake as a suicide attempt. Even after being rescued by the maids, she had no desire to live. Just solely based on this, the Old Lady would put the blame on the First Madam.

And she could also stay in West Mansion for a period of time. Of course, this period of time was not long. Moreover, if she went back and fell into the hands of the First Madam, her future days might be even more difficult. However, Qu Caiyue would not give Luo such an opportunity. She wanted to escape from East Mansion. Even if she had to go back and live in East Mansion for a period of time in the future, she wanted to make sure that Luo would not dare to make a move on her.

And the so-called opportunity was to enter the palace!

Entering the palace represented infinite possibilities. Now, both Qu Qiuyan and Qu Moying had the possibility of entering the palace. The only one missing out was her. She would not let go of this opportunity no matter what.

Qu Moying's foot was better now. When she went to greet the Old Lady, she went directly. These days, she went to the Old Lady's yard more often. From time to time, she would go over there.

Sometimes, she went to greet the Old Lady, and sometimes, she went to ask about things. Qu Qiuyan would send some unimportant things to her. When she was in charge, she deliberately went to ask the Old Lady for the latter's opinion.

It was not because she did not have the ability to handle things. Ji Hanyue had been in charge of affairs long ago. When Yue was sick, she had already been in charge of Earl Ling'an's Mansion's affairs. However, Qu Mansion was different from Earl Ling'an's Mansion. Right now, she had to be familiar with it first. It was not good to show too much of her ability so soon.

It was best to let the Old Lady guide her from time to time.

Qu Caiyue had been recuperating in West Mansion for three days. These three days, Luo brought Qu Xuexin to pay their respects to the Old Lady every day. Under the pretense of paying respects, she was actually visiting to apologize.

After all, when the Old Lady lived in West Mansion, she did not ask much from Luo of East Mansion. She only asked Luo to come over to pay respects during festivals. As for other things, the Old Lady never cared about them, and she was not demanding at all. It could be said that Luo had always been living comfortably in East Mansion.

But this time, the matter was not small. Because of her negligence, a concubine-born daughter jumped into the lake. If this kind of thing spread out, not to mention her reputation, even her daughter's marriage would be delayed.

Because of this, Luo was reprimanded by Qu Zhilin. Later, she came over with Qu Xuexin every day.

At this time, the two sisters were talking in the Old Lady's main hall. In the past few days of idle talk, Qu Moying had already figured out what happened to Qu Caiyue.

"Moying, what do you think? Is it because Caiyue doesn't like me?" Qu Xuexin lowered her head and looked unhappy. Although this was Luo's negligence, it sounded like it had something to do with her. Right now, she was also feeling depressed.

"Eldest Sister, have you gone to see Second Sister?" Qu Moying looked at Qu Xuexin, who had her head lowered, and asked.

"I did go to see her, but she... didn't seem to want to see me." Qu Xuexin lowered her head even more. Her temper seemed to be the best among Qu Mansion's ladies, and it seemed that she had never lost her temper in the past.

"How will Aunt Luo deal with this?" Qu Moying was silent for a moment and asked.

"Mother doesn't know either. Father said..." Qu Xuexin stopped at this point. She had heard the argument between her father and her mother that day. At that time, she was about to go see her mother, but she heard her parents arguing about Qu Caiyue.

“Eldest Sister, you shouldn’t interfere in this matter.” Qu Moying reminded in a reserved manner.

“I know!” Qu Xuexin nodded and wiped the corner of her eyes with a handkerchief. “I... I just don’t want to make things difficult for Mother.”

If she did not get married, her mother would never find a marriage for Qu Qiuyan. This was her mother’s last insistence and her bottom line.

What could she, the daughter, do?

“Aunt Luo will know what to do,” Qu Moying advised. Her eyes swept over Qu Xuexin. She could see that Qu Xuexin was a little panicked and helpless.

Qu Moying actually couldn’t see through this Eldest Sister. It could not be said that she was not nice, for she seemed to be a good person. However, it could not be said that she was good either, because every time something happened to Qu Moying, Qu Xuexin was always extremely innocent. Qu Caiyue had got into such a big incident, and the only one Grandmother wanted to blame was Aunt Luo. Nothing happened to this Eldest Sister. Besides, Grandmother even felt that Qu Xuexin was wronged.

Qu Moying was not looking forward to something happening to this First Lady Qu, but she felt that it was a little strange.

She got such a sense of strangeness after she connected everything from her previous life’s identity as Ji Hanyue and this life’s identity as Qu Moying.

If it had been Ji Hanyue alone, she would not have discovered that. If it had been Qu Moying alone, she would only have a trace of suspicion. But now, she felt very strange.

In her previous life, Ji Hanyue once saw Qu Xuexin and County Lady Jingyu talking secretly on the side. They seemed to be very intimate, but in this life, she had never seen Qu Xuexin and County Lady Jingyu together. Moreover, Qu Xuexin did not mention anything. Based on the relationship of Qu Xuexin and County Lady Jingyu at that time, as long as Liu Jingyu spoke out for Qu Xuexin, Qu Xuexin’s marriage would not be a problem at all.

Did she see it wrong in the past life? It was impossible. When she saw them at that time, she deliberately looked at them a while longer. She did not recognize Qu Xuexin. She just felt that this lady looked very gentle when looking at people. Although this lady was not the most outstanding, she gave people a kind, gentle, and dignified feeling.

She stood at the side with a gentle smile, not wanting to be involved in any conflict.

Without any edge, she just stood beside Liu Jingyu. She gave people a very comfortable feeling.

“Eldest Sister, if you have a good friend, you can actually ask her to help Aunt Luo,” Qu Moying suggested. With the Liu Family’s status, as long as Liu Jingyu asked her mother to offer help, they could definitely find a good marriage for Qu Xuexin, which was totally different from her current situation where she could not find a good marriage at all.

Suddenly, Qu Moying’s heart skipped a beat. Could it be that there was another mystery behind Qu Xuexin’s canceled engagement?

“This kind of thing is not something that others can help.” Qu Xuexin was in a very low mood. “Even if they give me a hand, they won’t be able to offer help in every respect.”

As soon as she said this, Qu Xuexin seemed to feel that she had made an indiscreet remark. She quickly forced a smile and said, “I heard that it was because of me that Caiyue... I feel guilty now whenever I see her. Moying, I have to trouble you to take care of Caiyue for a few more days. If there anything happens to her, please comfort her. Originally, I should handle this kind of thing. But now, she does not want to see me.”

“According to Aunt Luo, how long will it take before she takes Second Sister back?” Qu Moying asked calmly.

“I’m not too sure either. It might take a period of time. Now, both Grandmother and Father are blaming Mother, and Mother is sad. She didn’t expect things to develop like this.” Qu Xuexin sighed, and her expression became more and more bitter. She reached out and grabbed Qu Moying’s hand. “I’ll have to trouble you, Moying.”

After the two spoke for a while, Luo was about to leave. She sent someone to summon Qu Xuexin. Qu Xuexin stood up and said goodbye. Qu Moying sent her out and then turned to say goodbye to the Old Lady. Then, Qu Moying went back with Yu Dong. However, she did not expect to be stopped by Qu Caiyue halfway.

Chapter 197 Pretending to Be Weak in Front of the Onlookers

It was not Qu Caiyue herself who stopped Qu Moying. It was the maid serving her. It was said that the person who came to West Mansion to report that day was exactly this private maid.

When she saw Qu Moying coming over, she turned around from the side of the road.

“Greetings, Fourth Lady.”

“What is it?” Qu Moying stopped and asked.

“My lady is waiting for you in the waterside pavilion ahead, Fourth Lady. She would like to talk to you,” the maid said, pointing back. Yuedong Gate was there. Walking past Yuedong Gate, one would see West Mansion’s biggest lotus pond. The waterside pavilion platform had a good view. It was a good place to admire the scenery.

Although it was not the time for lotus flowers to bloom, there would be some small flower buds appearing from time to time.

Qu Moying nodded, followed the maid to walk past Yuedong Gate, and headed toward the lotus pond. She happened to want to draw a lotus flower painting, and she had originally planned to take a look there sometime.

At the waterside pavilion next to the lotus pond, Qu Caiyue sat there alone, unconsciously holding a handkerchief in her hand. She looked dazed.

This waterside pavilion was near the lake. It had a good view and was quiet. The wind blew up the gauze at the waterside pavilion, reflecting the beauty in it. The beauty was vaguely seen from time to time, which appeared even more mysterious.

Qu Moying stopped on the shore.

“Fourth Lady, my lady is there.” The maid saw Qu Moying stop, and she pointed at the waterside pavilion. From here, they could see Qu Caiyue sitting there.

“Let’s go!” Qu Moying said as she slowly walked forward. She walked past the waterside pavilion and arrived in front of Qu Caiyue. This place looked like a small pavilion. Different from other pavilions, it was surrounded by water, and there was only one path leading to it.

“Moying.” Seeing Qu Moying come over, Qu Caiyue immediately stood up. Her expression was sorrowful and her face was filled with worry.

Qu Moying sized up her expression and said indifferently, “Second Sister, what’s going on? What’s the matter?”

“Moying, save me.” Qu Caiyue grabbed Qu Moying’s hand, and her legs went soft. She seemed like she was going to kneel down. Yu Dong reacted quickly. He rushed to help Qu Caiyue.

“Just say what you want to say, Second Sister. There’s no need to do this.” Qu Moying’s face sank. She looked at Qu Caiyue without changing her expression.

Qu Caiyue did not force herself to kneel down. She wiped her tears with a handkerchief and sobbed, “Moying, I know that I have wronged you before, but... but I really did not mean to target you. I... I was...”

Qu Caiyue stopped here and looked left and right with a bit of panic. When she saw the waterside pavilion here, she sighed in relief.

“Moying, I was in the wrong in the past. I let you down. Please spare me this time!” Qu Caiyue looked at Qu Moying with a pleading face.

“Second Sister, what do you want to do?” Qu Moying said indifferently. Her eye veil floated in the wind, but it could not hide the coldness on her face.

“Moying, please... please take me to the palace. I... I also want to see Dowager Consort Qu. I want to ask Dowager Consort Qu to help me... As long as Dowager Consort Qu can speak up for me, First Madam will definitely not make things difficult for me.” Qu Caiyue became excited and looked at Qu Moying with red-rimmed eyes. It could be seen that she was really anxious.

“Are you so sure that Dowager Consort Qu will definitely help you, Second Sister?” Qu Moying said calmly.

“I know... Dowager Consort Qu might not interfere, but... but this is my only chance. As long as you tell the Old Lady and give me a chance, I will definitely seize it. Even if Dowager Consort Qu makes things difficult for me, I will definitely make her happy.”

When Qu Caiyue heard Qu Moying’s words, she became more and more excited.

She reached out to pull Qu Moying’s sleeve and shook it hard. The eagerness in her expression was real. She was really anxious.

“Moying, I beg you, please.” Seeing that Qu Moying did not respond, Qu Caiyue became more and more flustered.

“Second Sister, why didn’t you go and beg Third Sister?” Qu Moying looked at Qu Caiyue and calmly curved her lips.

“The people from the palace were sent to your Qianyue House, and a Disciple Granny from the palace was sent to teach you the etiquette. It can be seen that Dowager Consort Qu values you the most, Moying. As long as you say something, Dowager Consort Qu will definitely agree. Moying, the only one who can save me now is you. I... I will be at your disposal in the future to repay you.”

Qu Caiyue asked anxiously.

“Second Sister, how about you tell Granny Yan yourself?” Qu Moying suddenly cackled.

“Is... is that okay?” Qu Caiyue was overjoyed and reached out to grab Qu Moying’s hand, but Qu Moying avoided.

“Well, I have to ask Granny Yan first.” Qu Moying didn’t promise anything and only said lightly.

“Thank you, Moying, thank you so much.” Qu Caiyue was excited and kept saying thanks. “Why don’t we go now? Moying, I can’t wait anymore. I’m just afraid that one day, First Madam will bring me back. Then, I... I really won’t have any hope.”

“Aunt Luo is a very good person,” Qu Moying said.

“I know... I know... But... but now I have provoked First Madam. I... I don’t want it to be like this either. At that time, I couldn’t think things through, so I... I didn’t expect to cause such a big trouble for her.” Qu Caiyue blamed herself, her face full of regret.

“It might not work right now. I will send Granny Yan to your place so you can say it yourself.” Qu Moying laughed. This Qu Caiyue was really interesting. She was very flexible.

It was a pity that she had gone too far.

“Send Granny Yan to me?” Qu Caiyue was stunned. This was different from what she had imagined before.

“Why? You don’t like the idea?” Qu Moying asked.

Qu Caiyue gritted her teeth. “It’s not that I don’t like it. I’m afraid that Granny Yan doesn’t like me and feels that my attitude is not respectful, and she will reject me directly. Perhaps... you can help me tell

her first, and I... I will come over and beg her. It will... It will be better. As for Grandmother, please also mention it to her first, Moying.”

“I don’t know how to answer that, Second Sister. First, I can’t make the decision on Granny Yan’s side, and second, I can’t persuade Grandmother either. As long as you manage to persuade Granny Yan first, Granny Yan can then mention it to Grandmother!” Qu Moying’s smile faded a little.

“I...”

“Second Sister, I still have something to do, so I won’t accompany you now. If you think this method is feasible, I will ask Granny Yan to come over later. If it is not feasible, I have no other way.” Qu Moying interrupted Qu Caiyue.

After saying that, Qu Moying turned to leave. It was not easy for Qu Caiyue to find Qu Moying. How could she let Qu Moying go like this? She was so anxious that she subconsciously reached out to pull Qu Moying’s clothes.

Qu Moying was not aware that Qu Caiyue was going to pull her clothes. For a moment, she could not stand steadily, and she was about to fall.

Yu Dong rushed forward to support Qu Moying, but he stumbled and fell to the ground.

“Second Sister, what do you mean by this?” Qu Moying held the pillar beside her, stood still, and said with a displeased expression.

“I... I didn’t mean it.” Qu Caiyue was also stunned for a moment. She really just pulled Qu Moying’s clothes subconsciously. It was not a very hard tug.

“Second Sister, you pulled me so hard. Did you mean to make me fall into the water?” Qu Moying angrily pointed to the lotus pond outside. Coincidentally, there was a small gap here. It might not be a big deal normally, but in a physical conflict, one could indeed fall from here.

“Moying, I didn’t do it on purpose. I didn’t mean it.” Qu Caiyue was so anxious that she was sweating profusely. She still needed Qu Moying at this time, so how could she afford a falling-out with Qu Moying?

“Second Sister, I don’t care if you did it on purpose or not, and I will tell Grandmother about this matter.” Qu Moying said coldly and turned to pull Yu Dong up.

Qu Caiyue’s anxious voice came from behind. Qu Moying moved her feet and was ready to leave quickly.

Qu Caiyue’s behavior was really suspicious. She showed her weakness first, and then she kept pleading. If Qu Moying guessed correctly, the people around Grandmother should have seen this scene.

The view here was very wide. If someone wanted to see this place, it would be very simple.

“Moying, please help me.” It was not known where Qu Caiyue got the strength from, but she suddenly rushed over from behind, wanting to hold Qu Moying and not let the latter go.

Yu Dong dutifully blocked it and grabbed Qu Caiyue’s hand to prevent Qu Caiyue from kneeling down again. He said, “Second Lady, you almost pushed my lady down just now. What else do you want?”

Up front, Qu Moying did not stop walking and continued to move forward, ignoring the conflict behind her.

“No. I am begging your lady...” Qu Caiyue anxiously argued.

“Second Lady, sit down first. Granny Yan will come in a while. If there is anything, just tell her directly. As for my lady, Second Lady, you indeed have framed her before. It is normal that my lady doesn’t believe that you didn’t mean to harm her just now. My lady has been kind enough to ask Granny Yan to come.”

Yu Dong said. He had already received Qu Moying’s hint just now and knew what to say at this time.

“Is Granny Yan coming?” Qu Caiyue originally wanted to hold Qu Moying tightly, but when she heard that Granny Yan from the palace was coming, she immediately panicked and stopped in her tracks.

This pause made her watch Qu Moying walk away.

“Yes, she’ll be here soon!” Yu Dong nodded repeatedly.

Qu Caiyue did not dare to make any more fuss. She could only watch as Qu Moying left. This place was actually extremely good. If they really made a scene, Qu Moying would not be able to leave. The waterside pavilion was just a small place. If something happened, Qu Moying would not be able to escape from the guilt. However, Qu Caiyue did not expect a maid to be so strong that the maid actually managed to stop her.

On the shore not far away, Granny Wu frowned and looked at the waterside pavilion. She was far away and could not hear what the two ladies were talking about. However, she could see clearly that the Second Lady had been begging the Fourth Lady for something. The Second Lady looked extremely pitiful. If not for the fact that the Second Lady pushed the Fourth Lady’s maid to the ground, Granny Wu would have definitely thought that the Second Lady was very weak and pitiful.

However, it did not seem to be true now.

“Where’s the Third Lady?” Seeing that the Fourth Lady had already left and the Second Lady was now alone without doing anything reckless, Granny Wu heaved a sigh of relief in her heart and said with an unhappy expression to the old maid, who was leading the way.

The matter of the Second Lady had already made the Old Lady unhappy. If she caused any more trouble in West Mansion, the Old Lady would be furious.

“I saw the Third Lady just now. But maybe... maybe I made a mistake!” The old maid, who was leading the way, stammered. She had specially brought Granny Wu to look for the Third Lady.

Granny Wu gave her a cold look and turned to leave. She only had a trace of doubt before, but now the level of doubt had increased much.

Meanwhile, someone who passed by also witnessed everything just now.

Not just someone, but two people...

Chapter 198 Lord Wei Was Prejudiced

No one had expected that Lord Jing Pei Yusheng and Lord Wei Pei Qingmin would actually be in Qu Mansion.

They had come secretly, and they were only walking around casually in Qu Mansion at this time. They had not expected to see such a scene in front of them.

“Fourth Lady Qu is the one whose marriage engagement was annulled before. She looks capable though. The other one is the Second Lady.” Pei Yusheng pointed at the waterside pavilion and said casually.

“Fourth Lady Qu?” Lord Wei’s face was pale and sickly. He hadn’t walked too far just now, but he was already a little out of breath. At this time, he stopped walking. He, too, saw the scene just now clearly. The corners of his lips curved silently, carrying a bit of ridicule. He naturally recognized Qu Mansion’s Fourth Lady.

Sure enough, rumors could not be trusted.

It was said that the Fourth Lady was extremely pitiful. She was envied by her stepmother and had no choice but to live in the village outside the capital, and many years went by just like that. It was also said that she had an eye disease. Recently, Xu Lipeng jumped into the water to save Duan Mansion’s Second Lady, so he had to cancel the marriage engagement with the Fourth Lady to show his responsibility for Duan Mansion’s Second Lady.

It was rumored that the Fourth Lady was extremely pitiful.

However, he felt that people were biased. The Fourth Lady was clearly not a good person and was very scheming.

Not to mention the last time in the governor's mansion. She was clearly the one who instigated the concubine to make a complaint. Moreover, her wheelchair was clearly the same as his wheelchair. Besides, she even almost bumped into him. Although it was said that she fell later because of Uncle Yun Lord Yun, Lord Wei did not believe that Uncle Yun would bump into anyone, let alone a woman.

The most likely possibility was that she was trying to blackmail Uncle Yun by bumping into him. She might have been completely fine, but she deliberately bumped into Uncle Yun and then pretended to fall and hurt herself. Perhaps she got a little closer to Uncle Yun, so after she fell down, she pushed all the blame onto Uncle Yun. As soon as he thought of this, Pei Qingmin felt that he was almost the one who fell for this trick.

That day in Crown Prince's Mansion, Fourth Lady Qu was clearly trying to blackmail him. Whether it was him or Uncle Yun, there was only one goal. It was to get close to him and Uncle Yun.

He had seen so many women of this kind, and he felt very disdainful toward them. Her wheelchair must have been prepared early. It seemed that he was the Fourth Lady's first target, and Uncle Yun was the next.

Compared to Uncle Yun, he was naturally much easier to plot against. Unfortunately, people could not predict the future. As her last resort, the scheming Fourth Lady Qu had no choice but to plot against Uncle Yun, who was the most difficult to plot against.

Now that she was being used as an excuse by Uncle Yun, she would certainly come to no good end.

Among the aristocratic ladies, there were many who were bent on climbing up the societal ladder by marrying a Prince or a Lord, so Pei Qingmin was not surprised. In the past, he would just walk away and would not even give any response. However, this Fourth Lady Qu really made him feel annoyed, so he commented a few words.

"Qu Mansion's Second Lady is really pitiful. As an older sister, she almost knelt to her younger sister. It seemed that she wanted to ask her younger sister for a favor, but in the end, she did not succeed," Lord Jing Pei Yusheng said meaningfully.

Both of them had clearly witnessed the scene just now. They had also seen how Qu Caiyue almost pushed Qu Moying down, but Qu Moying's maid was the one who fell in the end.

However, one of them two deliberately led the topic, while the other had prejudice. Of course, they indifferently neglected Qu Caiyue's actions and didn't care about it.

"Fourth Lady Qu is indeed capable," Pei Qingmin nodded and agreed. Then, he said indifferently, "Let's go and take a look elsewhere. All of Qu Mansion's ladies do not seem to be easy to deal with. It's better to stay far away from them."

When he said this casually, Qu Qiuyan was also included. When he finished speaking, he suddenly smiled and said apologetically, "Except Third Lady Qu, of course."

The brothers all knew that Lord Jing liked Qu Qiuyan. As for the visit to Vice Minister Qu's Mansion this time, it was said that he had something to say to Vice Minister Qu about the Ministry of Works, but in fact, it was nothing important—an old palace needed to be renovated. It was indeed something under the Ministry of Works, and it was indeed related to Lord Jing.

But the problem was, was there a need for Lord Jing to make a trip himself?

Thinking of the fact that his Second Brother had disappeared for a while and that when he reappeared, his neat clothes were a little messy, Lord Wei smiled elegantly, and his lips curved slightly.

Lord Wei's health was not good, but it did not mean that his brain was not good.

It was obvious that Lord Jing had come for a reason, and Lord Wei should be the excuse.

However, Qu Mansion's upbringing was obviously not good. Otherwise, Third Lady Qu would not be secretly meeting Second Brother, and Fourth Lady Qu would not be trying to get close to the Emperor. As for Second Lady Qu? She was also really interesting!

“Although Second Lady Qu is a daughter of a concubine, she is a rare beauty in the capital. If not for the fact that her eldest sister should get married first, Qu Mansion’s threshold would have been flattened by a large number of people who went to ask for marriage!” Pei Yusheng said with a smile. They had already turned around and casually walked forward. There was no one else. The two brothers were joking with each other.

“Indeed, but these men should not be serious, right?” he said faintly.

Pei Yusheng grinned. There were some things that needed not to be said. Even if she was a wife-born daughter, it was impossible for her to marry into the imperial family as the wife, let alone she was just a concubine-born daughter.

“Which family have you taken a fancy to, Second Brother?” Pei Qingmin glanced at him and asked indifferently.

“I’m still thinking about it,” Pei Yusheng sighed and said, feeling a headache.

He had taken a fancy to County Lady Jingyu before, but now he felt that she was not the best choice. Liu Xiangshan’s daughter, Liu Lanxin, was excellent, but Miss Liu clearly had no interest in him at all. Most importantly, Liu Xiangshan also gave no response to his gallantry.

He had previously used Liu Lanxin’s name to send things to the border, and they had all fallen on deaf ears.

Although Duke Qi was powerful, the most important thing was still military power. If he had military power, things would be much simpler. Even though he knew that Lord Wei did not have any ambitions, there were some things that Pei Yusheng could not say out and could only be vague about.

The Crown Prince had many tricks, and his relationship with Pei Qingmin was also good. Pei Yusheng did not want to ruin his main business because of a moment of mistake.

As for Qu Qiuyan, since she was not on the list of consideration for the position of Princess Consort, he was not afraid that Pei Qingmin would know about it. Or rather, he could show his goodwill to Pei

Qingmin. Since he was not even on guard against Pei Qingmin and told him this, it had already shown his intimate attitude toward Pei Qingmin.

Among his brothers, the one who made Lord Jing feel the least danger was Lord Wei Pei Qingmin.

Although Lord Wei was pretty useless, if Lord Wei could be by his side, it would also be a helping hand. It could also make people feel that he was showing love and respect to his own brother. This was what the Crown Prince thought, which was why he had always been very good to Pei Qingmin.

Lord Jing also played this move.

“Isn’t County Lady Jingyu good? I heard that the Noble Consort He had sent people to see whether County Lady Jingyu was a good match before,” Pei Qingmin asked curiously. Previously, in the Empress’ Pepper House Hall, Pei Yusheng had also found an excuse and given a perfunctory answer. He said that he had not thought it through yet and that Noble Consort He had repeatedly dealt with this matter. That was why he could not make the decision himself. He pushed the matter onto Noble Consort He.

Everyone in the palace knew that Noble Consort He was much more favored than the Empress.

“County Lady Jingyu was originally very good and very suitable. Mother also thought that she was good and even thought of arranging a marriage. But recently...” Pei Yusheng’s face darkened and his expression turned cold.

“What happened?” Pei Qingmin looked up and asked.

“The Crown Princess is gone. The Empress must choose a new Crown Princess again. County Lady Jingyu has a good identity and is suitable in all aspects. She had contact with Mother before. After the Crown Princess passed away, she... basically stopped contacting Mother.” Pei Yusheng sighed. Of course, he would not mention that he had never been to the Liu Family again since then.

Him not looking for the Minister of Works but for the Vice Minister of Works regarding the matter of the Ministry of Works explained the problem.

“The Liu Family actually has the guts to do this?” After understanding the meaning of Pei Yusheng’s words, Pei Qingmin sneered. As a Prince, he could understand that it was naturally unhappy for a Prince to be chosen like this.

“We can’t blame them for this. After all, the Crown Prince... is different from us.” Pei Yusheng smiled bitterly and pointed to a pavilion not far away. “Do you want to rest for a while? We’ve walked a bit too far. I’m tired.”

In fact, it was Lord Wei Pei Qingmin who was tired. His lips looked extremely pale. Pei Yusheng knew that he would not be able to hold on any longer. This younger brother of his was actually very smart. Unfortunately, his health was not good, and this saved him a lot of trouble.

“No, let’s go back. After all, this is someone else’s residence. If the two of us stay here for long, I’m afraid there will be bad rumors,” Pei Qingmin said. He did not want to be implicated with the ill-mannered Qu Mansion.

He did not have any affection for Qu Mansion’s ladies. Not to mention Princess Consort, even if his Princess or Concubine, he did not want them to be from Qu Mansion.

“Well, then let’s go back. Can you hold on?” Pei Yusheng looked at Pei Qingmin’s face with concern and reached out to support him.

“I’m fine. Let’s go.” Pei Qingmin shook his head and retracted his hand, just in time to avoid Pei Yusheng’s hand.

Pei Yusheng didn’t think much of it. He knew that this brother of his was the least willing to be touched.

They turned around and left with a group of guards.

Granny Miao came out from behind a tree. She happened to pass by. When she saw people coming over, she hurriedly hid and did not dare to move. She was afraid to disturb them.

She did not expect that the people coming were actually Lord Jing and Lord Wei. However, why were these two in the mansion? She had not heard anyone in the mansion mention it before. It seemed that they had suddenly come over, so even Qu Mansion's people did not know about it.

She had not overheard much just now. She also did not know whether these two Princes' appearances in the mansion had anything to do with her lady. Looking at the backs of the two, Granny Miao hurriedly walked back in the other direction. She had a feeling that the two Lords suddenly appearing in Qu Mansion was not a small matter. She had to tell her lady about it.

"Lord Jing and Lord Wei?" Qu Moying had just returned not long ago. When she heard Granny Miao's words, her watery eyes slightly rose. After taking off her eye veil, her eyes were like water, and the light red at the corners of her eyes added a bit of charm to her. Her long eyelashes fluttered twice, and she suddenly put down the brush in her hand. "Let's go and take a look!"

"But they said they were going back. They should have left at this time!" Granny Miao said uncertainly.

"Not yet!"

Chapter 199 Who Was the Target Being Plotted Against?

Sure enough, these two Lords had not left Qu Mansion yet.

Lord Wei Pei Qingmin was sitting alone in an attic, drinking tea and waiting for Lord Jing Pei Yusheng.

There was no need to guess where Lord Jing went. Just now, when he was about to leave, a maid suddenly came out. After calling Lord Jing to the side and saying a few words, Pei Yusheng suddenly decided not to leave. He asked Pei Qingmin to wait for him a little while and said that he would come back soon. However, Pei Qingmin had finished a cup of tea now, but Pei Yusheng was still nowhere to be seen.

Pei Qingmin became impatient and put down the teacup in his hand. He reached out to press the tea table and was about to stand up.

“My Lord, Fourth Lady Qu would like to see you.” His young eunuch came in in a hurry and reported to him respectfully.

“Who?” Pei Qingmin looked up and asked in surprise.

“Vice Minister Qu’s Mansion’s Fourth Lady. When she passed by outside just now, she heard that you are inside, so she especially came to pay her respects,” the young eunuch explained.

“Especially came to pay her respects?” Pei Qingmin curled his lips in ridicule. His finger tapped lightly on the table. According to his original intention, he didn’t want to see her. He didn’t think highly of Fourth Lady Qu’s character and temperament at all.

However, when he thought about the connection between her and Uncle Yun, he thought for a moment and nodded. “Invite her in!”

The young eunuch responded and left. Soon, he brought Qu Moying over.

She was wearing a light lotus-colored dress. This color was very light. It was so light that it was almost white. There was nothing outstanding about it.

The wind blew past the door, blowing up her long dress, and it fluttered along with her long and thin eye veil. For no reason, it made her appearance look somewhat skinny and delicate.

It turned out that Fourth Lady Qu was really very skinny!

There were many noble ladies who were quite skinny, but Fourth Lady Qu looked so thin as if she would fall if a strong wind blew. In addition, because of her eye veil, even if one could not see her face, he would still feel that she was pitiful!

Pei Qingmin frowned and his gaze fell on Fourth Lady Qu’s face.

Her eye veil covered her face. The eye veil was very wide, revealing only her white and tender forehead and her beautifully-curved lips. She looked pitiful when she gently pursed her lips.

Fourth Lady Qu looked very pitiful.

This was the first time Pei Qingmin clearly saw Fourth Lady Qu in front of him. He frowned unhappily. He did not like this kind of woman who appeared delicate and weak but was actually ruthless and was scheming to marry into the imperial family.

“Greetings, Lord Wei.” Qu Moying stepped forward and gave a graceful bow.

Pei Qingmin did not directly ask her to rise. His gaze was still on Qu Moying’s face, and he was speechless for a long time.

Qu Moying bowed with her body half turned sideways. Pei Qingmin did not ask her to rise, and she stayed still. Her feet started to feel sore, but there was a deep look in her eyes.

Fortunately, her foundation in her previous life was still there, so she was not directly embarrassed by such a bow.

“Please rise.” Finally, she heard Pei Qingmin’s voice.

Qu Moying stood up slightly and looked at Pei Qingmin with a graceful look. “My Lord, I was very surprised when I heard that you came to our mansion, so I specially came to greet you.”

She didn’t hide anything. It was just an excuse to say that she came in to greet him because she passed by. The truth was she specially came to see him.

Pei Qingmin raised his eyebrows. He was surprised that Qu Moying was so straightforward. In his mind, Qu Moying should have acted like she was about to say something but stopped talking, or to shyly say that she accidentally passed by and saw him. He didn’t know what she would do next. She clearly had a relationship with Uncle Yun. What was she up to by coming to him now?

However, now he had no idea.

Looking up and down at Qu Moying, he smiled lightly. "Why are you looking for me, Fourth Lady Qu?"

"You two Lords suddenly came to Qu Mansion today, and even Grandmother did not know about it. It should just be an accident out of the blue, right?" Qu Moying replied.

"What do you mean? Are you investigating our whereabouts, Fourth Lady Qu?" Pei Qingmin put down the teacup in his hand heavily, and his expression turned cold.

"My Lord, I have no intention of investigating your whereabouts. I just thought some things might implicate you, my Lord, so I specially came over to ask about it."

Qu Moying said unhurriedly.

"What's it?" Pei Qingmin asked with a cold face.

"Lord Wei, did you and Lord Jing see the dispute between me and Second Sister just now?" Qu Moying's gaze calmly passed through her eye veil and then landed on Pei Qingmin's face. Her manner was calm, without the slightest hint of shyness a woman would have when she saw a young man.

Pei Qingmin narrowed his eyes and put on a faint smile. His gaze swept over Qu Moying a few more times and finally fell on the wide eye veil that was covering her face. He said meaningfully, "I guess you have a pretty good face, don't you? Since that's the case, why do you use makeup to cover your beauty up? Wouldn't it be easier to achieve your goal with your original beauty?"

"My Lord, I don't have any goals. I just want to remind you of something. If you feel that I speak too much, please forgive me."

Qu Moying keenly sensed the ridicule in Pei Qingmin's words. She smiled faintly and said without concealing anything.

These words were extremely straightforward. It could be said that they were beyond Pei Qingmin's expectations. His long and narrow eyes once again fell on Qu Moying's face. He said meaningfully, "Fourth Lady Qu, I heard that you injured your feet when you bumped into Uncle Yun earlier, but I wonder where you got your wheelchair from. It looks really good."

This question was extremely abrupt. It was a question that Qu Moying did not expect. For the first time, Qu Moying revealed a bit of suspicion on her face. This question really surprised her. She pursed her lips slightly. Under the eye veil, her eyes raised slightly and she looked at Pei Qingmin silently. "My Lord, I don't understand what you mean by that. The wheelchair was given to me by my Third Sister."

"You didn't prepare it yourself?" Pei Qingmin said with a smile.

"No!" Qu Moying shook her head and leaned to the side. "My Lord, I still have something to do. I'll take my leave."

After saying that, she took a few steps back and turned to leave. The whole process was smooth. There was no trace of unwillingness to part. She exited the door without looking back.

This behavior of hers was rather impolite.

However, inexplicably, a trace of suspicion flashed through Pei Qingmin's eyes. He was lost in thought...

"My lady, why did you specially come to see Lord Wei?" When they were outside, Yu Dong asked in confusion.

"Lord Jing and Lord Wei came together, and they came at this time, don't you think it's very strange? Who in the mansion can order these two to be here?" Qu Moying's gaze fell on a flower in front of her, and she stopped. Her long eye veil accidentally hooked onto the flower in front of her eyes.

Yu Dong hurriedly went forward to help her.

The wind was a little strong today. The eye veil that brushed against the corners of her eyes made her a little uncomfortable. Yu Dong unfastened it a little and then untied it. The sun was strong. Qu Moying

lowered her head. Yu Dong took out another eye veil from his arms and helped Qu Moying tie it up again.

When Qu Moying's two maids took care of her, they both brought eye veils along with them, in case of emergencies.

"My lady, is it time to take down your eye veil?" After arranging everything for Qu Moying, Yu Dong asked.

"It is pretty good this way." Qu Moying shook her head. It might not be a good thing for her to be too beautiful. Moreover, she had been wearing the eye veil for so long. For the time being, she really had no intention of changing her current appearance.

"My lady, was Third Lady the one who invited Lord Jing here? But why does Lord Wei come here too?" Seeing that Qu Moying did not feel like taking off the eye veil, Yu Dong no longer asked and continued the previous topic.

Qu Moying smiled and walked forward. "There is no possibility that Lord Jing and Lord Wei would come here together unless the matter requires Lord Wei himself. There is nothing happening in the mansion today, except the fight between me and Second Sister just now, which was quite dramatic."

Then it meant this matter was related to Lord Wei Pei Qingmin.

"Could it be that Lord Jing was afraid of people gossiping about him and Third Lady, so he intentionally brought Lord Wei here as a shield?" Yu Dong thought for a moment and said.

"No!" Qu Moying shook her head. "That day, in front of everyone, he did not show any displeasure when everyone saw him with Qu Qiuyan. This meant he treated Qu Qiuyan as his woman. However, there was no respect in terms of this kind of treatment. It seemed she would not be his Princess Consort."

The more times people saw Pei Yusheng and Qu Qiuyan together, the more likely people would doubt Qu Qiuyan's character, and it was even more impossible for Qu Qiuyan to become Princess Jing. As a

bystander, Qu Moying saw it through clearly. Only Qu Qiuyan was still immersed in the beautiful dream of being the future Princess Jing.

Pei Yusheng did not care about Qu Qiuyan's reputation but only showed that Qiuyan was the person he liked. Other than marrying into Lord Jing Mansion, Qu Qiuyan had no other choice.

"Well, is what happened today meant to let Lord Jing take a fancy to Second Lady?" Yu Dong subconsciously concluded the topic, but when he finished speaking, he widened his eyes and spat out two words in shock, "Lord Wei?"

"It should be Lord Wei." Qu Moying only smiled. Her smile was as gentle as ever. This matter originally had nothing to do with her, and she did not want to get involved. She could see that Lord Wei did not have a good impression of her, and there was even a bit of disgust in his eyes. However, this matter was indeed connected to her. She had no choice but to report it to Lord Wei first.

Lord Wei was the weakest among the few Princes in terms of health and power. He usually only tended to flowers and plants in the mansion and read some books. It was said that he was very talented in the arts of zither, chess, calligraphy, and painting. However, he basically kept these calligraphies and paintings to himself, and outsiders could not admire them.

In the previous life, Ji Hanyue had occasionally seen Lord Wei's paintings and was utterly amazed. She had not expected that such a sick and weakly Prince was actually a master in paintings.

However, Lord Wei Mansion was always very quiet. On the one hand, it was said that it was because he was sick, but on the other hand, it was said that it was because Lord Wei was an elegant and calm person.

Such a person could be said to be outside of the consideration of holding the imperial power, but in truth, no matter what, his identity could not be changed. As a Prince, Lord Wei might not be the choice of those most ambitious ladies, but he was the choice of many ladies who had lower identities but had desires for riches and glory.

Lord Wei being able to remain single for so many years already showed that this sick and weak Prince was not a naive person who was easily plotted against.

With Qu Qiuyan's identity, if she married into Lord Wei Mansion, even if she could not get a high position as the Princess Consort, she could get the status of a "Madam".

Chapter 200 Granny Yan Being Repeatedly Rejected

"My Lord, Lord Jing is here!" The young eunuch saw Lord Jing coming from afar, so he reminded Lord Wei.

Lord Wei stood at the window and looked out for a long time. After that, he frowned and was in a daze. This state of his made the young eunuch very uneasy. Lord Wei's body did not seem to be able to withstand standing for a long time. Whenever Lord Wei could have a seat, the young eunuch would definitely not let him stand.

It was best even not to sit when he could lie down.

However, Lord Wei had been standing there for a long time. His face sank, and he did not move at all, making others not dare to move at all too.

When the young eunuch finally saw Lord Jing coming from afar, he hurriedly reported.

Pei Qingmin moved and sat down in the chair. He picked up the cool tea on the table and drank a few mouthfuls before putting it down.

The young eunuch was even more horrified. His expression changed greatly, and he could only feel the sweat on his back.

Lord Wei was the most exquisite Prince, and there could not be a single mistake when it came to his eating and drinking. But what was going on now? He had actually drank some cool tea. If something were to happen to him, as his attendant, the young eunuch would not be able to escape punishment.

“Qingmin, sorry to keep you waiting.” The handsome figure of Lord Jing appeared at the door. He seemed to be in good spirits. He had just had a tryst with his lover, and that was why he felt that everyone was very pleasing to the eye.

And that included his weak and sick younger brother.

“It’s fine. Can we leave now, Second Brother?” Pei Qingmin rubbed his head, his face wearied. “We’ve been out for a while now. I’m quite tired.”

“Alright, alright. Let’s go.” Pei Yusheng said with an apologetic face, “I have unknowingly wasted so much time. Sorry to make you wait for such a long time, Qingmin.”

Pei Qingmin did not reply. He got up with the help of the young eunuch and walked out.

He did not walk very fast. After walking for a few steps, Lord Wei was somewhat unable to hold on any longer. He could only rest in the pavilion on the side. Pei Qingmin asked someone to look for Qu Qiuyan. Not long after, Qu Mansion’s servants brought over a wheelchair. The young eunuch helped Pei Qingmin get onto the wheelchair.

The wheelchair was pushed all the way out, and then they got into their respective carriages.

“Is this Qu Mansion-owned wheelchair?” The two Lords took a light ride today. Their carriages today were ordinary. After they got into the carriages, Pei Qingmin asked.

“It belongs to Fourth Lady Qu. Her foot was injured from the fall earlier. I heard it happened when she bumped into Uncle Yun,” Pei Yusheng said indifferently.

“Did she really bump into Uncle Yun?” Pei Qingmin leaned against the carriage and felt much better. He asked slowly.

“Of course it is true. Could it be fake? However, Fourth Lady Qu is quite exceptional. She actually bumped into Uncle Yun. There are so many ladies from aristocratic families in the capital, but none of

them have this chance," Pei Yusheng said meaningfully. They, as the children of the imperial family, all understood it.

Pei Qingmin no longer spoke. He did not seem to be very interested, and he closed his eyes.

Was she really such a lady? Her manners and actions were neither servile nor overbearing. Although she did not speak much, her meaning was very clear. There was no trace of timidity in her words and actions. It was completely different from her weak appearance during the Crown Princess's funeral. Or rather, the one he saw at this time was the real her.

Sunlight shone over. In a glimpse, he saw that exquisite and beautiful side profile, which indicated that if she really took a fancy to one of the Princes, it would not be entirely impossible for her to stand a chance.

Her status was actually a little higher than Qu Qiuyan, for she was the wife-born daughter of the first wife, unlike Qu Qiuyan, a concubine-born daughter who halfway became the first wife-born daughter. Although Qu Moying lacked something to be a Princess Consort, she was definitely qualified to be a Princess, and there was no need for her to do too much.

Compared with Uncle Yun, these Princes were much easier to get along with.

So, why...

Qu Moying did not know that when she took off her veil just now, Lord Wei saw her. When she returned to her yard, Granny Yan had already returned too. Qu Moying had asked Granny Yan to make a visit to somewhere just now.

Since yesterday, Qu Moying had already started learning the etiquette from Granny Yan. Granny Yan was rather satisfied with Qu Moying's appearance and demeanor. With that, her attitude towards Qu Moying also became a bit better. She no longer had the arrogant attitude of nit-picking. This time, it did not take Qu Moying much effort to send Granny Yan to make a visit.

"The next time we enter the palace, bring Second Lady Qu along." After Granny Yan entered, she raised her chin at Qu Moying.

“Why?” Qu Moying asked with a smile. She was not surprised.

“Second Lady Qu said that you are sisters of the same family. The East and West Mansions have never separated from each other. The initial reason why we are entering the palace this time is that Dowager Consort Qu wants to meet Qu Mansion’s ladies anyway.” Granny Yan put her hands behind her back, and her expression became dignified.

“Then, will Eldest Sister go too?” Qu Moying smiled.

“Of course.” Granny Yan nodded.

“Is it required by Dowager Consort?” Qu Moying’s smile became more and more gentle.

“It is indeed an order from the palace,” Granny Yan said vaguely. Her gaze swept across Qu Moying’s face. She saw that there was no trace of displeasure in Qu Moying’s expression. After a pause, she gave a rare explanation, “Dowager Consort values you, Fourth Lady, but since you are actually Qu Mansion’s youngest lady, and Dowager Consort is Qu Mansion’s elder, it is natural that four of you ladies shall meet her together.”

Did this mean that the four of them were arranged to enter the palace together from the beginning? But why did they only mention the two ladies from the West Mansion and not the two ladies from the East Mansion?

Or did it mean that they would pretend to not know East Mansion also had two ladies if those two ladies did not say anything? Since they only mentioned the two ladies from West Mansion, it could be seen that compared with the two ladies from East Mansion, the two from West Mansion obviously had higher identities.

The status of the daughter of Vice Minister of Works was much higher than the status of the daughter of an ordinary Imperial Censor.

Therefore, originally, it didn’t matter whether Qu Xuexin and Qu Caiyue would be brought into the palace or not. Both of the two plans were okay. It all depended on how this matter was handled.

However, Granny Yan was not an easy-going person!

“Please tell the Old Lady that you want to go into the palace with Second Lady and First Lady,” Granny Yan said.

Qu Moying shook her head. “Granny Yan, I don’t have the final say in the matters of entering the palace.”

“Fourth Lady, you only need to mention it briefly. As for the matters of entering the palace, they will be arranged.” Seeing Qu Moying refuse, Granny Yan said unhappily.

Granny Yan thought that Qu Moying was implying that she did not have the ability to handle this matter.

“Granny Yan, I think I am very clear on this. This matter has nothing to do with me. If it is the order from the palace, Granny Yan, then I will have to trouble you to pass it to Grandmother. Whether Second Sister enters the palace or not has nothing to do with me. It is also not something that I can control,” Qu Moying reached out and took the tea that Yu Chun had brought over. After taking a sip, she spoke indifferently.

Granny Yan couldn’t help but frown as she was refused again and again. “Fourth Lady, this won’t bother you much. You just need to mention it briefly.”

“I can’t!” Qu Moying said calmly and refused again.

This sentence thoroughly annoyed Granny Yan. Her face completely cooled down, and her eyes contained a bit of anger. “What do you mean, Fourth Lady?”

Qu Moying said without flinching, “And what do you mean, Granny Yan?”

With this sentence, the atmosphere in the room immediately became tense. Yu Chun and Yu Dong, the two maids, also raised their heads and stared at Granny Yan coldly.

Granny Yan subconsciously took a step back and suddenly came back to her senses. For a moment, she was so angry that her face turned red. She was a servant in the palace, but she was frightened by a lady who was still young and had no rank. This was really something that made her feel ashamed. Even in the palace, she rarely had such a weak and angry moment.

“Granny Yan, I don’t care whose idea this is, nor do I care who asked you to do this. I only hope that you can understand this matter has nothing to do with me. I never wanted Second Sister to enter the palace with me. If something happens to her in the palace, don’t get me involved.”

Qu Moying’s eyes were fixed on Granny Yan. Even though there was an eye veil, others could feel that her temperament was not weak. Her words had no intention of backing down.

Granny Yan’s face was very dark. She looked at Qu Moying coldly. “Do you mean to go against the order from the palace, Miss Qu?”

“I wonder who ordered it.” Qu Moying’s gaze fell on Granny Yan’s face. “Granny Yan, please tell me who gave the order.”

It was clearly said that it was asked by Dowager Consort Qu. If Dowager Consort Qu really had the ability, she would not have been unknown all this while. How could an old Dowager Consort, who did not even have a Princess and was never heard of before, suddenly appear at this time? It was really a matter worth investigating.

Granny Yan slightly raised her chin and looked at Qu Moying with a hint of contempt in her eyes. “Fourth Lady Qu, the matters in the palace are not something that someone like you, a daughter of Vice Minister, should ask.”

“It is indeed so. So please forgive me for not being able to talk to Grandmother about this.” Qu Moying smoothly continued Granny Yan’s words. After she finished speaking, she stood up and bowed to Granny Yan. “Granny Yan, I’m tired. I’ll rest for a while first. I still have to practice the royal etiquette later. I can’t accompany you for the time being.”

After saying that, she walked into the inner room with the support of Yu Chun and directly left the arrogant Granny Yan outside.

Granny Yan's face turned livid, and then she became furious. She was about to lose her temper, but in the end, she only snorted coldly. She flung her sleeves and said to Yu Dong, who was still in the room, "Royal etiquette practice in an hour. Please ask Fourth Lady Qu to get ready."

After that, she turned around and stormed out.

"Yes, Granny Yan." Yu Dong's lazy voice, which was rather annoying, came from behind her. No matter how one listened to it, Yu Dong did not sound like he cared much.

Sure enough, like Master, like servants. Granny Yan was extremely angry. She had never been so sullen. It was just a small matter that she wanted to do as a favor for others, but now, it actually ended up like this. It was really ridiculous.

But she had already promised that person. If she now went back on her words, she would feel ashamed. She could not afford to embarrass herself. Now that she could not make Fourth Lady Qu agree, she would find someone else. She could not fail to complete such a small matter.

Her identity was indeed not ordinary. She was now someone by Dowager Consort Qu's side. However, she used to be a servant by the late Empress Dowager's side. After the late Empress Dowager passed away, those powerful palace servants all found themselves a new Master. She, too, found a new Master in that situation...