

## Medical Princess 1011

### [Medical Princess](#)

#### Chapter 1011: A Gathering

In the past, Nanny Zheng had always been very calm when facing others. Never had she lost her cool composure like this—she was beside herself with excitement.

“What’s the relationship between Consort Lan and Prince Chen?” Shao Wanru went straight to the point.

Nanny Zheng began to speak and then hesitated because she didn’t know how to answer her straightforward question.

Shao Wanru quietly measured Nanny Zheng with her watery eyes and then asked, “Can’t you tell me about their relationship?”

She put it in a more roundabout way, which suggested they were connected and made it sound more acceptable. Nanny Zheng could not help nodding. Afterward, her face immediately changed, and she looked at Shao Wanru in astonishment.

“So, does Consort Lan have something to do with His Highness?” Shao Wanru smiled slightly and asked again.

Nanny Zheng hesitated and nodded affirmatively, pursing her lips hard. She didn’t say it, but Princess Chen figured it out herself. Until now, she hadn’t revealed anything about that.

Seeing her reaction, Shao Wanru smiled. It meant that she couldn’t say it, but she could ask about it.

“Is Consort Lan hostile to Prince Chen?” Shao Wanru asked tentatively.

Hearing that, Nanny Zheng, burning with anxiety, shook her head vigorously with anxious eyes staring at Shao Wanru. She didn’t know how Princess Chen came to such a conclusion that terrified her.

Nanny Zheng had been following Shao Wanru for a long time. Thus, she knew that her current master was out of the ordinary. Although she looked delicate and fragile, she was decisive and intelligent. Sometimes, she could be even swifter and fiercer than a man. More importantly, Prince Chen had been deeply attached to Princess Chen, his beloved wife.

If Princess Chen misunderstood Consort Lan, it would be bad.

“Then, Consort Lan is kind to Prince Chen and will never hurt him, right?” Shao Wanru slowly breathed a sigh of relief and asked calmly.

Somehow, the sudden appearance of Consort Lan put significant pressure on her.

It was not long ago that the Empress Dowager learned what had just happened. How could Consort Lan get a general idea of the whole story? If it were the Empress, Shao Wanru would not have any doubts. But Consort Lan was only an imperial consort who seemed to have been locked up in a place worse than the Cold Palace for many years. How could she know?

Besides, she reacted fast. Her maid came not much later than the Empress Dowager’s messenger.

The speed demonstrated that Consort Lan's power in the Palace was not as weak as what others saw or guessed.

If such an extremely competent person is malicious to Chu Liuchen, how could Shao Wanru rest assured?

"Why is Consort Lan so good to Prince Chen?" Shao Wanru thought for a while and asked, fixing her eyes on Nanny Zheng and paying close attention to her every move.

Nanny Zheng would not answer her, but she could see something from her reaction to this question.

As expected, Nanny Zheng nodded hurriedly but then shook her head. Then she looked at Shao Wanru in a nervous state, hoping that she could figure out what she meant on her own.

Shao Wanru's eyes darkened, and she looked at Nanny Zheng thoughtfully.

Consort Lan? She had never seen her in her previous life. Such a high-ranking figure had no connection with her, who used to be a little painter. But Shao Wanru felt she was trustworthy.

Could she believe Consort Lan? She was in a delicate situation, and she couldn't explain why, only feeling there seemed to be something mysterious in it.

She tried hard to suppress the doubts in her heart and said, "I can ask Consort Lan for help in the future, right?"

Finally, Princess Chen stopped probing to the bottom of the relationship between Consort Lan and Chu Liuchen. After a long sigh of relief, Nanny Zheng hastily answered, "Yes, Your Highness can trust Consort Lan. She is always willing to help Prince Chen. As long as it is about the Prince Chen's Mansion, she will protect you from sufferings."

It was not related to the forbidden topic. Since Consort Lan had sent someone here today, she was expressing goodwill. Therefore, she couldn't let Princess Chen take the opposite meaning.

"Does Prince Chen know Consort Lan bends efforts to protect him?" Shao Wanru ventured.

Nanny Zheng lowered her head and said with bitterness, "His Highness doesn't want Consort Lan to pay attention to him."

"If the Empress wants to punish me, will Consort Lan help me out as well?" Shao Wanru asked in a different way.

"Even if it's the Empress, Consort Lan will come to your aid!" Nanny Zheng repeatedly nodded in approval. For fear that Shao Wanru might not understand, she nodded as obviously as possible.

Compared with the past, Nanny Zheng looked unusually emotional today.

A hint of doubt seemingly remained in Shao Wanru's lustrous eyes, but her face was as calm as usual. "I know. Nanny Zheng, you can withdraw now. I'll have to go to the Palace tomorrow. Please go there with me!"

"That is what I should do!" Nanny Zheng nodded, feeling relaxed in her heart. Princess Chen still wanted to use her, which meant she was not displeased with what she had done today.

Shao Wanru waved her hand. Nanny Zheng bowed and left respectfully. When she stepped out of the door, somehow, her eyes became red-rimmed again. Nanny Zheng muttered a few words to herself. Her voice was very light, but Yujie caught a few words as she passed by quietly.

Yujie wanted to say hello to Nanny Zheng, but she seemed absent-minded and left in a hurry without looking around.

“My Lady, I heard Nanny Zheng say at the door: ‘God bless us. Bodhisattvas bless us’. She murmured a lot there, but I didn’t hear what she said clearly!” After Yujie entered the room, she first talked about the palace maid and then mentioned Nanny Zheng.

“Yujie, what do you think of Consort Lan?” Shao Wanru asked thoughtfully.

“I think that she is very nice to our mansion. When I saw off the palace maid Qing Mu, she kept showing their kindness to me. I don’t think that our mansion is useful to Consort Lan. Besides, I have never heard that she has a prince,” Yujie said.

Shao Wanru nodded, knowing what Yujie meant. Consort Lan had no prince, so she must have no interest in the throne. Likewise, she had no reason to stand against the Prince Chen’s Mansion. So, she genuinely wanted to help, didn’t she?

But Shao Wanru still didn’t understand. No goodwill came for no reason in this world. There must be a reason. She said she liked Shao Wanru at first sight, but that wouldn’t make a person with high status support her so wholeheartedly. Moreover, it was because of Chu Liuchen that Consort Lan was glad to lend a helping hand.

There were countless capricious ties between chambers in the Palace. No outsiders could straighten out the relationship. Therefore, Shao Wanru decided to put aside the matter about Consort Lan until Chu Liuchen came back.

For the moment, she should concentrate her energies on the affairs related to the Marquis Xing’s Mansion. How could she talk everything through to the Empress Dowager?

Not only Yan Xi but also Qin Yuru was connected to the matter of Shao Jing. Shao Wanru had a feeling that Qin Yuru had also been informed...

Early the following day, after taking medicine, Shao Wanru got up.

She had vomited blood yesterday, so she didn’t look well though she had recuperated for a day. Her pink and fair face appeared slightly pale, which made her more delicate and touching.

She wore a light blue upper garment, going with a lilac eight-sided skirt. There was a mauve girdle above the skirt that matched well with her slender waist. On her hair, she only used an exquisite hairpin with strings of tiny pearls dangling from its end. Each pearl shone with dazzling brilliance, which set her delicate face off to advantage.

Except for her overly pale face and lips, her image was perfect.

She would enter the Palace from the side door, where a palace sedan was waiting. “Princess Chen, the Empress Dowager asked you to take the palace sedan so that you won’t get hurt.”

A eunuch from the Empress Dowager's courtyard came to greet her with a bright smile.

Shao Wanru nodded gently. Yujie came forward with a money pouch and said sensitively, "Thank you, Sir. My Lady is really in poor condition. She couldn't come here at first, but when she thought the Empress Dowager must be worried, she struggled to stand up and get here. So, please carry the palace sedan steadily."

The eunuch's eyebrows danced as he took the small bag. With a light pinch, he immediately knew there were silver drafts in it. "Your Highness, don't worry. I will tell them to be careful. Your Highness made it here even though she is not feeling well. We must make sure she is comfortable on the following way!"

Nanny Zheng helped Shao Wanru sit in the palace sedan chair. Then she and Yujie stepped aside and followed the palace sedan chair into the Palace.

The group moved smoothly at a slow but steady pace. The time that they reached the Palace of Benevolent Peace doubled.

When they arrived at the Palace of Benevolent Peace, the Empress Dowager's personal maid had been waiting there for a long time. As she saw Shao Wanru coming out of the palace sedan, she hurried to salute her and then led her to the main hall.

Lots of people were in the Palace of Benevolent Peace today. The one on the seat of honor was certainly the Empress Dowager. Rui'an Great Elder Princess was sitting beside her, and on the other side was Ruiping Great Elder Princess, who had Infanta Yuan'an sit by her side. The Old Madam of Marquis Xing's Mansion was there with several Madams.

They all looked familiar to Shao Wanru. It turned out that they were the older ones among the Madams who witnessed what happened yesterday.

As Shao Wanru came in, everyone's eyes fell on her. Seeing her lips paler than usual, Rui'an Great Elder Princess was distressed, and her eyes turned red. Shao Wanru's rosy lips used to be her outstanding feature, but now they turned pallid.

Shao Wanru bowed to the Empress Dowager in the middle of the hall, and immediately a palace servant came to support her.

The Empress Dowager pointed to a chair next to Rui'an Great Elder Princess and said kindly, "Sit down and talk. You don't look good!"

"Thank you, Empress Dowager!" Shao Wanru said softly, walking to Rui'an Great Elder Princess with the help of the palace servant. She wanted to salute again but was stopped by Rui'an Great Elder Princess, who pulled her to the chair and sat down. "You are in such a weak state. Why are you still so polite? You were fine before going to the Marquis Xing's Mansion. How could you end up like this? It must be not suitable for you to go to the Marquis Xing's Mansion!"

After that, she glared at Old Madam of the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

Old Madam was also observing Shao Wanru. Before this, she didn't take it seriously. When Shao Wanru left yesterday, Nanny Yu reported that although Princess Chen didn't look well, she was okay. But what

was going on now? Shao Wanru looked terrible at first sight. It was evident that she struggled to come here. Old Madam couldn't help feeling troubled and uneasy.

### Medical Princess

#### **Chapter 1012: Is She Crazy for Real?**

Old Madam's gloomy eyes were glued to Shao Wanru's face, trying to find any evidence to prove that she was just pretending to be sick.

Shao Wanru looked up and met her eyes. Then, she gave her a graceful smile. In the Palace of Benevolent Peace of Empress Dowager, she was in a higher position than Old Madam and should not treat Old Madam as an elder like in the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

"Princess Chen, I heard that when you offered a sacrifice to your parents in the Marquis Xing's Mansion yesterday, Qiu Yu from the Ministry of Justice hid behind the sacrificial altar. When you entered the door, you smelled the whiff from Madam Jiang's handkerchief, so you nearly lost control of your emotions. Did it badly hurt you when you tried hard to suppress your physical sensations?" The Empress Dowager looked severe.

Her favorite grandson had just left, and she had repeatedly promised that she would take good care of Princess Chen for him. Before long, such a terrible thing happened. At this time, the Empress Dowager was also full of anger.

Shao Wanru raised her white face and answered in a silky tone. "It was a coincidence yesterday. Maybe because I was in poor health, I passed out again and again!"

Shao Wanru didn't blame anyone, only saying she was not in good condition. The Empress Dowager nodded in her heart and commended that she was as sensible and adorable as her grandson.

"Since you're not feeling good, don't go there these two days. You had been mourning for your parents for three years in the Yuhui Nunnery. You can skip two days!" the Empress Dowager said.

"That's right. Princess Chen said that she wanted to go, but she had been observing mourning for her parents in the Yuhui Nunnery for three years. Compared with her, the Marquis Xing's Mansion hasn't done any religious ceremony for many years. Instead of Princess Chen, the others in the Marquis Xing's Mansion should perform the memorial ritual!"

Infanta Yuan'an echoed the words of Empress Dowager.

Since what Infanta Yuan'an said catered to the Empress Dowager's pleasure, she gave her an approving nod, but her face didn't soften. Then, with this deadpan expression, she turned to see Old Madam of the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

So many years had passed, but the Marquis Xing's Mansion held not a single religious rite for Shao Wanru's parents. Now that this one was to force Shao Wanru to go to their mansion. When she was there, a series of incidents happened. Lucky for Shao Wanru, the self-made sachet for clearing away the heart-fire on her maid helped her. Otherwise, worse things might happen to Shao Wanru.

Whenever this idea crossed her mind, the Empress Dowager would bristle with fury.

What would happen when her grandson knew that something had happened to his wife? Prince Chen got his eye on Shao Wanru for three years, during which he actively accepted any treatment for him. He had never been so cooperative before. It was a great benefit that Shao Wanru could bring to him.

For this reason alone, the Empress Dowager couldn't let anything happen to Shao Wanru.

"The Marquis Xing's Mansion hadn't performed a memorial ceremony for many years. Why did you do it this time?" the Empress Dowager asked the Old Madam of the Marquis Xing's Mansion, her stern eyes falling on her face.

Old Madam could no longer sit still and knelt down with a thud. "Madam Jiang, my daughter-in-law, came back not long ago. She said that she dreamed of Princess Chen's parents when living an ascetic life in the Yuhui Nunnery. Therefore, she wanted to hold a religious ceremony in the mansion for them. Your Majesty, you also know that the old Duke was sick when my eldest son died, so we did not dare to do it openly. Since then, this matter has been postponed to now. For so many years, I... I didn't want to think about it and didn't dare to do it either..."

When Old Madam said this, she thought of her eldest son and couldn't help crying with her hands covering her face.

"At first, it was because of the old Duke, but later we didn't dare to do it. According to Madam Jiang's dream, my eldest son wanted to go back and have a look at our mansion. We wouldn't have done it if it had not been for my eldest son's wishes."

"My father appeared in my second aunt's dream to make a request?" Shao Wanru asked in surprise, "Why would he appear in my second aunt's dream instead of mine?"

Shao Wanru appeared to be asking herself because her voice was very low. But since everyone's attention was on her, they heard it clearly. When they thought it over, some revealed a weird expression.

The deceased giving people dreams was possible. However, he didn't appear in the dream of his daughter and mother but walked into the dream of his second younger brother's wife, which sounded irrational and strange.

"The Madam of Marquis Xing said that the former heir of Duke Xing gave her a dream, and there was a smell of medicine on her handkerchief that could make people insane. Beyond all of this, a man somehow appeared in the mourning ceremony. Old Madam, does this Madam of Marquis Xing play a leading role in your mansion? Even you have to do whatever she asks, right?" Ruiping Great Elder Princess asked curiously.

When thinking about the entire process, Madam Jiang was the most suspicious.

Old Madam stammered and argued, "But Madam Jiang also suffered... She has been acting oddly. I don't know if she is also affected by the drug."

"The case in the charge of the Ministry of Justice implicated the Madam of Marquis Xing. Then she had urged that a mourning rite should be done. That was why Princess Chen was invited there and her reputation was nearly ruined. After that, she was out of her mind and violently pushed her daughter-in-law, who then lost the baby in her belly," another old lady said.

She was also present yesterday and watched the beginning and the end of this matter. Madam Jiang disgusted her. A good baby was gone because of her crazy act.

Back then, the Madam of Marquis Xing had been standing by her side with extreme caution. Who would have expected her to spring into action suddenly? More surprisingly, she targeted her pregnant daughter-in-law.

“Did Madam Jiang feign madness to shirk responsibility?” the Empress Dowager asked coldly.

“Yesterday, when I took Hao’er there, the Marquis Xing’s Mansion was in a mess. No decent person was taking care of the memorial ceremony, so I hosted it with Hao’er. It was only until late at night that some people of the Marquis Xing’s Mansion finally came. They said I could go back and asked Hao’er to stay there. I refused. After all, Princess Chen just had an incident in the day. I was afraid they would plot against Hao’er!”

Rui’an Great Elder Princess said grumpily.

When she learned Shao Wanru had an accident yesterday, she planned to go and see her in the Prince Chen’s Mansion, but she couldn’t leave at that time. In addition, Rui’an Great Elder Princess didn’t feel easy about leaving Shao Yuanhao alone in the Marquis Xing’s Mansion. Thus, she had no choice but to send someone to ask about Shao Wanru’s situation in the Prince Chen’s Mansion. Upon learning Shao Wanru was okay, she felt relieved to accompany Shao Yuanhao.

Speaking of this, Rui’an Great Elder Princess was also full of anger. The Marquis Xing’s Mansion announced that they would hold a mourning ceremony for her daughter and son-in-law, but they invited no host. There were only some monks and Taoist priests chanting at random.

“Yesterday, my granddaughter-in-law was severely injured, so I had to stay by her side. Worse still, Madam Jiang was somewhat abnormal, and I didn’t dare to leave her alone. In such a desperate situation, people in the mansion were too panicked to take care of the religious services,” Old Madam lowered her head and said with grievances.

“So, your son that is still alive is always the most important!” Ruiping Great Elder Princess said casually.

Shao Wanru clenched her hands tightly in her sleeves and then slowly loosened her grip—Ruiping Great Elder Princess came straight to the heart of the problem.

“The living son is the best. For Old Madam, Shao Jing, her son who is still alive and well, is of utmost importance. And my father was the abandoned one.”

A hint of coldness flashed in her eyes. “Since it was the reason, why would you have to display your deep attachment to your son in front of others? It’s disgusting.”

“Empress Dowager, please allow me to complete my father’s mourning ceremony in the Prince Chen’s Mansion.” Shao Wanru sighed and pleaded.

“How can that be?” Old Madam was shocked and hurriedly stopped her when hearing the suggestion. How could they stop the memorial ceremony for the former heir of Duke Xing halfway and go on with it in his son-in-law’s mansion? The change would hold the Marquis Xing’s Mansion to public ridicule.

It would be a great humiliation to the Marquis Xing’s Mansion.

“Why can’t it be? In my opinion, Madam Jiang is the villain of the piece! She must have committed the crimes in the case in the charge of the Ministry of Justice. Even before Princess Chen got back to her original family, she delivered a knockout blow to her as if she were crazy. When Princess Chen returned to the Marquis Xing’s Mansion, she came up with a vicious scheme to deal with her. Likewise, yesterday, did she intend to destroy Princess Chen?”

Ruiping Great Elder Princess said unhurriedly.

As an outsider, she didn’t feel guilty and stressed at all.

Rui’an Great Elder Princess glanced at Ruiping Great Elder Princess, with a much amiable smile. No matter what would happen in the future, at least at this time, Ruiping Great Elder Princess was speaking for Shao Wanru.

“The Ministry of Justice can stop investigating this case. Judging by yesterday’s incident, Madam Jiang must be a criminal. Old Madam couldn’t be at Madam Jiang’s beck and call, could she?” another Madam asked.

She was on Shao Wanru’s side.

“How could they all support me?” Shao Wanru raised her bright and beautiful eyes to glance at everyone’s faces calmly. Finally, her eyes stopped on the Empress Dowager’s face, which was congested with anger. It was evident that she was well pissed off. Her heart skipped a beat when she suddenly realized what was happening.

They backed her, partly because of her, but what they cared about the most was the Empress Dowager’s attitude. Since the Empress Dowager was distinctly partial to Princess Chen, no one dared to go against her will.

“Your Majesty, I’m not saying it to protect Madam Jiang, but she is not quite right in the head.” Old Madam kowtowed heavily three times and said with tears in her eyes, “I didn’t notice it before. After what had happened yesterday, Madam Jiang has been behaving inappropriately. I’ve asked the old maid who served her. She said that Madam Jiang had been in such an erratic state recently. Sometimes she looked sober, but sometimes she became confused. She would even strike a blow!”

“Behaving inappropriately?” Shao Wanru’s long eyelashes fluttered twice and covered the trace of sarcasm in her eyes. This was a good reason.

Was Madam Jiang out of mind?

“You mean, the Madam of Marquis Xing, she is crazy, right?” Infanta Yuan’an asked with astonishment, gazing surprisingly at Old Madam with round eyes. “But she looked fine when she left yesterday.”

“Didn’t you notice her weird act yesterday? Old Madam asked.

“Well...” Infanta Yuan’an was slightly taken aback. For a moment, she didn’t know whether she should believe it or not. During a period, Madam Jiang seemed insane and uttered some incoherent remarks. She asked Qiu Yu intensely if he had seen Shao Wanru’s maid bully her.

Her question sounded odd. Then Qiu Yu mentioned the matter she had talked about, saying he didn’t see it.



"Yesterday, Madam Jiang's behavior was abnormal. We had the doctor check on her. He said she suffered from hysteria," Old Madam said.

The so-called hysteria was a psychological disorder when people lost their minds.

Shao Wanru reached out to hold Rui'an Great Elder Princess's hand and gently pinched it under the cover of her sleeve, secretly hinting that she might as well agree with Old Madam.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess understood what she meant and said, "Empress Dowager, send someone to make a diagnosis. If it's not hysteria, Madam Jiang must go to make things clear in the Ministry of Justice. She will never again be allowed to meet Princess Chen, whatever excuses she gives. Whether she intended to hurt Princess Chen or force her to compromise, she should be punished by national law!"

### Medical Princess

#### **Chapter 1013: Introduce a New Topic**

"Empress Dowager..." Old Madam glared at Rui'an Great Elder Princess, her eyes seething with anger.

"That's good!" an old lady sitting on the side said.

"It makes sense. Your Majesty, let's settle this matter in that way. As for what happened yesterday, let the Ministry of Justice check it out. The Ministry of Justice shouldn't let its officials hide in the mansion of an aristocratic family to investigate! This time, even the Marquis Xing's Mansion didn't know an official was hiding in their mansion! It might not be a big deal that the man offended any female family member. But if he were implicated in other things, it could be the start of something big!"

Ruiping Great Elder Princess nodded. The other Madams also thought her analysis made sense. This kind of thing was very likely to happen again. Next time, someone might hide in their mansion.

If it was for an important political matter, it was reasonable for the official to hide and solve the case. But how could they use such a theatrical means to handle a family affair? Every family has a skeleton in the closet. When the Ministry of Justice dealt with the cases in this way, each family's deep-hidden secrets might be exposed. Therefore, none of them would accept that. No, absolutely not.

"This kind of thing... I've never heard of it. The Ministry of Justice should rectify their working style!"

"If the Ministry of Justice has registered and made a record of any family dispute, they can investigate it aboveboard. There is no need to do such a despicable thing to hide in other people's dwellings like a thief in the night. In particular, the truth of this matter may be found elsewhere. Who knows what horrifying thing would happen if Princess Chen took in the medicine smell without any strong and effective countermeasures?"

"Yes, that's right!" ...

Several Madams were animatedly talking about it. Voices rose in a crowd and drowned Old Madam out. The Empress Dowager did not hear her at all.

Only Shao Wanru, who had been paying attention to Old Madam, heard a little. She silently squinted at her with a trace of sarcasm in her eyes.

Even when they nearly got to the bottom of this matter, Old Madam still wanted to protect Madam Jiang. It seemed that her love for her daughter-in-law had not diminished at all.

“Servants, send an imperial physician to check on Madam Jiang’s condition. If her condition is stable, she must make the trip to the Ministry of Justice!” The Empress Dowager made the final decision.

Old Madam staggered and almost fainted.

“The dignified Madam of Marquis Xing will have to take her trial before the Ministry of Justice! What a shame! Madam Jiang, if Madam Jiang is smart, she should do what I advised.”

“Help Old Madam up. It’s cold on the ground!” the Empress Dowager said lightly.

Two palace maids came over and helped Old Madam to her feet, taking her to the chair on one side, and then retreated aside.

“Your Majesty, let Marquis Xing handle the case about his mansion himself. You don’t have to worry too much. Your birthday is coming soon, so you should be much happier now!” Ruiping Great Elder Princess smiled and changed the unpleasant topic.

“I’ve already prepared the birthday gift for Your Majesty!” Infanta Yuan’an immediately joined in to please the Empress Dowager.

This pair of grandma and granddaughter cooperated very well, and after they exchanged a few words, the depressing atmosphere was swept away.

Shao Wanru silently glanced at the smiling Infanta Yuan’an. “Indeed, she is one of the few people whom the Empress Dowager dotes on.” Shao Wanru looked at her and thought to herself.

Infanta Yuan’an was bright and quick-witted before the Empress Dowager.

“Chen’er, I’m afraid it’ll be too late for him to attend my birthday when he returns to the capital!” The Empress Dowager sighed and thought of her grandson.

“Prince Chen is the most filial-hearted. Even if he can’t get back to the capital in time, he must have prepared the gift long ago!” Infanta Yuan’an joked.

Her words made the Empress Dowager laugh. “Indeed. He sent his gift to me early, but he was far away from home this time. I’m really worried about him. I think he should come back early!”

After that, the Empress Dowager frowned slightly again and looked worried.

Infanta Yuan’an rolled her eyes and an idea came across her mind. “Don’t worry, Your Majesty. Prince Chen only needs to send some people to the border and won’t go to the foreign state alone. Even if something happens, he will be safe.”

Chu Liuchen would deploy some troops along the border after sending the emissaries out of the country. He didn’t have to skate on thin ice.

“Although it is said so, I always feel worried about him. Chen’er is not in good health. He has to travel far this time, and I am always worried about him.” The Empress Dowager sighed. As long as she thought that her grandson had gone so far away and stayed in such a dangerous place, she would not be able to

eat or sleep well in the past few days. She was afraid that anything would go wrong if he was not careful enough.

"Imperial Grandmother, don't worry. If Prince Chen knows that you concern so much about him, he will worry about you," Shao Wanru said softly.

"Empress Dowager, Prince Chen has always had a great filial affection for you. For him, you're not even in the mood to celebrate your birthday. How can he rest assured?" Rui'an Great Elder Princess also tried to persuade her.

"I can only take care of myself in case he feels worried about me. I hope he will come back soon. The Xu State doesn't sound like a decent place!" The Empress Dowager had only heard a little bit about the Xu State because it was too far away. In her mind, it was an evil and strange country.

The Emperor had mentioned to the Empress Dowager that some past events were all related to the Xu State.

"Your Majesty, I heard that there were surviving evildoers of the former dynasty fleeing there. Is it true?" a Madam suddenly thought of this matter and asked.

"That's what they all said. They also said that though those chief conspirators were executed more than a decade ago, some of their subordinates escaped," another Madam said.

Shao Wanru didn't say anything, but her eyes flickered slightly as she focused her attention on their conversation.

She was most concerned about what happened more than a decade ago, for her father died at that time.

Although these Madams couldn't know anything secret, she might be able to get some unexpected inspiration from their words.

"That's what I've heard. At that time, some people seemed to have escaped to the Xu State, where there were people coming to pick them up. Otherwise, they couldn't have disappeared without a trace as soon as they entered its border," said Ruiping Great Elder Princess.

"Really? Then the trip to the Xu State..." A Madam covered her mouth with a handkerchief in surprise.

If that were the case, the trip to the Xu State wouldn't be easy!

"Prince Chen won't serve as an envoy abroad. He'll stay at the border. I don't think the Xu State dares to do anything against them when so many troops are along the border. I heard they want to be on friendly terms with us. They'd like to send a princess to our state by marriage!" Infanta Yuan'an said, smiling.

"Princess from the Xu State? That state is said to have only rugged hills and turbulent waters, so I suppose their princess must have nothing good," another madam said with disdain.

Shao Wanru's heart skipped a beat. "The princess of the Xu State?" Her hand holding the handkerchief tightened slightly. It sounded familiar to her, but she couldn't remember clearly. "Did this period of memory disappear in the end?"

“Why am I not surprised when I first heard this matter?”

“Is it true that the princess of the Xu State is going to marry into our country?”

“I’m not sure about that. I heard a princess in the Xu State admiring our thriving and prosperous state wanted to get here by marriage, but I don’t know the exact details. It was just hearsay; I heard someone talking about it when I went out one day.” Infanta Yuan’an hung her head coyly and apologized to the Empress Dowager. “Please forgive me, Your Majesty. I mistakenly shared a bit of gossip with you!”

“Nothing serious. It was just a small matter. You just mentioned it in passing.” The Empress Dowager gently comforted her and then asked with concern, “Were all the passers-by talking about that?”

“Not all of them said that. When I was outside, I overheard a conversation between two people beside me. Later on, I wanted to learn some details from them but couldn’t find them anymore!” Infanta Yuan’an was confused. “I wanted to ask them where they heard it from, but in the blink of an eye, they disappeared. I didn’t take this matter seriously and just said it casually.”

So, such a rumor was totally groundless. If anyone was going to investigate, Infanta Yuan’an didn’t need to take any responsibility. After all, she heard it from two strangers on the road. “Infanta Yuan’an is so good at interweaving truth with fiction. Indeed remarkable!”

Shao Wanru picked up the teacup beside her, took a sip, and then slowly put it down.

In a calm frame of mind, Shao Wanru looked perfectly relaxed and continued listening to the conversation between Infanta Yuan’an and the Empress Dowager. “But would Infanta Yuan’an ever reveal an unfounded rumor to the Empress Dowager?”

“Of course, she wouldn’t. It must be very tricky to deal with Infanta Yuan’an. See? She was even willing to try her best to help me over the past two days! To accomplish some ambition, she could endure deep hardships.

“She appeared muddleheaded when making efforts to gain an advantage over me that day. Except for that mishap, Infanta Yuan’an has been quite composed.

“If what she said is true, it will be a little troublesome for Chu Liuchen at the border.”

Biting her cherry lips, Shao Wanru fought down the throb of worry in her heart and went on listening to their conversation.

“So what if the Xu State wants to marry their princess? How can a princess from an uncivilized country marry one of our princes?” A Madam, deeply scornful of the so-called princess from the Xu State, curled her lips in disdain.

Three of the four princes were married or had already been engaged. Only Prince Xin was single. Nevertheless, he would not accept any savage princess as his wife. To those Madams, no matter how much the Xu State princess wanted to marry a prince here, her wish wouldn’t come true!

“Commandery Prince Qing hasn’t yet married, has he?” a Madam suddenly asked.

“No, but I heard that he is engaged to someone!” another Madam answered hesitantly.

Seeing that everyone was looking at her, the Empress Dowager remarked it lightly. "Yes, he is. His mother made the marriage engagement for him. The girl's family background is not worth mentioning."

The Empress Dowager was indifferent and careless about the girl, who was said to be from a humble family. Did it mean the Empress Dowager didn't like her?

Several Madams here were smart enough to perceive the Empress Dowager's attitude immediately. They also understood why she was not fond of her. The other princes had married ladies whom the Empress Dowager approved. She granted their marriages. Only this one was not known to others. From the look of the Empress Dowager, she had never seen her before. Usually, it should be the Emperor or the Empress Dowager to decide the marriages of the royal family descendants. This time, a consort, a locked up one, dared to appoint the girl to be Commandery Prince Qing's wife. How bold and shameless she was!

"Your Majesty, something bad happened. The Madam of Marquis Xing committed suicide by bumping into a pillar!" a palace maid hurried in and said while gasping for breath.

Old Madam, sitting on the chair, widened her eyes in horror and then slid down the chair silently before uttering any word...

### **Medical Princess**

#### **Chapter 1014: Her Fate: from a Noble Wife to a Humble Concubine**

"Is she saved or not?" Rui'an Great Elder Princess abruptly stood up and asked anxiously.

Whatever heinous crimes Madam Jiang had committed, she was Shao Wanru's elder. It would be bad if she bore the reputation of hounding an elder to death.

"Fortunately, nothing serious happened, and she was rescued. However, she is still in a coma. The imperial physicians are trying their best to treat her," answered the palace maid.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess breathed a sigh of relief and sat down.

Shao Wanru reached out to hold her hand, gently nipping her cold fingers to comfort her.

She had already guessed what Madam Jiang was going to do.

With Madam Jiang's high status, she would rather die than stand trial in court. It would humiliate herself and disgrace the entire Marquis Xing's Mansion.

Not to mention whether Madam Jiang was willing to undergo that kind of insult, Old Madam was apparently reluctant to accept the result. Old Madam had always been very sensitive about the reputation of the Marquis Xing's Mansion. How could she tolerate Madam Jiang ruining it?

When Shao Wanru recalled what had happened in the Marquis Xing's Mansion yesterday and the past events, she felt it easy to understand her extreme behavior. Even since Madam Jiang got out of the Yuhui Nunnery, she knew full well this matter couldn't be settled peacefully. Without Shao Wanru's forgiveness, she couldn't resolve her crisis. Therefore, Madam Jiang tried every means to make her go back to the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

To force Shao Wanru to let go of her, Madam Jiang was ready to stir up any trouble.

Madam Jiang would do anything for this purpose, for instance, making use of Qiu Yu, who came to the mansion to investigate the case, and possibly many other things. She must have thought of the ultimate way to save herself: to commit suicide.

Only by threatening Old Madam with the last resort could she help Madam Jiang regardless of everything. Therefore, they did the mourning ceremony for Shao Wanru's parents. If Old Madam hadn't backed her up, Madam Jiang could not have done all of this alone.

However, yesterday, things didn't go according to their plan. It was because Zhao Xiran unexpectedly intervened. Zhao Xiran must have added the medicine to that handkerchief and switched it with the one in Madam Jiang's hands.

At first, Madam Jiang looked normal, but after Zhao Xiran came, she gradually behaved strangely. Zhao Xiran's purpose was surely to convince others that Madam Jiang was out of her mind, so she planned to drug her. The others would know she was mad because of Madam Jiang's crazy ramblings and deeds. How could Shao Wanru and others go after a poor and insane woman? Zhao Xiran just intended to get Madam Jiang out of trouble for the time being.

But in Madam Jiang's eyes, Zhao Xiran schemed against her. When the imperial physician found out about the source of the medicinal smell, Madam Jiang slammed Zhao Xiran.

Before Old Madam entered the Palace today, she should have told Madam Jiang that if they insisted on investigating her for what she had done, there was only one way for her to go.

She had to offer up her life as penance for her sins.

However, with Madam Jiang's character, she would never admit her defeat and kill herself. It would be best if she survived after bumping into a pillar.

Compared with Rui'an Great Elder Princess, Shao Wanru knew Madam Jiang better, so she never thought for a second that Madam Jiang would die.

Old Madam had been helped to a side hall to rest. The Empress Dowager frowned. It was indeed knotty to deal with Madam Jiang, who could no longer go to court and might die at any second.

"What do you think, Princess Chen?" The Empress Dowager turned to Shao Wanru. Madam Jiang was Shao Wanru's elder, and for the Empress Dowager, Madam Jiang was a court official's wife. Neither Shao Wanru nor the Empress Dowager wanted her death to tarnish their reputation.

"I'm at your command, Your Majesty." Shao Wanru stood up, bowed sideways, and said. At this time, the Empress Dowager would give in, which didn't surprise Shao Wanru at all.

Madam Jiang abandoned her pride to make a hell of a fuss. Although it would not imperil her life, her suicide sounded urgent. This time, she no longer needed to take her trial in the court, but so what? She was responsible for the death of Zhao Xiran's baby. Her miserable life started at the moment when she jumped up to push Zhao Xiran violently.

The Marquis Xing's Mansion would go from bad to worse. This consequence was even better than what Shao Wanru had expected: she thought Madam Jiang would be punished for those crimes and driven away after Marquis Xing divorced her.

A slow and painful death would be a better punishment. In her previous life, they wore Shao Wanru out with endless dirty tricks, making her feel like she was being cut hundreds and thousands of times by a blunt knife. Though not lethal, each sinister attack from them would put Shao Wanru in greater misery and despair...

This time, neither angry nor annoyed, Shao Wanru behaved properly. Somehow, her calm and gentle appearance made people feel at ease.

The Empress Dowager reached out and pulled her over, heaving a sigh. "Good girl, I know that you have been wronged. Don't worry. Madam Jiang gets away this time, but I won't let her hurt you again in the name of righteousness!"

"Imperial Grandmother..." Shao Wanru gazed at Empress Dowager, like a child looking at mom with pure adoration, the rims of her eyes slightly red.

Shao Wanru looked quite young and sometimes even appeared a little childish. When she wanted to show a sedate and dignified bearing, she looked like a child pretending to be mature. The Empress Dowager, recalling how harsh the Marquis Xing's Mansion had been to her, felt sorrier for her. "This girl is indeed pitiful. No wonder my grandson takes great care of her. Everyone will feel tender and protective toward such a pitiful girl who can concede for the sake of the general good."

The Empress Dowager thought to herself. However, if Chu Liuchen learned the judgment in her heart, he would feel amused again. Pitiful? For the general good? None was the image of Shao Wanru in Chu Liuchen's eyes!

When Chu Liuchen met his beloved girl, he knew she was merciless and decisive. If she only had paid attention to the interests of the whole, she would not have knocked over the bridal sedan chair on the spot. Nevertheless, Chu Liuchen appreciated her pleasingly direct manner the most. Shao Wanru, knowing whom to love and whom to hate, was never willing to deceive herself. Anyway, why would she hypocritically play the wronged part to safeguard the so-called general interests?

"Madam Jiang is ill-behaved with evil motives and mentally unstable, so she is no longer qualified to be Marquis Xing's wife. From now on, she will be demoted to a concubine," the Empress Dowager declared coldly.

Usually, a wife wouldn't be degraded to a concubine. If such a disgraceful thing happened to a family, the whole family would be criticized and despised by others. Also, the charge of spoiling a concubine and killing a wife might damage a man's official career.

But this time, the Empress Dowager personally relegated Madam Jiang, Marquis Xing's wife, to a concubine, so no one dared to gossip about it.

The corners of Shao Wanru's mouth lifted silently. Whether in her previous or present life, Madam Jiang was determined to exterminate the first branch root and all to enjoy the title of nobility and no end of wealth and honor. The noble title and glory of the Marquis Xing's Mansion remained there, but all of this would have nothing to do with Madam Jiang.

No one knew how frenzied Madam Jiang would become upon learning what had happened when she woke up.

However, since she was already insane in the public's eyes, she might as well go on pretending to be mad in the inner court of the Marquis Xing's Mansion!

In the past, the Marquis Xing's Mansion shared the same fundamental interests with Madam Jiang. But now, as an inferior concubine, how could she dominate in the Marquis Xing's Mansion?

Though Madam Jiang spent most of her life scheming, she came to a tragic end, which was nobody's fault but her own. Moreover, the constant entanglements between her and Zhao Xiran had just begun. Zhao Xiran was not like Shao Wanru in her previous life. Of course, her interests and Madam Jiang's became the same for the time being, but Shao Jing didn't...

The Marquis Xing's Mansion would go through violent upheavals!

That was great. More and more things in Shao Wanru's memory would turn up, and everything would become more evident in disputes...

Shao Wanru knelt, gently placing her hands on Empress Dowager's knees, and pleaded, "Your Majesty, but my Second Uncle has done nothing wrong, and my Third Aunt is in poor health. If Madam Jiang is no longer in charge, no one will take care of the inner court for Second Uncle. This... This is not good. Your Majesty, please forgive Madam Jiang..."

"Madam Jiang has done so many vicious things to you. Why are you still kindly interceding for her? Although your Second Uncle didn't do anything wrong, he shouldn't have let his wife's bad behaviors go unchecked. Has he ever taught his wife any morals in private? Now that his former wife is demoted as a concubine, we should help and let him marry a principal wife as soon as possible!" Rui'an Great Elder Princess sighed with emotion and said, "You are overly kindhearted!"

"Marquis Xing should take another daughter of a noble family as his legal wife!" The Empress Dowager concluded.

"I've been degraded to a concubine?" Madam Jiang sat at the head of the bed. Her eyes flashed a hint of gloom and madness under the dim light.

Before she passed out, she was in the main courtyard where she used to live. But now, she woke up in a shabby room. Except for an old maid that she brought here from the Yuhui Nunnery, no one was around.

"That's true. When receiving the imperial edict came from the Palace, the master asked some servants to move you here. You will be Concubine Jiang from now on." The old maid sat on a round stool before her with an anxious expression. "If I had known you're so incapable, I wouldn't have chosen you in the first place. You told me it would be no big deal this time and there would be a good chance instead. So, Concubine Jiang, please enlighten me: what kind of opportunity is this?"

"I..." Madam Jiang's face was livid, but she couldn't say a word. After a long while, she gritted her teeth and finally ordered the old maid. "Ask First Young Master to see me!"

At present, only her son was the closest person to her in the mansion.

"First Young Master? Concubine Jiang, have you forgotten what you did last time? He is accompanying his wife. You pushed First Young Madam so hard that she lost her baby, which was also your son's baby.



Remember?" The old maid mocked and wondered. "She gave her son's wife a violent push, causing her to have a miscarriage. How could she shamelessly look for her son?"

"Is that a big deal? They can have another baby in the future. Zhao Xiran is a bad one too. How could she dare to plot against me? I slapped her. So what? She didn't stand still and fell. I didn't expect her to brazenly blame me for it," Madam Jiang said exasperatedly and slammed the cold and hard quilt.

This quilt couldn't be compared with the comfortable ones she had used before. It couldn't keep the heat well and felt stiff in her hands, and there were several holes in it. How could someone like her use such a shoddy quilt? Madam Jiang knew the servants in this manor began to treat her with neglect. No maid dared to slight her when she controlled the mansion, but now, they were bold enough to turn the knife in her wound.

"Madam, if that was what you thought, I have nothing to say to you. To tell you the truth, I heard that an old concubine used to be living here. Since her death, this place has been unoccupied for some time. I heard from people in this manor that she died a tragic and violent death, so no one lived here. They sent you to live in such an ominous place, and I think they aren't afraid of you suffering from unnatural death. Since there are people guarding outside the courtyard, you can't leave this place at will," the old maid said grumpily.

Originally, she planned to enjoy some good days with Madam Jiang. However, it never occurred to her that her life would be even worse than before. If she had known it earlier, she would have stayed in the Yuhui Nunnery. At least, she would have been free, and the Marquis Xing's Mansion would have sent her some money to live on.

"The old concubine who had died here? An untimely death?" Madam Jiang thought about it and immediately figured out who it was: an old concubine of the previous marquis. It was rumored that she hanged herself under the ceiling beam of the main room. When the servants came in, her dead body was still swaying in mid-air.

Thinking of this, Madam Jiang couldn't help looking up toward the beam in the middle. Under the ceiling beam, a yellowed ribbon was starkly there. It dangled in the flickering dim lights as the wind blew through the room, leaving many ghost-like shadows on the walls.

### [Medical Princess](#)

#### **Chapter 1015: Status Mattered**

Madam Jiang was so terrified that her face drastically changed color. She pulled up the quilt to cover her head and screamed, "Pull the ribbon down! Throw it away!"

"Concubine Jiang, don't squeak like that. I'm not tall enough to reach it, and I don't dare to climb up high at such an old age. Just let it be. Are you hungry? You can take some food on the table. But if you don't like it, there is nothing you can do but starve yourself. That's all the food sent from your manor. I'll take it all if you have no appetite."

In the Marquis Xing's Mansion, servants with a bit of dignity wouldn't accept the cheap food on the table, which looked extremely poor and simple. Obviously, no one gave a damn about the meals for the former Madam of Marquis Xing. Of course, she was no longer the Madam of Marquis Xing but merely Concubine Jiang in disgrace.

"A concubine out of favor?" Zhao Xiran sat at the head of the bed with the same haggard look as Madam Jiang's, though she looked more delicate and pitiful. When she heard this from the old maid beside her, she raised her head in surprise, her red-rimmed eyes landing on her husband sitting aside, and sobbed out in a soft voice. "Dear, how... how could this happen? She is our mother!"

"She hurt you both physically and mentally, but you are still... so considerate to her," Shao Hua'an said agitatedly. How could he not get angry? The baby in Zhao Xiran's belly came just at the right time. His father had told him that once the baby was born as a legitimate son, he would have more reasons to present in the memorial to the throne. With some manipulation behind the scenes, they were likely to get the title of the heir of a duke.

"She has done some awful things, but... but she is your mother after all. Even for your sake... I have to be filial to her." Zhao Xiran burst into tears. Her baby was gone forever. How could she not feel a stabbing pain in her heart? Large teardrops ran down her cheeks as she touched her belly with trembling hands.

There was a baby there, her unborn baby. She knew she was pregnant, but she didn't make the news public. It had never crossed her mind that Madam Jiang would suddenly do such a thing.

Seeing her crying in deep sorrow, Shao Hua'an felt a searing pain in his heart. The baby she lost was also his. He reached out to hold Zhao Xiran in his arms and patted her slender body gently, trying to comfort her. "The imperial physician said we are young and it's not as severe as you've imaged. Don't lose heart! Take good care of yourself and don't worry about other things. Before long, we will have another baby!"

"But, even if we get another baby, it's not the same. It's not him!" Zhao Xiran cried her heart out and said in a hoarse voice.

How she wished she could hack Madam Jiang to pieces! However, she couldn't. At least, she couldn't revenge against her now, not now.

"I know, I know," Shao Hua'an held her close to him and said softly.

After a long while, Zhao Xiran stopped crying and seemed to have made up her mind. She looked up and asked, "What about Mother?"

"What else can we do? She was punished by Empress Dowager's imperial decree!" When it came to Madam Jiang, Shao Hua'an was full of anger.

Madam Jiang had been very bright and intelligent in his mind. Never had she made any mistakes. Whether it was managing the family or serving his father, she was a positive role model for others to follow. But it seemed that he had misjudged her. Such a mother was a disgrace, let alone she had lost her status as the principal wife.

Except for his mother, he had never heard any other Madams would fall from a legal wife to a concubine, a degrading concubine.

And above all, if his biological mother became a concubine, how does he handle his situation in the mansion? Would he be regarded as the eldest son of a concubine? If so, how could he have the confidence to compete for the position of the heir of a duke in the Marquis Xing's Mansion?

For so many years, he strove with none as if he had never cared about the title of nobility. But in fact, how could he care nothing about it? It was just that he was not in a hurry. Anyway, the title would be his sooner or later. Why did he have to show a greedy look? It would make people undervalue him.

"Mother has been demoted to be a concubine, and an unfavored one. That brought you down to a concubine's son. Even if we give birth to our child in the future, his status will be much lower..." While speaking, Zhao Xiran shed tears again. She was outspoken in her remarks. Since only her husband was with her in the room, she dared to bring up the matter directly.

"Indeed. With her current status, she will implicate us," Shao Hua'an said nastily, "My sister is still in the Palace. When our mother fell from her position as a legal wife, it's hard to say what hardships she is or will endure!"

Though talking to his wife, Shao Hua'an kept some things to himself. He knew about Shao Yanru's secrets, and so did his father and grandmother. However, they kept her secrets from the other people.

Before everything was settled, no one could accurately predict the future. During this critical period, the more people talked, the more mistakes they would make, which would be more likely to cause a fatal disaster for their families. Anyway, it was best to be more cautious and meticulous than ever.

It would be easier for him to voice his thoughts in the name of Shao Yanru, his younger sister.

"Then... then what should we do? I heard the Empress Dowager wanted our father to marry another noble lady. If he marries someone from an aristocratic family and gives birth to a son, what should we do then, dear?" Zhao Xiran shivered a few times and thought of an even worse future.

The youngest son had a mother from a high-status family. Plus it was generally known that the youngest son of a family was usually the most favored. At that time, Shao Hua'an would have no way of winning the noble title.

"Father won't marry another person!" Shao Hua'an shook his head with certainty. "Even if he remarries and gives birth to a son, he will be younger than Hao'er. Then the situation will be more unfavorable to father."

"Although it'll be a disadvantage, it may happen!" Zhao Xiran thought otherwise.

They were certainly talking about the title of nobility. Shao Yuanhao was younger than Shao Hua'an, so it was appropriate for the latter to inherit the title. But things might change when the youngest legitimate son appeared.

"Sweetheart, I can forgive our mother, and I will also fulfill my filial duty to her. She was not in good condition, and after spending so many anxious days in the Yuhui Nunnery, she became a little abnormal. In my mind, she didn't mean to hit me." Zhao Xiran reached out her hand to sway Shao Hua'an's sleeve while pleading.

"You... are willing to pardon her for doing so?" Shao Hua'an asked a little hesitantly.

"For you, there's nothing I can't bear." Zhao Xiran lowered her head, tears falling again. Her pitiful look made Shao Hua'an's heart ache again.

He had indeed taken a fancy to Zhao Xiran; otherwise, he wouldn't have postponed it until now because this marriage wouldn't work. Seeing her aggrieved and sad look, he felt sorry for her in his heart. Thus, he reached out and gently patted her on the back. "Don't worry. I won't let you down. Everything will be yours when the time comes. If my mother is in poor health, just keep her in our mansion!"

He meant Madam Jiang would have no chance to put on airs as a mighty mother-in-law before her and to order Zhao Xiran to do what she wanted.

When Shao Hua'an got the title of nobility of the Marquis Xing's Mansion, Zhao Xiran would be the master of the inner courtyard, and even Madam Jiang could only stand by.

"I... I don't care about the status as long as you are fine!" Zhao Xiran said softly with tears in her eyes.

"But Empress Dowager's imperial edict..." Shao Hua'an was full of worries. The current situation was too tricky. Even if his father did not marry another lady in the near future, it would not be easy for his mother to become a wife.

"She can't become a legal wife, but she may be a secondary legal wife. As long as she isn't a concubine, you can still become a legitimate son." Zhao Xiran suggested.

What happened to Madam Jiang was not a big deal in their eyes. However, because of her misfortune, Shao Hua'an could no longer enjoy his previous high status as a legitimate son. This was the most annoying thing for them.

"My father doesn't dare to disobey Empress Dowager's order!" Shao Hua'an frowned and shook his head.

"If there is a great contribution, can it be done?" Zhao Xiran suddenly asked abruptly. Shao Hua'an nodded at first, then shook his head with a bitter smile and said, "It's not easy to have a great achievement to my mother's credit!"

They needed to do something great enough to get a big reward from the Empress Dowager, the Empress, or the Emperor. How challenging could the mission be? It was hard to imagine what a great thing should be done in order to get a bright future.

However, when thinking of Shao Yanru, Shao Hua'an hesitated and said, "Maybe we can wait a little longer."

If Shao Yanru gained power in a few more years, Madam Jiang could still get a fresh start and regain her status, of course, on the premise that Marquis Xing hadn't remarried yet.

Originally, Shao Hua'an didn't think his father would marry another woman, but now he felt less certain about that. If his father intended to marry again, it would be bad.

Could there be a crown prince in a few years? Could his sister win the crown prince's favor to help him? Everything was uncertain.

It was quiet in the room. The couple hugged each other, but they had different thoughts.

"First Young Master, First Young Madam, the Prince Chen's Mansion has sent some people here!" A young servant girl reported outside the room.

Her voice woke up the two people hugging each other inside. Shao Hua'an stood up, lifted his robe, and sat down on the wide chair aside.

Zhao Xiran leaned back a little and wiped away the tears from the corners of her eyes with a handkerchief. After she calmed down, she nodded at Shao Hua'an.

"Come in!" Shao Hua'an said lightly.

The door curtain was lifted, and Nanny Yu came in with a few servant girls. Zhao Xiran's trusted servant girls also came in and stood by the bed. Just now, when the couple was talking, they drove them out.

"Greetings, First Young Master! Greetings, First Young Madam!" Nanny Yu stepped forward to greet the two of them.

Shao Hua'an waved his hand, stood up, and said to Zhao Xiran, "I have something to talk to my father, so I'm leaving now!"

"Take care, dear!" Zhao Xiran nodded. The following things must be all internal affairs, so Shao Hua'an didn't have to stay.

After Shao Hua'an left, Nanny Yu asked several servant girls behind her to step forward with trays. On each tray, there are some medicinal herbs.

"First Young Madam, my master isn't in good health, and it's inconvenient for her to come over. So, she specially told me to send you some tonics for you to nourish your body," Nanny Yu said.

"Please say thanks to your master for me. How is she? I should have visited her but considering my current situation..." Zhao Xiran said in a choked voice, and her eyes turned bloodshot again.

Nanny Yu hurriedly said, "My master knows you have suffered recently. You'd better take good care of yourself and don't have to worry about anything else."

"Please send my gratitude to Her Highness!" Zhao Xiran was moved and said. Suddenly, with a flick of the eyes, she caught something on the tray carried by the last servant girl and was petrified on the spot...

### Medical Princess

#### **Chapter 1016: An Issue About an Honorary Title**

No medicinal material was on the tray carried by the last maid. There were instead some gorgeous and gaily-colored clothes. However, after taking a close look, Zhao Xiran noticed these presents weren't made of top-quality brocade, which wasn't in line with Shao Wanru's current high status as Princess Chen. To be honest, only those servant girls in the Marquis Xing's Mansion would use this kind of brocade, though not so bright in color.

"Well..." Zhao Xiran was astonished and asked in wonder. "Her Highness?"

"My Lady said since Madam Jiang was degraded to Concubine Jiang, there must be some tough days for her in the Marquis Xing's Mansion. These are clothes she received when returning to your mansion. Now she'd like to give them back to Concubine Jiang. They can help solve her problems just in time," Nanny Yu said, smiling.

The last maid came forward and presented the tray to Zhao Xiran.

These cheap clothes were from the Marquis Xing's Mansion, which proved Madam Jiang must have chosen not very good satin for Shao Wanru back then. At this time, Shao Wanru sent them back. Her deed appeared a little mean, but when Zhao Xiran gave it a second thought, she realized how harshly Madam Jiang treated Shao Wanru in the past.

She sent those inferior pieces of cloth mainly for those principal maids to Princess Chen, who was unmarried then. Even though Madam Jiang bullied her in this way, Princess Chen could do nothing to fight against her. After all, though these clothes were not of superlative quality, they looked decent in bright colors, which were different from the colors of those garments for their servant girls at that time.

"Er..." Zhao Xiran felt embarrassed. No matter how disgusting Concubine Jiang's tricks were, she was still her mother-in-law.

"First Young Master, Her Highness asked me to pass on a few words," Nanny Yu added.

"What does she want me to know?" Zhao Xiran asked.

Nanny Yu gave two quiet coughs, clearing her throat. Then, she began reporting what her master said, "First Young Madam, I believe you know what Concubine Jiang used to be like without me telling you. I'm kind and generous enough to deliver her a few sets of old clothes. As for others, they may even want to take her life away. I believe many people will celebrate it if she dies at this critical moment!"

After Nanny Yu finished speaking, she hurriedly bowed and apologized, "First Young Madam, I'm sincerely sorry for not acting on etiquette and saying all of this directly!"

Zhao Xiran's face changed significantly as she suddenly stood up straight. There was panic in her eyes. Ignoring Nanny Yu and many outsiders standing nearby, she hurriedly turned around, winking at a trusted old maid beside her. "Send these clothes from Princess Chen to Concubine Jiang and see what else she needs. If she wants anything, go ahead and tell me. Tell her to take good care of herself."

The sudden thought struck her that if anyone murdered Concubine Jiang, she would be blamed for it.

Concubine Jiang suffered a humiliating failure partly because of Shao Wanru and partly because Zhao Xiran had lost her baby after being slapped by her. If Concubine Jiang died at this time, she and Shao Wanru would have to take the blame. People would think it was the two of them that hounded Concubine Jiang to death.

Shao Wanru had become Princess Chen, who enjoyed a noble status. It was also rumored that Concubine Jiang, an elder unrelated to Princess Chen by blood, had treated her badly. Besides, the Prince Chen's Mansion, Great Elder Princess, and even the Empress Dowager would back her up. Even if her reputation might be slightly tarnished, so what?

Zhao Xiran was different. She married into the Marquis Xing's Mansion without any rank or title. Furthermore, as Concubine Jiang's daughter-in-law, she could not bear the felony charge of forcing her mother-in-law to die.

In particular, if Concubine Jiang passed away at this time, Shao Hua'an might remain a humble concubine's son forever.

Zhao Xiran had considered this before, but she thought nothing severe would happen to Concubine Jiang. The clothes sent by Shao Wanru enlightened her. She understood that with Concubine Jiang's evil and unpleasant character, she must have offended many others. Besides Shao Wanru, the third branch also bore Concubine Jiang a grudge. Though Third Madam seemed sick and weak, she was not so easy to deal with.

Or even... Marquis Xing might do it too!

When such a horrifying thought popped into her mind, Zhao Xiran was so frightened that her back suddenly broke out in a cold sweat. In a great hurry, she dispatched her reliable old maid to Concubine Jiang's place. The maid was undoubtedly to make some arrangements to guarantee her safety. At this time, Concubine Jiang could not die. Zhao Xiran, who didn't allow that to happen, must keep her alive!

When the trusted old maid understood what she meant and left, Zhao Xiran finally breathed a sigh of relief. She forced a smile and said, "Many thanks for Princess Chen's gift. Please show my gratitude to Her Highness when you're back."

Nanny Yu smiled and said, "First Young Madam, please don't mind that My Lady intervened!"

"How could it be? If it weren't for Her Highness..." Zhao Xiran paused for a moment. Then she fully understood Shao Wanru's conduct: her main purpose wasn't to insult Concubine Jiang with some old clothes; instead, she did it to remind Zhao Xiran to keep an eye on Concubine Jiang. In this regard, they sort of shared the same interests.

During this special period, Concubine Jiang must not die.

With a distinguished identity, Princess Chen was not afraid of being slandered by others, but she preferred not to be accused of murder.

Both of them were clever enough to take a hint, so they did not need to bring the matter out in its entirety.

"I am very grateful to Her Highness for her kindness... When I recover, I will go and thank her in person!" Zhao Xiran said.

"First Young Madam, it was the least we could do. By the way, Princess Chen wanted to ask you about the case in the charge of the Ministry of Justice. How do you intend to handle it?" Having accomplished the first mission, Nanny Yu smiled slightly and turned to the second question that Shao Wanru told her to ask.

"The case sent to the Ministry of Justice?" Zhao Xiran opened her mouth and didn't know where to start for a while. She and Shao Hua'an had just talked about this. In fact, it was best to minimize the bad effect of this matter and let it go in the end. They hoped Princess Chen wouldn't pursue it. But so far it looked like Princess Chen wouldn't allow Concubine Jiang to get away with her past wrongdoings.

"This... I can't make the decision. Please tell Her Highness she might have to discuss it with Old Madam." Zhao Xiran strove to get rid of this matter because she didn't want to take it over.

"I'm afraid that it won't be good for you if we go and talk to Old Madam!" Nanny Yu said calmly.

"What do you mean?" Zhao Xiran's face darkened as she asked.

“Old Madam will explode with rage again when such an awful thing just happened. In the Palace, she became so agitated that she fainted. Although she has returned to the manor now, I’m afraid she is unwilling to mention it again and won’t take care of this matter. She will inevitably dump this problem on you. At that time, if you can’t solve it well, Old Madam will vent her anger on you anyway.”

Zhao Xiran could take the initiative to do it, or Old Madam would ask her to handle this matter. Either way, she couldn’t avoid it.

If Zhao Xiran didn’t promise to look into the matter now, Old Madam would take it out on her when meeting her.

Third Madam had never been willing to meddle in the second branch’s affairs. Besides, she didn’t get along well with Concubine Jiang. Therefore, Old Madam couldn’t let her solve this problem.

Therefore, even if Zhao Xiran chose not to do it, this tricky issue would eventually fall on her. At that time, both sides would criticize her.

Zhao Xiran had no choice but to say reluctantly, “Alright. I’ll get to the bottom of it and give Her Highness a reply as soon as possible.”

She had to undertake the task. As Shao Wanru had said, she couldn’t get away with it anyway, so she might as well agree to it readily now. In this way, there might be room for negotiation. Zhao Xiran wouldn’t let Concubine Jiang implicate the Marquis Xing’s Mansion, or at least her husband and her.

“I’m sorry to have troubled you, First Young Madam. If you have any plans, please send someone to us as soon as possible. Otherwise, the Ministry of Justice might directly pronounce a judgment. Concubine Jiang’s honorary title is deprived, isn’t it?” Nanny Yu thanked her with a smile and then asked one more question.

Zhao Xiran’s eyes lit up.

“Well, I’m a bit hazy about that. I’ll decide after we discuss it with the marquis,” Zhao Xiran said, ignoring Nanny Yu’s last question.

“Yes. I’ll go back and report it to My Lady first!” Nanny Yu said casually without pursuing the matter.

“Okay, someone, send Nanny Yu off for me!” Zhao Xiran called out.

“First Young Madam, that’s very kind of you. I’ll take my leave first!” Nanny Yu bowed and left with a few of Princess Chen’s maids. A principal maid of Zhao Xiran showed them out.

Zhao Xiran’s eyes flickered a few times under the light in the room. “Honorary title?” In such a hurry, they must have no time to deprive Madam Jiang of her honorary title. In other words, she was a titled concubine. Her title could make some profits!

“Maids, ask First Young Master to come over!” After pulling herself together, Zhao Xiran ordered. She couldn’t decide for herself, so she needed Shao Hua’an to make the decision...

When Nanny Yu got back to the Prince Chen’s Mansion, she went to report to Shao Wanru. At this time, she was making a collage under the lamp.



Pieces of maple leaves were arranged and stuck to a backing, making this portrait of a noble lady in autumn woods.

Those maple leaves of different shades not only turned into maple leaves under the setting sun in the painting but also decorated the hems and the belt of the woman's dress fluttering in the air. Shao Wanru applied some simple and light lines only to a few crucial parts. As for the blank space, she displayed great originality by adorning it with maple leaves trimmed into different shapes.

Of course, she had to complete another picture before accomplishing the collage of maple leaves. Only by comparing the two pictures could she paste those maple leaves into the right place. At present, there was still a lot of work for her to do.

She prepared all the raw materials in advance. Since she had practiced before, Shao Wanru was skillful at pasting this picture. With great care and patience, she made this birthday present for the Empress Dowager in an orderly way.

After hearing Nanny Yu's report, Shao Wanru retreated two steps to see her unfinished painting. Then she put down the maple leaves in her hand that still needed to be cut to wash her hands in the clean water. After that, she wiped her hands on a white towel and asked softly, "How was First Young Madam when you left?"

"She must have understood what I meant, but she didn't answer my question. My Lady, but I don't understand it: what difference does it make if Concubine Jiang has the title?" Though Nanny Yu had done everything that Shao Wanru had instructed, she didn't know why they had to do that.

A faint smile crept across Shao Wanru's smile as she sat on a chair and took a teacup from Qu Le. Unhurriedly, she wiped away the froth with the lid and put the cup down. "Since she is still a mandated woman, she doesn't have to take her trial at the court!"

"Even so, she can't reverse the verdict, right?" Nanny Yu became even more confused. She had been living in Jiangzhou for a long time, so she was unfamiliar with the matters related to titled Madams from aristocratic families. Back then, she only met a few titled noble ladies, and no one would tell her the reasons in detail, so she felt completely in the dark on this question!

"A titled lady enjoys some special privileges, and Madam Jiang can make an issue of it! Besides, there is a key factor in the matter of Madam Jiang, but no one has paid attention to it. It's only because some people think they have the same interests, but in truth, the interests of people in the Marquis Xing's Mansion are not completely the same!" Shao Wanru said meaningfully, and her eyes darkened a little.

Benefits could start incessant troubles inside the Marquis Xing's Mansion...

### [Medical Princess](#)

#### **Chapter 1017: A Couple's Plan Made on the Bed**

Shao Wanru had a hunch: more dark secrets in Marquis Xing's Mansion would be exposed this time. As for Wang Shengxue in the Ministry of Justice, she didn't care whether he was dead or alive.

A person like Wang Shengxue should have died long before!

In her previous life, Shao Wanru had even sympathized with him. Even though her reputation had been ruined because of him, she didn't blame him for that. Now that she thought about it, it was simply ridiculous. Such a scheming and ambitious person had done many dirty jobs for Madam Jiang. Again and again, he dragged her back into a genuinely tragic fate. How could he be innocent?

He acted as a deadly weapon for the Marquis Xing's Mansion, which would soon be abandoned...

"So what if she has an honorary title?" A similar question sounded in the Marquis Xing's Mansion. There was no one else in the room except for the young couple talking under the candlelight.

However, their private conversations were not sweet at all. One reclined on the bed, and the other sat on the chair, both frowning slightly.

Zhao Xiran exhaled deeply and said, "Just now, Princess Chen sent some items here and also delivered some mean words to me. I knew our mother didn't get along well with her, so I didn't take it seriously. But later on, I thought that given her unpleasant character, Concubine Jiang must have offended many people. Now that she lost power and influence, I'm afraid something bad might happen to her. So I hurriedly sent my trusted old maid there to protect her."

Zhao Xiran told him the cause and effect. The meaning behind it made Shao Hua'an frown more deeply. Though she seemed to say Princess Chen was harsh towards them, her main point here was not about Shao Wanru. Suddenly, Shao Hua'an remembered something and the veins between his eyebrows twitched violently.

"I suppose no one in our mansion would hurt her, but I'm still worried..." Zhao Xiran said silkily, trying to sound out his intention.

Shao Hua'an interrupted her, "You did the right thing. Concubine Jiang had offended many others, so it's better to guarantee her safety first. One old maid is not enough, and we should send a few more to her place. Although she is now a concubine, she is my biological mother, after all, and has been sick recently. Ask some people to take good care of her, and don't let these servants insult her."

Zhao Xiran looked up at her husband in great surprise. He had been indifferent to his mother's suffering and was even annoyed with her. However, this time, he acted completely different from before.

Zhao Xiran pinched her handkerchief and ventured, "In our mansion, only Third Aunt is hostile to her so that she might dock her living allowances. But I don't think Third Aunt will do something more serious to her!"

Shao Hua'an bowed his head in silence. After a long while, he got to his feet and walked to the window, glancing discreetly around. Then he reached out to put down the curtains. Finally, he turned back to the bed and sat down on the bed beside Zhao Xiran, reaching out to take Zhao Xiran into his arms. "My father has a mistress outside!"

"Ah..." Zhao Xiran was slightly taken aback, for she didn't know about this. Shao Jing usually looked very kind and didn't look like a person who would do such an immoral thing. "You... you must have made a mistake, right?"

"It can't be wrong. Concubine Jiang told me that... he had kept a woman outside our mansion. If my father wants to get rid of her at this time, Concubine Jiang will indeed be in danger."

Shao Hua'an said with some embarrassment and annoyance on his face.

It must be tough for a son to handle such a touchy situation. Everything happened in a short time. He never considered it this way, but Zhao Xiran's words reminded him.

For the time being, considering the conflicts of their interests, his father might not be on the same side as him.

Previously, with their shared interests, he was sure that Shao Jing would not marry another noble lady. But now, he was uncertain about that.

"Since she is a mistress, her status should not be high. Father won't marry her, will he?" Zhao Xiran asked.

"Who knows? Maybe he will take her in. According to my mother, they had been together for a long time," Shao Hua'an said, feeling unaccountably agitated. He shouldn't have worried about this kind of thing, but at such a critical moment, he had to take tremendous energy to settle it.

The longer he considered it, the angrier he was with Madam Jiang. How could she end up in a helpless situation like this? Even the Empress Dowager was disturbed.

"No, he won't. Don't worry about it." Zhao Xiran, though in great trepidation, tried to stay calm. "Have you forgotten what I just said? Concubine Jiang still has a title. Maybe the Empress Dowager forgot to deprive her of the honor, or the Empress didn't remember to do it."

Generally speaking, the Empress was the one in charge of noble madams' honorary titles, but the Empress Dowager had the right to interfere if she wanted to do it.

Somehow, due to the negligence of either the Empress Dowager or the Empress, Madam Jiang became a fish out of the net.

"Concubine Jiang is a mandated concubine. In this respect, if our father wants to marry someone else, the woman must have a high status. Otherwise, how could she suppress a concubine with a title?" Zhao Xiran analyzed.

"But now, it's just that people in the Palace have forgotten this matter. At any time, another imperial edict may come from the Palace to abolish the title!" Shao Hua'an was terribly upset.

"It won't happen!" Zhao Xiran shook her head with certainty.

"Why?" Shao Hua'an didn't understand.

Zhao Xiran thought for a moment and explained, "There is a principle: a person shall never be punished twice for the same offense! Even noble people in the Palace have to play by the rules!"

Madam Jiang had been degraded from a legal wife to a concubine for her wrongdoings. According to this principle, no one was allowed to punish her once again for the same thing. Therefore, it was not right to deprive her of the title at this time.

Back then, the Empress Dowager could issue an imperial edict to remove her noble title and pull her down from the position of legal wife. But since Madam Jiang had already born the consequence, it would be against the rules if anyone tried to punish her again.

It wasn't that Shao Hua'an didn't understand the Ministry of Rites. He was just too concerned about the matter to remember it. When he heard Zhao Xiran's explanation, his eyes immediately lit up and he said, repeatedly nodding, "That's right. Concubine Jiang's honorary title is still there. It won't be easy for any other woman to marry into the Marquis Xing's Mansion."

"Apart from this matter, you have to take care of her case in the Ministry of Justice. Since Concubine Jiang is a mandated lady, she can choose not to go to court. Dear, send someone to the Ministry of Justice to explain this matter. Concubine Jiang hasn't yet fully recovered and is not quite right in the head. From time to time, she will faint, so she is unfit to stand trial. Besides, with her honorary title, it's not suitable for her to go there!"

Zhao Xiran reminded him.

Within the manor, they should obey domestic disciplines, so there was a big difference between a legal wife and a concubine. However, in the world outside the mansion, everyone's conduct should conform to the state's etiquette system. The treatment a titled woman received was way better than that of a commoner.

Hearing this, Shao Hua'an nodded vigorously in approval, feeling what she said made sense. But on sober reflection, he had new doubts. "Anyway, we have to deal with the case in the Ministry of Justice, don't we? That debauchee, Wang Shengxue, is still in jail. Also, Qiu Yu made such a scene for this case."

Thinking of this, he felt terribly perturbed, too spiritless to do other things. Then he got on his feet and went around in two circles with a headache. In his heart, he secretly blamed his mother for being useless. "How could she choose such a playboy like Wang Shengxue? He is unable to help accomplish anything but liable to spoil everything!"

"Sweetheart, who do you think Wang Shengxue framed Childe Yan for?" Zhao Xiran asked, leaning against the head of a bed. She looked much more peaceful than her husband.

Since she had played a part in managing the Marquis Xing's Mansion, she knew Childe Yan, who stayed in their outer court.

"Not Concubine Jiang again!" Shao Hua'an said snappishly in a bad mood.

"Well, no matter whom Wang Shengxue worked for this time, it couldn't be Concubine Jiang. She lived in the Yuhui Nunnery during this period so that Wang Shengxue wouldn't be at her beck and call. Besides, Childe Yan, the victim of this case, had nothing to do with her." Zhao Xiran shook her head. "Who else in our mansion can order Wang Shengxue about..."

At the end of her words, Zhao Xiran ceased talking abruptly and looked at Shao Hua'an in a frenzy of fright. Meanwhile, Shao Hua'an also gazed at her in horror. The two of them immediately got the same answer in each other's eyes.

Zhao Xiran gasped, and her face turned gloomy. She couldn't be the wife of a concubine's son, and the child she gave birth to couldn't belong to a branch under a concubine.

“Father...” With a gasp of pure horror, Shao Hua’an turned pale with fright.

The smart couple quickly came up with the only answer.

“Father... why, why would he do that?” Shao Hua’an muttered in a low voice. In his eyes, Yan Xi was a talent with a gentle nature. When he lived in the mansion, Shao Hua’an would occasionally go to see him. Because he thought Yan Xi would pass the imperial exam, he felt like making friends with him. However, for fear of influencing his performance in the exam, he didn’t visit him frequently.

“Don’t worry about why father did this. At present, Wang Shengxue is the key to solving all the doubts. Whether it was our father or mother who directed him behind the scenes, if this person...” Zhao Xiran’s voice sank to a whisper, and she even paused on purpose. Although she didn’t say all of this clearly, she made it very clear.

“Wang Shengxue should die!” Shao Hua’an’s eyes were shining with vicious intentions.

“As for the matter of the Ministry of Justice, Concubine Jiang can refuse to go in the name of her honorable title. Wang Shengxue has been locked up in prison. If something happens to him, Concubine Jiang can be clear from suspicion. As for the pair of undesirable sisters, we can bribe them!” Zhao Xiran suggested.

Shao Hua’an understood everything now. Delightedly, he sat back on the bed and held Zhao Xiran in his arms. While patting her gently, he praised her to her face. “Xiran, you are my lucky star. This way, we solve all our problems in one fell swoop!”

“When I’m slightly better, I’ll ask Old Madam to take me to call on the Empress Dowager in the Palace. I’ll tell her I was careless yesterday, and the miscarriage was not my mother-in-law’s fault!” Zhao Xiran gritted her teeth with determination and added her misfortune as bargaining chips.

Madam Jiang was demoted to a concubine, which slaked her hatred. However, a little neglect may breed great mischief. She would never abandon herself to emotions; When Madam Jiang was degraded to Concubine Jiang, Shao Hua’an became a concubine’s son.

Moreover, her father-in-law seemed to be a canting hypocrite. She could not give him any opportunity to stir trouble.

Even if Madam Jiang had to die, she should die as the legal wife.

“Xiran, I’m the most fortunate to marry you!” Shao Hua’an understood what Zhao Xiran meant. She was quite accommodating and cared for their overall interests. Without waiting for him to say anything, she took all the responsibility on herself. How could he not be touched? He hugged Zhao Xiran tightly, and a thoughtful look flashed in his eyes.

“That would free my mother from almost all guilts.”

“The Empress Dowager punished my mother for two reasons: plotting against Princess Chen and causing Zhao Xiran’s miscarriage. If these two things are proved to be false accusations, plus her honorary title, it’s possible for her to return to her high position as the legal wife.

“Even if she couldn’t return to her original status, she could still be the secondary legal wife.”

Shao Hua'an catered to Zhao Xiran's wishes and addressed Madam Jiang as Concubine Jiang, which satisfied Zhao Xiran. Finally, she relented on her initiative. This matter could be considered settled. As for how to deal with Wang Shengxue in the Ministry of Justice, there were many ways...

### Medical Princess

#### **Chapter 1018: Wang Shengxue's Death**

"Is Wang Shengxue dead?" Shao Wanru treated the news with indifference. Leisurely, she put down the maple leaf in her hand and looked at the semi-finished collage.

This was what she had expected. As early as she sent these old clothes to the Marquis Xing's Mansion to remind Zhao Xiran, she had already anticipated that.

It was a string of interlocking traps. What had happened was merely the thin end of the wedge.

Of course, on the surface, she returned the old clothes to humiliate Madam Jiang. If Zhao Xiran were not scheming enough, she wouldn't have extended so much meaning of this act and taken so many things into consideration.

Though the current situation seemed to have little to do with Shao Hua'an, things wouldn't have gone so smoothly without him.

In her two lives, Wang Shengxue had been working for Madam Jiang, the Madam of Marquis Xing, and Shao Jing, Marquis Xing. As their sharp knife and qualified hired thug, he met his doom because of Shao Wanru.

She felt a tiny spark of excitement, but that was all. Everything was within her grasp, so Wang Shengxue's fate was predetermined.

"How did he die?"

"It's said that he was poisoned to death. A prison guard, bribed with silver, brought him a meal from a mansion. Unexpectedly, Wang Shengxue died soon after eating it. And the person who gave the meal to the guard had disappeared without a trace when they went to look for him!" Qing'er reported.

Finding a person with no background in the capital must be challenging. Even worse, this person might have already left the capital and would never come back. Of course, this person might be a corpse now. So what if he was found?

The clue could not be followed up!

It never occurred to Wang Shengxue for a moment that people in the Marquis Xing's Mansion would murder him.

"What do the people outside say?" Shao Wanru asked lightly. She narrowed her watery eyes and looked thoughtful.

"People outside their mansion implied Marquis Xing was behind this murder. The lowdown trick played on Childe Yan was apparently not designed for common conflicts within a family. In the past, Wang Shengxue and Childe Yan bore each other no grudges, so Childe Yan must have offended someone else,

who was most likely to be Marquis Xing. But now this case was totally devoid of evidence because the conspirator passed away!" Qing'er reported in detail.

She made a special trip outside today to collect relevant information.

"My Lady, if you want to find out the truth, I'll take some people to check it out!"

Shao Wanru waved her hand and stopped her, "No need. After this incident, the Ministry of Justice will dispatch a lot of people to investigate it. A prisoner was killed in their jail, which was a great humiliation for the Ministry of Justice. So, don't do anything else at this time. Just take your time and gather some rumors outside!"

Any unusual move at this time would inevitably arouse many people's suspicion. Even the Emperor would be alarmed and secretly send people to survey this matter. Thus, anyone eager to take an action now was most likely to be a criminal.

At such a tricky time, they mustn't make any rash acts.

In fact, the Ministry of Justice just used the jail there temporarily. Because Wang Shengxue had not been put on public trial, they detained him there for further questioning. He was not declared guilty, plus no one paid close attention to him, so the Ministry of Justice neglected him. As a result, someone took advantage of the opportunity and silenced Wang Shengxue forever.

With an honorary title, Madam Jiang refused to take her trial at the court, which delayed the investigation. When Wang Shengxue remained in jail in the interim, they arranged everything and took his life.

The current situation of Madam Jiang was enough to make people suspect her. After all, the murder happened at the perfect time.

"Yes, I understood!" Qing'er nodded.

"In the following few days, except for my grandma and Hao'er, no matter who comes, don't lead them to me. You can tell them I'm recuperating, and it's not convenient for me to see them!" Shao Wanru ordered.

"My Lady, what if someone from the Palace comes?" Yujie reminded her worriedly. They could turn other guests away at the front gate. Anyway, Princess Chen didn't see guests often.

"No one from the Palace will come. There have been imperial physicians going in and out of our mansion these days, which can prove that I'm in poor health. Even the Empress Dowager will not send her people here after making everything clear. At the most, her maids may bring me some nourishing medicinal materials!" Shao Wanru said.

Besides the Empress Dowager, people in the Palace, top-to-bottom, who learned that she was ill, sent her many quality medicinal materials and tonics, for example, the Empress Dowager, the Empress, and even Zhaoyi Di, who had only met her once.

"Then you can just accept the medicinal gifts from the Palace," Shao Wanru added.

All of this would demonstrate to others that Princess Chen could hardly look after herself. She did nothing else except that she returned the old clothes to Madam Jiang in a fit of anger that day.

It was easy to survey the matter that she sent her maid to insult Madam Jiang, but she had a legitimate reason for that and did not go too far. Besides, as a young woman, it was reasonable for her to impulsively vent her anger in such an unkind way. For the following days, she was too weak to carry out other plots.

"Yes, we understood!" Qing'er and Yujie looked at each other, smiling knowingly. Then they bowed to Shao Wanru respectfully.

"My Lady, I have to report these things to Prince Chen," Qing'er looked up and said seriously. Before Prince Chen left, he ordered her to report the news to him in time if anything happened.

"Go ahead and write it down!" Shao Wanru nodded with a smile, "I happen to have a letter for him, and you can take it with you!"

"Yes, I see!" Qing'er said, her face beaming with happiness. "My Lady misses my master. It's a good thing. I'm sure my master will be delighted to learn that."

These servants who had served Chu Liuchen knew how cold-blooded Prince Chen was. Only Princess Chen could melt an iceberg like Prince Chen. With Princess Chen's company, instead of the superficial warm smile, he would be radiant with happy warmth from the inside out.

"Is Wang Shengxue dead?" Shao Jing put down the book in his hand with a thump and asked in astonishment.

"Yes, the Ministry of Justice has inquired into the cause of his death. What should we do now?" asked the guard. Actually, they had secretly contacted Wang Shengxue and taught him how to respond in court. Now his death shocked them, and he was poisoned to death.

"How do others look at this?" Shao Jing gritted his teeth in distress, leaning his palm against his brow. Recently, as bad things happened one after another, his headache was getting worse.

"They say that it must have something to do with our mansion, and that Your Grace may be behind it... You are considered most likely to be the one behind this killing..." The guard lowered his head and told the rumors in full detail.

The more Shao Jingyu listened, the gloomier his face became. Later on, he couldn't help leaping up furiously and swiping everything on his desk to the ground.

The guard was so scared that he quickly zipped his lip and took a few steps back, lowering his head in silence.

Shao Jing's heavy breathing was all everyone in the room could hear. After a long while, Shao Jing uttered a question, "How's the investigation of the Ministry of Justice going?"

"I heard that they are still investigating. The person who delivered the last meal was said to be a servant of our mansion, but there is no such a person in our mansion." The guard answered more and more respectfully.



“Good-for-nothings!” Shao Jing snapped and slowly sat back in his chair. At this time, his mind was in turmoil. Initially, he planned to shift all the blame to Madam Jiang. Wang Shengxue would identify Madam Jiang as a criminal. At most, Madam Jiang would be put to death. To his great surprise, someone got a head start in secret and poisoned Wang Shengxue to death first.

The other side killed Wang Shengxue with poison in the prison of the Ministry of Justice. In addition, they made the entire suspicion fall upon him.

“Grace, what should we do now?” The guard waited for a while but Shao Jing remained silent, so he asked with extreme caution.

“You can withdraw. Don’t act rashly at this time. Whatever others say, the matter is none of my business!” Shao Jing ground his teeth with determination. He would skin anyone who got him into this trouble.

At this critical point, he couldn’t do anything suspicious or ask anyone for help. He couldn’t even go outside of his mansion. What he had to do now was to stay cautious, extremely cautious.

“Yes!” The guard retreated silently.

At this time, he couldn’t strengthen a little bit of suspicion or let anyone discover his secrets. Moreover, he had to convince others that what he had done had nothing to do with Wang Shengxue and that he didn’t care Wang Shengxue at all. Anyway, it was an arduous task.

However, with Madam Jiang, he could do it.

On second thought, what happened was not good for him, but Madam Jiang could benefit from it. What was more doubtful was that Madam Jiang delayed the trial by using her title. “Is it related to Madam Jiang?”

“Guards, I’ll go to see Concubine Jiang!” Shao Jing stood up and said.

Ever since she was demoted, he had never gone to visit Concubine Jiang.

Madam Jiang lived a better life than before. Zhao Xiran sent over four old maids, who served her wholeheartedly. For a time, she had a good impression of Zhao Xiran. At first, Madam Jiang held a grudge against her because she had asked a servant girl to send her a handkerchief with a medicinal smell that day. But now, the old maids had explained this matter clearly to her.

That day, Zhao Xiran was afraid that Princess Chen would vent her anger on her, so she gave the handkerchief to her. But she didn’t expect that Princess Chen would be so cunning that she took this chance to divide them.

After this misunderstanding was cleared up, Madam Jiang entirely forgot her old grudges against Zhao Xiran. Back then, she was in a violent rage because she found the handkerchief with the smell of medicine in her hand was not hers. When Zhao Xiran came, she asked someone to change the original dirty one and gave this new one to her.

When she noticed the new handkerchief had a strange smell, Madam Jiang thought Zhao Xiran had plotted a frame-up against her, so she slapped her.

When she recalled it, she felt guilty and distressed. After all, the baby that died was her grandson. She had asked someone to tell Zhao Xiran that she didn't mean it. Of course, she did it with an arrogant attitude. After all, she was her mother-in-law.

Seeing Shao Jing coming over, Madam Jiang rolled her eyes and sneered, telling the few old maids in the room to leave. It happened that she also had something to say to Shao Jing, so he came at the right time.

After resting for a few days, Madam Jiang looked much better. However, she couldn't hide the coldness in her eyes as she looked at Shao Jing's round face.

Shao Jing's status looked completely different from Madam Jiang's. One was a bag of bones, and the other was plump with a ruddy face showing good fortune.

"You're happy to see me like this, aren't you? And you're glad I lost the position as your legal wife, aren't you? After so many years, you finally got what you wanted!" There were no outsiders in the room, so Madam Jiang could not prevent herself from sneering at him as soon as she began to speak, her eyes full of resentment!

### [Medical Princess](#)

#### **Chapter 1019: Each with Their Own Axe to Grind**

Shao Jing had steadied his nerves. He looked around and took a shabby chair, wobbling it a few times to make sure it wouldn't fall apart. Then he sat down in the chair and said, "You brought all this on yourself, didn't you? Our daughter-in-law has done nothing wrong. Why did you hit her? As for Princess Chen, you can't afford to offend her because of her current noble and high status!"

Shao Jing said drily after taking his seat.

Madam Jiang was so pissed off that she trembled all over. Pointing angrily at Shao Jing, she barked, "Do you think I wanted to irritate her? Why would I have to do that? I invited her over to solve Wang Shengxue's problem. How could I aim at her?"

Until now, Madam Jiang was still very confused about this matter. She was affected by the medicine for a period, so her memory was vague. She just wanted to meet trick with trick and let Qiu Yu get something against Shao Wanru, but she didn't mean to deal with her. However, it was true that she wanted to put pressure on Shao Wanru in order to settle this matter.

Because of Shao Wanru's current identity, Madam Jiang did not dare to act rashly.

"You must have lost your mind to provoke her again and again. She is Princess Chen, not some ordinary married daughter of our mansion. Besides, she is my Eldest Brother's daughter!" Shao Jing laughed scornfully.

"Your Eldest Brother's daughter? Oh, now you're willing to mention your Eldest Brother. Please don't pretend you respect him very much. That woman..." Madam Jiang rasped.

"If you don't want to die, don't talk about it casually. I'm not the only one who lives in this mansion. There are also your children." Shao Jing harshly stopped her from saying any confidential thing out of control.

After a moment of silence, Madam Jiang took a few deep breaths and gradually calmed down. Although her face was still gloomy, she was no longer in hysterics. "Well, enlighten me, what should we do now? I can never be a concubine. If you don't intend to save me, don't blame me for saying anything to the public at that time."

It was a patent threat. Even though Shao Jing was trying hard to suppress his anger, he couldn't help but reveal a chilling murderous intention in his eyes.

In fact, he preferred to see a dead Madam Jiang at this time, which would save him from all this trouble. According to his original plan, he would think of a way to wipe out Madam Jiang after Wang Shengxue put all the blame on her.

When she was demoted to a cheap concubine, it would be a piece of cake for Shao Jing, a marquis, to put her to death.

But now, with the death of Wang Shengxue, it became much more troublesome for him to get rid of her.

When he entered the door, Marquis Xing noticed that the situation here differed from what he had imagined. These old maids here should have been sent by his daughter-in-law. Was it because his son doubted his intention, or because Madam Jiang used some tricks to get the servants?

"Did you plot against Wang Shengxue?" Shao Jing didn't beat around the bush and came straight to the point.

"Wang Shengxue? What happened to him?" Madam Jiang was stunned. She had been confined to this courtyard and had no contact with any outsider. This news had just come out, and even Zhao Xiran might not hear about it. How could she know it?

Her astonished look looked authentic, so Shao Jing said rather grimly, "Wang Shengxue is dead. He was poisoned to death in the cell!"

"Dead?" Madam Jiang blinked and suddenly burst into wild laughter. "Great! That's great! I'm so glad that he died. That goddamned evildoer should have died a long time ago! If he's dead, I won't be charged with any crime! Wonderful news! He died just in time!"

"Wang Shengxue is dead. If someone else bears the responsibility for his death, I will be acquitted on charges of scheming against Shao Wanru, that bitch. I will be proved innocent."

With her hands on the edge of the table, Madam Jiang looked toward Shao Jing with a big smile on her face, and all the sullenness on her face vanished. "Your Grace, we have been husband and wife for many years. We should share happiness and woe, especially at this time. I'd like to make a deal with you. As long as I get through this difficulty, you can take in any woman you like in the future. I will always be your decent legal wife with dignity and will never pick on others out of jealousy!"

With hope, Madam Jiang no longer treated her husband coolly with a rude and arrogant attitude. Instead, she immediately became much more clear-headed and gentler. So quick-witted was she that she immediately thought of this deal. Also, Madam Jiang regained her dignified and decent manner.

Shao Jing closely examined Madam Jiang's expression. When he witnessed that she became a changed person in an instant, a trace of doubt flashed through his eyes. "It seems that Madam Jiang is not behind the murder. But if so, who else could it be?"

"Who would make such an audacious move? It appeared Wang Shengxue's death was a great favor for Madam Jiang!"

Seeing that Shao Jing meditated in silence, Shao Jing thought he was dissatisfied with the condition, so she pondered this matter for a moment and added, "Ru'er is still in the Palace. It's hard to say what will happen in the future. You don't want Ru'er to stop at her current position because of me, do you?"

"We can't count on Ru'er anymore!" Shao Jing looked up at Madam Jiang and said.

"Do you believe it? I gave birth to Ru'er. We all know what kind of person she is. How could she resign herself to fate? Grace, don't lie to me. I don't believe that you and Ru'er will bow to fate. No matter what happens, with Ru'er, everything is possible in the future. So what if the rank of nobility becomes a marquis now?"

Madam Jiang curled her lips and said.

Shao Jing fell silent.

"Your Grace, you must understand what I want to say. After so many things have happened, the quarrels between us will benefit no one but our opponents and even Great Elder Princess. Hua'an is not young anymore. If he can't become the heir of a duke, it will be troublesome!"

Madam Jiang added and once again increased her bargaining chip.

"If Hua'an is a son of a concubine, then we'll never achieve success!"

"Does Wang Shengxue's death have nothing to do with you?" Shao Jing frowned.

"Grace, doesn't your conscience trouble you for saying that? Look at me now. I couldn't do it even if I wanted to take his life away. If it weren't for Xiran's kindness, I might die here without anyone noticing it, and no one would care about my fate." Madam Jiang curled her lips and then lowered her voice.

"From then on, you will decide the affairs in the inner court, though I appear to be in charge. If you want that woman to enter our mansion with a new identity, I will protect her from being discovered."

"What nonsense are you talking about!" Shao Jing, annoyed, flicked his sleeves.

"Your Grace, you know whether it's nonsense or not. Don't say that you don't have such an idea. I knew your intention long ago, but you weren't the one to marry her in the end." Madam Jiang laughed sarcastically.

Shao Jing fell silent, his suspicious eyes scanning her face. Madam Jiang behaved naturally and looked relaxed as she had just learned Wang Shengxue's death. "So, who plotted against Wang Shengxue's life? If Madam Jiang were not the target, then it would be me."

"Who wants to grind me down?"

"I'm now a guilty party and have been scolded by the Emperor. Is there anyone who wants to strike me when I'm already so miserable? Anybody not from my inner court but the official circles?"

He felt it was very possible. The other party killed a man in custody in the Ministry of Justice. Madam Jiang couldn't make it even at the apex of her power. This murder was not like a means of struggle in the inner court but more like tactics between men in his official circles.

At this time, Shao Jing could never have imagined that it was his son who did it. On the surface, Shao Hua'an was useless, though he had a good reputation. But he was never what he appeared.

Madam Jiang was not behind Wang Shengxue's death, but her words sent a chill down his spine. He had been determined to get rid of Madam Jiang, for he feared she would speak indiscreetly outside when in distress and expose some of his secrets. Now that Madam Jiang looked fine, he changed his mind.

"Can you do that?" He flicked his eyes up and asked.

"Of course. If you help me out this time, I'll follow your lead. I won't give you any more trouble and help you manage family affairs." Madam Jiang promised. "I won't mind whatever you do!"

"It's best if you can think like this. However, the Empress Dowager has issued the decree, so it won't be so easy to change your current status!" Shao Jing was not as optimistic as her. Moreover, he didn't want her to be the Madam of Marquis Xing anymore. After witnessing too many malevolent schemes of her for so many years, he grew increasingly impatient with her.

"What do you mean?" Madam Jiang's face fell because she keenly captured Shao Jing's changing attitude.

"It's not about how I think of it. It won't be so easy to settle Wang Shengxue's matter. Besides, how could the Empress Dowager be wrong? How could anyone dare to point out her mistake even if she was wrong? Unless..." Shao Jing paused. The Empress Dowager had extremely noble status. Even if she really made a mistake and Madam Jiang was wronged, so what? If the Empress Dowager insisted, no one had the guts to speak for Madam Jiang.

"Unless what?" Madam Jiang understood what he meant, and her face darkened.

"Unless Hua'an's wife is willing to make an appeal for you before the Empress Dowager in the Palace!" Shao Jing said nonchalantly, "But even so, you should be mentally prepared. I'm afraid you might not get back up to the position as the legal wife. After all, if you did nothing wrong, the Empress Dowager would have to take part of the blame!"

How could the Empress Dowager be wrong? Even if she misjudged the matter, it would be others' fault.

What he said sounded difficult to comprehend, but Madam Jiang fully understood the twists and turns of this matter. After all, she had remained the Madam of Marquis Xing for many years.

She took a deep breath and looked at Shao Jing with a severe countenance. "I can be your secondary legal wife, and you can't marry another legal wife. This is the biggest concession I can make!"

She couldn't concede anymore because she had to make sure her son would be the legitimate son. Shao Jing might get another child to be his legitimate son in the future; even worse, he might be partial to his newborn son and make him the heir of a duke.

She couldn't take this risk, so it was her bottom line. If Shao Jing dared to disagree, she would fight with him at the risk of mutual destruction. These days, she had been enduring hardship because she would like to see how long Shao Jing could hold on.

If she lost hope, she would give him a hard time.

Looking at the hideous Madam Jiang with a ferocious look, Shao Jing cordially detested her. But he knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that he mustn't provoke Madam Jiang for the time being. He would kill her sooner or later, but not at this time.

"Well, I agree. But I can't guarantee the specific outcomes. I can only try my best to help you clear your name and let Wang Shengxue's family change their confession!" Shao Jing said.

"That would be best. You don't have to worry about other things. I will talk to Hua'an's wife!" Madam Jiang said with great confidence. As Zhao Xiran's mother-in-law, she had a natural advantage. If Zhao Xiran refused to help her, Madam Jiang would ask her son to divorce her. Why would she keep a good-for-nothing daughter-in-law?

### Medical Princess

#### **Chapter 1020: Present a Memorial to the Emperor for the Title**

With great enthusiasm, these people in the capital city had been gossiping about the affairs of the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

Every few days, a disturbance would occur. The Duke Xing's Mansion could be regarded as one of the great aristocratic families in the capital city, and ordinary people dared not to make unkind remarks about it. But now, it was reduced to the Marquis Xing's Mansion with ridiculous and disgusting things taking place in an unending flow.

Not long ago, the Madam of Marquis Xing was demoted as a concubine, which was something rare that people hadn't heard of for many years. Just a few days later, there was a rumor that the Madam of Marquis Xing had been wronged. It was all the fault of Wang Shengxue, who had been locked up in the Ministry of Justice. He incriminated Madam Jiang with planted evidence to make up for his wrongdoings. As for the hearsay that Madam Jiang's slap caused her daughter-in-law to miscarry, it was not true either. The public was wrongly informed. Some people heard that the virtuous daughter-in-law had gone to redress the grievance for Madam Jiang before the Empress Dowager in the Palace.

Their arguments of rights and wrongs presented a full-scale drama for these citizens in the capital to enjoy this year. There were all kinds of rumors. In the end, people concluded that this daughter-in-law was kind-hearted and understanding. After suffering so much, she was still willing to defend her husband's mother. In any view, Madam Jiang, the mother-in-law, looked very suspicious.

Anyway, opinions were widely divided. More people were closely following the host of miscellaneous problems in the Marquis Xing's Mansion. There were even many idlers who had assembled spontaneously outside the Marquis Xing's Mansion to watch the fun.

Whenever any master went out of the Marquis Xing's Mansion, a group of onlookers would follow up, which was very annoying.

For a time, the gate of the Marquis Xing's Mansion was tightly closed. Not to mention the masters, even their servants barely went out. It was better for them to hide in the mansion if they had no necessary matter to deal with.

The Empress was in the Empress Dowager's Palace of Benevolent Peace. There was only Rui'an Great Elder Princess accompanying them.

"What's your opinion about this matter?" With a headache, the Empress Dowager asked the Empress. She felt pestered beyond endurance when she had to handle the everlasting troublesome things for the Marquis Xing's Mansion again and again.

"Imperial Mother, since this is the case, let it be!" The Empress said.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess did not speak. Before she entered the Palace, she had discussed how to deal with this matter with her granddaughter. At this moment, she should listen to the two masters of the imperial harem. It was inappropriate for her to say anything now because they would think her opinion was not objective enough. So, even if she expressed her ideas, her words would yield no result.

Listening to their decisions first was her best choice.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess was always willing to follow her granddaughter's advice.

With her granddaughter-in-law, the Old Madam of the Marquis Xing's Mansion cried and begged for mercy at the Palace's gate, pleading for Madam Jiang. Since she was thick-skinned enough to do all of that, Rui'an Great Elder Princess would like to heap more calamities on her.

"In your eyes, the title of nobility of the Marquis Xing's Mansion is of the utmost importance, right? You want to protect Madam Jiang, don't you? Then show some sincerity."

Now, Rui'an Great Elder Princess no longer cared about whether Old Madam was partial or not. Since she was so much in favor of Madam Jiang, Shao Wanru might as well give up on her, which would be a better choice. Rui'an Great Elder Princess was the one and only elder who took Shao Wanru as a real treasure, so she would rather let her discard Old Madam, a partial old woman.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess, always calm and collected, lowered her head and listened quietly to the conversation between the Empress and the Empress Dowager, casually placing her fingers on a corner of her handkerchief.

"They had made a terrible scene before the Palace's gate. Although few outsiders heard of it, many others still have learned the news!" The Empress Dowager said in displeasure.

Common people didn't know how exactly Old Madam of the Marquis Xing's Mansion beseeched the Empress Dowager with Zhao Xiran, but the well-informed aristocratic families had already heard the news.

When thinking about the whole matter carefully, the Empress Dowager thought their unseemly conduct brought disgrace upon her. It was the Empress Dowager who issued the imperial edict at the beginning, so they had to call on her to defend Madam Jiang. Their purpose was to make her backtrack on her decision.

The Empress Dowager had a gentle disposition, yet she got a bit miffed at this time. It was too presumptuous for those people from the Marquis Xing's Mansion to do so. They brought their revolting struggles before her and implicitly reminded her that she was wrong.

The Empress sneered and added, "Mother, what else can we do now that things have become like this? They couldn't deal with their own affairs and the evidence they have provided is inadequate. How could they bring the blame of themselves upon the chief judge?" Ever since she knew what they had done to Shao Yanru, she had never liked these people from the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

At this moment, she did not intend to support the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

Since they were even bold enough to criticize the Empress Dowager, they would certainly set the Empress's authority at naught. No wonder Shao Yanru dared to scheme against others in the imperial harem under her charge. It was obvious that Shao Yanru had no regard for her at all.

The Empress Dowager turned to Rui'an Great Elder Princess and asked with knitted brows. "Rui'an, what do you think?"

Rui'an Great Elder Princess remained imperturbable. When she heard the question, she raised her head and said without batting an eye. "Your Majesties, everything is up to you."

"You are Shao Wanru's elder, so I suppose you should speak your mind or her opinions about this matter?" suggested the Empress Dowager mildly. Shao Wanru hadn't yet recovered from her illness, and they were always generous in sending her first-rate medicinal materials from the Palace. It was said that although Shao Wanru was better, she was still very weak.

Somehow, the Empress Dowager felt very guilty. If her grandson came back at this time and saw Princess Chen like this, he would be greatly distressed. Before leaving for his mission, he repeatedly told the Empress Dowager to take good care of his wife. But before long, Shao Wanru became sick and weak under her eyes.

"Empress Dowager, you are Princess Chen's respectable elder. With your support, she won't suffer any grievance. She will do whatever you wish." Rui'an Great Elder Princess said.

The Empress Dowager felt very satisfied with her words. This granddaughter-in-law was so well-behaved that she saved her a lot of worries. Recently, she had experienced such a severe incident and dealt with those despicable people from her parents' home. Even so, she did not complain at all, nor did she demand the Empress Dowager to make it up to her. Prince Chen should never be regarded as being in the same category as those people of the Marquis Xing's Mansion who were well capable of doing shameful things.

Even if Princess Chen made some trouble for them to vent her resentment, the Empress Dowager could understand her. After all, she was young, and there were no elders in the Prince Chen's Mansion to help her. Besides, Chu Liuchen was not there. Thinking of this, the Empress Dowager, who thought highly of this considerate Princess Chen, suddenly felt sorry for her.

The Marquis Xing's Mansion was despicable indeed.



This time, they stuck to utterly different arguments from what they had said before. If the Empress Dowager didn't do anything, people would secretly criticize her for clinging to the mistake instead of correcting it.

"So, are they forcing me to recall my edict?"

"Your Majesty, as Princess Chen's elder, you will give consideration to her situation. No matter what, Princess Chen has been wronged. People from the Marquis Xing's Mansion are quick to switch their stance, but it can't change the fact, right?" The Empress said timely.

As the Empress Dowager's daughter-in-law for so many years, the Empress knew what she was thinking.

"So, you think what happened before is true?" The Empress Dowager was still hesitating. The rumors outside had been spread to the Palace, and she learned them from the Emperor's people.

"I think what happened before must be true. Otherwise, Wang Shengxue couldn't have cooperated so well with that maid, who wore the same clothes as Princess Chen and walked to her courtyard. These people are black-hearted. At that time, Princess Chen was just a noble descendant who wanted to return to the royal family, but they couldn't even tolerate such a girl!" said the Empress.

The matter three years ago happened for a reason. But now that Wang Shengxue was dead, no other clues were found to solve this case. Also, there was nothing more they could get from the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

As for the current situation, it was not so important for them. The Empress Dowager and the Empress didn't care much about what they had done, whether it was Madam Jiang's daughter-in-law, Madam Jiang, or Old Madam of the Marquis Xing's Mansion. These people were a family. Since they wanted to stick together, the Empress Dowager and the Empress chose not to mess up with these people.

Whether Zhao Xiran felt wronged or did it of her own free will, they would not feel sorry for her. What they had done was enough to embarrass the Empress Dowager, so how could any of them wish to get the Empress Dowager's help?

The whole Marquis Xing's Mansion had let the Empress Dowager down. For the sake of the deceased former Heir of Duke Xing and the old Duke, the Empress Dowager had always overestimated this mansion. These people who managed this mansion now had used up all her previous appreciation. Thus, when Old Madam of the Marquis Xing's Mansion left this time, the Empress Dowager specially ordered her not to enter the Palace in the future unless an imperial edict summoned her.

"Shao Yuanhao has grown older, hasn't he?" The Empress Dowager asked Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

"Hao'er is already ten years old. All his instructors have praised him for his intelligence. Though he entered the school a little late, he is quick in grasping new things and knows the rest of a kind by analogy. Even if his study has been delayed, it doesn't matter. Now he has caught up with his peers and performs even better than most of them!" Whenever Rui'an Great Elder Princess spoke of her little grandson, her face would be full of pride.

Shao Yuanhao had changed a lot, which made her grandma feel gratified. As expected, it was best to let him live in her place. Otherwise, the future of her smart grandson would be ruined.

In the past three years, Rui'an Great Elder Princess had not allowed Shao Yuanhao to come into contact with the Marquis Xing's Mansion, which was a foul place in a horrible mess in her eyes.

Even if he had to go, he would be accompanied by the people chosen by Rui'an Great Elder Princess. Moreover, he would come back after a brief courtesy call. Sometimes, to attend his lessons, Shao Yuanhao wouldn't even have time to take a meal there. No people of the Marquis Xing's Mansion were allowed to approach him, lest they would plot against him again.

Seeing her like this, the Empress Dowager knew that Rui'an Great Elder Princess was proud of her grandson. She looked completely different from three years ago when talking about her grandson. At that time, she could only lower her head, shedding tears.

The Empress Dowager had made a decision in her heart and asked the Empress, "Ten years old, he can inherit the title of nobility now, right?"

The Empress nodded knowingly and said, "Sure enough. When each memorial to the throne about inheriting the title was presented, some people would object to it and say that Shao Yuanhao was too young and barely made any progress. Well, he was the son of the former Heir of Duke Xing, but without any big improvement, he didn't compare with First Young Master Shao, who enjoyed a good reputation."

"Since Shao Yuanhao is doing much better than before, the previous reasons can no longer apply to him. Rui'an, present another memorial to the Emperor for the title," instructed the Empress Dowager.

"Yes, Your Majesty. Thank you very much for that!" Rui'an Great Elder Princess choked out, the rims of her eyes slightly red. Almost immediately, she understood what the Empress Dowager meant. She stood up, knelt to the ground, and respectfully kowtowed to the Empress Dowager three times.

It was not that she cared much about the title of nobility, but it belonged to her son-in-law. How could she watch the title fall into the grasp of the second branch of the Marquis Xing's Mansion? Everyone in the second branch, from top to bottom, harbored evil intentions.

"His Majesty will issue an imperial edict, and you can also issue an imperial edict to let Madam Jiang be the secondary legal wife!" The Empress Dowager rubbed the painful place between her eyebrows and said to the Empress.

"Then... what is the reason for that?" The Empress asked cautiously.