

Medical Princess 1031

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Chapter 1031: The Great Elder Princess Admitted Her Mistake, Retreating to Advance

Shao Wanru had seen this palace maid before — she was the Empress's capable and trusted palace maid.

When she came back and stood behind the Empress, she did not arouse others' suspicion. Only Shao Wanru, who had been paying attention, noticed some sweat stains on her forehead. Obviously, the maid came here in a hurry.

Shao Wanru pursed her lips and forced a smile.

Ning Xueqing acted fast. Of course, the news came to the Empress at high speed. The Empress must have planted lots of spies inside and outside the Palace.

The Empress knew about it as soon as the Ministry of Justice got some information.

Shao Wanru lowered her head slightly. Since the Empress did not ask her directly, she no longer needed to pursue the matter. The dispute between Infanta Yuan'an and Shao Hua'an ended, and it would be the best ending when only Old Madam was sent to live a secluded and hard life.

Shao Hua'an would have to apologize to Infanta Yuan'an when his leg had recovered, but it was none of her business.

Zhao Xiran must be sensitive enough to prepare an apology gift, which would be delivered to the Ruiping Great Elder Princess's Mansion.

"Mother, if there is nothing else, I will return first!" The Empress received a hint from her faithful palace maid and stood up.

"Go ahead!" The Empress Dowager nodded.

Before leaving, the Empress glanced at Infanta Yuan'an. The more she thought about it, the more annoyed she became. If Infanta Yuan'an were disfigured, it would put her son at great inconvenience.

But if her son proposed to marry a noble lady from another aristocratic family, she would have to agree. Ruiping Great Elder Princess's Mansion couldn't object. After all, it was because Infanta Yuan'an accidentally hurt her face.

"Your Majesty, considering Yuan'an's current condition, we have to ask some imperial physicians in the Palace to diagnose her again." Ruiping Great Elder Princess stood up and bowed deeply to the Empress Dowager. Then she stood up with tears in her eyes. "If there is anything wrong with Yuan'an, I... what should I do?"

"Don't worry. It's okay. I've found several good imperial physicians. They have been waiting in the side hall. Take Yuan'an to have a look. If there's anything else you need, tell me. We can't let her get married with a wounded face!" The Empress Dowager comforted her.

"Thank you, Your Majesty!" Ruiping Great Elder Princess said, tears of gratitude welling in her eyes.

Infanta Yuan'an stood up, knelt with a thump, and kowtowed to Empress Dowager three times.

"Good girl, get up. Look at your face first. Don't think too much about anything else!" The Empress Dowager asked someone to pull Infanta Yuan'an up and said softly.

The Empress Dowager had always thought that Infanta Yuan'an was a considerate young lady. This time, Empress Dowager also agreed to the marriage between Prince Zhou and Infanta Yuan'an.

At this time, seeing that she was wronged, Empress Dowager felt more and more sympathetic toward Infanta Yuan'an, who got hurt on the way to pick up a birthday gift for her. So, Empress Dowager kindly urged her to see the doctors.

Ruiping Great Elder Princess took Infanta Yuan'an to the side hall to let the imperial physicians treat her.

Suddenly, the main hall became empty, and the Empress Dowager condemned with a cold snort as her face fell, "Rui'an, you should admit your crime!"

Rui'an Great Elder Princess hurriedly knelt and kowtowed to her, saying, "Your Majesty, it is indeed my fault. But the Marquis Xing's Mansion had never taken Hao'er seriously in the past. They even wanted to make him a useless person when he was a child. Never had Old Madam thought he was also her grandson. If Hao'er has to move back, I'm worried that something bad will happen to him!"

At this time, there were no outsiders, so Rui'an Great Elder Princess did not intend to hide her thoughts and said this matter bluntly.

Just now, she had plotted against the Empress by confirming what the Empress had said in anger. If anyone said it was against the rules that Hao'er still lived in Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion, Great Elder Princess could tell them that the Empress had agreed to this. In this respect, she had deliberately used the Empress's unintentional remarks.

She hadn't been on good terms with Old Madam in the Marquis Xing's Mansion for a long time.

From time to time, they would come into conflict. At first, it was because of Shao Wanru's parents. Later on, they would argue over Shao Wanru and her younger brother.

Since the Marquis Xing's Mansion was in trouble, with her character, Rui'an Great Elder Princess would never lose this chance to aggravate the situation. She wouldn't let Old Madam of the Marquis Xing's Mansion pass the crisis.

If anyone else gave such an honest opinion, the Empress Dowager would scold her, but it was Rui'an Great Elder Princess who spoke out her feelings sincerely. The Empress Dowager fell silent for a while.

Her eyes fell on Rui'an Great Elder Princess, a person of strong character. Even though Empress Dowager had just exposed her hideous intention, she still took a strong attitude. Nevertheless, Empress Dowager saw the deep sadness in her eyes.

Shao Yuanhao was indeed the only descendant of Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

On that note, Empress Dowager would have to attach more importance to Shao Yuanhao, not to mention that Shao Wanru was also with them.

Without saying a word, Shao Wanru knelt beside Rui'an Great Elder Princess, lowering her head. In Empress Dowager's eyes, she looked delicate and thin.

The Empress Dowager sighed helplessly and waved her hand. "You two get up!"

"Thank you, Your Majesty!" Rui'an Great Elder Princess breathed a sigh of relief. Knowing that this matter was finally over, she pulled Shao Wanru up and sat beside Empress Dowager again.

"Rui'an, you have a granddaughter and a grandson now. Don't be so willful. Even if it's for their good, you should no longer mess up with the Marquis Xing's Mansion. In the future, the mansion will belong to Shao Yuanhao!" Looking at Rui'an Great Elder Princess, the Empress Dowager got a headache.

She had been on bad terms with the Marquis Xing's Mansion for so many years. Since long ago, Empress Dowager wanted to persuade Rui'an Great Elder Princess to let go of the past. However, on second thought, Empress Dowager felt it reasonable for Rui'an to vent her anger on the mansion because she had been alone and helpless without any child or grandchild. However, the situation was different now. After all, as a noble princess, Rui'an Great Elder Princess shouldn't make a scene to disgrace the royal family.

"Your Majesty, I didn't want to make trouble with the Marquis Xing's Mansion, but I just felt... I felt..." Rui'an Great Elder Princess gritted her teeth with some hesitation and looked around. It must be hard for her to say the following words.

"There are no outsiders here. Say what you want to." The Empress Dowager said lightly, but she frowned. Her instinct told her it would not be a good thing.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess had always had a direct manner. When her secret thought was exposed, she faced it fearlessly and bluntly admitted she indeed had plotted against the Empress on purpose. However, she restrained the words that sprang to her lips, which was odd.

"Your Majesty, it's not that I don't want to say it, but there is no evidence..." Rui'an Great Elder Princess said.

"Since there is no evidence, don't say it. Rui'an, you should know that you are the Great Elder Princess of the royal family. Your words and deeds represent the dignity of the royal family. Therefore, you can't do whatever you want recklessly!" The Empress Dowager interrupted Rui'an Great Elder Princess in a brusque tone, waved her hand, and said a little wearily, "You can leave now. I'm tired!"

There were some things that Empress Dowager didn't want to get involved in. No matter what Rui'an Great Elder Princess wanted to say, she didn't want to listen to it as long as there was no evidence.

"Your Majesty, I only tell you about this matter: I think Qinghua and Shao Jiang may not have died of an accident but were murdered." Rui'an Great Elder Princess gritted her teeth with determination and said in a low voice.

She had to say it out loud today.

"What nonsense are you talking about!" The Empress Dowager clapped her hands heavily and snapped in a stern voice.

“Your Majesty, I didn’t lie in my teeth. Think about it. Why could the second branch always reap the profit? Why would they fail to take good care of Hao’er and nearly ruin him? Why would someone secretly ask Madam Di to plot against Zhuozhuo again and again? It was what Wang Shengxue had confessed. There must be someone behind all of this. Zhuozhuo is just an unmarried young girl who has just arrived in the capital. How could she offend Madam Jiang?”

Rui’an Great Elder Princess argued strongly on just grounds.

As soon as the Empress Dowager heard this, her face darkened, and she ordered angrily, “You can withdraw now. Never say these wild words in the future. I will not let you go easy if you dare to talk nonsense again!”

“Your Majesty...” Rui’an Great Elder Princess wanted to say something more, but Shao Wanru suddenly pulled her sleeves, her face pale with fright. “Grandma, you must not talk about this matter. This kind of thing... how is it possible?”

Any child who heard such a terrible thing could not calm down. Shao Wanru was coolheaded enough to pull Rui’an Great Elder Princess’s sleeves.

“Zhuozhuo, I...” Rui’an Great Elder Princess insisted on arguing, but this time Shao Wanru stepped forward, putting her arms around her shoulder. “Grandma, you are the only family that loves and cares about me wholeheartedly. You mustn’t...”

As Shao Wanru said this, there were already tears in the corners of her eyes.

Gradually, the Empress Dowager’s anger had cooled. Shao Wanru indeed had a miserable life. It was also a fact that she had fallen prey to Madam Jiang and Madam Di’s plot.

Shao Wanru was indeed innocent.

“Rui’an, don’t make irresponsible remarks when there is no evidence. But if you get any evidence, you can tell me frankly.” The Empress Dowager had wanted to rebuke Rui’an Great Elder Princess, but for the sake of Shao Wanru, she suppressed the anger and at least allowed Rui’an Great Elder Princess a possibility.

Although Empress Dowager did not believe what she said, it was good for Rui’an Great Elder Princess to get a chance to complain. If Empress Dowager didn’t believe it for the first time, she could mention it the second time, the third time... Moreover, with Empress Dowager’s permission, it was justifiable for Rui’an Great Elder Princess to investigate something in private, even though the Emperor noticed this. It was one of the things that Shao Wanru and Rui’an Great Elder Princess had discussed in advance.

“Yes, Your Majesty. I know I was wrong!” Rui’an Great Elder Princess lowered her head.

Seeing that she was no longer that stubborn and apologized with a sincere attitude, Empress Dowager was relieved. She was afraid Rui’an Great Elder Princess would publicize her guess widely. After all, there was no evidence to support this charge of murder. Plus, this matter happened more than a decade ago. It was not easy to dig it out now.

"Your Majesty, I have something to report!" An imperial physician came from the side hall and bowed to the Empress Dowager. He looked very annoyed, his small eyes wider than ever. It was evident that the situation was not good.

He was the imperial physician who had gone to check Infanta Yuan'an.

"Is there anything wrong with Yuan'an?" The Empress Dowager asked in a deep voice. Just now, it seemed that Infanta Yuan'an and Ruiping Great Elder Princess didn't take this matter so seriously. Why would the imperial physician respond differently?

"The medicine Infanta Yuan'an had used is not good. We offered to wash the previous medicine for her, but she refused. She said we didn't have great medical skills and wanted to wash her medicine away because we were jealous of other people's medical skills!" Thinking of what had happened just now, the imperial physician became furious, frothing at the mouth. He had worked so many years in the Imperial Institute of Medicine, and it was the first time someone disdained the imperial physicians so openly and bluntly.

With suspicion and distaste, Infanta Yuan'an rejected not just him but all the four imperial physicians. This was something that had never happened before. It was not an insult to one imperial physician but an affront to the entire Imperial Institute of Medicine.

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Chapter 1032: A Nobody Through the Whole Situation

"Is there anything wrong with the princess's medicine?" Shao Wanru's heart skipped a beat, and she asked.

Since Infanta Yuan'an wasn't willing to let anyone wash it, she must have attached great importance to the medicine on her face. Infanta Yuan'an valued the medicine so much that she could even ignore the suggestion of the imperial physicians. The doctor who prescribed the treatment must have occupied an important position in her heart.

"The medicine on her face is a little too strong. We all think that the wound on her face is not serious. Since a flawless face is quite important for women, we've agreed to use mild medicine and slowly heal her face with nourishment. In our view, we'd better avoid any radical measures. Such a measure can produce an instant effect, but it isn't a permanent cure and is error-prone."

The imperial physician said with the force of justice.

"What do you mean by saying it is error-prone?" From his words, the Empress Dowager learned he was hinting at something.

"If we forcibly accelerate the treatment, there might be some complications, which may weaken Infanta Yuan'an's physical endurance. In the future..." The imperial physician thought for a moment and replied directly in case Empress Dowager wouldn't understand. "Infanta Yuan'an will be more likely to become ill. She might easily have small lumps on her face or suffer in other aspects. Similar cases are numerous. Anyway, these are bad side effects!"

“Then why don’t you remove the medicine and replace it with a gentler one?” The Empress Dowager understood this time. He meant that Infanta Yuan’an had overused the medication. If that were the case, the previous treatment would produce adverse side effects for her.

Back then, some doctors had proposed to use strong medicine on Chu Liuchen, who had a fragile body, but Empress Dowager didn’t dare to agree because his body was too delicate to bear any strong medicine. Therefore, Empress Dowager had an aversion to quick treatments with powerful medicines.

The imperial physician breathed a sigh of relief and frowned deeply. “We all tried to persuade her with these reasons, but Infanta Yuan’an simply refused, saying that her grand wedding was coming soon and she didn’t want her face to be perfect. However, even when it’s time for her great wedding soon, we might heal her would.”

The Empress Dowager’s approval largely diminished the Imperial Institute of Medicine’s responsibility. In the future, even if anything wrong happened to Infanta Yuan’an, the Imperial Institute of Medicine was not to blame for that.

“Nonsense!” The Empress Dowager said unhappily. She was about to issue an imperial edict, ordering the Imperial Institute of Medicine to wash away the medicine and apply their prescribed medicine to her face. However, when she saw Ruiping Great Elder Princess coming out of the side hall in a hurry, the Empress Dowager closed her mouth and waited for her to explain.

“Your Majesty, Yuan’an has made up her mind. Please let her do what she wishes!” Ruiping Great Elder Princess came up, bowed to Empress Dowager, and said helplessly.

At first, she didn’t take it seriously. Unexpectedly, these imperial physicians of the Imperial Institute of Medicine were very serious with their work. They made a big deal out of a trivial.

“Yuan’an may be young and ignorant, but how could you speak for her?” The Empress Dowager scolded.

“It’s not that Ruiping is immature. The doctor with outstanding medical skills has cured Hong’er. His medical skills have proved to be excellent. Yuan’an said his medicine was pretty good and praised its fast and significant effect. If she chooses a different treatment, she is afraid that there will still be injuries on her face. We all know that a girl has only one wedding in her lifetime.”

Ruiping Great Elder Princess explained.

“But the imperial physician said there might not be any traces left before the wedding if she adopted their treatment,” the Empress Dowager said.

“Yes, they said there might be a chance. But the previous doctor had promised to completely cure her face.” Ruiping Great Elder Princess took a deep breath and said.

The imperial physician had a chance to restore her appearance, but the doctor would fully recover her face. By comparison of the two methods, Infanta Yuan’an would choose the latter.

At this time, Shao Wanru had understood something, her eyes falling on Ruiping Great Elder Princess, but she just listened quietly without saying a word.

At this time, whoever intended to argue would make a mistake. With Empress Dowager’s distinguished status, she had the final say.

Since Ruiping Great Elder Princess talked about it with certainty, the Empress Dowager thought for a moment and said, "You've made your decision, then do as you like!"

Infanta Yuan'an and Ruiping Great Elder Princess had all agreed on this, so Empress Dowager didn't feel like interfering.

Although she said it casually, she was a little displeased because Ruiping Great Elder Princess went against her good intentions. With a wave of her hand, she said, "Yuan'an doesn't feel well. Let her go back and rest early."

"Yes, Your Majesty!" Ruiping Great Elder Princess could see the Empress Dowager was unhappy, so she whispered a response and left.

She had completed none of her plans, but Shao Wanru reaped the benefits. Thus, Ruiping Great Elder Princess was not willing to reconcile herself to failure, but what could she do about it? The Empress Dowager's decision could not be violated.

Ruiping Great Elder Princess had withdrawn. Everyone in the hall could see Empress Dowager was upset. Ruiping Great Elder Princess told her that Infanta Yuan'an would come over to say goodbye to her, but Empress Dowager refused to see her again.

The hall quieted down. Shao Wanru had already figured out who the doctor that Infanta Yuan'an thought highly of was. It was Doctor Qiu! It must be fate that brought them together again!

There seemed to be an amazing connection between Doctor Qiu and her. Nearly all the things that happened to her were related to him, whether in her previous life or this life. Doctor Qiu was everywhere.

"Is it really a coincidence to come across Doctor Qiu?"

Shao Wanru pulled the handkerchief in her hand and lowered her head to recall her memory of Doctor Qiu. He had something to do with the Mansion of the Prime Minister and the Marquis Xing's Mansion. Currently, he was related to the Prince Zhou's Mansion and Ruiping Great Elder Princess.

Such a doctor was insignificant, but he appeared so frequently that Shao Wanru couldn't help suspecting him.

There seemed to be an invisible line connected to her on Doctor Qiu. Shao Wanru had learned something about his background from Mingqiu Nun.

Doctor Qiu's teacher was Mingqiu Nun's father, but because of different opinions, he was finally driven out by his master. After that, he practiced medicine everywhere. As for the details, Mingqiu Nun was not clear. Speaking of which, Doctor Qiu was Mingqiu Nun's eldest senior fellow apprentice, who caused Mingqiu Nun and the miracle-working Doctor Qi to miss each other for so many years. However, Mingqiu Nun didn't mention these private matters.

She knew nothing about other specific things.

Initially, this person was insignificant, as if he was just a nobody with no command over himself. However, in Shao Wanru's previous life, he was almost as well-hidden as Shao Yanru. "Could such a person only appear by chance..."

"Zhuzhuo, Her Majesty asked you a question!" Shao Wanru felt her sleeves were pulled twice. Then she looked up and saw Empress Dowager and her grandmother staring at her. Almost immediately, she woke up from her thoughts.

"Imperial Grandmother, I've just thought of Prince Chen. I didn't know how he was outside the capital city, so I was a little..." While saying this, Shao Wanru blushed, too embarrassed to finish her words.

This newly-married couple had to separate from each other shortly after their wedding. Surely Shao Wanru would miss her husband terribly. When Empress Dowager learned she was thinking about her grandson, she looked relaxed and happy. "Chen'er sent me a letter. I suppose you have also received one letter from him, right?"

"Yes, he also sent me one, but there were only a few words saying everything was okay." Shao Wanru lowered her head, and her face turned a little red.

"He wrote a lot of trivial things in the letter to me, but they were all nonsense. I guess he had nothing important to share with you and just told me some little things in his life." The Empress Dowager burst out laughing.

Shao Wanru twisted her handkerchief and pouted slightly. It was hard to tell if she was happy.

She didn't want Empress Dowager to see through her, so she pursed her rosy lips to hide her conflicting emotions, which made her suppressed feelings more visible.

The Empress Dowager and Rui'an Great Elder Princess both laughed.

"Look at her. She is displeased because she is jealous of me!" The Empress Dowager pointed to Shao Wanru with a bright smile and said to Rui'an Great Elder Princess

"Prince Chen wrote her a few words but sent you a letter full of words. I guess she must be unhappy. But she was afraid you would be disappointed, so she had to put up a smile. After separating from Prince Chen for such a long time, a letter from him must be worth ten thousand pieces of gold in her heart!" Rui'an Great Elder Princess shook her head with a smile.

"Zhuzhuo, Prince Chen went out on a business trip for our state. Of course, he can't be distracted at this time. You've just married into Prince Chen's Mansion, so you don't know that it was Her Majesty who raised Prince Chen. His affection toward Her Majesty is certainly different from his feelings to you."

Rui'an Great Elder Princess spoke out her bashful thoughts so undisguisedly that Shao Wanru couldn't help blushing scarlet, shifting uncomfortably in her seat. Suddenly, she stood up and said, "Grandma, Imperial Grandmother, please don't make fun of me!"

After saying that, she secretly rolled her eyes at Rui'an Great Elder Princess, but the Empress Dowager happened to see it and laughed again. "Oh, you lost your temper from embarrassment!"

"That's right. If Her Majesty didn't mention it, I would still be kept in the dark." Rui'an Great Elder Princess chimed in.

Her words made Shao Wanru's face turn red again. She stamped her feet, looking annoyed.

Her lovely look made the Empress Dowager and Rui'an Great Elder Princess grin from ear to ear.

Seeing that Empress Dowager was in a good mood, Rui'an Great Elder Princess and Shao Wanru chatted with her for a while before leaving together.

When they left the main hall, the smile on Empress Dowager's face gradually faded. She leaned back and looked at the main hall's door with a solemn look.

"What if I let Chen'er marry a secondary legal wife?" The Empress Dowager said faintly.

Nanny Wei, who had been serving by the side, frowned and whispered, "I'm afraid Prince Chen won't agree!"

"But as a prince, he has to agree to this kind of thing, even if he doesn't want to do it!" The Empress Dowager sighed with an unreadable expression.

"The common people can get a secondary legal wife, but he is a royal family member. If he marries a secondary legal wife, will there be two legitimate branches? Besides..." Nanny Wei wanted to say something but stopped on second thought.

Any other family, for example, an ordinary people's family, an official's family, or even an aristocratic family, could receive a secondary legal wife. But in the royal family, it might not be a blessing. The royal family would get two legitimate branches with a legal wife and a secondary legal wife. Even if their positions were slightly different, so what? In the end, their children were legitimate, weren't they?

If he were just an ordinary prince, it would be fine. But Prince Chen was destined to be unique when he was born. It was inappropriate to make him marry a secondary legal wife.

"But the Xu State princess wants to marry someone with distinguished status. Commandery Prince Qing is not a good candidate. Though he is also the deceased emperor's son, Commandery Prince Qing is just... too inferior..." The Empress Dowager sighed. She did not like this difficult position, but the Xu State had sent over a national letter to the Emperor declaring they wanted to marry their princess to Chu Liuchen...

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Chapter 1033: The So-called Dream Lover

"Does Princess Yutao want to marry me?" Chu Liuchen also got the news. He narrowed his eyes and asked meaningfully.

"Yes. It was the idea of Princess Yutao and the Xu State's royal family. That was why the Xu State sent a national letter to the capital city. Our guards were watching, but they only kept an eye on the letters of Commandery Prince Qing and Ningyuan Army General and didn't dare to intercept the national letter from the Xu State!" Xiao Xuanzi explained carefully.

Speaking of this matter, he did have a headache. How could they intercept any national letters at will, especially at such a critical period?

However, something bad happened when the Emperor read the national letter that couldn't be intercepted. As soon as the Emperor and the Empress Dowager learned the Xu State's intention, their interest was aroused.

"Are they going to plot against my master?" Xiao Xuanzi felt a chill on his back. "But it's never easy to scheme against my master. Why is Princess Yutao so eager to marry him? She is courting death."

"Among the three princesses of the Xu State, Princess Yutao is the eldest. There is Princess Yuyan about Princess Yutao's age and a princess who is still a child!" Chu Liuchen said lazily with a casual tone.

Xiao Xuanzi hurriedly said, "Master, there are three princesses, but only Princess Yutao and Princess Yuyan are of the appropriate age for marriage. This time, it is Princess Yutao who wants to marry into our state. Princess Yuyan and Commandery Prince Qing are on pretty good terms. I heard she would visit Commandery Prince Qing from time to time, and some people had seen them go out to have fun together."

"Who are their birth mothers?" Chu Liuchen seemed interested in them and began making detailed inquiries.

"Princess Yutao's mother is from the Xu State, the legitimate daughter of a large tribe in the Xu State. As the Queen of the Xu State. She enjoys an honorable status. In contrast, it is said that Princess Yuyan's birth mother is devastatingly beautiful, and the King of the Xu State values her. This beloved consort seems to have come from our country. But as for who exactly she is, the Xu State has been closely guarded the truth as a secret."

Xiao Xuanzi thought for a while and said.

"Does this favorite concubine have only one daughter?" Chu Liuchen asked.

"She has more than a daughter and gave birth to the First Prince of the Xu State. The current Xu State Queen has a much younger prince who is still a baby. He certainly has no ability to compete for the throne with the First Prince. It is said that many people in the Xu State want their First Prince to be the crown prince. If it weren't for the powerful tribe of the Xu State Queen, the favored consort would have become the Queen long ago!"

Xiao Xuanzi sorted out the information he had heard and reported.

From these aspects, Chu Liuchen knew the current situation in the Xu State was quite similar to that of his country. There was no crown prince, and people were fighting for this position, open and secret.

"I remember that women in the Xu State can also inherit the throne!" Chu Liuchen said slouchingly. His smile looked mild, but Xiao Xuanzi could perceive a bit of cold and almost substantial light in his eyes, which greatly panicked him. In whatever way he looked at his smiling eyes, he felt as if something gorgeous and evil was slowly sliding over his nervous heart.

"Yes, I've also heard about it. That's why a small number of people in Xu State support Princess Yutao. But there are too few of them. After all, Princess Yutao has an elder brother. If she marries far away, she will lose all her power in Xu State. If so, how can she inherit the throne? If she chooses to be the Imperial Great Daughter, she must promise before the throne that she will never marry into any other people's family in her lifetime. But she can pick up a husband within the state and let him live in her Palace."

Xiao Xuanzi said. This was the custom of the Xu State.

The Princess also had the right to inherit the throne. However, the Princess who got the throne could not marry anyone outside her state. More than that, her future husband had to marry into the royal family, and their children would have to use the same surname as the Princess.

It was impossible for her to marry into another family.

“Get in touch with Princess Yutao and tell her I want to see her!” Chu Liuchen stretched out his slender fingers, gently tapping twice on the table, and said.

He wanted to see if Princess Yutao was a woman of strong will, but he would not accept her no matter how determined she was to marry him. Nevertheless, he could help her marry anyone else, even if it was Chu Liuzhou in the capital city.

But if Princess Yutao was also forced to consider the marriage and had no intention of marrying him, it would be perfect.

“Yes, master, I will arrange it right away!” Xiao Xuanzi nodded and left with a big smile. He already had an idea in his mind.

The news quickly came from Princess Yutao. As soon as Chu Liuchen revealed the message, she replied in no time. That night, Princess Yutao left the Xu State and sneaked into the city.

The city was now under Chu Liuchen’s control. Although Princess Yutao came here in disguise, he knew her arrival immediately.

“Princess, could it be a plot deliberately set by First Prince?” A servant girl dressed up as a maid uneasily pulled the clothes of Princess Yutao, who was walking before her.

To avoid being recognized by others, Princess Yutao put on a simple Han ethnic dress, wearing a veil that covered all but her pair of bright eyes. Her long bangs above covered the bright color in her eyes. From her present appearance, she was just an ordinary Miss from a Han family.

The two maids also dressed up like Han people, and they just wore clothes for servant girls.

This city was near the dusty and windy border. They used the veils not to hide their faces but to shield themselves from the wind and dust. On such a windy day, many women in the city dressed like this.

“No, it couldn’t be!” Princess Yutao shook her head. She was a beauty, but not a delicate one. Taller than most girls her age, she looked strong and vigorous.

“Why not? Think about it. Before the messenger came, no one had thought of this marriage. Unexpectedly, just as the messenger arrived, it was rumored you fell in love with Prince Chen and said that you had a strong admiration for him. But you haven’t seen Prince Chen before, so how can you lose your heart to him?”

The maid said indignantly.

Her master had never thought of being a humble wife to anyone, let alone marrying someone from another country. Princess Yutao was a woman of driving ambition.

But the news spread like wildfire, and many people believed it. Even the King had come to ask Princess Yutao about this. In the past, she had repeatedly told him that she would not get married.

“Wasn’t there a painting? I’ve seen it, so the rumors came out.” Princess Yutao sneered.

By all means, her eldest brother and second younger sister made others believe she had taken a fancy to Prince Chen. They even urged the King to write a national letter to the Kingdom of Dongcang’s Emperor, hinting that the two royal families should contract a lifelong alliance by marriage. From then on, the two families could live peacefully and deal with tricky issues together.

When Princess Yutao thought of the portrait, her face grew increasingly darker. Back then, she had been curious, so she took another look at it. But on second glance, she was a little stunned, and Yuyan caught her reaction and quickly told others she liked the man in the portrait. Also, many ministers had witnessed this scene. After hearing what Yuyan had said, most of them nodded in approval.

Some saw that she was absent-minded for a moment, while others were originally on Yuyan’s side. Of course, their purpose was to make her marry somewhere far away and give up the throne of the Xu State.

But how was she willing to give up? Whenever she saw her mother crying, Princess Yutao vowed to herself that she would never give up.

Her father’s beloved consort was merely a refugee fleeing from the land of Han nationality. After taking almost everything from her mother, she cast her covetous eyes on the throne belonging to her mother’s children! How dare she? What made her think she could do that?

She promised her mother that she would never marry and wouldn’t consider her marriage before her little brother grew up because she would not hand over the throne to the First Prince.

Her mother said that she had the eldest brother in her branch, but that bitch caused the miscarriage and made her son First Prince instead. However, neither Princess Yutao nor her mother would admit his status as First Prince. Even if her father wanted to push him to the throne, he would have to see whether she agreed or not.

After those people knew that she chose not to marry, for the time being, they brought Prince Chen’s portrait to her and made the romantic news on purpose.

Prince Chen was the type of man that Princess Yutao liked the most.

She was born as the eldest Princess. When she was a child, her father liked her so much that he specially invited some Han tutors to teach her and cultivated her as a little prince. She was treated the same as First Prince.

Princess Yutao always had a great affection toward those refined and elegant scholars from the Kingdom of Dongcang.

From the well-known Four Books and Five Classics, she had encountered many beautiful sentences describing those perfect handsome gentlemen. However, she just yearned for them in her heart. After all, she had her ambitions. If she had a chance in the future after the throne was settled, she could

choose a Han man as her husband. It would be the best choice if her future husband were as graceful and good-looking as Prince Chen.

Prince Chen from the Kingdom of Dongcang perfectly fitted the image of her ideal husband, a man with the most satisfactory appearance in her dream. Thus, she was stunned at that time.

Her startled expression at that brief moment brought her a series of troubles. She became flustered in a great bustle for a while and hadn't yet calmed down. This matter left some hidden problems. If the Kingdom of Dongcang's Emperor agreed to this marriage, then she would be the most likely person to marry him.

If she married far away, she wouldn't be able to protect her mother and little brother.

Her mother had always been at a disadvantage in the imperial harem. Though she appeared overwhelming, she didn't know what her husband was thinking about. As for her younger brother, it was uncertain whether he could grow up or not. No one knew what the vicious woman would do to harm him. Princess Yutao was worried so much about them. So even if Prince Chen was the best man she had ever imagined, she could not marry him.

Today, she came to see Prince Chen, hoping he would think the same way as her. Otherwise, she could only return with disappointment.

Following the person leading the way, they arrived in front of an ordinary courtyard. This kind of courtyard was the most common one in the city on the border. It was simple in style adjoining to no other courtyards. There was a small lane on the side. The door was open, and a young servant was waiting by the door, looking at Princess Yutao and others with a genial and welcoming expression.

Princess Yutao and the others stepped forward.

Xiao Xuanzi came over with a smile and saluted. Then he stepped aside, waved his hand backward, and said, beaming with smiles, "Your Excellency, please come with me. His Highness has been waiting inside for a long time!"

[Medical Princess](#)

Chapter 1034: A Beauty Under Scrutiny

The courtyard door was opened, and Princess Yutao entered.

It was a very simple courtyard with only one ordinary tree inside. It was not big but somewhat leafy. Princess Yutao walked slowly through the open door of the main room and saw Chu Liuchen there. Uncontrollably, she took a deep breath.

Compared with his portrait, Prince Chen of the Kingdom of Dongcang seemed to be more graceful and handsome. Princess Yutao gazed at his perfect facial features in spite of herself. His light lips showed that he was in poor health, but the special light color made him appear even more attractive, like those men in books as beautiful as celestial beings.

He looked up, his long eyelashes fluttering. Then, Princess Yutao met his deep eyes.

When Princess Yutao looked into his eyes, the coldness there instantly woke her up from her infatuation for him. It was a pair of eyes utterly different from what she had imagined.

His eyes were clearer and lighter than people in general. However, there seemed to be no light in his pale eyes. She couldn't see through his eyes without emotion and only felt suffocated and chilly in her back as if she were peeping into the ruthless and bottomless hell.

In her heart, he was supposed to be a mild and gentle man with a genial smile.

However, Princess Yutao couldn't help shivering all over in the face of his sinister eyes with a bloodthirsty look. Immediately, she came to realize the reality: Prince Chen was nothing like the image she saw in the painting. The man before her was Prince Chen of the Kingdom of Dongcang, not the handsome youth of peerless beauty in that drawing.

"Princess Yutao?" Chu Liuchen's insidious eyes fell on Princess Yutao, and he slightly tilted his chin at her. Gradually, the smile on his face faded away.

"Greetings, Your Highness!" Princess Yutao took two steps forward and bowed respectfully.

There was no need to say too much. Such a man was certainly not ordinary. His cold eyes and indifferent manner appeared more overwhelming than her father's.

Such a man would never be weak, let alone allow himself to be ordered about.

A great many people in Xu State were wrong about Prince Chen!

Princess Yutao soberly realized that Prince Chen wouldn't be a considerate husband but could be a good partner. Anyone who only saw his portrait but had never seen him in person would never know what kind of person he was.

Prince Chen was gentle and refined, who looked too frail to stand a gust of wind. How could anyone expect him to possess such a pair of eyes?

Of course, Princess Yutao didn't think it was the painter's fault. If Prince Chen was willing to put up such a smile to display his kindness, he should be the same person in the portrait. But at the moment, Prince Chen showed no goodwill but a warning.

Chu Liuchen let his eyes settle upon Princess Yutao, silently sizing her up.

Under his steady gaze, Princess Yutao got more and more uneasy. He didn't see her in the way a man looked at a woman. Many guys were chasing after her, but none made her feel uncomfortable like Chu Liuchen: she wasn't a young lady but more like a product in his eyes.

This made Princess Yutao even more unpleasant.

Although she had conceptualized Chu Liuchen as a partner in her heart, she had always been proud of her outstanding appearance. No man had ever looked at her with such picky eyes as if he were choosing goods.

Yes, he was picky!

She was such a perfect person. How could there be anything he was not happy about her?

Princess Yutao straightened herself up a little, revealing an impeccable smile on her lips. Once again, she said, "Greetings, Your Highness, I'm Yutao from the Xu State!"

"Take your seat, please!" Chu Liuchen withdrew his gaze from her and said casually.

"Many thanks, Your Highness!" Princess Yutao composed her thoughts, walked to the chair on the side, and sat down.

After serving the tea, Xiao Xuanzi stood behind Chu Liuchen, waiting on them.

"Your Highness, you sent a message saying you wanted to see me. I wonder what your purpose is." Princess Yutao concentrated on the talk, raising her pink face, and went straight to the point.

"Don't you know?" Chu Liuchen lifted his eyebrows and asked with a quiet easiness of bearing.

Princess Yutao hesitated for a moment before saying, "I really don't know. Aren't Commandery Prince Qing and Ningyuan Army General the envoys of your country? These days, the two honorable envoys have been busy negotiating with the important officials of my state. Do you also want to serve as an envoy abroad?"

Chu Liuchen leaned back lazily, with a gloomy look in his eyes. "If you feel like marrying into our state, I have no objection. But I have a legal wife and will never take any consort. No matter how this matter ends, I will not accept you."

His remarks sounded ruthless and insensitive to the extreme. Even though Princess Yutao had thought it through, she was still smoldering with indignation, her face flaming with embarrassment.

No man had ever rejected her face to face so mercilessly.

She was the one to refuse others because no man could bear to turn her down.

On the way here, she had thought about what she should do if Prince Chen fancied her. Should she gloss over the matter or refuse him directly? She didn't expect Chu Liuchen to refuse her bluntly as if she fully intended to marry him. In his mind, even if she couldn't become his legal wife, she might accept to be his concubine.

"Prince Chen, please be careful with your words. The Emperor's order is inviolable!" Princess Yutao said coldly.

"So what? Chu Qing can't decide whom he will marry, but I'm not like him." Chu Liuchen disdainfully pouted his light-colored lips and said with an indifferent smile.

Princess Yutao's eyes narrowed to slits as she looked at Chu Liuchen in great surprise.

She didn't understand why Chu Liuchen said it with curt finality. According to the information she inquired about, Chu Liuchen, like Chu Qing, was the deceased emperor's son. However, since their father had passed away, their uncle, who had sons, was in power. Then how could the present Emperor give special consideration to him?

How could he be practically certain that he was superior to Chu Qing?

"It's a little hard to believe, isn't it?" Chu Liuchen asked with a shadow of a smile. He reached out and patted the table gently. Then Xiao Xuanzi hurriedly fetched a memorial to the throne from behind and put it on the table.

"It's from Chu Qing. He pleaded with the Emperor to decide my marriage, but I knew nothing about it." Chu Liuchen said.

The memorial was placed on the table, which meant that Princess Yutao could check it out. In horror, Princess Yutao looked Prince Chen up and down, thinking she had to get to know him again.

How dare he intercepts the memorial? Moreover, it was from his half-brother, a royal family member like him. How could he have the guts to do such a thing? Wasn't he afraid that the Kingdom of Dongcang's Emperor would execute him because he challenged his authority?

"Is this the memorial that Commandery Prince Qing sent to the capital city?" Princess Yutao muttered in disbelief again.

"Yes, absolutely true. As early as when I just came here, someone on behalf of your country had said that their prince, Princess Yutao, would like to marry into the Kingdom of Dongcang. But I don't know what your intention is. Do you want to marry into my country? If that's what you want, I can help you marry into any places like Prince Yue's Mansion, Prince Zhou's Mansion, and even the imperial Palace!"

Chu Liuchen's slender fingers tapped lightly on the table as if it was a mere trifle to him. If it hadn't for the gory smile in his penetrating eyes, Princess Yutao would believe him more.

Cold sweat broke out on her back, and she felt inexplicably flustered.

Before coming here, she had thought that even if she was no match for Prince Chen, she was a beauty. In this regard, even if Prince Chen from the Kingdom of Dongcang was evil, he was a man. How could he not show pity and care for a beautiful woman like her? This was the most crucial reason why Princess Yutao dared to take risks to come here.

Living with her attractive appearance for many years, she was convinced that no man would be ruthless to her or have the heart to kill her.

But she was not sure anymore because she perceived no pity in Prince Chen's eyes. There was only a gloomy and even insidious look. His hint of bloodthirsty aura cast a pall over his pretty face. But then, she felt she could easily read his face, which had an apparent merciless look. What shocked her more greatly was his domineering tongue. It seemed he could let her marry anyone and had the final say in her marriage.

For Prince Chen, she had never been a woman worthy of his pity and tenderness.

She was a commodity!

Yes, she was nobody but an item that could be dealt with at his will.

Princess Yutao had a bad feeling. Once again, she collected herself, stood up, and gracefully saluted Chu Liuchen. "Prince Chen, I don't want to get married!"

"Are you unwilling to get married, or do you just have no intention to marry anyone in the Kingdom of Dongcang?" Chu Liuchen raised his eyebrows and asked while playing and appreciating the jade pendant in his hand.

"I don't want to marry anyone in your country. Please help me, Your Highness!" Princess Yutao stood up straight and spoke earnestly with her eyes on Chu Liuchen, dare not hide anything from him.

She wouldn't see the memorial on the table or need to do that. What she must do was state her position on this matter.

Princess Yutao knew she should be clear-cut in attitude.

"If you can help me, I will repay you for your kindness!"

"Brilliant!" Chu Liuchen nodded and reached out to point at the chair. "Sit down, please. Now that you asked me for help, I'll have to do you this favor. Anyway, I can't let others get this good deal. But since a national letter from your country has been sent to Uncle the Emperor, there will have to be a princess from your state marry into the Kingdom of Dongcang, won't there?"

Chu Liuchen suddenly chuckled and said meaningfully.

The national letter had been issued, which meant the marriage between the two countries was cast in stone, though the two countries hadn't yet decided who would be the groom and bride. If Princess Yutao chose not to marry, the princess from the Xu State had to be Princess Yuyan. Of course, the Xu State could also pick up a noble lady from the imperial family, give her the title of princess, and marry her into the Kingdom of Dongcang.

At present, it was up to Princess Yutao to decide who would marry or not. This was a benefit that Chu Liuchen gave her to show his sincerity.

Chu Liuchen demonstrated his good faith by this sinister and overbearing dealing as if he was the one who had the final say in this matter!

Princess Yutao became increasingly prudent. Without their previous confrontation, she would only think Prince Chen had high ambition but no real ability and consider their conversation an empty talk. But after their fight behind the scenes just now, Princess Yutao believed his words, thought they sounded wildly arrogant.

Then, who would marry into the Kingdom of Dongcang?

[Medical Princess](#)

Chapter 1035: The Most Hopeless Imperial Family Member

"I can ask my father to confer the princess title on my uncle's daughter and marry her into your country!" Princess Yutao said after pondering for a while.

Her father had two brothers, each of whom had a few daughters. Anyone of these daughters could marry into the Kingdom of Dongcang in the name of a princess. This marriage would help tighten the relationship between the two countries, which was what both sides had expected.

"You're indeed kind. I heard the First Prince of your country stands a good chance to be the crown prince. In the future, his branch will be more powerful than yours. If his younger sister marries any legitimate son of a large tribe, I suppose the Xu State will be under the control of his force."

Chu Liuchen smiled significantly.

Princess Yutao's face changed drastically. She gritted her teeth with determination and said, "Yuyan can marry into the Kingdom of Dongcang, but can you ensure her an unsatisfactory marriage?"

If Princess Yuyan married into the Kingdom of Dongcang, she could rely upon the big force of her husband. In that case, she was worried that she could help a great deal for First Prince to seize power.

"My two elder brothers have already chosen their legal wife. Even if any princess of the Xu State marries them, she can't be the legal wife. The position of the secondary legal wife exists in ordinary families, but there is no such place in the royal family. Of course, she can choose to be a consort, but it may be a little inferior to the princess of a country. Only the position of the legal wife of Commandery Prince Qing is in suspense."

Chu Liuchen looked at her, his thin lips slightly raising.

Princess Yutao was ambitious, overwhelmingly ambitious. That was good. He liked making deals with people driven by wild ambition. It was much better to be ambitious at times like this.

Of course, he preferred the way of inheritance adopted by the Xu State: not only sons but daughters of the king could ascend to the throne.

If the Xu State's princess married a prince, she must become the legal wife. Even if neither Chu Liuyue nor Chu Liuzhou had a legal wife, they wouldn't accept the princess of the Xu State. It was because once they married a princess from the Xu State, they would lose their chance to be the crown prince forever. After all, the royal bloodline was never allowed to get mixed with foreign blood.

People in the Xu State might not understand this, but those in the Kingdom of Dongcang knew this rule, especially the royal descendants like Chu Liuchen.

Therefore, it was impossible for Chu Liuxin to marry this princess, for he had a clever mother.

Of course, the princess might also marry into the Emperor's Palace.

It would depend on the Emperor.

"But Commandery Prince Qing once said his fiancée was from a noble family. There was an engagement between two families a long time ago. They have been engaged since they were young, so they must have a great affection for each other. According to Commandery Prince Qing, he will get married as soon as he is back home." Princess Yutao said in surprise.

"Did he say that?" Chu Liuchen played with the teacup in his hand and said with a faint smile.

"That was what he had said right in front of us. Also, he told us he would buy many gifts for his fiancée. He seems to have a deep affection for her." Princess Yutao heard something strange and asked in confusion, "Are these all lies?"

"Of course, he wasn't telling the truth. But his fiancée is just a niece of a minor official. Actually, she can be considered an orphan. Their relationship didn't begin when they were young. He has been raised in a special place since he was a child. How could there be any contemporary accompanying him? Besides, my uncle may not admit their engagement. Marrying Chu Qing will be a good choice for the princess in your country."

Chu Liuchen watched Princess Yutao and said, curling up the corner of her mouth.

His words had so many hidden meanings that Princess Yutao was lost in thought. She sat there and pondered sentence by sentence. The longer she thought about it, the greater his suggestions became in her eyes.

As for Chu Qing, Princess Yutao had also investigated him thoroughly. They all said he was the deceased emperor's son, but nobody cared about him. It meant his identity hadn't yet been widely recognized, and he had a low status in the imperial family. It would be great if she could make Princess Yuyan marry Chu Qing.

In a word, Chu Qing would be a husband who had no power and love for Princess Yuyan. Princess Yutao thought, "In this way, I can get rid of the little bitch. Then, it will be much easier for me to deal with the old bitch staying behind in my father's Palace."

"But my father won't agree, and Yuyan's mother and elder brother won't accept his marriage either." Princess Yutao was tempted, but she frowned on second thoughts.

Given how much they doted on Yuyan, how could they allow her to marry Commandery Prince Qing, who was powerless and bound to accomplish nothing?

"Princess Yutao, human effort is the decisive factor, isn't it? If you fail to take advantage of this chance, there will be nothing you can do about it!" Chu Liuchen said, his smile fading lightly and his handsome eyes raising a little. "As for me, I don't care about it. If you have to marry into our state, I think Uncle the Emperor will be willing to take you in. I am in poor health, so I can't marry more!"

He had made it clear. If Princess Yutao didn't try her best to match Princess Yuyan with anyone in his country, she would have to marry instead. And the best choice for her marriage would be a consort in the Palace, serving a man who was the same age as her father or even older. Few young girls would embrace such a marriage.

In particular, Princess Yutao set her sights much higher than that.

"Okay, I'll do it!" Princess Yuyan decided it and said, gritting her teeth. At this time, she had no way out. No matter what, she couldn't get married and had to reduce the other side's power considerably. Now was the best time. The marriage between Princess Yuyan and Chu Qin, the most useless prince, would greatly help her achieve her dream.

She would never let this rare opportunity slip.

"It's best for you to think in this way. Commandery Prince Qing will return in three days. If you don't hurry up, it will be troublesome. Taking care of this issue within three days will make things much easier for you. Remember, Ningyuan Army General who goes there with Chu Qing is a man of integrity. He will honestly report whatever he sees when coming back."

Chu Liuchen gracefully put down the teacup in his hand, his long eyelashes casting two jagged shadows on his fair-skinned face as delicate as jade. His light smile appeared elegant.

"I know what to do!" Princess Yutao understood what Chu Liuchen meant.

She needed to do something on the sly and show it to the Ningyuan Army General from the Kingdom of Dongcang. In this way, neither Yuyan nor Commandery Prince Qing could avoid the marriage.

The girl, whom Commandery Prince Qing had engaged to, was so humble that the Emperor was not satisfied with her. If Yuyan became his legal wife, she might gain a good title, but the legal wife of Commandery Prince Qing in distress would be useless and have no real power.

Princess Yutao came and went back secretly without anyone noticing. The others didn't know that she had reached an agreement with Chu Liuchen. The people of the Xu State were still waiting to marry her to Prince Chen. While those in the capital city were also preparing to welcome the princess of the Xu State. As for where the princess would go in the end, it had not been decided yet. They would talk about it when she came.

When the princes arrived, the final decision would be made by the Kingdom of Dongcang. As a much smaller country, the Xu State couldn't be compared with the Kingdom of Dongcang in terms of national strength. The advantage it occupied was that outsiders couldn't come into the Xu State easily, for it was in a remote and uncivilized region.

However, something happened in the Xu State, and it happened to happen right in front of Qin Huaiyong.

He and the two prime ministers of the Xu State accompanying them were stunned, looking at the two people in the bed inside the room.

The door of the room was vigorously kicked wide open, and the two people on the bed had no time to put on their clothes. Chu Qing grabbed only a corner of the quilt to cover him. On the other side, the dainty Princess Yuyan, wrapped up by a large part of the quilt, trembled with a dreadfully pale face. At one glance, the others could figure out what they had done.

Early this morning, Chu Liuchen from the Kingdom of Dongcang sent a letter.

Usually, Chu Qing and Qin Huaiyong would see this kind of letter together. When the letter came, Qin Huaiyong came to look for Chu Qing along with the two prime ministers of the Xu State.

Everyone had been talking about making peace by marrying a prince into the Kingdom of Dongcang. Although no one knew who it would be, they had a mutual understanding that Princess Yutao would go.

Qin Huaiyong and Chu Qing had written a letter to inform Chu Liuchen about this. Of course, they didn't tell Chu Liuchen that he had been chosen to marry their princess and only said that a princess would marry into their country. Today, they were supposed to receive Chu Liuchen's letter in reply.

The people of the Xu State were also very anxious, so they came here with Qin Huaiyong.

When they entered the courtyard, the servant outside Qin Huaiyong panicked. When he went to report, he stumbled in a complete tizzy. Seeing that, Qin Huaiyong knew something was wrong, so he went straight to the main room without the servant leading the way. Then, because of the unusual sound in the room, he gave the door a good hard kick and came in. What he saw was such a scene intolerable to the eye.

Qin Huaiyong was slow in reacting to this. He stared blankly at Commandery Prince Qing and Princess Yuyan on the bed, wondering what was happening.

"Didn't they say Princess Yutao would marry into our country? "How could Princess Yuyan get into Chu Qing's bed?"

"Get out!" Princess Yuyan, clothes in disarray, shouted frantically at the top of her voice.

Finally, Qin Huaiyong came to his senses and hurried out. But when he walked to the door, he straightened out the matter and sighed heavily, saying to the two prime ministers beside him who were still in a daze. "Princess Yuyan must want to marry Commandery Prince Qing. If it were so, she wouldn't have to do such an embarrassing thing. She could just say it!"

After that, he retreated outside.

At this time, the two prime ministers also understood what had happened and vigorously shook their heads with silent fury. "Princess Yuyan has been arrogant and willful, but how can she do such a thing at this time? This sort of thing really is..."

The two prime ministers shook their heads and left helplessly. Even if Princess Yuyan didn't want to marry, she had no choice in the matter.

When they got back to the outside, they suddenly heard messy sounds of banging and smashing from inside. Knowing that the room must be in utter shambles, the few people shook their heads, feeling at a loss.

At present, everyone could only think about the current situation in a positive way. Luckily, both of them were unmarried. There would be a marriage between the two countries. And Princess Yuyan and Commandery Prince Qing happened to be well-matched in social status. It was a good thing that would save them a lot of trouble.

The two prime ministers had no choice but to look at each other, thinking this marriage would have to be like this.

Qin Huaiyong stood in the corridor, staring into the gray sky in silence. Now that everything had been decided, what was the point of talking about it?

Princess Yuyan, instead of Princess Yutao, was going to marry into his country.

Now, her husband-to-be was also certain: Chu Qing, the least promising royal family member in the Kingdom of Dongcang. Such a result had never crossed Qin Huaiyong's mind.

"What? Marrying into the Kingdom of Dongcang?" In a gorgeous Palace, a gentle-looking woman was terribly shocked. The teacup with lid and saucer in her hand fell to the ground, smashing into pieces

[Medical Princess](#)

Chapter 1036: Old Madam Was Banished

The eunuch knelt on the ground and reported with the greatest of care. "That's how the news came from His Majesty's place. It was said that... Second Princess would have to marry him no matter what!"

"I will never agree." The woman, mad with rage, stood up and was about to rush out.

"Please calm down, Your Grace!" An old maid stood out from behind her and bowed respectfully.

The gorgeous woman stopped. Though she was old, she still looked delicate and touching. The most attractive part of her was the tenderness in her bones. Merely by a gentle and sweet expression could she arouse men's desire to protect her.

However, her tenderness in the past was all gone. How could she keep calm when what had happened damaged her fundamental interests?

"It must be a plot done by people from the Queen's side. It must be them. How dare they..." The woman stopped and scolded harshly.

"Your Grace, please be careful with your words!" The old maid waved her hand, and the eunuch who reported left.

"The current situation can only be like this. Envoys of the Kingdom of Dongcang had seen Second Princess stay in bed with Commandery Prince Qing. You can do nothing to change their marriage. So what if you refuse to give in? Anyway, Second Princess won't get a decent husband from our country now. What's more, there should be a marriage between our two countries. What you have to consider now is not about Princess Yuyan but Princess Yutao."

The old maid took two steps forward to the woman and reminded her in a whisper.

This woman was Princess Yuyan's birth mother, Consort Li, a Han woman who had sought refuge in the Xu State. Of course, it was only her background that appeared on the surface.

Although the imperial edict about this marriage hadn't been passed down yet, it was settled. With the people from the two countries witnessing such a shameful scene, even the King couldn't do anything about it. In any case, Princess Yuyan would have to accept this marriage.

"What's so important about Yutao?" Consort Li said impatiently, full of thoughts about her daughter's marriage to the Kingdom of Dongcang. How could she accept it?

"Princess Yuyan will marry into the Kingdom of Dongcang, and her husband will be Commandery Prince Qing who is not an ideal husband. But on second thought, it is lucky that she will marry Commandery Prince Qing, isn't it?" The old maid tried her best to convince her, and her words had some other implications.

When Consort Li heard this, her face suddenly clouded over. With a cold snort, she said, "I don't think there's anything good about Chu Qing. He really thinks of himself as..."

"Your Grace, please watch your words..." The old maid once again interrupted Consort Li. She looked around and saw two trusted subordinates of Consort Li standing on both sides. "Your Grace, the Queen has schemed against Princess Yuyan. Don't you think we should get even with her? Princess Yuyan has to marry into a foreign country. Then what about Princess Yutao? We have to let her marry there because she can't stay in our state."

The old maid reminded Consort Li again that the most important thing at the moment was not about Princess Yuyan. Whether she was willing or not, her marriage was inevitable. At present, driving Princess

Yutao out of their state by marriage was their utmost important thing, which would greatly benefit Consort Li's branch.

"Only without the hindrance of Princess Yutao can First Prince become the crown prince and ascend to the throne. Otherwise, the Queen's branch will never give up. We have to take away everything that the Queen's branch wants to get and ruin all their hopes. The little prince is so young that the King will not make him the crown prince."

Seeing that Consort Li was lost in thought and seemed to consider her words, the old maid breathed a sigh of relief and added.

She was really afraid that Consort Li would throw caution to the wind and make a scene. At this time, the bigger the trouble, the more embarrassing it would be for the King, and it would anger him even more. Consort Li achieved her current status by taking advantage of the King's love. Without his favor, she would be worthless.

"How can we send her away as well? His Majesty has just decided on the marriage of Yuyan. He won't marry Yutao into the Kingdom of Dongcang. The two countries only have agreed to marry one princess." Consort Li was terribly upset. She certainly hoped that Yutao could go far away, and it would be best if Yutao vanished from her sight. That was why she persuaded His Majesty to marry Yutao to the Kingdom of Dongcang. Unexpectedly, she shot herself in the foot: it turned out that her daughter would have to marry far away. She felt so aggrieved that her face was dark with rage.

"It must be that bitch, the Queen, played a dirty trick. Otherwise, how could Yuyan suddenly have to marry but not Yutao?"

"Your Grace, you don't have to worry. You can make use of Prince Chen." The old maid said meaningfully.

Prince Chen was from the Kingdom of Dongcang, the deceased emperor's son, who had lost the throne and might not live long. Consort Li had chosen him to be Princess Yutao's husband. Prince Chen was endowed with a pretty face and a noble status, but it was regrettable that he had been in poor health and might die in a few years. If Yutao married him, she could get a noble identity, but so what? She would soon become a widow.

Most importantly, Prince Chen had a legal wife, and they were a couple known to be very much in love. Even if Yutao married him, she wouldn't live a happy life because of her status and relationship with Prince Chen.

"What can a feeble man do?" Consort Li said impatiently, breathing a sigh of relief. Fortunately, her daughter wouldn't marry Prince Chen; otherwise, she would be a widow.

"Prince Chen has already known about this. Our two countries can't become embroiled in a dispute because of Princess Yutao! I heard that Prince Chen is a favorite of the Emperor of the Kingdom of Dongcang. If he says something, Princess Yutao will have to marry him even if she doesn't want to." The old maid suggested.

"Well, send a gift to Prince Chen and let him ask for it." Consort Li, gritting her teeth, made up her mind and nodded.

"Anybody? Clean up and dress up Your Grace." The old maid took a step back and ordered in a high voice. Then, she warned, in a whisper, "Your Grace, remember not to go against His Majesty's wishes. You should be more reasonable than His Majesty with this matter and appear more aggrieved and meeker than usual."

"I know!" Consort Li nodded. She had behaved like that for so many years and knew how to deal with the King. She was just too furious to stay composed and steady.

She was going to see the King now. Though she would accept the arrangement without demur, she had to put forward the marriage of Princess Yutao and let the King know her grievance.

She was full of grievances. Since she married into the Xu State, she had suffered from lots of grievances and was badly in need of a chance to make a comeback...

The Xu State's political situation had been changeable. For the sake of the marriage related to Princess Yutao and Princess Yuyan, all forces were contending with each other covertly. This matter would be settled in a few days!

In the Marquis Xing's Mansion of the Kingdom of Dongcang, Old Madam looked at the Nanny before her in horrified disbelief. She struggled up, asking, "Is, is this what the Empress wants?"

"Yes. It's a joint decision of the Empress and the Empress Dowager." The Nanny answered, poker-faced.

Old Madam's hands went limp, and she almost crumpled down onto the bed. Nanny Yu hurried forward and stopped her from falling.

"Uhm... Is it because of Infanta Yuan'an, or is it about Princess Chen?" Old Madam asked begrudgingly.

"Infanta Yuan'an is seriously injured while Princess Chen is just a junior, a married one. I heard that Princess Chen doesn't have a good relationship with your mansion."

The Nanny from the Palace said, her face still expressionless, but she didn't say who exactly it was or who caused it. It sounded like this matter was connected to both.

Old Madam pointed somewhere with her trembling fingers.

"Your Grace, show your gratitude for this favor!" Nanny Yu whispered in her ear anxiously.

Since the Empress and the Empress Dowager had agreed to this, their decision was equivalent to an imperial edict. Therefore, no one could refuse to follow the decision even if it was not an imperial edict.

"Thank you for your kindness, Your Majesty! Is there a deadline on this?" Old Madam asked, grating her teeth in hatred. However, she had to swallow her pride and endure it in silence. After forcibly suppressing the fishy smell of blood in the throat, Old Madam gradually sobered up. At this time, she certainly could not go against the will of the Empress.

"Her Majesty only asked you to recuperate in a quiet place." The Nanny from the Palace said.

"Yes, I will!" Old Madam answered.

The Nanny from the Palace bowed to Old Madam and left the room. Nanny Yu hurried out and caught up with her at the door. With a broad smile, she handed over a purse and apologized with humility, "It

was quite a surprise for my master, so she had been a little disrespectful. Please forgive her manners. When Nanny Xi was here, she even complained bitterly about our master being fierce and blunt.”

The Nanny took the purse and pinched it. With this fat purse in her palm, she finally revealed a smile and said, “You don’t have to do this. I suppose Old Madam was too stunned back then. Who would have thought that an elder would suffer the loss in the end? The Empress trusts and relies heavily on Nanny Xi’s service. I believe Nanny Xi will speak up for Old Madam.”

Although Nanny Xi was a trusted subordinate of the Empress, she was just an ordinary Nanny. People in the Palace did not dare to make any mistakes about who was inferior and superior. Since the Marquis Xing’s Mansion had a good relationship with Nanny Xi, she wouldn’t offend them. Besides, she had just received such a purse with quite a bit of money from them.

She had to repay this favor.

“When can my master come back?” This Nanny was visibly touched when Nanny Yu mentioned Nanny Xi. Seeing her reaction, Nanny Yu knew she had done the right thing, so she immediately lowered her voice and asked for advice.

The few words from this Nanny didn’t give them enough information about the situation. Thus, Nanny Yu had to ask everything more straightforwardly for Old Madam.

“Infanta Yuan’an’s face was wounded, but no important person in your manor visited her to apologize. Worse still, you forced Princess Chen to deal with this matter in the Palace. Princess Chen is a junior who is married. In the past, the Marquis Xing’s Mansion had never taken good care of her. But when something bad happened, you put pressure on her to handle them one by one. Prince Chen is not in the capital city now, so Princess Chen is under the protection of the Empress Dowager.” The Nanny lowered her voice and said what came to her mind.

There seemed to be no logic in her words. But after Nanny Yu considered them carefully, her eyes lit up. “Is Princess Chen the key to this issue?”

“Well, I don’t know about that!” The Nanny from the Palace grinned. Since Nanny Yu understood it, she could go back.

Seeing that she was about to leave, Nanny Yu grabbed her and asked the most critical question, “Nanny, when can my master return?”

[Medical Princess](#)

Chapter 1037: The End of the Ning Sisters

“When can my master return?” This was a question of the greatest importance to Nanny Yu because Old Madam’s main concern was always herself.

“Well, she should come back if there is an important and joyous occasion. After all, the people in charge of this mansion are too young and have little experience. More particularly, the Empress has not issued an imperial edict, has she?”

After receiving some benefits and intending to please Nanny Xi, the Nanny from the Palace thought this over and finally offered them a glimmer of hope.

After that, she ignored Nanny Yu and turned to leave.

It was already the sincerest reminder this Nanny could give to them. As a maid serving in the Palace, she would get herself into desperate trouble if she disclosed more information.

After Nanny Yu had a good think about this sentence, her eyes lit up. She immediately turned around and walked into the room happily.

Old Madam was sitting in the room on the bed, her face malicious and insidious.

"Your Grace, don't worry. The Empress Dowager's birthday is coming soon, and you can come back at that time. For the time being, just stay a few days outside to have a good rest. Yuhui Nunnery is a peaceful and quiet place." Nanny Yu came in and said with a smile, "I've asked the Nanny. Her Majesties in the Palace felt displeased because our mansion forced Princess Chen to handle the dispute."

"Again, it was because of her!" Old Madam patted the quilt with hatred. "I knew she would bring disasters to us."

"Your Grace, be careful with your words!" Nanny Yu hurriedly stopped her because many servants were serving in the room, though they just stood aside at this time, lowering their heads in silence.

"Get out, all of you!" Old Madam ordered coldly.

One by one, the servant girls bowed their heads and withdrew.

"What else did she say?" After everyone left, Old Madam asked, her face livid with rage. It surprised her that she took all the blame because she disgusted the Empress.

"The Nanny said you could return home if there was a big happy event. You see, no one in the mansion can manage the affairs of the inner court. If something goes wrong, it won't be good," Nanny Yu said hurriedly.

Old Madam immediately took the hint in her words. No other occasion could be bigger and happier than the Empress Dowager's birthday, which was drawing near.

Thinking of this, she felt a little relieved, and her gloomy face brightened a little. If this was the case, she would not have to stay outside for long.

Since her future was secured, Old Madam shifted her attention back to the previous matter. "Who on earth made a complaint about me?"

"I can't tell it from her words. It seems to be related to Infanta Yuan'an or Princess Chen. She also said the Empress Dowager had to give Princess Chen special consideration when Prince Chen was not in the capital city!" Nanny Yu shook her head. "In my view, Infanta Yuan'an must have gone to the Palace and wept out her grief. Then, Princess Chen also went to plead for mercy in the Palace. After that, something happened, so the Empress vented her anger on you!"

What exactly happened in the Palace was unknown to a humble maid like her. She could only guess it according to what the Nanny from the Palace had told her.

"Good-for-nothing. She couldn't accomplish such a small thing!" Old Madam patted the edge of the bed hard. Of course, she was referring to Shao Wanru.

"Your Grace, what should we do now?" asked Nanny Yu.

"Let them prepare some joss sticks and candles, telling them I'm going to worship in the Yuhui Nunnery for a period and pray for blessings of the Marquis Xing's Mansion!" Old Madam said. Not having issued an imperial edict, the Empress showed her enough respect. So, she had to leave for Yuhui Nunnery, even if she was not feeling well.

"Go and inform the marquis to keep an eye on the mansion. Don't be distracted. First of all, he should deal well with the affairs of our mansion. And Hua'an..." Old Madam paused for a moment. "Ask him to hold back and don't make any more trouble. We'll talk about it when there's a chance in the future."

When her eldest granddaughter married into Prince Yue's Mansion and became Princess Yue, she would become the Empress in the future. There were plenty of opportunities to take revenge in the future. But this was not the right time.

"Yes, I know. I'll go and tell the marquis now." Nanny Yu said. It was better for her to convey her meaning, lest these young servant girls should not get the point and transmit the message wrong.

The issue of Wang Shengxue had become less important because of his death.

Yan Xi was fine, and so was the maid who was supposed to jump off the building. It was only Wang Shengxue who was in trouble. Wang Shengxue, who was dead, became the focus of the many problems. As for the others, they bore less responsibility after his death.

Even Ning Caixian was waiting to get out of prison. Everyone felt it was Wang Shengxue who caused all the things. No matter what the reason was, he was the only sinner. Now that he was dead, what else could the others do? It was not necessary to hold Ning Caixian, a mere accessory criminal.

As for Ning Xueqing, she was even more innocent. She didn't know what had happened and bumped into this whole thing herself. She was not guilty at all.

At most, she would be confined here for a few more days. If no one could find out who poisoned Wang Shengxue, she would be set free. At least, she had little to do with the original case.

No one expected that Ning Xueqing, who seemed to have no contact with Wang Shengxue's case, would suddenly confess, saying there had been someone behind Wang Shengxue.

She was a concubine, so Wang Shengxue wouldn't tell her everything. But she vaguely knew someone backed him up. Once, she saw Wang Shengxue hold a stack of fat cheques for silver, which were simply impossible for him to get.

These officials of the Ministry of Justice had been searching for the people behind Wang Shengxue. When they heard Ning Xueqing's words, their spirits were lifted. They specially searched his mansion and found a lot of large silver drafts.

Everybody knew Wang Shengxue was from an impoverished family, so how could he get so many notes? If they investigated his matter further, they might get to the bottom of something big.

The minister of the Ministry of Justice sorted out the evidence he got and hurried to see the Emperor.

The Emperor exploded with anger in the Imperial Study. He called Prince Zhou over and scolded him harshly before he drove him out.

When Prince Zhou went out, his head was bleeding — the Emperor must have struck him hard with something. As soon as he arrived at the Empress's Phoenix Palace, the Empress sent for the imperial physician. There was another flurry of activity.

Everyone in the Palace felt insecure. To avoid causing trouble, they even lowered their voices.

Prince Zhou enraged the Emperor, who got into a rage. Since then, the servants of the Emperor and the Empress served their masters with extreme caution.

After Prince Zhou left, the minister of the Ministry of Justice also walked out of the Imperial Study with sweat all over his face. It was a quarrel between father and son. However, for an official like him, it was a heated dispute between the monarch and his subject. The Emperor was Prince Zhou's father and his master. Either way, it was fatal for Prince Zhou to offend him.

Helplessly, he shook his head. Prince Zhou did whatever he wished utterly without self-knowledge. There was no direct correlation between the large notes and Prince Zhou, but it was connected to a supervisor of Prince Zhou's mansion who was Prince Zhou's trusted subordinate.

The Ministry of Justice had been investigating the poisoning of Wang Shengxue. It focused on the things occurring around the incident, so they did not look into matters that had happened long ago. Now, according to the time shown on the notes, they could inquire into the past and get pretty close to the truth.

Prince Zhou's supervisor gave Wang Shengxue a sum of money. After that, nothing serious happened and Wang Shengxue appeared incapable. In any case, Prince Zhou couldn't be cleared of suspicion about Wang Shengxue's poisoning death case. Moreover, the Ministry of Justice had a nasty suspicion that it also had something to do with Shao Jing, Marquis Xing.

Shao Jing, Marquis Xing, was initially supposed to be the guy of the highest status behind all of this, but now, with the evidence of the bank notes, Prince Zhou became the prime suspect.

The Ministry of Justice didn't dare to dig into this matter, and the minister of the Ministry of Justice packed up all the evidence and sent it to the Emperor, pleading with him to give his verdict.

Prince Zhou was the Empress's legitimate son who had a distinguished status. It was impossible for him to fall from power merely because of Wang Shengxue, a nobody. The development of this matter depended on the Emperor. If he wanted to go on investigating, it meant Prince Zhou would not ascend to the throne so that the Ministry of Justice could dig out the truth. But if the Emperor did not allow the investigation, Prince Zhou stood a chance to win over the supreme power of this country.

If Prince Zhou was to be a crown prince, he should never be charged with such a crime.

At present, the Emperor still seemed to regard Prince Zhou as one of the candidates for the crown prince, so he expressly forbade them to investigate this case thoroughly. Then it was the end of Wang

Shengxue's matter: all the blame was fixed on Wang Shengxue. As for the others, they were just women and could be released.

After making everything clear, the minister of the Ministry of Justice shook his head and strode out of the Palace. He didn't have a good prospect of Prince Zhou winning the throne. Compared with him, Prince Yue was more cool and controlled.

Of course, dealing with Wang Shengxue's matter was not easy. The Emperor decided not to pursue the issue, but it was not suitable to end it at this time. Fortunately, there was an announcement of the examination result. The minister of the Ministry of Justice thought it was better to release the results of the exam and the case together. In that case, those candidates for the Palace Examination could no longer pay so much attention to Wang Shengxue's case!

Wang Shengxue's matter had caused quite a stir because it was somehow bound up with those candidates. Since they were waiting for the examination result, a small thing would become a big deal. It became the most talked about topic among them.

At present, the case was quickly cracked, and Wang Shengxue was the chief offender, who set up such a vicious trap out of his envy of Yan Xi. But now, Wang Shengxue died in prison. Was this the end of the matter?

Those candidates were not convinced, feeling there must be an inside story.

Luckily, the list of successful candidates was issued at this time. While everyone kept a watchful eye on their rankings, they surprisingly saw Childe Yan's name on the list. More than that, he got a high placing. It was great news for Childe Yan, whose luck finally came after hardship.

Their final rankings would come out after the final imperial examination presided over by the Emperor.

Some people not on the list lamented their unhappy fate, while those who succeeded delightedly called their friends to celebrate. Few paid much attention to Yan Xi's matter. They were too engaged with their own business to care about someone else.

Moreover, it was indeed Wang Shengxue, who caused the trouble for Yan Xi. Now that he was dead, he could no longer rock the boat. In particular, he was said to have committed suicide. It should be because he knew he had committed towering crimes and deserved death.

With this in mind, people were no longer willing to care about this matter.

Ning Xueqing was let out of prison, squinting at the sunshine outside she hadn't seen in a very long time. With a strange look, she turned to Ning Caixian on the other side who had not been released, for she was an accessory.

[Medical Princess](#)

Chapter 1038: His Property Confiscated, His Family Ruined

As an accessory, Ning Caixian had spared from death, but the punishment was inevitable. She would be sent to guard the frontier in a remote place for three years.

Coincidentally, the two sisters came across each other before prison.

One was released, but the other was sent to a distant exile.

"Big Sister." With a foxy smile, Ning Xueqing strolled over, sizing up Ning Caixian who looked pathetically embarrassed. Her hair was as messy as when she was just thrown into jail, and there were scratches on her face. She looked about ten years older than before.

She would have to join the army far away by the border. It would be a journey to death for a delicate woman like her.

"Ning Xueqing, are you satisfied?" Ning Caixian looked at Ning Xueqing, gnashing her teeth in hatred.

"I'm satisfied? That sounds so funny. What difference would it make if I was happy or not? Did I ask you to have a shameless affair with Wang Shengxue? Did I ask you to help Wang Shengxue hurt others? Did I ask you to do those nasty things?" Ning Xueqing sneered.

"You slut..." Ning Caixian scolded, turning livid with rage.

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"It's not up to you to decide whether I'm a bitch or not. Big Sister, speaking of which, you're going to be the real bitch." Ning Xueqing glanced at the two ferocious and pugnacious bailiffs with malicious intentions.

They would escort her along the way. It would be a long trip. It was hard to say what the two men would do to her.

"Dear Sirs, please take good care of my Big Sister along the way." Ning Xueqing bowed sideways to the two government runners. It was a pity that she carried no silver. Otherwise, she would bribe them with substantial benefits and let them badly torture Ning Caixian along the way.

Ning Xueqing hated Ning Caixian. If it weren't for her, she wouldn't have ended up like this. Although Wang Shengxue was not perfect, he was her husband. Moreover, he always promised to marry her when the time came. Thus, she had been waiting for her good fortune in later years brought by Wang Shengxue. Much to her surprise, Wang Shengxue got involved in such a severe matter.

In her judgment, it was Ning Caixian who lured Wang Shengxue and made her suffer.

Ning Xueqing was caught for no reason. She would never have been set free if she hadn't tried to save herself. Clenching her teeth in bitter hatred at the thought of this, Ning Xueqing secretly decided not to let go of Ning Caixian.

"You bitch, how dare you..." Ning Caixian roared curses, feeling bad.

"Pa!" A government runner slapped her heavily on the face, casting a sidelong glance at her, and scolded her harshly, "How dare a prisoner to be so arrogant? Don't you know what trash you are made of?"

After that, he spat savagely on the ground.

"This slut needs a firm hand to make her behave. May I trouble you to teach her some lessons she won't forget on the long way? When you return, I'd like to send you generous gifts."

Ning Xueqing said with a smile.

Hearing that there were benefits, the two runners nodded vigorously and then pulled Ning Caixian away.

Ning Xueqing narrowed her eyes and showed a smile on her face. "Once she starts this tour, she would have no chance to come back and could hardly keep herself alive. Most probably, she would end up as a whore. She deserves all this because she tried to take my man away from me."

"Mad... Second... Second Miss." A timid voice came from behind. Ning Xueqing turned around and saw Dongxing's face.

"Concubine Dong, what's the matter?" The corners of her lips curled up sarcastically.

Dongxing also had been brought to the Ministry of Justice for questioning. When Wang Shengxue was dead, she didn't dare to argue with Ning Xueqing as a concubine with no one to depend on.

"Second Miss, I... I won't dare to go against you!" Dongxing threw herself at Ning Xueqing's feet and burst out crying loudly. After giving herself several tight slaps, she begged, "Second Miss, it was all my fault. I was blind to your kindness to me. I'm so sorry to make you suffer."

"Don't hurt yourself, please. It'll make our master's heartache. What if he comes to visit you at night?" Ning Xueqing snorted.

Dongxing shivered with fear and stopped in a hurry. "Second... Second Miss, I have always been your maid. In the beginning, you asked me to be with our master, didn't you? I was forced to be a concubine, and I didn't mean to go against you!"

Ning Xueqing managed the internal affairs, so she was in charge of the mansion's money and properties. At present, she was nothing but a concubine. If she wanted to live, she had to rely on Ning Xueqing.

"Well, it was all over. Get up. Let's live as usual in the future. Our master is gone. What's the point of quarreling with each other?" When Ning Xueqing heard her mention the past, her face changed slightly, and she reached out to pull her up and spoke in a friendly tone instead.

"Second Miss..." Dongxing was so touched that she couldn't even say a word.

"Well, let's go back first. We have to deal with the affairs of the mansion. There's such a large mansion. They even don't have a master there. I'm afraid that it has already been in chaos!" Ning Xueqing said.

"Don't worry. I will help you. You have always been the master of that mansion. I am a servant girl, and even my life is yours. How can I think otherwise?" Dongxing expressed her loyalty.

She was indeed very loyal to Ning Xueqing at the very start, but in the past three years, she had been accompanying Wang Shengxue. How could she not get some other fancies? But at this moment, even if she still had ambitions, she had to put them away. Wang Shengxue was dead, so she had no one to depend on but Ning Xueqing.

Her indenture for the sale of herself was still in Ning Xueqing's hands.

In the past, in consideration of Wang Shengxue, Ning Xueqing would not resell her. But now, if Dongxing couldn't be very considerate to her, Ning Xueqing wouldn't keep her and would sell her to the most rotten places, for example, a whorehouse.

After serving Ning Xueqing for so many years, how could Dongxing not know Ning Xueqing's character? Dongxing knew better than anyone that she had to obey Ning Xueqing in every matter.

Of course, Ning Xueqing didn't want others to know what had happened. It was the only thing that Dongxing could threaten Ning Xueqing with.

Wang Shengxue was gone forever, but there was Princess Chen who was no longer the weak Fifth Miss Shao who had been plotted against. For that alone, Dongxing thought Ning Xueqing wouldn't dare to sell her as a punishment.

"Well, let's go back to the mansion!" Ning Xueqing narrowed her eyes, glanced at Dongxing, and then looked at the back of Ning Caixian, who was pulled far away.

Dongxing also recalled the ugly scene just now, and her face suddenly turned ghastly pale. In haste, she lowered her head, showing the humble manner of a servant girl. "Second Miss, please go first. I'll follow you."

This time, Ning Xueqing didn't say anything more. She glanced at Dongxing and turned to leave, not feeling the slightest desire to stay any longer. There were lots of things that Wang Shengxue left behind. She had to deal with these things first. As for other things, she could handle them later.

The mansion was indeed in a mess. Since several masters were arrested, some servants left, and some escaped. Only a few people remained there, but they were just busy snatching the items in the mansion. When Ning Xueqing entered, she saw two servants fighting for a porcelain vase. Even though they saw her come in, they just ignored her.

The news of Wang Shengxue's death spread widely. That was why those servants in the mansion showed little consideration for her feelings.

Ning Xueqing was aggressive, but no matter how fierce she was, she was just a concubine without a backer. With Wang Shengxue's death, she became as insignificant as Dongxing in the eyes of the servants.

"How dare you! Didn't you see Madam coming?" Seeing Ning Xueqing's face turned deathly pale in rage, Dongxing stepped forward, stood before her, and growled out.

"Seriously? Is there a Madam here? How could a concubine think of herself as a Madam?" A servant shot Ning Xueqing and Dongxing a sarcastic look. He disregarded them and continued to compete with another person. These servants didn't take them seriously and even bumped into them when they were fighting for something.

They violently knocked Ning Xueqing onto the ground and stamped on the hem of her skirt, still engaged in their scuffle.

Almost all the servants in the mansion were bought from outside, so few were loyal. There might be a few loyal ones, but their previous masters must have recalled them. From then on, there would be no hope for the whole mansion.

"How... how dare you..." Someone accidentally kicked Ning Xueqing's foot. Trampled and in pain, she shouted her displeasure.

However, no one paid any attention to her rage.

The two servants were still fighting, stamping on the hem of her skirt. When Dongxing came over to help Ning Xueqing up, she was also knocked out heavily, and both fell to the ground.

“Come on, confiscate all the assets in this mansion!” A government runner ordered mercilessly. He came in with several people without bothering to look at the two servants in a bitter fight and Ning Xueqing lying on the ground.

Right away, several government runners raced across the door and knocked down the two servants.

“Who... who are you?” Ning Xueqing stood up with the help of Dongxing and asked anxiously.

“We are from the Ministry of Justice. We come here to confiscate Wang Shengxue’s mansion. Wang Shengxue was sentenced to death, and all his family property will be confiscated,” the local government runner announced coldly.

“No, it’s not like that. How could it be like this...” Ning Xueqing said anxiously, her eyes wide with horror. Still, she wanted to reorganize everything in the mansion for future use.

“Not like this? Then what do you think it will be? Do you want to occupy all things from the criminal and bear the consequences of his sin?” the government runner asked in return.

Seeing that things were going nasty, the two servants did not dare to covet these things anymore. They turned around and ran out.

“No, please, Secondary Consort Shao said, no... no...” Ning Xueqing gibbered with terror. She never expected such a result.

“What nonsense are you talking about? Just drive all the irrelevant people out.” The leader of these runners said impatiently.

“No... I...” Ning Xueqing wanted to say something but was brutally pushed away by two government runners. She stumbled a few steps back and almost fell on the steps outside. Several passers who saw this pointed at her and whispered to each other.

Wang Shengxue had caused serious disturbances, which were known to all. It was not a surprise when all the properties were taken away.

Ning Xueqing was about to rush forward, but Dongxing stopped her, saying with tears in her eyes, “Second Miss, don’t go in there again. It’s useless. It’s vain to resist!”

At this time, Dongxing was in breathless anxiety, fearing that Ning Xueqing would dart forward. If Ning Xueqing died, she would also come to a tragic and terrible end. At this time, she genuinely and sincerely feared that something bad would happen to Ning Xueqing.

Ning Xueqing stopped and looked at the mansion door with a somber and malicious look. She gritted her teeth and said with deep hatred and resentment, “Shao Yanru, I won’t let you go!”

She whispered through clenched teeth. How could she believe the words from the maid sent by Shao Yanru? But she was clear that no one would believe her even if she told them the truth now. Shao Yanru became the person she hated most at the moment...

Medical Princess

Chapter 1039: Zhang Qilan's Worries

For folks in the capital, what happened to Wang Shengxue's mansion was as transient as fleeting clouds. No one would bother looking into the past.

Since Wang Shengxue was dead, this matter could be considered settled.

Of course, no one would pay attention to either banished Ning Caixian or homeless Ning Xueqing. As for the deal between Ning Xueqing and Shao Yanru, it was more secretive to the public.

Very few people knew that Ning Xueqing reported Wang Shengxue's backer because she had reached an agreement with someone. On the sly, some people intentionally disguised this major incident as minor, which didn't draw any public response. Only some prominent aristocratic families got vague information that Wang Shengxue seemed to have something to do with Prince Zhou.

The news that the Emperor smashed Prince Zhou's head spread silently among the powerful officials and aristocratic families.

In this Palace Examination, Yan Xi was the Number Three Scholar, the title conferred on the third-place winner.

By convention, the top three scholars of the Palace Examination would march through the streets on tall and big horses. On that special day, a few servant girls woke Shao Wanru up early in the morning.

The Prince Chen's Mansion booked a box of a tea shop along the way. Many people ordered private rooms today. Almost all the private rooms for restaurants and teahouses on the parading way were occupied.

The servant girls were also full of curiosity. They were in the Yuhui Nunnery three years ago, so they didn't see the grand celebration of the top three scholars riding across the streets at that time. Three years had passed. Finally, they got a chance to see this occasion of great festivity. The maids were very concerned about it.

Like these maids, Zhang Qilan kept the event in mind and invited Shao Wanru to watch it together. She asked Shao Wanru to book a private room, and she would bring Luo Xiaowan over to join in the fun.

Shao Wanru was in a good mood. Chu Liuchen had told her that he was going to come back. Thinking about the time, he was on his way home now. If he traveled faster, he could attend the Empress Dowager's birthday. Somehow, this news made Shao Wanru feel more relieved because some things had happened on Empress Dowager's birthday in her previous life.

Although she had made some preparations, she was still a little uncertain. It would be best for Chu Liuchen to come back. After all, he was the only one whose words would make a difference at that time.

Also, Chu Liuchen mentioned a little about the marriage relating to Princess Yutao and Princess Yuyan, but not in detail. He just tried to reassure Shao Wanru that it had nothing to do with him, no matter

which country's princess wanted to arrange a marriage with the Kingdom of Dongcang. Since he was in poor health, he couldn't marry any more consorts. Shao Wanru alone was too much for him to enjoy.

When Shao Wanru saw the letter, her face flushed bright red. Ever since they got married, Chu Liuchen became more and more shameless. How could he say such embarrassing words in such a righteous way? It sounded as if it was a great thing to be powerless to marry another woman.

He was full of tender affection each time he held her in his arms. When Shao Wanru recalled how forcibly he tried to suppress his overwhelming desire for her, she flushed crimson with embarrassment. He couldn't be more shameless!

He possessed such a refined and handsome appearance, but he brazenly unlocked his innermost dirty thoughts to her. Just a glance at his letter made Shao Wanru feel ashamed.

Under the meaningful gazes of a few smiling servant girls, she folded the letter and placed it beside her pillow. She would take it out and read it through several times with a blushing face if she couldn't fall asleep late at night.

She missed him, badly!

Before he wormed his way into her life, she had been used to carrying out everything alone. She forced herself to become stronger and never dreamed of getting married.

Under the protection of such a man, she felt her ice-cold heart slowly warm up. She couldn't remember clearly when she lost her heart to him.

It was early when they arrived at the teahouse. Zhang Qilan and Luo Xiaowan had not come yet. Shao Wanru followed the waiter up the stairs. But at the corner, she caught a familiar figure and frowned slightly. "Did he also come to see the grand event every three years?"

After entering the private room, the waiter served the water and left. Yujie and Qu Le took out the tea leaves brought from their mansion to make tea with boiling water. After watching the private room's interior, Shao Wanru sat down.

It was a very simple square table. She was sitting near the window, and there was a wide street below, which would be the main street for the parade. The windows would allow a clear view of the whole street.

The booked private room had a good view of the street. After a while, when Number One Scholar, Number Two Scholar, and Number Three Scholar came over, Shao Wanru and the others could see all of them clearly.

Standing by the window, she watched for a while and found plenty of people walking on the street. Some were even waiting downstairs. All of them could barely wait to see the three most promising young talents.

"You arrived earlier than us!" Zhang Qilan came in with Luo Xiaowan. When she saw Shao Wanru was already there, she couldn't help exclaiming with a smile

She came over, bowed to Shao Wanru, and sat beside her.

Shao Wanru poured a cup of tea for each of them and pushed the teacups to them with a smile. "Didn't you say you would arrive earlier than me?"

"We were supposed to be here early, but before I left, my mother found I would go out and nagged me for a long time. Later, Xiaowan came over, so my mother finally let me out." Zhang Qilan felt wronged and said pitifully.

Seeing her aggrieved and pitiful look, Shao Wanru couldn't help laughing, covering her mouth with her handkerchief, and said, "Then you really have to thank Sister Xiaowan!"

"That's right. My mother wouldn't let me go out if it weren't for her. But if it were her..." Zhang Qilan said meaningfully.

Luo Xiaowan blushed and patted her hard on the shoulder. "What nonsense are you talking about?"

"I didn't. It's absolutely true." Zhang Qilan said with certainty, smiling.

Luo Xiaowan's face became increasingly redder. She held her handkerchief and was at a loss what to do.

Shao Wanru looked at Luo Xiaowan and Zhang Qilan and laughed. "Is there something that I don't know? It seems to be a good thing!"

"Of course, it's a good thing..." Zhang Qilan said.

"None of your nonsense. It's up in the air!" Luo Xiaowan turned anxious and hurriedly said with a red face.

When Zhang Qilan saw her like this, she didn't say anything more and just pouted at Shao Wanru, hinting for her to see Luo Xiaowan's expression.

Shao Wanru pursed her lips and smiled, pushing the teacups closer to them with a smile. "The tea is good. Try it."

Zhang Qilan took a sip, and her eyes immediately lit up. She looked at the teacup in her hand and praised, "Not bad. Nice tea, actually! I didn't expect an ordinary teahouse to have such tasty tea. Why didn't they serve me when I came here before? Are they too proud to treat guests equally?"

"You think it's good?" Shao Wanru asked happily.

Hearing what they said, Luo Xiaowan also tried it and praised it repeatedly, "This tea is very drinkable, and it has a faint scent of flowers. It smells and tastes better than ordinary tea."

"Anyone? Go and get the waiter for me. I want to ask him why he didn't serve me this good tea before!" Zhang Qilan ordered.

The maid behind her was about to leave.

Shao Wanru remained silent with a smile, but Yujie couldn't bear it anymore. "Miss Zhang, this tea is from our mansion, not this teahouse."

"It's not from here?" Zhang Qilan blinked. After taking another sip, she praised it once again and looked at Shao Wanru, saying, "Your tea is so nice. I don't know where it comes from. I've never drunk such a tasty tea. Is it a new tribute to the Palace this year?"

The servant girl stepped back and stood behind her again, looking at Shao Wanru with a radiant smile.

"Do you think this tea is a tribute?" Shao Wanru asked, beaming with pleasure.

Zhang Qilan took another sip to taste it carefully and shook her head. "Not really!"

"What makes you say so?" Shao Wanru asked again.

Luo Xiaowan also took a sip. After thinking about it for a while, she said, "I don't think men like this flavor!"

There shouldn't be such a heavy fragrance of the flowers in the tea for the Emperor.

Luo Xiaowan and Zhang Qilan had drunk many kinds of tribute tea sent to them from the Palace but had never drunk anything like this.

"This is from the Xu State. It is said to be a kind of tea favored by local women, but not tribute tea. Only women like drinking it. In fact, the tea's most outstanding feature is not its tea smell but the scent of flowers." Shao Wanru threw them a faint smile and explained, her eyes brightening up a little.

Hearing her words, Zhang Qilan nodded repeatedly in approval. "Yes, that's right. The mixed flavor of tea and flowers doesn't taste like ordinary scented tea. There is no flower, but its flower fragrance seems to have permeated through the tea aroma, all like nature itself. I wonder how the two scents exist in perfect accord with each other!"

Shao Wanru said, "This should be a unique tea-making method of the Xu State!"

"Wait a minute. How did you get the tea from Xu State? Could it be that... a special present from Prince Chen?" Zhang Qilan teased.

Shao Wanru gave a slight, bashful cough and said, "I received some tea with a letter from the Empress Dowager."

"Do you mean Prince Chen sent the tea to the Empress Dowager as a present but didn't give any to you?" Zhang Qilan blinked and lowered her voice to ask with a smile.

Obviously, she was making fun of Shao Wanru.

Luo Xiaowan couldn't help laughing.

"He presented it to the Empress Dowager, and Her Majesty then rewarded me with it." Shao Wanru nodded and explained it seriously. The dazzling smile in her watery eyes served as a foil for her eyes full of feminine charm. Coupled with her delicate facial features, she radiated soul-stirring glamor and elegance.

Zhang Qilan's heart skipped a beat. The smile still hung on her face, but the happiness in her eyes faded away. Something unpleasing arose in her heart, which she thought she wouldn't care about. But when she thought of it now, she felt surprisingly sick.

“What’s wrong?” Capturing Zhang Qilan’s constrained smile, Shao Wanru asked with concern.

“I’m fine. I just remembered what my mother said before. Alas, people unfamiliar with my situation may mistakenly think we aren’t biologically related!” Zhang Qilan said helplessly with a bitter face, “She always tells me to be careful of this or that and forbids me to do this or that, as if I’m willing to get married. How can I live a happy life if it’s always like this?”

The marriage between her and Prince Yue was around the corner, so it became more difficult for her to go out recently. Except for this place, her mother had banned nearly all her other social activities. Every time she thought of this, Zhang Qilan felt depressed. All she wanted to do was stroll around freely, and she wouldn’t do anything out of bounds. But her mother didn’t allow her to do it.

It seemed that it was heinous for her to hang out.

In the past few days, one more thing was lying heavy in her heart. She thought she wouldn’t believe it, but when she looked at Shao Wanru now, she was displeased, which made her feel at a loss for a moment...

[Medical Princess](#)

Chapter 1040: Let’s Talk About the Royal Family

Cheers suddenly came from the street outside the window.

They all crowded before the window, looking out. At this time, no one would accuse the three women of standing by the window to watch the fun openly.

This was not the time to be harsh. They just opened the window to watch the show, but there were more women downstairs throwing handkerchiefs, flowers, sachets, and other little items at the scholars. Some more excited women even took off the accessories on their hair, hurling them away.

Cheers resounded like peals of thunder along the way that the top three scholars passed.

Among them, the girls were the most thrilled.

These girls were usually very reserved, but they all shook hands and stamped feet joyfully at this time.

The Number One Scholar of this round was a middle-aged man in his 30s or 40s, and the Number Two Scholar didn’t look young. When these women saw the Number Three Scholar at the tail end of the procession, they feverishly screamed at the top of their voices.

Yan Xi was the youngest and best-looking one among the three. Besides, in high and vigorous spirits, he appeared very eye-catching. Although the two men before him ranked higher, he received most of the attention.

Shao Wanru’s eyes also fell on Yan Xi, and she couldn’t help but sigh with emotion in her heart. In her previous life, she and Yan Xi had already fallen into disrepute.

As a woman, Shao Wanru was universally condemned and suffered more than Yan Xi, though Yan Xi also got a tragic ending and was demoted.

Now, both of them met a different fate.

Yan Xi seemed to have sensed Shao Wanru's gaze upon him and raised his head. In silence, their gazes met. On the horse, Yan Xi immediately cupped one hand in the other to pay obeisance to her, looking at her with grateful eyes.

If it weren't for Shao Wanru's reminder, he might still be in prison. He was very grateful to Shao Wanru for that. Shao Wanru was now Princess Chen, so it was inconvenient for him to visit and thank her. Otherwise, he would have called her house the first time.

Shao Wanru smiled slightly but didn't do anything else.

"Did Number Three Scholar salute you?" Zhang Qilan looked back at Shao Wanru and asked curiously.

She sensed that Number Three Scholar was looking at Shao Wanru and turned around to see Shao Wanru, only to find that she didn't seem to have noticed it. Thus, Zhang Qilan couldn't guess what had happened.

"Maybe he saw us? Was it just now? I was looking at Number One Scholar at the head of the parade, so I didn't notice him." Shao Wanru said, remaining natural and at ease. She withdrew her gaze and turned to look at Yan Xi, who had shifted his eyes to the passersby before his horse and smiled back at them.

"I thought he was looking at you!" Zhang Qilan said with a smile.

Luo Xiaowan, startled, looked at Shao Wanru and asked, "Did Number Three Scholar... look at you just now?"

She also noticed that the man glanced in their direction, thinking he was looking at her. Only when she looked back at him did she find he was looking at someone behind her.

"I don't know. Did Number Three Scholar look at me? Maybe he had seen me when he lived in the Marquis Xing's Mansion." Shao Wanru said indifferently.

She didn't want others to know what had happened between her and Yan Xi.

They were like fellow sufferers in her previous life, but this feeling was difficult for others to comprehend. No one would believe it, even if she said it out loud. On the contrary, it would arouse suspicion.

Since they had taken a different route from their previous lives, they would no longer involve in each other's affairs in this life.

"Maybe he had met Princess Chen in the Marquis Xing's Mansion. I heard Childe Yan used to live there but has moved out recently." Luo Xiaowan smiled, thinking it precisely the same way.

He had seen Shao Wanru. Today, he happened to see her there, so he especially saluted to greet her. After all, Shao Wanru had become Princess Chen. No matter where Yan Xi saw her, he should salute her.

"I was wondering why he suddenly saluted. It is for this reason!" Zhang Qilan also nodded repeatedly and thought it reasonable.

"Did Childe Yan move out of the Marquis Xing's Mansion?" Shao Wanru asked in surprise. She really didn't know about it.

Luo Xiaowan said in a soft voice, "It happened not long ago. I heard many more things had occurred in the Marquis Xing's Mansion. It was not appropriate for Childe Yan to live there after he became Number Three Scholar. His family bought a courtyard for him in the capital city, and now he has lived there."

But when she finished speaking, she suddenly realized what she had done and blushed scarlet with shyness.

Zhang Qilan leaned close to Luo Xiaowan and said smugly, "You said it was nothing serious. But look at you, you know so much about him. How could you say that?"

Shao Wanru looked at them with a smile. When they came in, she heard what they said and thought Luo Xiaowan must have been considering marriage again.

It seemed that she was thinking about marrying Yan Xi. It was beyond her expectations, but she felt it made sense.

Luo Xiaowan's matter had provoked much discussion among the public, which was said to have been resolved. But because she had been involved in a boisterous farce, the few well-known aristocratic families in the capital wouldn't accept her. Beyond that, the wife of Duke Yangqu's son was so fond of this daughter that she wouldn't marry her into any family outside the capital. Therefore, choosing a husband from the candidates of the Palace Examination was indeed the best way for Luo Xiaowan.

Yan Xi was the most outstanding person in this Palace Examination. Even though he had been implicated in the Marquis Xing's Mansion case, he didn't have anything to do with them now. Yan Xi's parents were not by his side, so Luo Xiaowan only lived with him once they married. It was the best for Luo Xiaowan, who had been meek and mild.

"You... What are you talking about... No, nothing..." Luo Xiaowan's pink face reddened all over, and she could hardly lift her head to see them out of embarrassment.

"My mother told me to be as steady and reliable as you. Seeing you have begun discussing the marriage, she asks me to learn from you. It's only been a while, and you pretend foolishness!" Zhang Qilan made a fuss and laughed. Luo Xiaowan was so ashamed that she couldn't say anything.

"Well, don't make fun of Sister Xiaowan. You are going to marry soon." Shao Wanru smiled, trying to make peace. She turned around and pulled her to watch the fun downstairs. The bustling scene below had gone forward with the movement of the three scholars, and more people were following them along the way. "When you get married, more people will be coming to enjoy the excitement. At that time, Sister Xiaowan and I will also book a private room to see your bridal sedan chair pass by."

"What's so interesting about my wedding? It's nothing special. Haven't you experienced one?" Zhang Qilan said languidly.

Nevertheless, they changed their topic.

After seeing the fun, they returned to their seats. Luo Xiaowan ignored her previous embarrassment and asked with concern, "Qilan, is there anything wrong? I heard that Prince Yue is handsome. Although he is a little arrogant, he is a nice person."

"Yes, very good. Even before I marry into his mansion, there is a consort waiting for me!" Zhang Qilan sighed and looked at Shao Wanru with envy. "Princess Chen, you're much luckier. You've been married for so long, but you're the only woman accompanying Prince Chen. I heard that Prince Chen didn't intend to marry another woman. Prince Chen even refused to take in a consort when the Emperor granted the marriage."

Through the Pageant, each prince should choose a legal wife and a consort. Except for the youngest Prince Xin, the other princes should follow the tradition, but only Prince Chen refused to do so. Zhang Qilan heard the Empress Dowager and the Emperor had picked up most consorts for him, stating that they wanted to get a few more backers for this sick and weak prince.

Of course, they didn't mean Prince Chen would have to depend on them and just want him to live a better life in the future. The so-called backer was Zhang Qilan's idea. How could a might person like Prince Chen rely on the power of his wife's original family? His trip to the Xu State was unexpected.

Zhang Qilan's father also said that Prince Chen was getting better and better, and he was no longer as weak as others imagined. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been sent on a diplomatic mission.

The Empress Dowager was especially concerned about Prince Chen. If he were frail and couldn't bear the task, she wouldn't let him go out, even if he was willing to be just a follower!

Not long after her wedding, the consort would also marry into the mansion. Whenever Zhang Qilan thought of this, she would feel downcast.

"I heard that Prince Yue is nice, and you will marry him first as a legal wife. Why are you worried about this?" As Shao Wanru asked smilingly, her liquid eyes widened slightly. It seemed not an issue Zhang Qilan would concern about. The customary rule of the prince getting a legal wife and a consort had existed for a long time. It was strange that she said nothing about it at first, but now she was full of emotions.

"Well, just marry him and see what will happen!" Zhang Qilan smiled bitterly. She didn't appear shy as a bride. There were some things that she couldn't decide, and it was never up to her to make the decision.

She stood up and said with low spirits, "Let's go. We can't even see Number One Scholar now. There won't be much excitement to watch. Let's go back!"

"Why do you leave so early? Each time we hung out before, you felt reluctant to return home." Shao Wanru was a little surprised. Zhang Qilan behaved strangely today.

"Before I left, my mother repeatedly told me to come back as soon as I watched the fun. After all, I'm going to get married soon. If Xiaowan hadn't come to invite me, my mother wouldn't have let me go out." Zhang Qilan said with profound resignation, reaching out to touch her forehead. Then she tilted her head to see Shao Wanru. "Among us, only Princess Chen is married. Can you talk about marriage with me? Don't say those high-sounding words. I want to hear the truth."

"The truth? What kind of truth?" Shao Wanru asked smiling, her long eyelashes fluttering.

"I certainly want to listen to your marriage life in the royal family. How does Prince Chen treat you? How do the Empress and the Empress Dowager get on with you? What is the character of the consorts in the

imperial harem?" Zhang Qilan sighed deeply, and her delicate face wrinkled. "As long as I think about I have to deal with so many relationships in the future, I feel disheartened and unhappy."

She couldn't cheer herself up with a lot of troublesome things in her mind. There was more than one thing but many that she couldn't reveal to others.

She paid no notice to it at first, but suddenly she realized she had to take care of these things. Her father was right. When she became Princess Yue in the future, she would have to face lots of things that she couldn't avoid.

There was no way out, and she had no choice but to face the challenge! Then she might as well catch up with determination!

"Her Majesties are very easy to get along with. These imperial consorts have nothing to do with us. Princes have different characters, and mine has a good temper. As for Prince Yue, only you know the answer!" Shao Wanru's heart sank, but she looked calm and answered with a gentle smile.

Zhang Qilan shouldn't have brought out such questions about the royal family. However, she asked them in a joking way, and Shao Wanru had to answer them.

However, her reply was worthless, so Shao Wanru had no idea why she bothered asking in the first place!