

## Medical Princess 1021

### [Medical Princess](#)

#### Chapter 1021: A Mess After The Imperial Edict

Even the Empress needed a convincing reason when she would have to promote Madam Jiang, who had been degraded to a concubine, to a secondary legal wife.

“You can put it this way: Madam Jiang has a filial daughter-in-law, and people in her mansion are willing to explain for her and share her responsibility because they love and respect her.” The Empress Dowager waved her hand and said impatiently.

She was now the Empress Dowager who was supposed to live in ease and comfort. But now, for the Marquis Xing’s Mansion, she had to work hard with her brains and even brought disgrace upon herself. How could she be nice to them?

“Yes, I understand.” The Empress nodded.

Of course, the Empress Dowager would never do anything wrong. Even if she made a mistake, no one was allowed to point it out frankly, including herself.

Bestowing the title of nobility on Shao Yuanhao could be regarded as compensation for the Marquis Xing’s Mansion. Beyond that, in the imperial edict, she made it clear that the people of the Marquis Xing’s Mansion valued Madam Jiang and were willing to share the responsibility for her, which sounded like Madam Jiang was in the wrong. Then, she said the Marquis Xing’s Mansion felt ready to give up the title of nobility. It meant some people in the mansion wanted to take the blame for her.

With the Emperor’s decree, the Empress’s imperial edict would be undoubtedly well-reasoned, and the Empress Dowager would not be proved wrong.

The causes and effects were tightly interlocked, which made their decisions perfectly logical and reasonable. Now, it was crystal clear why Madam Jiang was demoted from a legal wife to a concubine. And because the Marquis Xing’s Mansion gave up the title of nobility, she was elevated to a secondary legal wife.

Since the people of the Marquis Xing’s Mansion felt ready to take on all the responsibilities, Madam Jiang’s matter was finally settled.

As soon as the Marquis Xing’s Mansion received her imperial edict, the Empress could foresee that Madam Jiang would have a hard time there. In the past ten years, people in that mansion had been secretly fighting for the position of the heir of a duke. Now, because of Madam Jiang, they practically gave the title of nobility to Shao Yuanhao...

Since the Empress Dowager made the final decision, the others carried out her instructions fast. On that day, Great Elder Princess sent her memorial to the Emperor, who happened to discuss state affairs with several important officials in the Imperial Study. After he gave a quick look at it, the Empress’s memorial to the throne also arrived. One eunuch took out the memorial of pleading for title sent by Shao Jing before.

After comparing the few memorials, the Emperor decided to make Shao Yuanhao the heir of a duke on the spot.

The Emperor sent someone to deliver the decree.

When the people of the Marquis Xing's Mansion received the imperial edict, they were still in a daze and didn't know what had happened. After all, the matter about Madam Jiang belonged to the inner court, so even if there was an imperial edict, shouldn't it be sent by the Empress Dowager and the Empress? So, what was the Emperor's noble intention?

Old Madam took the decree in great trepidation. After the eunuch finished reading the decree, she still knelt there, her mind blank. The news sounded like a thunderclap piercing her ear. Stretching out her trembling hand, she asked with a ghastly pale face, "Please... Sir... Are you... are you telling the truth?"

"Congratulations, Your Grace. Your mansion finally has an heir of a duke!" The eunuch grinned.

"His Majesty ignored my plead for so many years. Why would such a decree come all of a sudden?" Shao Jing stayed cool and asked.

"I guess the time is ripe! I don't know the details. If Your Grace wants to know, you can go directly to see His Majesty in the Palace," the eunuch said with a smile.

"Shao Yuanhao is not here... I'm afraid that the decree..." Shao Jing said in embarrassment. The decree was for Shao Yuanhao, so he should be the one to accept it. When Shao Yuanhao was not here, it could be considered that he didn't receive it.

"Rui'an Great Elder Princess had reported that. The heir of a duke is still young and has been learning very well in the Great Elder Princess's Mansion, so it's not convenient for him to return to your mansion. Therefore, a decree is also sent to the Great Elder Princess' Mansion. You can keep this decree in your mansion." The eunuch understood what he meant and explained with a smile.

Flames of wrath leaped in Shao Jing's breast. Shao Yuanhao became the heir of a duke, but he could still live outside of his mansion. Even if Shao Jing was eager to do something, he couldn't bypass Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

"My Madam, My Madam..."

"My Madam, wake up..." These servant girls and old maids suddenly cried in fear. Shao Jing turned his head in a hurry and saw that Old Madam had fainted on the ground.

"Your Grace, I have delivered the decree. I should go back to the Palace now." The eunuch, seeing that the Marquis Xing's Mansion was in chaos and disorder, stopped smiling.

"Thanks a lot, sir!" Shao Jing, terribly perturbed, couldn't show it on his face. He asked someone to take out a bag of money and sent off the eunuch who came with the decree.

Nanny Yu took some medicine and fed it to Old Madam whose face then turned slightly better. When she woke up and saw Shao Jing, her tears fell, "My second son, how could this..."

"Mother, watch your words!" Shao Jing's face changed slightly, and he immediately interrupted Old Madam. Then he said seriously, "This is a great thing. You should feel happy about that. Mother, you're in poor health. I will help you to rest."

So many people were in the lobby, and it was not the right time to discuss some private matters.

Old Madam came to her senses and knew that she had lost her composure. Slowly, she got up with the support of Nanny Yu's hands. At this time, the old housekeeper ran inside and called out, "Your Grace, the Empress also sent someone to announce her imperial edict."

Shao Jing and Old Madam were struck dumb by the news, but the former reacted quickly and said, "Hurry up and invite him in!"

The eunuch who worked for the Empress came in, smiling all over his face. Everyone knelt on the ground, but Madam Jiang had to present this time. Therefore, the servants hurriedly went to the inner court, helping Madam Jiang walk out. After that, all of them knelt.

After the announcement of this edict and everyone thanked the Empress, the people in the mansion politely saw the Empress's messenger off.

Either of the two decrees seemed to be a good thing. Today, two happy events came one after the other to the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

However, for Old Madam, each good news was like a dagger being twisted in her heart, which made her so painful that she almost couldn't speak. When she struggled to her feet with the help of Nanny Yu, she spotted Madam Jiang, who appeared incredibly delighted and relieved. This scene made Old Madam bristle with rage, and she struck Madam Jiang violently across her face beaming with happy smiles. Madam Jiang staggered two steps back and fell heavily to the ground.

"You are a jinx. How do you have the brass nerve to smile? If it weren't for you... for you..." Old Madam was so infuriated that she couldn't utter a word, so she could only point at Madam Jiang with trembling fingers. She deeply regretted that she had followed the advice of Zhao Xiran and her second son, thinking she could make good use of Madam Jiang's matter. In her mind, if Madam Jiang became a concubine, her eldest grandson would never be the heir of a duke. That was why she went to the Palace to beg the Empress Dowager.

In the end, Shao Yuanhao became the heir of a duke. Now that Rui'an Great Elder Princess seized the fruits of their victory, what was the point of Madam Jiang becoming a secondary legal wife?

"You bring bad luck. When I kept you in the mansion, I should have strangled you to death with a piece of string to keep you from ruining the family now."

Madam Dowager, gnashing her teeth, hated Madam Jiang to the marrow of her bones.

They had made a perfect pair, but at present, they became each other's most hated enemy.

Madam Jiang was slapped dumb and didn't know what was happening for a moment. Then, when Old Madam stomped her feet and scolded her harshly, she was exasperated beyond all control. "For a long time, I had been the Madam of Marquis Xing and handled everything well. If she had not sent me to the Yuhui Nunnery, there wouldn't have been so many bad things following up."

"She did not blame herself at present but turned to reproach me, accusing me of bringing ill luck to the family! But didn't this old bitch acquiesce in all those things I had done?"

"What you said makes no sense at all. I did all these things according to your instructions! How could you blame me instead? You said I was a jinx. Oh, if that's true, you brought me to your family. If you hadn't requested His Grace to marry me, I wouldn't have married into the Marquis Xing's Mansion!"

Madam Jiang retorted sarcasm for sarcasm.

"How dare you! You... how dare..." A wave of fierce wrath rolled up in Old Madam. Out of control, she rushed over and was about to trample on Madam Jiang.

Nanny Yu hurriedly stopped her. If she rushed over, Old Madam with high status would look worse than a shrew shouting abuse in the street.

"Maids, take Madam Jiang back!" When Shao Jing saw the mess, the blue veins on his forehead stood out, and he shouted.

Two old maids came to pull Madam Jiang up and brought her inside. It was not a good thing for her to stay here any longer. Violent disturbances might occur.

"Mother, let's go back and talk!" Shao Jing comforted Old Madam and reached out to help her go back.

"This jinx, jinx..." It seemed to be the only sentence Old Madam could say at this moment. The longer she muttered, the more miserable she felt, and her eyes gradually turned red.

It was indeed her who invited Madam Jiang to this mansion. She must have been blind not to realize Madam Jiang's danger and take her as a lovely lady. To save her, Shao Yuanhao got the title of the heir of a duke. She had fought with Rui'an Great Elder Princess for a lifetime to get the title. It was a great pity that Old Madam lost it to her and ended up in misery.

After she sat down in her room, Old Madam sobered up a little. She grabbed her son's hand and asked anxiously, "What should we do? What should we do now?"

With a wave of her hand, Nanny Yu led the servants out to guard the door.

It was evident that the mother and son had something confidential to say.

"Mother, we can only accept the reality first!" Shao Jing gritted his teeth nastily and said. Of course, he was unwilling to give up. He had tried hard to get the title of nobility but lost it so easily. This was something he had never thought of before.

It was all very sudden, and he was still a little dizzy. How could it be done?

"Accept it first... but Hua'an is the one..." Old Madam was so anxious that she spoke without careful diction.

"Mother, be careful. From now on, Hao'er will own the title of the heir of a duke. You can't talk nonsense." Shao Jing interrupted Old Madam, who was in utter stupefaction.

"But... But if this title belongs to Hao'er, who is not close to us, it will eventually be under Great Elder Princess's control..." Old Madam said in a panic.

Shao Jing gritted his teeth in determination and said in a low voice, "Mother, let's wait and see. Anyway, the person who eventually takes the throne has the final say in this matter. Hao'er is still young!"

The ferocious fight for the throne was in progress. Who finally got the title would depend on the will of the new Emperor in the future. It was actually their most helpless choice, but they could only hope for the future. There would be plenty of time for them to snatch a victory out of defeat, wouldn't there?

"Yes, you're right! There is a new one. Ru'er..." Old Madam nodded repeatedly, her hands relaxing a little, and she muttered to herself, "Ru'er... We should spare no effort to support her. As long as she can get a position in the future, I'd like to do anything for her. How about Madam Jiang now?"

How Old Madam wished she could lock up Madam Jiang forever. It would be best if she could die lonely inside her cell. They lost the title of nobility to make Madam Jiang a secondary legal wife. Upon receiving the edict, Madam Jiang immediately grinned from ear to ear! How dare she be so happy? How could she have the nerve to smile?!

### Medical Princess

#### **Chapter 1022: Backing Her up from Thousands of Miles Away**

With hatred, Shao Jing said through gritted teeth, "Let Madam Jiang live in her previous yard. Still, she doesn't have to meddle in the mansion's affairs. Lock her up there until she dies!"

How could he not hate her? He used all ways to get the title, but it was taken away from his son because of Madam Jiang.

At present, he couldn't do anything to Madam Jiang and could only keep her in his mansion. Anyhow he wouldn't let her see anyone again.

This time, he was determined to make Madam Jiang die as a secondary legal wife...

When Chu Liuchen received Shao Wanru's letter, he had just arrived at the border and was welcomed into the city next to the border with the Xu State.

After reading the letter, Chu Liuchen put the letter down in an amiable mood. With a smile on his handsome lips, he languidly folded it in his hand, putting it in the inside pocket of his sleeves.

"Lord Qin, will you go out today or tomorrow?"

"Everything is ready, and this matter allows no delay. So, let's do it today!" Qin Huaiyong said, his eyes on Chu Liuchen's sleeves. He remembered Chu Liuchen looked terrible a moment ago, but this letter coming in time changed his impression straight into a genial one. Was it a letter from Princess Chen?

"Lord Qin..." Chu Qing was a little worried, not considering it a good thing to go there in a hurry. Besides, he had to prepare for it.

"Since Ningyuan Army General has agreed, it'll do. Get ready and send Lord Qin and Commandery Prince Qing on the diplomatic mission." Chu Liuchen ignored Chu Qing and said to the garrison officer standing aside.

He was the top official here. But after Chu Liuchen and the others arrived, his influence plummeted. At present, it was Chu Liuchen who supervised and controlled the affairs here.

Since Chu Liuchen had made the final decision, Chu Qing knew it was useless to say no. Thus, he also nodded and left to prepare with Qin Huaiyong.

Since they had made some arrangements beforehand, they didn't spend too much time preparing before gathering their men and getting ready.

Chu Liuchen personally walked them to the city gate. When the bridge above the city moat lowered, a group of men and horses galloped through it to the outside of the city, and then the heavy bridge was slowly pulled up.

The Xu State that got the news sent some people over. Chu Liuchen sat in the tower over a city gate and looked down. To his surprise, he saw a woman among the Xu State group and knew from her gorgeous clothes that she should be the princess of the Xu State.

"Is this Xu State princess really going to marry into our country?" Chu Liuchen raised his eyebrows and asked. Because he was a little far away from her, he couldn't see her face clearly.

"That's what I heard. There was no such thing at the very start. Later, when they learned there were two princes coming over together, they sent a messenger, saying that the princess wanted to marry one of the two princes," the garrison officer reported with the utmost care.

With the greatest urgency, he delivered this news to Chu Liuchen, one of the two princes. Since the Emperor valued Prince Chen the most, a humble garrison officer like him wouldn't dare to make any decisions on this matter.

"Is she here to size up her future husband?" Chu Liuchen said in a leisurely manner. Though the chair he sat on behind the city wall was tall and large, only his head was visible above the merlon of battlements. Just like he couldn't see the facial features of the princess, the princess couldn't see what he looked like either.

So, she came here to see Chu Qing.

Chu Qing was quite good-looking. Although he looked ordinary among his cousins, he appeared attractive compared with many others.

"It seems to be a good idea to make Chu Qing a son-in-law of the Xu State." Chu Liuchen let his thoughts wander freely.

"Perhaps. Princess Yutao is famous in the Xu State." The guard lowered his head, sweating profusely.

"Oh? Then why is she well-known?" Chu Liuchen said with great interest, looking over. He saw the two teams had met. Princess Yutao seemed to have said something to Chu Qing, and it could be seen that she had a good impression of Chu Qing.

"This gorgeous princess is bold and vigorous, and many men in the Xu State are no match for her, so she hasn't found a satisfactory husband in Xu State," the garrison officer said.

Since this place was near the border between the two countries, occasionally, he could get some news from these Xu State businessmen carrying on trade here. Princess Yutao was not someone to be trifled with. As the legitimate eldest daughter of the queen in the Xu State, she held a distinguished position.

Even such an extraordinary lady was worried about her marriage as well. Eventually, she turned her eyes to the men in the neighboring country.

"A nice princess. Not bad. Great. Commandery Prince Qing does need such a legal wife!" Chu Liuchen watched the fun and said casually with pleasure. Waiting until the two groups go away together, he got to his feet, patted his sleeves, and said leisurely, "Your Excellency, wait here and pass on the latest news to me. It won't take too long!"

"Yes, I understood!" The Garrison responded promptly.

"I'll go down for a walk," Chu Liuchen said with a casual air, "You don't have to follow me. I'll just walk around!"

With this, he walked down the city gate tower with Xiao Xuanzi. Chu Liuchen, who had changed into plain clothes, became an ordinary young man with a refined appearance and handsome features.

This area was at the border between the Xu State and the Kingdom of Dongcang, which were now at peace. With so many merchants hunting for gain nearby, this place looked prosperous and bustling. Not only could they see the products of the Kingdom of Dongcang, but also there were goods and business people from the Xu State. The scene of local people getting mixed up with foreigners that once seemed novel became common now.

Chu Liuchen's appearance caused a great stir in the crowd.

Most of these people who got thrilled were girls.

Folks in the Xu State had much fewer rules than the Kingdom of Dongcang's civilians. When these foreign girls spotted an outstanding young man, they couldn't resist coming up to talk to him. Moreover, girls living at the Kingdom of Dongcang's border near the Xu State were much more enthusiastic than those in the capital city. Therefore, girls along the way flocked to see Chu Liuchen and crowded around him.

They had never seen such a drop-dead gorgeous man.

Today, Chu Liuchen was in a good temper, so he endured this noisy scene of excitement. He just ignored the bunch of girls following behind him. As for those who wanted to strike up a conversation with him, Xiao Xuanzi would handle them.

It was rare for his master to be in a jolly mood to hang around, and Xiao Xuanzi did not want anyone to distress him. After he winked at several guards who protected Prince Chen in the dark, they deliberately sabotaged these girls' access to their master. Gradually, these girls were left so far behind that it became difficult for them to come over for a talk.

Along the way, more and more items were piled up in Xiao Xuanzi's hands. Originally, Chu Liuchen only threw one or two things at him, but in the end, Xiao Xuanzi ended up carrying a load of goods like a stacking shelf.

Like this, these girls and young married women found them to be increasingly interesting.

"Master, let's go back, shall we? There are so many of them. I can't take any if you buy more!" Xiao Xuanzi pleaded with a bitter face. His master had purchased a lot of things, which were gadgets that he would use to please Princess Chen.

It was just that there were too many of them!

"There may be better ones ahead of us!" Chu Liuchen looked back at Xiao Xuanzi and was also amused.

"Master, how about buying more next time? We can bring a few more people with us. See? You have practically attracted all the people on this street." Xiao Xuanzi said, looking quite helpless and anxious.

He tried hard to raise his chin, pointing back.

As he had said, these unbashful women followed them all the way here and nearly blocked the way.

"Okay, next time!" Chu Liuchen reluctantly agreed and turned back.

Seeing him coming over, a large group of young ladies and married women behind hurriedly flashed aside to let him go through while staring at Chu Liuchen with admiration.

When they were in the capital city, no one dared to watch Chu Liuchen in such a flagrant way. Of course, Prince Chen, who had always been well protected, never got a chance to lounge about the streets in the clothes of ordinary people. It might be because locals were valiant and Chu Liuchen dressed like ordinary people. Even if he appeared to be a rich young man from a wealthy family, sons from those merchant mansions here were in equally fine clothes.

Fortunately, the capable secret guards did well in making some hiccups from time to time. Gradually, fewer and fewer people were after Prince Chen.

In the end, no one followed them.

Xiao Xuanzi finally felt relieved in his heart after staying in a nervous state for a long time. In this kind of place, people were agile and brave. If anything happened to Prince Chen, Xiao Xuanzi couldn't bear the consequences.

They returned to the Garrison Mansion, where Chu Liuchen lived for the time being. To clear a temporary dwelling place for Chu Liuchen, the garrison officer's family members living there before had already moved out. These days, Chu Liuchen would live here, waiting for Qin Huaiyong and Chu Qing to return.

Xiao Xuanzi put down all the things and asked servants to put them away according to categories. Then he went to the central room.

Sure enough, there his master was reading the letter again, and looked quite delighted. Xiao Xuanzi, standing behind him and stretching out his neck, stole a glance at the letter on tiptoe. Right away, Chu Liuchen threw him a stern look, and he hurriedly lowered his head to avoid his piercing eyes. "His Highness has read the letter many times, hasn't he?"

The longer he looked at it, the more amiable his mood became. Thanks to it, even a large crowd of onlookers didn't piss him off just now. Otherwise, with his character, how could he allow others to stare at him so casually?



Princess Chen was powerful indeed! She could significantly affect Prince Chen, who was very rigid in his ideas.

"Prepare the pen and ink. I'll write to Imperial Grandmother!" Chu Liuchen put the letter away and said unhurriedly after reading the letter again to his heart's content.

"Didn't you write a letter to Her Majesty a few days ago?" Xiao Xuanzi asked in surprise.

"But that was a few days ago. I have to write another one now. Princess Chen is now isolated and cut off from help in the capital city, so I need to ask my Imperial Grandmother to take better care of her!" Chu Liuchen touched his chin and said languidly, "I have always been too mild and inoffensive to teach others bloody lessons. At most, I want one leg! Recently, the imperial court has been in a bustle already. Let's wait and see!"

Xiao Xuanzi shivered all over. "Was His Highness talking about Princess Chen? When did Princess Chen appear so pitiful? "Princess Chen can even subdue my master. How could she get herself into such a vulnerable position?

"I've read the letter from Qing'er. Princess Chen proceeds with everything at a leisurely pace. She doesn't need my master's superfluous help at all, does she?"

Of course, he didn't dare to say it out loud. His master was deeply concerned about Princess Chen living alone in the mansion. As a eunuch, he certainly didn't understand the affection between them. "But according to my master, this should be called the pleasure between a couple, right?"

However, he was just a eunuch without a companion. How could he understand it? Xiao Xuanzi felt frustrated and turned to prepare the brush and ink with a melancholy expression.

"I know it! My master is always willing to back Princess Chen up because he doesn't want her to suffer the slightest."

As for the arm or the leg that his master had mentioned, Xiao Xuanzi didn't care much. Her master was indeed gentle. After all, his opponents were handled without any blood spilling, weren't they?

### Medical Princess

#### **Chapter 1023: The Heir of a Duke, Imperial Throne?!**

No one expected a considerable turn of events would happen in the Marquis Xing's Mansion, reverberating throughout the entire imperial court...

Making Shao Yuanhao the heir of a duke looked like a snap decision. The news astonished all because everyone thought their fight for the title would have lasted for a few years. After all, this matter had existed since Shao Yuanhao was born. Therefore, many people had taken a wait-and-see attitude.

Either side emerging victorious would seem reasonable.

If the former Heir of Duke Xing were still alive, Shao Yuanhao would undoubtedly be the heir of a duke as his son, however young he was.

But the problem was that even Shao Jiang himself hadn't inherited the position from Duke Xing, so how could Shao Jiang pass it on to his son?

Compared with Shao Yuanhao, Shao Hua'an was more suitable in all aspects. Most importantly, Shao Jing became Marquis Xing, who was in charge of the Marquis Xing's Mansion at present.

Most critically, many officials were watching the political situation in the dark. From their hearts, they regarded the matter as a reference for the succession of the imperial throne, though all of them chose not to say so in public.

It was widely rumored among the people that the Emperor at present obtained his throne through sort of unfair means. His Majesty treated his nephew as nicely as his son. No doubt what he had been doing showed his deep respect for the deceased emperor, but his nephew could also be considered his heir to the throne. By orthodox ideas, Chu Liuchen, the Emperor's nephew and the deceased emperor's legitimate son, would accede to the throne ahead of Prince Zhou.

Since Shao Yuanhao could be the heir of a duke, what about Prince Chen?

Was the Emperor hinting at something?

However, on second thought, no matter how the Emperor cared about his nephew, a father always loved his son more than his nephew, didn't he? Yet, judging from the Emperor's attitude towards the few princes in the past, he was closer to Prince Chen.

Could it be that the Emperor intended to pass the throne to Prince Chen so that he bestowed the title of the heir of a duke upon Shao Yuanhao first?

In the imperial court, officials began to argue about whether Shao Yuanhao should become the heir of the duke of Marquis Xing's Mansion.

Many officials stood out and stated that it was inappropriate, for the title should belong to sons. How could a nephew get the title of the heir of a duke? Then, Shao Hua'an, the First Young Master of the Marquis Xing's Mansion who had been famous for his talent and brilliance, how could he handle this situation?

How could Shao Jing pass on the title of the heir of a duke to his nephew instead of his son?

There were many supporting Shao Yuanhao. They claimed that Shao Jing's position belonged to Shao Jiang, the former Heir of Duke Xing. If Shao Jiang had not passed away early, his position would have fallen on his legitimate son. No matter what, the second branch couldn't get the title. All in all, the Emperor's imperial edict was perfectly logical and reasonable.

Neither party was willing to compromise. They had come up with precedents of the previous dynasty, but they carefully avoided mentioning the incumbent Emperor and Prince Chen.

However, anyone with a discerning eye could easily see that they were secretly referring to the Emperor and Prince Chen. If it weren't for the two men of great importance, why would they have to quarrel so fiercely about the not-so-important title of the heir of a duke?

The officials were not so idle as to pay close attention to the family affairs of the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

They were discussing the matter as a national affair.

A few officials preserved an attitude of neutrality. These people who hadn't shown their attitudes were headed by two prime ministers standing in the designated position determined by ranks. The two higher-ups kept their eyes glued to their nose tips, seemingly meditating with undivided attention. No one couldn't tell what they were thinking because they didn't say a word or even cast a glance at each other.

The Emperor sat up high on his dragon throne, his face taking on a ghastly expression. With his hands pressed tightly against the arms of the chair, he looked down with a somber countenance.

Another imperial censor stepped forward, bowed to the Emperor, and said, "Your Majesty, I don't think it's proper. Since the Heir of Duke Xing has passed away, there is no reason for the first branch to keep the title. Both the first branch and the second branch are the descendants of the former Duke. Since the eldest son of the former Duke in the first branch has deceased, the second branch should have a chance to get the title, right? Shao Yuanhao is just a callow young fellow who doesn't know anything. How can he compare with the First Young Master of the Marquis Xing's Mansion with an enviable reputation?"

"Your Majesty, this is unfair to First Young Master Shao. Please retract the order!"

"Recall my order?" The Emperor asked coldly on the throne, his piercing eyes landing on the imperial censor with unclear implications.

"Yes, Your Majesty. Please withdraw your order. In any case, the position of the heir of a duke belongs to First Young Master Shao." The imperial censor immediately nodded, thinking that the Emperor must have agreed with him.

"In any case?" The Emperor snapped back, flying into a rage, and slammed his hands on the dragon heads engraved on the chair arms. Then, he rose to his feet.

The officials, who were waiting to present their views, were shocked and shut up in haste.

"You're in no position to comment on the affairs of the Marquis Xing's Mansion. The first branch got the title of the heir of a duke, so you can't stand the fact and want to defend the second branch against the injustice of it all. Well, well done. I'll talk it through with you. Derong, tell them why the title fell into Shao Yuanhao's hands!"

"Yes, Your Majesty." Derong hurriedly replied and stood up. Then, he said to the officials with a severe look, "Your Excellencies, you don't have to argue about this. Marquis Xing cherished his wife, the former Madam Jiang. To bring her to the position of a secondary legal wife, he took the initiative to make the concession. If you don't believe it, you can go and ask Marquis Xing yourselves."

Even Marquis Xing had no objection. How could the rest of the people stick their noses into other people's businesses? This matter had nothing to do with them at all!

The Emperor's intention was obvious.

Hearing Derong's words, everyone finally realized Shao Jing didn't go to court today. They were so engaged in the debate that they forgot Marquis Xing was not there at all.

If it was the fact, they would have nothing to quarrel about. Even Shao Jing himself thought this matter proper, then why would others care whether it was fair or not?

For a moment, an eerie hush suddenly fell over the imperial court.

“Before you have a verbal battle with each other, you should get to the bottom of it first. If such a ludicrous thing happens again, you’d better resign your position before I dismiss you.” The Emperor said without mercy, flinging his sleeves in a rage. Then he simply walked away, leaving the officials who couldn’t make head or tail of this matter.

“Prime Minister Wen, Prime Ministers Zhang, Your Graces, what... what on earth is going on?” Seeing this strange situation, someone with a quick mind hastily bowed to the two Prime Ministers and asked in an undertone. Shouldn’t Shao Jing come to the court to complain tearfully about his grievance? Did he really do all of this for Madam Jiang?

In former days, Shao Jing had proved himself to be a decent man of excellent character. Nevertheless, he wouldn’t give up the title of the heir of a duke for a woman who had caused quite a sensation in the imperial city.

It just didn’t make sense.

It was even more unreasonable for him not to come to court today!

“Marquis Xing is ill, so he has been asking for leave these days. If you’re on good terms with him, you can visit him in the Marquis Xing’s Mansion!” Prime Minister Zhang said lightly.

Prime Minister Wen gave a wee, turned around, and walked down the palace steps.

“Prime Minister Zhang, is Marquis Xing ill for real?” asked another official.

Prime Minister Zhang threw him a faint smile but made no reply this time. He turned around, walking out of the palace after Prime Minister Wen.

Speaking of this matter, it was just a family affair of the Marquis Xing’s Mansion, no big deal at all. They might talk about it in the Imperial Study on usual days and didn’t have to cross verbal swords publically in the imperial court.

Everyone should be content with a secret mutual understanding about this matter. Now, this matter seemed to have awakened the Emperor’s associations with some covert things. How could His Majesty not feel irritated?

Today, these officials lifted the thin veil on these secretive issues by using the matter of the Marquis Xing’s Mansion.

These two Prime Ministers didn’t know if it was a blessing or a curse.

It would be best for them to take a quiet approach now, responding to all changes by remaining motionless.

Prince Chen? Prince Chen! Prince Chen...

“Did His Majesty lose his temper?” The Empress put down the teacup in her hand, and her face darkened.

“That’s what I heard!” The old maid reported scrupulously.

The Empress waved her hand with a sullen face. Then only she and Prince Zhou were left in the main hall when the old maid withdrew.

After making sure the old maid was far away, Prince Zhou asked, "Mother, so what if my father is angry?" He did not understand why the Empress's face would take on a ghastly expression.

"The power struggle of the position of the heir of a duke in the Marquis Xing's Mansion is very similar to your fight for the imperial throne." The Empress dabbed the corners of her mouth with a handkerchief and continued, "Your father had been unconcerned about it because no one mentioned it before. But now, many people started talking about the throne battle. Though these officials argued about the issue at the Marquis Xing's Mansion, they actually made oblique references to your father. His Majesty used to know something about the matter, but their remarks had never aimed at him so brazenly like today!"

"So what? It shouldn't have been Chu Liuchen's business. He is just a nephew. My father won't pass the throne on to him, will he? And besides, he has been a really sickly man." Prince Zhou greeted her proposal with scorn.

"Be that as it may, your father's heart is incomprehensible, even for me..." The Empress pondered over this for a while. The look in her eyes grew more serious. It seemed that she wanted to say something but stopped on second thought. There were some things that she didn't know if she should tell her son.

"No matter how hard it is to read his mind, my father won't deviate from the orthodox path!" Prince Zhou said coolly, "In fact, Chu Liuyue is much more troublesome. He is going to marry Prime Minister Zhang's daughter. I heard Prime Minister Zhang has been very good to her daughter. His son doesn't live up to his expectations, and he is very concerned about his daughter. If he helps Chu Liuyue... It will lead to big trouble."

In Chu Liuzhou's eyes, only Chu Liuyue was worthy of being his opponent. Thus, even at this time, Chu Liuzhou still only focused on him.

In the present royal court, there were two Prime Ministers who had won the Emperor's complete trust. Prime Minister Wen had no daughter. Once Prime Minister Zhang's daughter married Chu Liuyue, this marriage would greatly benefit Chu Liuyue. In contrast, although Chu Liuzhou got Infanta Yuan'an, who had a good reputation and status, she brought much less tangible benefits than Prime Minister Zhang's daughter.

Because of this difference, Chu Liuzhou would not be at ease with this matter.

"Indeed, it's good for Prince Yue if Prime Minister Zhang's daughter marries him. With this marriage, his fate would be closely bound up with Prime Minister Zhang's, and so would the fate of their two families. At present... there is another chance..." The Empress frowned. She gave more careful consideration to this matter than Chu Liuzhou. In the beginning, she wanted to choose Prime Minister Zhang's daughter but was reprimanded by the Emperor.

His Majesty said Infanta Yuan'an, with a more distinguished status, was more suitable for Chu Liuzhou, a prince of high standing.

Regrettably, the noble status of these granddaughters of Great Elder Princess was their only worthwhile advantage. How could it compare with the real power in the hands of a Prime Minister?

Of course, she couldn't argue with the Emperor about this. Ultimately, the Empress had no choice but to accept the marriage.

Despite the fact that Infanta Yuan'an was barely satisfactory in the Empress's eyes, she excelled in many other aspects. However, ever since she came into conflict with Shao Wanru, the Empress began to doubt whether she was competent enough to be Princess Zhou.

In the final analysis, Infanta Yuan'an was no match for Zhang Qilan. Or, well-known Young Madams from aristocratic families like her were all vain creatures who bought reputation and fished for praise.

Shao Yanru was like this, and Infanta Yuan'an seemed to be the same kind...

"Maids, prepare some gifts and send them to Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion. I want to congratulate Shao Yuanhao for being the heir of a duke!" The Empress made up her mind.

"Mother, you thought highly of Marquis Xing, didn't you? What's going on now..." Prince Zhou asked in surprise. This move of the Empress proved that she had chosen to side with the first branch of the Marquis Xing's Mansion. But wasn't this totally opposite to their previous stance?

### Medical Princess

#### **Chapter 1024: Shao Hua'an's Leg Was Broken**

"The past is gone, and the situation is no longer what it used to be. Times change. We should change our view according to circumstances!" The Empress stood up, walked into the inner room, and took out a box. Looking at the palm-sized box, she sighed and pushed it to Chu Liuzhou.

"Mother, what is this?"

Chu Liuzhou didn't know why the Empress sighed and asked, looking at the deeply unappealing box with astonishment.

He watched her take it out with his own eyes; otherwise, he wouldn't have believed the box belonged to the Empress. Never had Prince Zhou seen any similar box that was so poor and shoddy. It didn't look like something from the Palace.

"This... Prince Cheng gave it to me a long time ago!" The Empress leaned back with a gloomy look in her thoughtful eyes.

"Why would Uncle Cheng send it to you?" Feeling even more surprised, Prince Zhou reached out to take the box. There was a key hanging on it. After pressing it for a while, the box was opened, revealing a time-worn bottle inside.

It was an ordinary bottle, simple to the extreme.

"This... What?" Prince Zhou reached over.

"Don't touch it!" The Empress scolded him in a low voice.

Prince Zhou looked up, and his hand stopped before the bottle. "Mother..."

"The medicine in this bottle is poisonous!" The Empress said, her face suddenly clouding over.

Prince Zhou, greatly stunned, dropped his hand and stared at the bottle in astonishment. After some careful observation, he concluded, "It looks pretty old!"

The worn-out bottle couldn't have been made in the recent few years. Prince Zhou's eyes fell on the box before him again. It looked ordinary and old, which must have been made ten or more years ago.

"A bottle made more than a decade ago..." The Empress was grim-faced, her eyes growing even colder.

"Mother..." Prince Zhou looked at the Empress in wonder.

After taking a deep breath, she reached out to close the box. Then, she wiped her hands carefully with a handkerchief as if she had been stained with something dirty in such a short time.

"It's poison. That very year, the poison was given to... This is part of the reason why Chu Liuchen suffered from an inherent shortage," said the Empress.

Prince Zhou suddenly sprang to his feet, looking at the bottle before him in shock. His face fell.

"But the official story has always been that he's congenitally deficient. Right? Because he was born prematurely, he got a feeble constitution and has been weak and ill."

"Indeed, he has poor health. It's also true that he's congenitally deficient. Anyway, the poison did some damage to him. When he was still a baby, it entered his body through his mother. In this way, though the poison was less powerful than being applied directly to the baby, the baby's poisoning symptoms would be more like an inadequate natural endowment," the Empress explained in detail, her deep eyes settling on the box.

"It was from Prince Cheng..."

"Uncle Cheng? What did he mean?" Prince Zhou considered it for a while and exploded with rage, slamming his hand heavily on the table edge.

"It was a warning and a hint from him!" The Empress sighed, her eyes still glued to the obsolete box. "In fact, this bottle is no big deal. The poison is not strong, absolutely not strong!"

The Empress seemed to be muttering to herself, and her eyes fixed on the box as if some conflicting thoughts had been torturing her. Her face turned from gloomy to angry. "If it weren't for her... If it weren't for her... I wouldn't have gotten into such a mess! She asked for it, and she allowed herself to degrade!"

"Mother, what did you say?" With a puzzled look on his face, Prince Zhou looked at the Empress, who appeared slightly insane.

"She brought it on herself. I did it for your father, but he failed me. This is a mixed poison. There is only one kind, which is not very powerful. Moreover, this poison can invade the baby's body when a common food ingredient is added. The toxic reaction looks very similar to the manifestation of a weak natural physical endowment!"

The Empress didn't seem to hear Prince Zhou's words, and her vicious and fierce eyes were full of hatred.

“Mother!” Prince Zhou raised his voice.

The Empress raised her head to look at him, seemingly to have woken up from her maniac moods just now. She observed Prince Zhou’s face carefully after a long time and said slowly, “Take this box away and put it in your mansion. This is the evidence that you can hold against Prince Cheng and me!”

If Prince Cheng had revealed this matter back then, it would have been the evidence against her alone. But since he had hidden it for many years, he became part of the dark secret.

“Mother, even if others know this matter about the deceased emperor and empress, so what? They were dead. Do you think my father will help them?” Prince Zhou was completely at a loss and became more and more surprised.

However, the secret could no longer be a handle her enemies could use against her long ago.

It had nothing to do with them how the ailing Chu Liuchen became ill in the first place. How could his father punish his mother for the sick Chu Liuchen?

“Your father will!” The Empress said coldly and pointed in a direction. “The deceased empress’s younger sister lives there. She makes your father think of that woman and her child and keeps his good impression on both.”

“Who is it?” Prince Zhou looked in that direction with a frown. He didn’t know that the deceased emperor’s sister was in the Palace. How could he have never heard of her?

“Consort Lan!” said the Empress.

“How could it be her?” Prince Zhou was surprised at first, and then he understood. How could he not know about Consort Lan’s situation in the Palace? She was said to have been grounded. Yet, it seemed that she had lost no power. Even his mother could not see her, so it was impossible for her to put any pressure on her, even though as the Empress.

Therefore, the punishment of isolating her from the others looked more like a protection for her.

His father didn’t go to her place often but would visit her occasionally. Consort Lan had been there for so many years, but she had never shown up before them.

As for the fact that Consort Lan was the deceased empress’s younger sister, he had heard of it before when he was at a young age. In the past years, Consort Lan had not appeared in front of others. No one would talk about a consort who had been out of favor for years and had no child.

“Being isolated? Not really. I’m the one who has been kept away from her. It’s very convenient for that bitch, Consort Lan, to come out. She had even sent her servants to visit Princess Chen several times,” sneered the Empress.

“Mother...”

“You don’t have to say anything. I know what I’m doing. Take this box away. It’s safer to be kept in your mansion. I’m afraid that your father will search my place one day.” The Empress shook her hand decisively, interrupted Prince Zhou, and laughed sarcastically. “As for Prince Cheng, you can contact him secretly. He may also harbor an ambition, but he can never win the throne.”



If Prince Cheng had the smarts to achieve his ambition, he would not have withheld the truth for decades until the princes had grown up.

Of course, the Empress would not look down on him. Prince Cheng had been preparing for a long time, so he must have some means!

If she could draw Prince Cheng over to their side, it would be a dead certainty that her son would win the throne. It was another important reason why the Empress took out this old box.

But it was challenging to win over Prince Cheng, no matter how badly she wanted to do that for her son. For so many years, both sides had kept it a secret, and neither spat it out...

"Did another incident happen because of the horse?" Shao Wanru put down the handkerchief in her hand and asked in surprise.

"Yes. First Young Master and Infanta Yuan'an's carriage suddenly collided with each other!" Yujie reported. "I heard First Young Master's horse ran straight into the carriage. Then he fell off his horse and broke his leg. Infanta Yuan'an was much better, but I heard her face was covered in blood after the impact. I'm afraid..."

"Did her face get injured?" Shao Wanru understood what she meant as soon as she heard that.

"Yes, I heard she was wounded in the face. Her face must have smashed against something. Ruiping Great Elder Princess has invited several imperial physicians to treat her!" Yujie said.

"What a coincidence!" Shao Wanru couldn't help sighing with emotion. Neither Shao Hua'an nor Infanta Yuan'an got along well with her. Shao Hua'an had broken his leg, so the Marquis Xing's Mansion would be significantly weakened and would not have enough energy to protest against anything.

Shao Hua'an would be busy recuperating for a period, which would help secure her younger brother's position as the heir of a duke.

"Prepare a carriage. I'll go to the Marquis Xing's Mansion!" After meditating silently for a while, Shao Wanru stood up and ordered.

"My Lady, didn't you say that you wouldn't go there?" Yujie was afraid that something terrible would happen to Shao Wanru, so she hurriedly asked.

Shao Wanru said, "It was before. But now, the situation has changed. No matter what, Shao Hua'an is my eldest cousin. When such a horrific accident happened to him, how could I not visit him!"

At this time, she had to go and see him as soon as she got the news. After such a big event, even if she did not know it, the Marquis Xing's Mansion would send someone to inform her. After all, it was more than a collision by accident. They were very likely to be engaged in a lawsuit.

Shao Hua'an seemed to be seriously injured. After all, his leg was broken. But if Infanta Yuan'an's face was hurt, it would not be a trivial problem, for it would affect her for the rest of her life. Especially when Infanta Yuan'an was about to become Princess Zhou, her face was even more important. Ruiping Great Elder Princess would not easily let off the Duke Xing's Mansion.

Not only Ruiping Great Elder Princess but also the Empress would put pressure on them.

In such a crisis, Old Madam would think of her. Of course, she would not let go of such an opportunity to attract everyone's attention to this matter. The Marquis Xing's Mansion was strong in will but weak in power to deal with Hao'er. At present, they had to cope with Ruiping Great Elder Princess first.

As for Princess Chen, they wouldn't dare to offend her at this time since they had to hold on to her.

"My Lady, the Marquis Xing's Mansion sent someone to invite you over. It's said that First Young Master has broken his leg. It's a terrible accident!" Nanny Yu hurried in and reported.

"Tell the people of the Marquis Xing's Mansion that I will go immediately!" Shao Wanru looked at Nanny Yu from the dressing table's mirror and ordered lazily!

Her maids were quite speedy. They helped her wash and dress again in a short while and changed her into light purple clothes. Then Shao Wanru walked outside with Yujie and Qu Le.

The carriage was ready. They got on it and went all the way to the Marquis Xing's Mansion. Just as they entered the mansion, they saw Nanny Yu pacing back and forth anxiously at the gate. When seeing Shao Wanru coming over, she finally breathed a sigh of relief. Now, Princess Chen was the most powerful person in Marquis Xing's Mansion. If she refused to come, their mansion might not bear the hard blows from Ruiping Great Elder Princess this time!

"Greetings, Princess Chen!"

"How is my Eldest Brother?" Shao Wanru waved her hand and walked in.

"I'm afraid... the First Young Master is in critical condition!" Nanny Yu said, the rims of her eyes red, and she took a few rapid steps to catch up with Shao Wanru.

### [Medical Princess](#)

#### **Chapter 1025: The Hidden Minister Zhao**

Nanny Yu called out that Shao Hua'an was in critical condition. Well, she was telling the truth.

When Shao Wanru arrived at Shao Hua'an's courtyard and saw Zhao Xiran, who seemed to be much more haggard, she knew he was in danger.

The doctors who came in and out of the courtyard did not look very well.

Zhao Xiran welcomed Shao Wanru into the wing room.

Shao Hua'an was undergoing medical treatment in the central room, where many people were hurrying to and fro, so it was not convenient for Shao Wanru to go there.

"Sister Zhao, why would my Eldest Brother bump into Infanta Yuan'an's carriage?" After sitting down, Shao Wanru asked.

Zhao Xiran looked up at Shao Wanru and was speechless for a moment.

Shao Wanru looked very calm, slightly raising her watery eyes with peace. Maybe there was a little concern, but it was not obvious. After having been bombarded with all the troubles caused by the second branch, Princess Chen had little affection for the Marquis Xing's Mansion, did she?

"Is Princess Chen behind it? That was really a sudden coincidence, after all. It happened right after Shao Yuanhao became the heir of a duke, and officials were arguing fiercely about it in the imperial court.

"The accident that happened to my husband at this exact time would benefit Shao Yuanhao the most, wouldn't it?"

"Sister Zhao..." Seeing Zhao Xiran lower her head to ponder, Shao Wanru looked upset. Zhao Xiran heard Shao Wanru call her lightly and saw the trace of displeasure in her eyes.

Her unhappy look cleared up Zhao Xiran's doubts. Shao Wanru couldn't be the prime mover in this conspiracy because she was not capable of carrying on such a big plot, even if she had married Prince Chen. At present, Prince Chen was not in the capital city, so everyone around her was from the inner court. Prince Chen had left a few guards for her, but so what? They couldn't come up with such a precise plan.

Accurately carrying out a major scheme needed many helpers. Her father had told her that it was definitely not done by people from the inner court. Zhao Xiran thought Princess Chen wasn't smart enough to do that.

What about Prince Chen? He was not in the capital city now. But even if he was, so what? No one dared to look down upon him because of his honorable position, but it was merely a position in name only. Prince Chen, who had been sick for so many years, didn't have much real power.

But during this period, the identity of Princess Chen gave Shao Wanru excellent service.

When Prince Chen was away, the Empress Dowager and the Emperor had put all their love and concern for Prince Chen on Princess Chen. This was the conclusion people in the Marquis Xing's Mansion drew through their agonizing experience after their clash with Princess Chen.

So, they knew they could never offend Princess Chen!

"Fifth Sister... it... it was such an odd coincidence. When your Eldest Brother was on his way back to the mansion, his horse suddenly shied and then hit the carriage of Ruiping Great Elder Princess's Mansion. And the person inside it happened to be Infanta Yuan'an! This... this is really an unexpected disaster." Zhao Xiran burst into tears.

"Your Eldest Brother wasn't severely injured. But Infanta Yuan'an, Infanta Yuan'an..."

"What did she do?" Shao Wanru asked in surprise. After she got the news, she didn't ask anyone to investigate it carefully for fear that anyone would notice she was asking about it. But now it seemed that the rumors were not true.

"After Infanta Yuan'an was injured, she sent some evil servants, and they broke your brother's leg!" Zhao Xiran choked with sobs.

"How could this be?" Shao Wanru's face changed. Infanta Yuan'an was overbearing, but she wouldn't do such a thing, even if she was the Great Elder Princess's granddaughter. In particular, she should even behave more appropriately as the future Princess Zhou, who was supposed to remain dignified and decent before others.

"Infanta Yuan'an has been left disfigured!" Zhao Xiran cried. "Like crazy, she ordered her people to beat your Eldest Brother brutally!"

"Disfigured? Is it serious?" Shao Wanru frowned slightly and asked.

"I don't know. I only heard her face got a scar. Then, Infanta Yuan'an pressed the scar between her eyebrows and commanded the guards going with her carriage to hit him... They cruelly broke his leg on the spot..." Zhao Xiran said with hatred, crying even more bitterly. "How could Infanta Yuan'an do that even if she got a wound on her face? There are so many top-class medicines in the Palace. The cut on her face wouldn't spoil her look. How could she break your Eldest Brother's leg?"

This was also because her husband wasn't the heir of a duke in the Marquis Xing's Mansion. Otherwise, no matter how arrogant Infanta Yuan'an was, she wouldn't dare to do so. But unfortunately, Hua'an was just an ordinary First Young Master without any title. Thinking of this, Zhao Xiran felt even more resentful.

So, they would have to face a court case?

There would be a lawsuit, and that was why they invited Shao Wanru over. At the gate, Nanny Yu had been waiting for her anxiously. When she arrived, Nanny Yu went to report to the Old Madam in such a hurry. All of this proved that they intended to put her forward to the heart of the fierce struggle.

The first and second branches of the Marquis Xing's Mansion had never been on good terms with each other. To compete for the position of the heir of a duke, the two branches couldn't get along well with each other. Now that her younger brother got the title of the heir of a duke, she must intervene personally on behalf of the first branch. Compared with what had happened before, it was more reasonable for her to handle this matter.

No one was willing to meddle in this mess. Whoever stepped forward to settle the issue would get into desperate trouble.

Zhao Xiran mentioned it lightly, as if Infanta Yuan'an's injury was not serious. But if what she said were true, Infanta Yuan'an would not have broken Shao Yuan'an's leg in a frenzy.

If so, Minister Zhao would be the first to go out and right the wrong. But instead of doing that, they chose to dump this problem on her to drag her down.

Unlucky for her, Shao Wanru had no choice but to take it over.

"What did Grandma say?" After thinking for a while, Shao Wanru asked.

"She is ill and can't even get up from the bed. At present, only Nanny Yu is helping me. People in the whole mansion become... useless like this." Zhao Xiran stood up and suddenly knelt before Shao Wanru. "Please help me, Princess Chen. Anyway... you can't let Infanta Yuan'an bully the people of our Marquis Xing's Mansion like this!"

Zhao Xiran cried and shed bitter tears.

"Sister Zhao, get up and talk to me!" Shao Wanru reached out to pull Zhao Xiran.

Yujie, standing nearby, helped pull Zhao Xiran up, supporting her to sit down in her seat.

“What did Minister Zhao think of it?” Shao Wanru rolled her watery eyes and asked.

“My... my father...” Zhao Xiran didn’t expect that Shao Wanru would suddenly mention Minister Zhao at this time. After a brief pause, she said, “I haven’t informed my father about this, so I don’t know what his attitude is!”

“Infanta Yuan’an played the tyrant at will and broke my Eldest Brother’s leg. A complaint about this should be made to His Majesty. We can’t let Infanta Yuan’an think our mansion has no capable person and is in a vulnerable position!” Shao Wanru spoke with the force of justice.

Zhao Xiran wiped her tears with her handkerchief and said, “My father has shouldered many other responsibilities, so it’s not suitable for him to take up the matter himself. Fifth Sister, if you’re willing to uphold justice for my husband, my father is glad to lend a hand.”

Her words were sincere. Like her father, all the ministers were very cautious with their words and actions. It meant that even if Minister Zhao had known the matter, he wouldn’t thrust himself forward to face the challenge. It was best for him to encourage and increase Shao Wanru’s influence aside.

Well, she was suggesting that Shao Wanru should take up the main task.

“How about my Second Uncle?” Shao Wanru asked.

“He fainted all of a sudden. Although he has woken up now, he vomited blood.” Zhao Xiran cried.

According to her, Zhao Xiran was the only one who did not fall, but she had a miscarriage not long ago and was in bad health.

Shao Jing fell ill at the best time. A series of accidents happened to his wife and son in his mansion. Worse still, he lost the title of the heir of a duke. After lots of terrible blows, he spat out blood and collapsed. His reaction sounded fair and reasonable even though Shao Jing appeared much tougher on ordinary days.

However, he stood a good chance of going down when he was too occupied to cope with all the problems coming one after another.

Needless to say, at this time, Shao Jing’s courtyard must be full of doctors serving him.

The reality forced Shao Wanru to brace up and press charges against Infanta Yuan’an.

Even after a woman got married, her parent’s home was still very important to her. If they were unable to defend themselves or were easily bullied before the mansion gate, it would bring disgrace upon every member surnamed Shao of the family. Even if Shao Wanru was on bad terms with them and she had married into Prince Chen’s Mansion, she had to stand up and fight for Marquis Xing’s Mansion at this time.

If Shao Wanru made no response at this time, others would despise her and would think she had nothing to rely on. In the future, anyone would dare to trample on the Marquis Xing’s Mansion without scruples.

Shao Wanru wouldn’t care about it in the past, but after Shao Yuanhao became the heir of a duke of the Marquis Xing’s Mansion. She had to help even if she didn’t want to!

"Fifth Sister, please beg the Empress Dowager to uphold justice for our family," Zhao Xiran cried, "Your Eldest Brother's leg is seriously injured. I'm afraid he has to lie down the whole time... In the future... the future of the Marquis Xing's Mansion will depend on you and our younger brother!"

"Sister Zhao, I understood. I will soon go to meet the Empress Dowager in the Palace!" Shao Wanru said, her eyes deep and serene.

"That... that's great. Thank you, Princess Chen. Thank you, Fifth Sister!" Zhao Xiran was deeply touched. She stood up and was about to bow to Shao Wanru again. This time, Yujie quickly stopped her.

"Sister Zhao, have a good rest and take good care of my Eldest Brother. I will go to the Palace now!" Shao Wanru stood up and said softly.

"Yes, I... I will!" Zhao Xiran was once again moved and looked at Shao Wanru with gratitude. She nodded repeatedly and walked Shao Wanru to the corridor. Watching Shao Wanru leave, she vigorously wiped the tears from the corners of her eyes and turned into another wing room.

A middle-aged man was sitting there, appearing perfectly calm and collected. He was Zhao Xiran's biological father, Minister Zhao, whom Zhao Xiran and Shao Wanru had just mentioned.

"Father, Princess Chen is gone!" Zhao Xiran closed the door and whispered after entering the room.

Shao Wanru came as quite a surprise to them, and she blocked Minister Zhao in the yard.

"Never underestimate Princess Chen!" Minister Zhao said steadily. He had stolen a glance at Shao Wanru through the window. In a hurry, she came and left, but she remained composed and steady the whole time.

"Father, I have never looked down upon her. But in the current situation, she has to intervene in this matter. Since she has agreed to help, this crisis also belongs to Prince Chen's Mansion." Zhao Xiran said unhappily. Except for her, her father had never praised other women. Why would her father think highly of Princess Chen?

"Don't act rashly!" Minister Zhao warned.

"Father, but my husband's title of the heir of a duke is gone!" Zhao Xiran, a little anxious, unconsciously raised her voice.

### [Medical Princess](#)

#### **Chapter 1026: A Vist to Ning Xueqing**

"You're too eager for success!" Minister Zhao observed his daughter for quite a while and suddenly remarked, "Before you married, you always kept a big plan in your mind. But now, you've lost your mental poise!"

Minister Zhao shook his head and sighed with regret in his eyes. "If only you were a man, I wouldn't have to worry so much about you!"

If she were a man, she wouldn't marry into the Marquis Xing's Mansion in the first place, nor would she fall into the struggle for the title of the heir of a duke in the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

Women, after all, were more affectionate than men. With Shao Hua'an in her heart, she saw the situation differently.

Watching the accusing look in her father's eyes, Zhao Xiran took a deep breath and slowly lowered her head. "Yes, father, I'm a little too impatient!"

"In the future, if... you can have everything. Since you have walked into this game, you should be careful. I think in the same way, but you're not. At present, it's hard to tell who is right and who is wrong. You should treat the varying situation with some sensitivity at all events!"

Minister Zhao said meaningfully.

After a long silence interval, Zhao Xiran raised her head and looked firmly at Minister Zhao. "Father, I know. I will stay cautious in the future. Never again will I invite you over in a panic and put you in a passive position!"

Minister Zhao was pleased with his daughter's clear understanding. His face softened a little, and he sighed heavily, his slightly tender eyes on her. "It's all my fault. More than ten years ago, if it weren't for me..."

"Father, don't say that. I understand. It was not your fault. That cunning person is to blame!" Zhao Xiran gritted her teeth and interrupted Minister Zhao.

"Well, you... be careful!" Minister Zhao nodded helplessly!

Shao Wanru got on the carriage, her arched eyebrows slightly creasing.

"My Lady, what's the annoying matter?" Yujie asked.

"Did you see anyone in the wing room on the other side just now?" Shao Wanru caught a glimpse of the person and wasn't sure about it.

"Which wing room?" Yujie was stunned.

Qu Le thought for a moment and said, "Our Lady must have been talking about another wing room near the main room. The curtain there has moved. I seem to have seen someone there."

"Did you also notice that?" Shao Wanru's shining eyes widened a little. She thought she was wrong because she spotted it at a glance. Anyway, she was not sure if her eyes deceived her.

"I saw it. The curtains moved, and the color of the clothes seemed to be cyan," added Qu Le.

"Then I was right." An understanding look emerged in her watery eyes. If so, there was someone in cyan clothes and she knew who it was.

"Clothes in cyan are usually men's clothes. Is there any man hiding in the First Young Madam's courtyard?" Yujie came to her senses and asked in surprise.

Ever since First Young Master had the accident, many doctors and servants were coming and going in the courtyard. How could this man dare to stay there? Wasn't he afraid that others would find him out?

"He just avoided me or didn't want me to see him. For other people in the mansion, his appearance wouldn't put First Young Madam into any trouble. Or we can think that it was perfectly justifiable for him to appear in Eldest Brother's courtyard!"

Shao Wanru analyzed.

"How could any man's appearance in the First Young Madam's courtyard be right and proper?" Yujie asked in surprise.

To avert suspicion, males and females above seven years old shouldn't share a dining table, even if they were relatives.

Shao Wanru said, her eyes looking ahead leisurely, "In such a special period, they might resort to unconventional rules. The man must have come to visit Eldest Brother. At this time, Minister Zhao should be the only one who could go straight into the inner court to visit Eldest Brother!"

Minister Zhao, the minister of the Ministry of Works, appeared in her mind. She did not know much about things in the imperial court but only knew the title of Minister Zhao.

"Does Minister Zhao care about his daughter very much?" Qu Le asked.

Her daughter had married. Even if something terrible happened to his son-in-law, he shouldn't have been in such a hurry. But shouldn't it be Madam Zhao who came over to visit their daughter?

"Maybe Minister Zhao regards Zhao Xiran with special concern!" Shao Wanru said meaningfully. After Zhao Xiran married with Shao Hua'an, she had always been tactful when handling people and issues. Anyway, she was bright and likable.

Of course, she took Old Madam's fancy but not Shao Wanru's because many of her deeds were inappropriate in Shao Wanru's eyes.

Well, there was no hurry in figuring out this matter. No matter what Zhao Xiran was up to, as long as she didn't scheme against her, Shao Wanru could pretend to be a deaf-mute.

However, when she just got married, there seemed to have many barriers between Zhao Xiran and the Marquis Xing's Mansion. But for the time being, it looked the relationship between them had become harmonious. Zhao Xiran had even learned to think for Shao Hua'an!

"My Lady, let me get out of the carriage at the crossroad in front!" Yujie lifted the curtain to check the surroundings and carefully told Shao Wanru. She had arranged it before she went out.

"Let Qu Le go for it!" Shao Wanru shook her head and said.

"Didn't we agree that I would go there?" Yujie asked.

"There are fewer people who know Qu Le," Shao Wanru said. In the past, she often went out with Yujie, so Yujie could spare herself from giving an explanation when she arrived. However, her appearance would make others suspect her.

At this critical moment, better safe than sorry.



When their carriage stopped at a turn in front, Qu Le got off the carriage quietly, and then the carriage continued to move forward.

She was going to the Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion now, but there was no hurry. Deliberately, she made the carriage move a little slower so she could go sightseeing along the streets.

"My Lady, does Ning Xueqing have anything to do with Secondary Consort Shao?" Yujie saw that Shao Wanru was leisurely enjoying the scenery outside the window, so she tried to hold back her doubts. However, she failed in the end.

Ning Xueqing, who had been in prison, got entangled with Shao Yanru long ago, and they were still in touch! Yujie felt it was incredible because Secondary Consort Shao didn't live a good life in the Palace.

The Empress didn't like her, nor did the Emperor dote on her. How did she get people outside of the Palace to spy for her?

"Shao Yanru is never innocent and simple!" Shao Wanru revealed a light smile, and her eyes turned indifferent. "Even in the Palace, she can reach the world outside. Isn't Qiu Yu one of her tentacles?"

Shao Wanru didn't believe that Qiu Yu appeared behind the curtains at the religious ceremony by accident and that he did it for Madam Jiang.

When Madam Jiang was living in the Yuhui Nunnery, her ties to the outside world were cut off. Back then, she was unable to keep Nanny Sheng, her trusted maid, let alone others. Besides, she returned to the mansion because of a touchy case. Qiu Yu must be out of his mind to conspire with Madam Jiang. Therefore, Shao Yanru was most likely to be his accomplice.

If it was Shao Yanru, everything would become reasonable.

Qiu Yu had a deep affection for Shao Yanru and didn't care if Shao Yanru was in the Palace. Perhaps, Lord Qiu considered Shao Yanru a pitiful lady with many saved-up grievances. As a descendant of an aristocratic family, he could fully "comprehend" her "embarrassing" situation in the Palace. Deep down, he must have felt genuine sympathy for her.

If Shao Yanru asked him to provide Madam Jiang with aid, he would readily agree.

"But she is in such an unfavorable situation in the Palace. It is even impossible for her to meet Lord Qiu!" Yujie said. Still, she thought it was impossible even though she had always believed in Princess Chen. Whenever she put herself in Shao Yanru's miserable place, she realized she couldn't do anything good, let alone get in touch with the officials.

Unlike Madams living in aristocratic families outside the Palace, the imperial consorts had been living under the watchful eyes of many people. It was not convenient at all for them to meet men.

Shao Yanru was now merely a Secondary Consort out of favor, but she wouldn't hide anything from all the informers planted by others in the Palace even if she were a consort in her good graces.

"Of course, it's not just her. She can't do it alone!" Shao Wanru said with a smile, lazily raising the corners of her rosy and delicate lips. Yujie felt that since her master married Prince Chen, her idle manner looked increasingly similar to Prince Chen's.

“There must be some people in the Palace to coordinate with and help her. Am I right?”

“Yes, of course. Without any supporters, Shao Yanru couldn’t do this. Since she can get in touch with Qiu Yu, she can certainly contact others.” Shao Wanru’s eyes darkened. She had thought of someone, a very crucial one. Without this person, Shao Yanru would not handle everything with skill and ease in the Palace.

Despite that she was loathed by the Empress and obtained no love from the Emperor, Shao Yanru was still living a good life. Of course, on the surface, she looked pitiable. Because of this, the other imperial consorts in the Palace had always been nice to her. After all, Shao Yanru did not mean to compete for the Emperor’s favor.

Shao Wanru thought if Shao Yanru could use this person, so would she!

When the time was right, she would make use of this person...

“Who are you?” Ning Xueqing looked at Qu Le, who stood outside the cell, and stepped back, her eyes watchful.

Wang Shengxue had been poisoned to death by the food from the mansion. Because of this, she wouldn’t believe anyone now. Anyone who appeared in front of her might kill her.

Wang Shengxue’s death gave her a strong feeling of impending crisis. For the moment, she didn’t dare to ask for anything but just wanted to leave here as soon as possible.

“Madam Ning, don’t you want to leave this place?” Qu Le said, beaming broadly at her while handing over a bag of snacks she bought on the way here.

As soon as the food wrapped up in a paper bag came near, Ning Xueqing could smell the fragrance wafting from it. Her face changed drastically, and she shook her hands vigorously before her and refused it. “I... I’m not hungry. I don’t want to eat anything. Who... Who is your master?”

Wang Shengxue died from a poisonous meal. So, Ning Xueqing wouldn’t eat anything sent from outside.

“Madam Ning, rest assured. My master won’t hurt you. Don’t you think I look a little familiar? You must have seen me before!” Qu Le grinned but didn’t press too hard. Without withdrawing her hand, she put up a genial smile.

“You... your master is...” Ning Xueqing put down her hands hesitantly and observed Qu Le’s face carefully.

Every mansion had many servant girls: principal maids, not-so-important maids, and ordinary ones. Ning Xueqing couldn’t recognize all the maids in Wang Shengxue’s manor, not to mention those from the Marquis Xing’s Mansion. In particular, she couldn’t trust any maids from the Marquis Xing’s Mansion at this moment.

Marquis Xing’s Mansion had lots of maids of different ages and ranks. She had met some of them but there were many that she had never seen before. It was impossible for her to know every one of a large number of maids.

## Medical Princess

### **Chapter 1027: Getting Information, Calling on Great Elder Princess**

“How could you not know who my master was?” Qu Le looked at her smilingly and took out an emerald bead from the pocket in her arms, flashed it before Ning Xueqing. “We’re in the jail of the Ministry of Justice, so it’s inconvenient for me to speak out something. Please forgive me, Madam Ning!”

The emerald bead had appeared at Wang Yishu’s funeral, which greatly embarrassed Dongxing, who was Wang Shengxue’s concubine at that time.

It was also because of this matter that Ning Xueqing came into contact with Shao Yanru. Even Wang Shengxue did not know about it.

The little bead of emerald before Ning Xueqing represented Shao Yanru.

Ning Xueqing clenched her fists and said, her voice throbbing with emotion, “Please tell your master to save me. I don’t want to be locked up in this big prison. I have put all the blame on Wang Shengxue according to the instructions from your mansion!”

She believed Qu Le’s words and deliberately lowered her voice.

A few days ago, someone from the Marquis Xing’s Mansion let her shift all the blame on Wang Shengxue, who was already a dead man. Considering her relationship with Shao Yanru and the statement to be the best way to get away, she had no hesitation in agreeing with their suggestion and changing her testimony before the officials of the Ministry of Justice.

Wang Shengxue committed all the crimes, including the plot against Shao Wanru. Ning Xueqing only knew that there was someone behind Wang Shengxue. Beyond that, this person seemed to be a formidable enemy of the Marquis Xing’s Mansion, who spared no effort in dealing with the Marquis Xing’s Mansion secretly.

Back then, Shao Wanru would return to her original family, the Duke Xing’s Mansion. Dealing with her was dealing with the Duke Xing’s Mansion, and Madam Jiang would have to take the blame.

Likewise, setting up Yan Xi was also a move against the current Marquis Xing’s Mansion. Of course, the purpose was to make Shao Jing, the master of the Marquis Xing’s Mansion, take the rap.

To prove that, Ning Xueqing even revealed Wang Shengxue’s private property, some nice fat cheques for silver, which was an enormous fortune. At a glance, they couldn’t belong to Wang Shengxue unless he got them from someone else.

After the investigation by the staff of the Ministry of Justice, they vaguely found that there seemed to be someone behind Wang Shengxue, but they couldn’t find out who it was for a while, so they put the matter aside.

Therefore, Ning Xueqing was still behind bars.

“My master has already known what happened in our mansion. Don’t you know Wang Shengxue had another master? I heard that he was most amenable to your idea. In the manor, although you were just a concubine, you performed the duties of his legal wife. Madam Ning, don’t you think you should be more sincere?”

Qu Le said nonchalantly with calm assurance, still smiling.

She made a veiled reference to her past things to sound her out. Before coming here, Princess Chen urged her again and again to stay calm. She mustn't be impatient.

Princess Chen knew Wang Shengxue had a master, and she seemed to have figured out who it was.

However, Wang Shengxue turned to that master after Wang Yishu's death, which had nothing to do with what he had done before. Wang Shengxue did it to fight against the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

Wang Yishu had passed away at that time. Although Wang Shengxue had grasped some evidence, he would have to hand it over if Shao Jing, Marquis Xing, pushed him to get the evidence. Therefore, he needed a backer.

Later on, Madam Jiang and Shao Yanru got into serious trouble one after another, so the evidence became useless. Shao Jing, who was Marquis Xing, couldn't take the blame for Wang Yishu's death. As for the other two who were responsible, Madam Jiang was degraded to the Yuhui Nunnery, and Shao Yanru went to the Palace. After that, Wang Yishu's evidence outlived its purpose.

At least Wang Shengxue could no longer use it to threaten the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

After that, Marquis Xing made some effort to persuade Wang Shengxue to work for them again. Only then did they target Yan Xi, who had just arrived in the capital.

Generally speaking, the person behind Wang Shengxue was made a scapegoat taking the blame for the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

"I... I really don't know. My husband never told me this kind of thing. I'm just a woman, a humble concubine. If he treated me sincerely, why didn't he make me his legal wife after so many years? He held other intentions — he only wanted to marry some noble Young Lady from a wealthy and influential family."

Ning Xueqing burst out crying, stretching out her hands to wipe her tears with grievances.

Qu Le sighed softly. "If you don't want to say it, then forget it. Our master doesn't want to help you for nothing."

After that, she turned around and was about to leave.

Almost instantly, Ning Xueqing became so anxious that she pounced on the wooden fence. Grabbing the two big wooden bars before her, she hurriedly called, "But I... I've said everything your mansion told me to say!"

"It was in the past. Besides, my master didn't let you say those words. At most, my master will think about it, but you can't let her save you for that!" Qu Le turned around and sneered, "You're smart and know what my master wants. I advise you to behave honestly. Do you think it's possible to gain advantages from both sides? Is my master so stupid in your eyes?"

Right after saying this, Qu Le turned around to leave. She seemed very disappointed with Ning Xueqing and didn't even want to spend more time persuading her.

However, Ning Xueqing wouldn't let her go like this. In the past few days, she had been living in terror and uncertainty in her cell and had a great yearning to go out. At this moment, someone who could get her out appeared. How could she let the chance slip? No matter how uneasy she felt when telling the truth, she no longer dared to hold anything back. "You... wait a minute, I... I'll tell you!"

"Madam Ning, you finally straightened out your thinking! That's great. My master likes to associate with honest people. You've made the best choice!" Qu Le said joyfully and returned to the fence with a big smile. "Her Highness was right. Secondary Consort Shao indeed has something to do with Ning Xueqing.

"As long as she believed I negotiated with her on behalf of Secondary Consort Shao, I can get twofold results with half the effort. Then, I'll send someone to see Ning Caixian..."

Shao Wanru arrived at the Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion.

As soon as she got off the carriage, she saw that Nanny Gao, Great Elder Princess's trusted maid, was waiting there already. Seeing her coming down, Nanny Gao stepped forward and saluted with a smile. "Greetings, Princess Chen!"

"Nanny Gao, why are you here?" Shao Wanru was stunned when she found out Nanny Gao was staying here for her. After all, it was a sudden visit to Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

"I was going to go out to see you as Great Elder Princess ordered, but I didn't expect to see your carriage coming over as soon as I got here. Then I happened to be able to welcome you!" Nanny Gao smiled and leaned to one side, making way for Shao Wanru to go first.

"Why is my grandma looking for me?" Shao Wanru asked as she walked in.

Shao Wanru came to Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion frequently, so she was familiar with the route.

"You went to the Marquis Xing's Mansion, so Her Grace asked me to accompany you because she was afraid that you would suffer losses!" Nanny Gao answered, "Just now, I asked someone to prepare a carriage for me to go to the Marquis Xing's Mansion!"

When Rui'an Great Elder Princess heard Shao Wanru would go to the Marquis Xing's Mansion, she felt anxious for her and sent her most reliable Nanny to help for fear that she would get into trouble. Unlike her, Old Madam, her grandmother in the Marquis Xing's Mansion, didn't show up even when Shao Wanru arrived at her mansion. Other than that, she forced Shao Wanru to confront Infanta Yuan'an. Their attitudes toward Shao Wanru were widely divergent.

Shao Wanru felt deeply touched in her heart, and a touch of tenderness flashed across her eyes.

"I come here to discuss with my grandmother because I'm afraid I might make a mistake in the end. After all, I may be too young to know the whole thing!"

"My Lady, it's best that you think like this. Her Grace is quite worried about you. Although you are now Princess Chen, in her eyes, you're always her granddaughter, her beloved junior!" Nanny Gao breathed a sigh of relief in her heart, and the smile on her face became more sincere.

She was worried that Princess Chen would misunderstand her master, blaming her for keeping an eye on her.

After all, Fifth Miss Shao had become Princess Chen. But now she was relieved. Even if she was Princess Chen, she was also Fifth Miss Shao, her master's dear granddaughter.

Great Elder Princess had been firm and unyielding. Even though she was a woman, her way of doing things was not gentle but even quite aggressive. Nanny Gao worried that Great Elder Princess might end up making a blunder when trying to help out of kindness. Now when ensuring that Shao Wanru didn't feel repulsion for her deeds and was very grateful to her, Nanny Gao finally put her mind at rest.

In the past, Infanta Qinghua didn't care about Great Elder Princess's concerns. Great Elder Princess learned about her daughter's marriage after she was endowed with it. No matter how hard she felt to accept this marriage, she could do nothing about it because the Emperor approved of it. She could only watch her daughter marry into the Duke Xing's Mansion.

Many incidents happened after Infanta Qinghua got married. Outsiders only knew some superficial things. They all thought that Infanta Qinghua left so suddenly that no one could contact her.

In fact, just when Infanta Qinghua married into the Duke Xing's Mansion, Great Elder Princess sent some people to watch out for her daughter. However, Infanta Qinghua didn't like it, thinking that her mother had placed her under surveillance. After Infanta Qinghua had vigorously protested against it several times, Great Elder Princess had to withdraw her people. Then, after Infanta Qinghua and the Heir of Duke Xing left, Great Elder Princess couldn't find their whereabouts.

By the time they found her, Infanta Qinghua had become delirious and had no idea what had happened. There was also Princess Chen, her granddaughter, who had been wandering outside for so many years.

Princess Chen in front of her was very grateful. She understood that Great Elder Princess was doing this for her good. Nanny Gao was so excited that she felt like crying. This time, her master's hard work didn't go in vain, and Shao Wanru could understand her kind intention.

Hearing that Shao Wanru had come, Great Elder Princess had already asked someone to wait at the gate of the courtyard. As soon as any servant saw Shao Wanru, they would pass the news until it reached Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

When Shao Wanru entered, the bead curtain was lifted high for her. Then she saw Rui'an Great Elder Princess's upright figure sitting in the main room of the courtyard.

"Greetings, Grandma!" Shao Wanru came in and saluted Great Elder Princess.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess held her hand, observing Shao Wanru's face. When making sure that she was fine, she let out a long sigh of relief and pulled Shao Wanru to sit down on a chair beside her. "Did the people of the Marquis Xing's Mansion force you to fight against Ruiping Great Elder Princess's Mansion?"

Her question showed all her concern for Shao Wanru and all the schemes of the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

Shao Wanru gave her a warm and vivid smile. It turned out that her grandmother wasn't always that blunt and straightforward. Judging from this question, she knew her grandmother was quite clever and sensible. "Grandma, what do you think I should do?"

## Medical Princess

### Chapter 1028: Find out About the Past

Without saying yes or no, she asked in reply, giving tacit consent to the status quo.

“Oh, the Marquis Xing’s Mansion is going from bad to worse without showing any improvement. Though you were a daughter in their mansion, you have married into another mansion. How could they thrust you forward to face the challenge?” Rui’an Great Elder Princess scolded with a sneer. Everything was seen as clear as crystal to her.

“Grandma, do you think I can do it?” Shao Wanru got straight to the point with her grandma, no longer needing to make every move only after mature deliberation. She loved the feeling when being with her family because she could say anything completely without scruples.

It was completely unnecessary for her to be discreet in word and deed. She could speak out whatever came to her mind. Even if she said something wrong, her grandmother would be more than willing to forgive her.

The feeling of being with family was always warm and reassuring. There was no need to talk in a roundabout way. She could say anything in her mind out loud.

“You can’t meddle in this affair!” Rui’an Great Elder Princess said with a low and urgent voice. A hint of sharpness flashed across her soft eyes as she said with a snorted disgust, “The Marquis Xing’s Mansion has shifted all the responsibility onto you. Refusing to handle the matter means both you and your brother are incompetent. Also, it proves your brother is incapable of inheriting the Marquis Xing’s Mansion. As a result, the powerless Marquis Xing’s Mansion, your parents’ home, can never back you up. What a devilish trick!”

Rui’an Great Elder Princess had an intense hatred of such conduct of the Marquis Xing’s Mansion.

“But I can’t stand by. They’ve announced that they are all sick!” Shao Wanru said gently with a smile, grasping her grandma’s hand instead and shaking it like a spoiled child. “Grandma, you don’t have to worry about this. It’s not good for you to intervene. Honestly, this matter is the Marquis Xing’s Mansion’s business. If you take a hand in this matter, you will give others an excuse against yourself!”

Though Rui’an Great Elder Princess enjoyed a noble and distinguished status, she had no real power. If she meddled deep in the private affairs of the Marquis Xing’s Mansion, she provided others’ critics with a handle. It would be very unfavorable to Rui’an Great Elder Princess.

More importantly, their opponent this time was the Ruiping Great Elder Princess’s Mansion, so Shao Wanru was more reluctant to let Rui’an Great Elder Princess interfere in this family problem.

“What? How can they be so shameless?” Rui’an Great Elder Princess accused, foaming with rage. She had thought that Old Madam of the Marquis Xing’s Mansion would find a way to suppress Shao Wanru, but never had she imagined that this old bitch would be so unashamed — she threw the trouble package to Shao Wanru and walked away.

“Is she ill? It’s all show. I’ll visit her and take the imperial physician to check her up!” Rui’an Great Elder Princess was so pissed off that she was about to stand up instantly.

When Shao Wanru saw that something was going to be wrong, she quickly reached out to stop her grandmother, hurriedly trying to persuade her. "Grandma, hold on. I may not be at a disadvantage. Even if you can go there with an imperial physician, so what? Old Madam doesn't fake illness. Because she has an old weakness, she can pretend to faint or fall ill whenever she wants. Even imperial physicians can't find out anything about it!"

Old Madam's old illness was real and serious. Otherwise, when Shao Wanru met her for the first time, she wouldn't fall into critical condition.

She was old and sick, so the imperial physician couldn't find evidence to prove she wasn't ill. She alone could decide whether to appear healthy or not. How could she possibly have no health issues?

Rui'an Great Elder Princess was straightforward with a volcanic temper. It would be no big deal if Old Madam pretended to be ill. But if not, Rui'an Great Elder Princess might cause Old Madam to die of anger once she kicked up a row in the Marquis Xing's Mansion. Then, it would be a disaster.

Unlike Madam Jiang, Old Madam herself hadn't done so many vicious tricks. In other people's eyes, Old Madam didn't seem to be kind to Shao Wanru merely because she might not like her that much.

Her tragic fate due to bias would arouse considerable sympathy from many Old Madams in other mansions. Each mansion had many grandsons and granddaughters. How could they treat all with the same kindness? In Old Madam's heart, the granddaughter who grew up beside her was undoubtedly different from the one who came back from outside. She didn't deserve to die for that!

Absolutely, the others would think they persecuted Old Madam to death. If such a thing happened, her grandmother would be in serious trouble. Shao Wanru didn't want her grandmother to suffer because of this kind of thing.

Shao Jing was shrewd and deep. Beyond that, Shao Wanru suspected that he had something to do with her father's death. Shao Jing, who was hardhearted enough to kill his elder brother, could lay murderous hands on Old Madam and make Rui'an Great Elder Princess the scapegoat. Why couldn't he do that?

Therefore, during such a sensitive and dangerous period, she would never let her grandmother go to the Marquis Xing's Mansion in a burning fury.

"Then what? If she likes to be sick, let her be. In that case, she won't instigate incidents and make trouble for us!" Rui'an Great Elder Princess was so angry that her face turned pale. "She shifts the misfortune onto you! How can there be such a ruthless person in the world?"

She hated Old Madam of the Marquis Xing's Mansion to the very marrow of her bones. How she wished she could see Old Madam right away, pull her to the Palace and condemn her evils to the Empress Dowager.

While saying harsh words, Rui'an Great Elder Princess frantically lurched to her feet. She really couldn't suffer indignities without a protest.

"Grandma, do you think my father and mother died in suspicious circumstances?" Seeing that she could hardly stop Rui'an Great Elder Princess, Shao Wanru rolled her eyes and hurriedly asked, grabbing the corner of her grandmother's clothes.



Great Elder Princess's face froze, and her lips trembled twice. Immediately, she became pale. "You... you mean that your parents were murdered?"

Over the years, Rui'an Great Elder Princess had always had such a doubt, but it sounded incredible. As soon as Shao Wanru mentioned this, she couldn't help thinking of her daughter, her eyes turning red. Before her daughter died, her daughter was not quite right in the head. Rui'an Great Elder Princess didn't even see her daughter one last time before she passed away.

That day, Duke Xing's Mansion sent someone to inform her that her daughter was dead. When Rui'an Great Elder Princess hurried to see her daughter, she only caught a glance at her daughter's ghastly pale face drained of color in the distance. Her daughter's lifeless body was lying there quietly. She looked completely different than when she was alive, though insane.

At that time, in the eyes of Rui'an Great Elder Princess, she was more like the gentle and stubborn daughter long ago.

With only one glance at her daughter, Rui'an Great Elder Princess fainted. When she woke up again, the lid of her daughter's coffin had been nailed down. Rui'an Great Elder Princess didn't dare to think about what happened next. She became so muddle-headed that she couldn't remember everything clearly. After seeing that her daughter was buried, Rui'an Great Elder Princess became seriously ill, and her memory of that period was seriously damaged. She could barely remember what had happened at that time.

When her granddaughter raised this subject, it dawned on her that she missed her daughter. It was just that whenever Rui'an Great Elder Princess thought about her, her heart would hurt.

Tears fell unconsciously. When Rui'an Great Elder Princess watched Shao Wanru before her, she felt as if she were looking at her daughter in her memory.

"Grandma!" Shao Wanru's eyes also turned red. She pulled Rui'an Great Elder Princess to sit down again and reached out to hold her waist, resting her head on her shoulder. "Grandma, you are the only support of Hao'er and me. If something happens to you, won't it please those people in the Marquis Xing's Mansion and distress us?"

Rui'an Great Elder Princess felt a throbbing pain in her heart. Her daughter in the memory, the pitiful granddaughter before her, and her grandson appeared vividly in her mind together, making her wide awake at this moment. With difficulty, she moved her lips. "Do you... do you think it has anything to do with the Marquis Xing's Mansion?"

She was corresponding to Shao Wanru's previous words.

"Grandma, I think it is. When my father had the accident, my Second Uncle left the capital secretly and went to the border. Childe Yan's father had seen Second Uncle there. Later, he left there, and my father died. When my mother was found, she had been insane. After giving birth to Hao'er, she was gone forever. Since her death, Second Uncle suddenly seemed to be on excellent terms with Childe Yan's father. This time, Childe Yan's future was nearly ruined. I suppose my Second Uncle must also be behind this."

Shao Wanru whispered, biting her lips to suppress the pain in her heart.

All the suspicion fell on Shao Jing alone.

"You... are saying that Shao Jing killed your father? No one knows he secretly left the capital and killed your father except Childe Yan's father. To prevent this matter from being exposed, Shao Jing didn't want Childe Yan, his friend's son, to be an official in the capital city. Am I right?"

After all, Rui'an Great Elder Princess had been going through a lot. After forcefully suppressing the pain in her heart, she quickly figured out all the meaning of Shao Wanru's words. For a time, her face turned livid with rage. She slammed her hand heavily on the table and said, "If I find out the truth, Shao Jing will have to pay for your father's death with his life!"

"Grandma, it's a rough guess on my part, according to the letter from Childe Yan. There is no solid evidence, but I believe it is true. I lived a good life with my father and mother when I was a child. Even after my father concealed his identity and joined the army, we were fine. How could such an awful disaster happen later? How could it be such a coincidence?"

Shao Wanru said, a trace of insidious hatred flashing across her bloodshot eyes.

If it was true, then she found her personal enemy, who should be responsible for the sufferings in her two lives.

It turned out that they wanted more than to deal with her and Hao'er. The second branch that Shao Jing led had determined to destroy his elder brother's branch, leaving no chance for its revival! How malicious their intent was! They had no desire to leave a chance to live for her and Hao'er.

"I'll verify what happened back then through investigation!" Rui'an Great Elder Princess gritted her teeth so hard in anger that she even tasted the smell of blood in her mouth. She would make Shao Jing pay with his life for that if it was true.

Compared with this matter, the title of nobility of the Marquis Xing's Mansion was not that important!

What else could be more important than avenging his daughter and son-in-law's deaths?

"Grandma, it's best for you to investigate this matter. Many things happened a long time ago, even before I was born. So, I don't know much about this history. Grandma, you are my mother's biological mother. It makes sense if you want to know the truth. But we have to find a reason to launch the survey aboveboard!"

Shao Wanru said softly. Indeed, her grandma was the best choice for this case. Neither she nor Chu Liuchen was suitable.

For one thing, this matter happened more than a decade ago when they were too young to be involved. For another, Chu Liuchen might arouse the Emperor's suspicion when anyone deliberately connected the investigation with Chu Liuchen's background. After all, many people had been watching him closely, though Chu Liuchen wasn't short-handed and had many subordinates in secret to do the survey.

There was another most important reason for this choice: only in this way could she free her grandmother from the dispute between the Marquis Xing's Mansion and Infanta Yuan'an.

Her grandmother's current situation was similar to hers, so Rui'an Great Elder Princess couldn't stand by and watch. However, if Rui'an Great Elder Princess confronted Infanta Yuan'an's Mansion to help Shao Wanru, it would only bring harm to her.

Shao Wanru thought that she had to further muddy the situation in the capital city so that she and her grandmother could get away.

### [Medical Princess](#)

#### **Chapter 1029: Ask for Punishment or Make Amends?**

In the Rui'an Great Elder Princess, Shao Wanru had arranged with Great Elder Princess what they should do next. Then, they went to the Palace.

In the Palace of Benevolent Peace of the Empress Dowager, Infanta Yuan'an wailed with great sorrow and crumpled to the floor. Beside her knelt Ruiping Great Elder Princess, who cried so bitterly that she couldn't get up like Infanta Yuan'an.

The Empress Dowager was sitting in the distinguished seat in the middle, and the Empress was next to her.

The Empress's face appeared glum, and her eyes fell on Infanta Yuan'an with some displeasure. "A lovely girl ended up like this. It's so unlucky for my son."

If it hadn't for the status of Infanta Yuan'an, the Empress would have broken off the engagement for her son.

"Your Majesties, please back me up. They... these people from the Marquis Xing's Mansion have bullied me too much!" Ruiping Great Elder Princess said with resentment while wiping away her tears.

"Get up and talk about it!" The Empress Dowager ordered, waving her hand. Then two palace maids came over and helped them up.

Ruiping Great Elder Princess and Infanta Yuan'an obediently accepted this kind offer and sat down together.

"What did the imperial physician say about your illness?" The Empress asked, her gaze falling on Infanta Yuan'an.

Her whole face was wrapped up, and only her eyes could be seen. On her forehead, there were some scratches, but they were not deep. The Empress didn't know if she had any other scars on her face and if they were light. Could her face restore its original state? All these things mattered to her son's vital interests, so the Empress must get to the bottom.

"Your Majesty, although her face can recover some treatments, she is so close as to be disfigured. My granddaughter is going to marry Prince Zhou soon. There may still be some scars on her face." Ruiping Great Elder Princess sobbed weakly, her tears falling again. She was an outstanding talker indeed.

Ruiping Great Elder Princess didn't say Infanta Yuan'an wouldn't recover but only said she might marry with some wounds on her face. For a woman, getting married was a once-in-a-lifetime thing. If any woman had to go through her wedding with some scars on her face, it would be a fatal blow.

Once again, Infanta Yuan'an couldn't hold back her tears as she called out in a low voice, "Grandma!"

But she couldn't utter a word.

The Empress, so provoked by this scene, violently patted the armrest of her chair and snapped, "Are there any laws and rules in his eyes? How dare he dashes around madly in the street? Mother, we must inflict severe punishments on him! Yuan'an seldom wandered through the streets, but still, she encountered such a tragic thing. What if it happens to the daughters of other manors?"

Infanta Yuan'an had a title of nobility and would become Princess Zhou. Therefore, any suffering she got would be an insult to Prince Zhou and the Empress.

Prince Zhou, the Empress's son, might be the crown princess and even the Empress in the future. If she showed up with an injured face at the marriage, how could she handle all the malicious gossip in the future? Such an embarrassing event that her son married a disfigured woman might even become an eye-catching, disgraceful affair in history.

Whenever she thought of this, the Empress would be swollen with anger. "Sure enough, people in the Marquis Xing's Mansion are indeed not decent ones. In the past, I even wanted Shao Yanru to marry into my son's mansion."

"Fortunately, she didn't marry my son. If she became my son-in-law, she would throw Prince Zhou's Mansion in turmoil every few days."

"What do you think we should do about it?" The Empress Dowager frowned and asked slowly.

"Mother, the Marquis Xing's Mansion should take responsibility for Yuan'an's misfortune this time, and its elders should be punished for not disciplining their juniors well enough. The noble title of this mansion can also be demoted to stop them from stirring up more trouble. I heard that the Emperor in the previous dynasty had been perturbed by the issue of the title of the Marquis Xing's Mansion. These people in this mansion have become flighty and impetuous in fighting for the title. Why don't we just cancel their noble title?"

The Empress commented sarcastically.

There was nowhere else for her to vent her anger, so she aimed straight at the title of the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

Infanta Yuan'an was her future daughter-in-law. Offending Infanta Yuan'an was like humiliating her. Thus, she meant to show all the officials how high Infanta Yuan'an's status was.

Shao Jing, who was Marquis Xing, was the master of the Marquis Xing's Mansion. Did he still think his mansion was as powerful as Duke Xing's Mansion in the beginning?

The Empress was quick-witted. Since the Marquis Xing's Mansion had given her a handle against themselves, how could she not use it? She might as well punish the Marquis Xing's Mansion to improve the status of Infanta Yuan'an and to display her great importance. By doing so, she could provide some help for her son to compete for the throne in the future.

Yuan'an enjoyed noble status, not because she was Infanta Yuan'an, but because she would be Princess Zhou. For this reason, the Empress would severely punish those who offended Infanta Yuan'an to show others that Empress Dowager and the Emperor valued Prince Zhou.

A little favoritism from them to Prince Zhou would become the key to the throne.

All the people in the imperial court were secretly trying to figure out whom the Emperor favored the most to be his successor. If the Emperor treated Prince Zhou with a bit of favor, those officials of the imperial court would swing to him in secret.

It was also one of the main reasons that the Empress insisted on punishing the Marquis Xing's Mansion. More than that, it had to be severely punished.

Then, all the civilian and military officers in court would see how much the Emperor and the Empress Dowager treasured her son. In this case, her son would be the future crown prince in the eyes of these officials. Both Prince Zhou and his wife-to-be were in an almost unassailable position.

For the Empress, even if she could do nothing to a dying prince, couldn't she do nothing to the Marquis Xing's Mansion on the decline?

Shao Wanru's younger brother was the present heir of a duke of the Marquis Xing's Mansion, so the Empress wanted to take the title away from them so that people in their mansion would have nothing to fight for. Prince Chen had embarrassed the Ruiping Great Elder Princess's Mansion at the gate of the Palace, which also vaguely brought disgrace to Prince Zhou. What a coincidence! The Empress thought she could punish them for this matter in passing to save the lost dignity.

"Your Majesty, Rui'an Great Elder Princess and Princess Chen want to see you!" A eunuch rushed in and reported.

Infanta Yuan'an silently cast her eyes on Ruiping Great Elder Princess, who nodded slightly in response.

"Let them in!" The Empress Dowager ordered.

The eunuch withdrew and soon came in with Rui'an Great Elder Princess and Shao Wanru.

After greeting the Empress Dowager and the Empress, they took their assigned seats.

"Princess Chen, do you come here today for the conflict between Yuan'an and the Marquis Xing's Mansion?" The Empress asked candidly without beating about the bush, her steely eyes lingering on Shao Wanru. As soon as Shao Wanru asked for mercy, she would burst into anger. She could do nothing to Chu Liuchen, but she didn't believe she couldn't deal with Princess Chen.

"Your Majesty, I do come here for this!" Shao Wanru said softly. Before they came here, she had discussed with Rui'an Great Elder Princess how to cope with any possible situation, so the Empress's question didn't surprise her.

"Since you come here for this matter, you don't need to mention anything. Don't you see Yuan'an's face? Even on her wedding day, these scars on her face would not be completely healed, which might remain in the future. The Marquis Xing's Mansion has committed such a brutal crime. How could you want to evade the responsibility?" The Empress pointed to Infanta Yuan'an and accused sharply.

Infanta Yuan'an, whose face was well wrapped up, burst into tears again. She turned her head and murmured, "Grandma!"

She threw herself into the arms of Ruiping Great Elder Princess.

Ruiping Great Elder Princess held Infanta Yuan'an close, looking unkindly toward Shao Wanru. Though she didn't say anything, the meaning in her eyes was crystal clear: this matter couldn't be settled peacefully.

The Empress Dowager's face was darkened with anger. Indeed, she had promised her grandson that she would protect Shao Wanru, but she didn't need to consider the Marquis Xing's Mansion. Even if Prince Zhou couldn't compare with Chu Liuchen, he was her grandson, a legitimate grandson. How could she let any outsider bring shame to him?

The Empress Dowager used to think Shao Wanru knew well how to behave. Moreover, because of Chu Liuchen, she thought better of her. But now, it seemed that she had no sense of propriety at all. This time, she came with Rui'an Great Elder Princess. Was she going to stick up for the Marquis Xing's Mansion and plead with the Empress Dowager to forgive them?

The Empress Dowager thought that if she still chose to support Shao Wanru, how could the Empress and Prince Zhou accept it?

"Princess Chen, what do you want to say?" The Empress Dowager asked with a deep frown, her eyes deep and cold. If Shao Wanru came to intercede for the Marquis Xing's Mansion or to say that Infanta Yuan'an was also responsible for this matter, the Empress Dowager would be very disappointed with Shao Wanru, a granddaughter-in-law not up to her preference.

"Imperial Grandmother, I'm here today to apologize to Infanta Yuan'an on behalf of my eldest brother!" Shao Wanru stood up and bowed to the Empress Dowager again.

"Apologizing to me?" Infanta Yuan'an, stunned for a moment, raised her head and forgot about crying.

Unlike others, she knew what had happened. Shao Hua'an, riding on his horse, bumped into her carriage, which startled her horse. When her carriage flipped over, she got up and asked her servants to break his leg. Then she cried and went to complain about the incident to her grandmother.

Later on, the horse of Shao Hua'an was brought to her mansion. However, the following investigation showed that the incident had nothing to do with Shao Hua'an's horse. Instead, it was the horse pulling her carriage that went wrong.

The horse was frightened all of a sudden and kicked Shao Hua'an's horse, which happened to come over. Then, hardly had one wave subsided when another rose — his horse crashed into her carriage.

But Infanta Yuan'an certainly wouldn't tell anyone about this result, nor would she mention it to the Empress Dowager or the Empress.

She stated firmly that Shao Hua'an's horse was shocked, and he carelessly broke his leg. As for any other things mentioned by others, Infanta Yuan'an ignored them all and merely needed to cry.

But now, what on earth did Shao Wanru mean by apologizing? How could Shao Hua'an admit his guilt?

Infanta Yuan'an felt helpless and confused as if her violent punch ended on a cotton ball. All the tactics she had already decided on turned ineffective to Shao Wanru, who came with tremendous momentum but apologized gently.

Shouldn't Shao Wanru wage a tit-for-tat struggle against her and make her utmost efforts to fight for the Marquis Xing's Mansion? The Marquis Xing's Mansion had invited Shao Wanru over. Of course, they wanted Shao Wanru to fight for them.

"Yes, I'd like to make a sincere apology. I hope you can forgive us for this accident!" Shao Wanru bowed deeply to Infanta Yuan'an with an ashamed look. "No one expected that my brother's horse would be startled all of a sudden. This sudden change hurt not only Infanta Yuan'an but himself. Even now, my elder brother is still lying in bed. When he becomes a little better, I will ask him to come over and apologize to you in person!"

The guilty look on her face turned into a sincere expression. Once again, Shao Wanru gave an extremely earnest salute to Infanta Yuan'an. Then, she put up a solemn look and raised her head. "No matter how Infanta Yuan'an wants the Marquis Xing's Mansion to make amends, my grandma said that we will listen to your arrangements. As an official's mansion, the Marquis Xing's Mansion must stay faithful to its state!"

When Ruiping Great Elder Princess and Infanta Yuan'an heard that, their faces changed color!

### Medical Princess

#### **Chapter 1030: Things Go Athwart, Matching up to Her Hopes!**

"Any officials are obliged to correct their errors, and I can't do as Minister Zhao said. Imperial Grandmother, I am here to apologize to Infanta Yuan'an on behalf of the Marquis Xing's Mansion. Even if the severe punishments may shake to the mansion's very foundations, it is what we should do!" Shao Wanru lowered her head with a sad look.

This time, the Empress's face also changed drastically, and her cold eyes fell on Shao Wanru's face twinkling with hatred.

Infanta Yuan'an could never be considered one of the state masters. No matter how inferior the Marquis Xing's Mansion was, it was the home of an official working for the Emperor. How could she be risen to gain the status of a state master?

Of course, neither Infanta Yuan'an nor Prince Zhou was a master of this state. Before Prince Zhou became a crown prince, he couldn't be regarded as the future master.

What was more, Minister Zhao was also mentioned. Compared with Shao Jing, who was Marquis Xing, Minister Zhao was an important official in the court. How could he be ignored?

Ruiping Great Elder Princess suddenly felt that she was wrong. If the Marquis Xing's Mansion was severely punished according to Shao Wanru's request, what would others think of her mansion and Prince Zhou's Mansion? Even worse, they might even bring trouble to Prince Zhou's Mansion.

Prince Zhou and the Empress would never accept that.

She looked at the Empress's face with a gloomy expression and patted Infanta Yuan'an's back gently. Almost instantly, Infanta Yuan'an's cry trailed off, and she just sobbed in a low voice, appearing very weak and pitiful.

"Princess Chen, Yuan'an wouldn't dare to make the decision for the Empress and the Empress Dowager. Infanta Yuan'an is in a humble position though she is related to the royal family by blood. The Marquis Xing's Mansion is excessively modest when handling this matter about her. If... if the First Young Master of your mansion could be more careful at that time, how could everything get into such a mess?"

Ruiping Great Elder Princess bowed her head and wiped the corners of her eyes.

"Does the Marquis Xing's Mansion want to evade the responsibility? Why are you talking about officials and the state? Whoever made a mistake must bear the responsibility, right?" The Empress said with a cold snort.

Originally, she planned to denounce the Marquis Xing's Mansion publicly, for they had seriously offended the royal family member. More than that, the noble title of this mansion should be taken away either, which would be a hard blow to Shao Wanru. Then there was no hope for the Marquis Xing's Mansion. She didn't expect Shao Wanru to come in and make that speech. If the Empress put this matter in the same way, she connected this incident to a monarch-official relationship again.

In the Empress's heart, she thought it was offensive for Shao Hua'an to bump into Infanta Yuan'an's carriage because he was an official and Infanta Yuan'an would marry into the imperial family. But after all, Prince Zhou hadn't become the crown prince. Thus, even if she had this idea, she could not say it.

Shao Wanru mentioned it first, so she could no longer use it.

"Yes, Your Majesty. I feel the same way. Originally, my grandmother should have come to apologize to you and Empress Dowager. Unfortunately, my grandma happened to fall ill due to her old illness and couldn't even get up from bed. Since no one in the mansion was in a position to decide on this matter, Sister Zhao invited me over and asked me to apologize to Your Majesties!"

Shao Wanru submitted herself to the Empress's wishes.

"Is she ill? Well, she became sick just in the nick of time!" The Empress, who had found nowhere to vent her anger, smiled sardonically upon hearing Old Madam was sick. "She has been in poor health and will have a recurrent sickness whenever anything happens, which is not good. I heard a nun in the Yuhui Nunnery has good medical skills. Old Madam in your mansion should go there to recuperate."

The Empress had wanted to take away the noble title from the Marquis Xing's Mansion forever. But after Shao Wanru took the initiative to raise the subject, she could only transfer her anger onto Old Madam.

The more she thought about it, the more she felt Old Madam of the Marquis Xing's Mansion deliberately got sick at this time. How could it be so coincidental? Old Madam was supposed to come here, but Shao Wanru presented on her behalf. Obviously, Old Madam didn't take her seriously.

"Well... Grandma has always been in poor health, and her old disease comes back frequently," Shao Wanru said hesitantly, and her eyes looked a little nervous. It seemed she was anxious to stick up for Old Madam.



It was rumored that Old Madam and Princess Chen didn't get along well with each other in the Marquis Xing's Mansion, but Old Madam was Princess Chen's elder after all.

The Empress frowned and said unpleasantly, "She has been sick all the time, so she had to be taken good care of. Anyone? Send an imperial physician to check her up for me. If Old Madam can't recover from her illness, she should recuperate in quiet surroundings!"

Since she couldn't undisguisedly deal the Marquis Xing's Mansion a crushing blow, she should punish Old Madam first as a warning. Anyway, the Empress always detested her.

That little bitch Shao Wanru was given birth to and brought up in the Marquis Xing's Mansion, so these people there, from top to bottom, couldn't be decent ones.

"Yes, Your Majesty!" A eunuch answered and left.

Shao Wanru looked anxiously at the Empress Dowager, looking a little flustered as if she didn't know how to deal with it. Everyone here could tell the Empress was unhappy. If she braced herself up to plead for mercy again, the Empress would definitely rebuke her. But she couldn't stand by because Old Madam was her elder.

Old Madam couldn't easily avoid the so-called healing without disturbance, especially when the Empress proposed it. Even if the Empress did not issue an imperial edict, Old Madam of the Marquis Xing's Mansion would have to move out this time. No matter how long it would take, she would have to endure an arduous period.

"Princess Chen, come to me!" The Empress Dowager waved to Shao Wanru, who looked quite perplexed and alarmed, and pointed to a seat nearby.

Shao Wanru didn't plead for the Marquis Xing's Mansion, which greatly satisfied the Empress Dowager.

The Empress Dowager had always been partial to Chu Liuchen. In her mind, Shao Wanru should treat Chu Liuchen with her whole heart and soul. As for those people in the Marquis Xing's Mansion, they had always treated Shao Wanru badly. Shao Wanru might offer some help if there was anything she could do. But if she could do nothing, she might as well ignore their misfortune.

In the past, the Empress Dowager thought Old Madam in the Marquis Xing's Mansion was a nice old lady. When she was free, the Empress Dowager would let someone invite her into the Palace for a chat. But now she found that Old Madam was getting more and more muddle-headed. Indeed, she needed to rest and recuperate quietly, so as not to create any disturbances with her high status.

If Old Madam in the Marquis Xing's Mansion lost her power to suppress Shao Wanru, it would be good for Shao Wanru or Chen'er.

With this in mind, the Empress Dowager didn't care if the Empress took her anger out on Old Madam. She was very satisfied with Shao Wanru's performance since she married and moved into Prince Chen's Mansion, for Shao Wanru wholeheartedly safeguarded Prince Chen's Mansion and never troubled Chu Liuchen with the mansion's troublesome things. Therefore, when she saw Shao Wanru was greatly embarrassed, the Empress Dowager waved her over.

Shao Wanru nodded meekly and went over to sit beside the Empress Dowager. When she looked up, she happened to meet Infanta Yuan'an's gaze.

Infanta Yuan'an, whose head was tightly wrapped up, only revealed her eyes. She looked at Shao Wanru with a deep look, the rims of her eyes still red. Though the corners of her eye still had a trace of tears, there was no pain in her eyes. It seemed that her scar that appeared frightening was not severe at all.

"How is the wound on your face? Have you asked any doctors to examine it carefully?" Shao Wanru asked softly in a very friendly manner.

Infanta Yuan'an trembled all over and quickly gathered her thoughts together. In a minute, she looked at Shao Wanru with more amiable eyes as though she wished to say something. However, after glancing at Ruiping Great Elder Princess whom she leaned against, she seemed to be at a loss for words.

As a wounded lady, the expression on her face at the moment was the most pitiful.

"Thank you for your concern, Princess Chen." Ruiping Great Elder Princess sighed with tears in her eyes. "Yuan'an's injury is not serious. Please don't worry too much about it!"

Ruiping Great Elder Princess said it was not a big deal, but her tearful eyes told others she was not right.

"Why don't you ask any imperial physician to have a look? It's better to call a few more so that they can offer better treatments. In any case, Yuan'an's face must recover!" Rui'an Great Elder Princess suggested.

"I've seen some. They all said... Well, it's okay!" Ruiping Great Elder Princess said reluctantly, forcing a smile with some bitterness. "She was careless and insisted on going to the street, saying that she took a fancy to something and wanted to give it to the Empress Dowager as a birthday present. We didn't expect that... she..."

Ruiping Great Elder Princess couldn't even finish her words.

She especially made a trip to get a wonderful gift for the Empress Dowager. It was an unexpected disaster caused by her love and devotion to the Empress Dowager. Hearing this, the Empress Dowager began to look at Infanta Yuan'an with soft eyes.

"The First Young Master of the Marquis Xing's Mansion acted excessively wildly. As a mature man, how could he gallop the horse on the street? He had gone too far. Besides, Old Madam has no idea how to manage the mansion and is always sick. The legal wife in their mansion, who has been degraded to a secondary legal wife, isn't very reliable either. Only First Young Madam, their senior, has been in charge of the mansion affairs."

Rui'an Great Elder Princess said, "People in the Marquis Xing's Mansion are increasingly ignorant. I intended to send Hao'er back there, but now I think it's better to keep him in my mansion for the time being!"

According to the custom, Shao Yuanhao should move back to the Marquis Xing's Mansion after becoming the heir of a duke.

"You're right. He doesn't have to go. The Marquis Xing's Mansion is in such a mess that there is not even an elder who can manage it well. It's improper to let Marquis Xing raise him if he moves back to the

Marquis Xing's Mansion, isn't it?" The Empress was very unhappy. Hearing Rui'an Great Elder Princess's words, she immediately echoed.

"Thank you for your kindness, Your Majesty!" Rui'an Great Elder Princess stood up to express her gratitude.

With the affirmation of the Empress, Hao'er could live in her mansion fair and square!

Infanta Yuan'an blinked, looking at the angry Empress, then at the obedient Rui'an Great Elder Princess and Shao Wanru, who was a little uneasy. It suddenly dawned on her that something had gone wrong. Shouldn't she be the most wronged person here? She came to the Palace today because she had decided to fight with Shao Wanru openly.

How could the current situation be way different from what she had expected? Why did she feel that Shao Wanru was the biggest winner? As a victim, Infanta Yuan'an didn't gain sympathy from the Empress and Empress Dowager, but Shao Wanru gained the most. As soon as she moved her hands, Ruiping Great Elder Princess, who was holding her hands, immediately understood what she was thinking. Gently, Ruiping Great Elder Princess pressed her hands, indicating that she couldn't say anything at the moment.

Ruiping Great Elder Princess glanced at Rui'an Great Elder Princess and Shao Wanru thoughtfully, and her eyes darkened. Nevertheless, she held her granddaughter's hand, hinting for her to wait and see.

The Empress's eyes looked sinister and cold. As soon as Rui'an Great Elder Princess said that, she immediately realized that she had made a slip of the tongue. How could she benefit Rui'an Great Elder Princess instead? But since she said it out loud, she couldn't go back on her word, especially the Empress Dowager was still with them.

She felt deeply aggrieved but couldn't vent her anger on Shao Wanru. Judging from the Empress Dowager's caring eyes on her, the Empress knew that she was taking care of Shao Wanru for her sickly grandson.

A palace maid came in in a hurry. When she saw the Empress sitting inside, she breathed a sigh of relief and walked carefully behind the Empress to serve her.