

## Medical Princess 1041

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#### Chapter 1041: Gu Xishu's Marriage

At this time, Zhang Qilan finally came to her senses. Being conscious of her indiscreet remarks, she looked at Shao Wanru with a bit of guilt and said, "So many things to deal with knocked me senseless. I shouldn't have talked to you about this."

Her words were straightforward, in line with her usual character.

"Since you asked, I replied. It shouldn't be a breach of etiquette for us." Shao Wanru said with a smile, her eyes serene and elegant.

"Okay, that's all right. Let's not talk about the royal family," Luo Xiaowan lost no time in saying that.

"Then what to say? The Number Three Scholar?" asked Zhang Qilan playfully with a smile, as always.

"You..." Again, Luo Xiaowan blushed up to the roots of her hair.

"I think this year's Number One Scholar is inferior to the one of the last exam. Do you think so?" Shao Wanru saved her from embarrassment and added, "I didn't see the previous grand event, for I was in the Yuhui Nunnery back then."

"In the previous examination, my mother forbade me to come out, so I didn't watch it either!" Luo Xiaowan said, glancing at Shao Wanru gratefully. For fear that Zhang Qilan wouldn't let go of the previous topic, she hurriedly continued, "Qilan, you've come to see the ceremony last year. After that, I heard you talk about it for a long time, especially Third Young Master Wen."

During the last exam, Luo Xiaowan was trapped in her marriage. With that unsettled dispute, she was in no mood to join in the fun.

In the imperial exam last year, Wen Xichi ranked first and Qi Tianyu won third place.

"The top three in the last exam were indeed very remarkable. Besides, the three young scholars haven't been engaged yet. Of course, the most outstanding one is Third Young Master Wen. We've seen him before, but it's a pity you didn't see him that day." Zhang Qilan said with a beam of pride.

"Then why hasn't Third Young Master Wen been engaged yet? As the Number One Scholar from a powerful family, he will obtain boundless prospects after Prime Minister Wen retires. But why hasn't his marriage been arranged yet?"

Luo Xiaowan asked, full of curiosity. Watching the lively scene just now, even she felt a little worried. It could be seen lots of people must have paid particular attention to this. For a few times, Luo Xiaowan had seen Wen Xichi, who was indeed elegant in manner and possessed striking literary talent. However, she could only secretly think about such a promising talent at most, and never did she dare to attach any extravagant hope to him. After all, she knew she was far beneath him in consideration of the high social standing of the Mansion of the Prime Minister and his excellent character.

"I heard that he is unwilling to do that!" Zhang Qilan hesitated before saying that.

"He is over marriageable age, and many men at his age are married. Has he been unwilling to get engaged? But my mother said Madam of Prime Minister Wen has been secretly looking for a wife for him." Luo Xiaowan became increasingly surprised, flushing slightly as she thought of an old matter.

In fact, Madam of Prime Minister Wen had visited and considered her, but nothing happened later. It must be because she heard of Luo Xiaowan's previous engagement.

"He... might think it's freer to be a bachelor!" Zhang Qilan said with a careless smile.

"How could he not want a wife at this age? Perhaps, he is in love with someone that Madam of Prime Minister Wen can't accept to be her daughter-in-law, so they're locked in a stalemate." When it came to other people's business, Luo Xiaowan was very sensitive.

"No way... it doesn't look like it!" Zhang Qilan was uncertain, frowning slightly. Then she turned to face Shao Wanru, who had been silent and smiling, "So, what do you think?"

Shao Wanru had been avoiding making any comments on Wen Xichi. Her last life had passed, and they were just not strangers in this life.

Later, he wasn't nearly as good as an acquaintance to her. Shao Wanru knew it very well in her heart after Chu Liuchen presented the news that Wen Xichi plotted against her.

Now that Zhang Qilan directly threw the question at her, she had to answer.

"Well, it's possible!" Shao Wanru said vaguely.

"I heard that the Marquis Xing's Mansion and the Mansion of the Prime Minister have had a good relationship, and their juniors have been in constant contact with each other. Hasn't the Marquis Xing's Mansion thought of making more connections through marriages?" Another reason suddenly came to Zhang Qilan, who smiled and blinked at Shao Wanru. "There are two Misses in your mansion."

In terms of status, the Third Miss and the Fourth Miss didn't compare with Wen Xichi, who was from the Mansion of the Prime Minister. However, since the two mansions enjoyed a close and good relationship, it was hard to say what would happen. In the eyes of others, the Third Miss and the Fourth Miss of Marquis Xing's Mansion were indeed qualified to marry Wen Xichi.

"Uh, I've no idea about that... I didn't grow up in the Marquis Xing's Mansion when I was a child. When I came back, I was not close to the other sisters in the mansion. So, I don't know if the two mansions' juniors are on good terms. But the cousin Miss in their mansion seems to be well in with Big Sister."

Shao Wanru chuckled to herself.

"The cousin Miss in their mansion is very strange. I heard she got on well with Second Young Master Wen. They would soon talk about their marriage, but recently I heard something different..." Luo Xiaowan came to a halt, feeling the remark was inappropriate. After all, what she would share with them was not necessarily true. She just suddenly blurted out when Shao Wanru mentioned this matter.

Thus, she couldn't finish what she was saying.

Zhang Qilan was listening with great interest. Suddenly, Luo Xiaowan stopped talking, and she was immediately displeased. "Hey, how can you swallow back the words on the tip of your tongue? Please! Tell us the whole story. We'll keep it to ourselves."

"Actually, I don't know if this is true... I heard another Madam accidentally mentioned it to my mother..." Luo Xiaowan was still a little hesitant, thinking it was quite improper for her to spread rumors.

"I know. Just tell us. You mention it casually while Princess Chen and I listen without care. None of us takes it seriously. Come on!" Zhang Qilan waved her hand and said.

Shao Wanru looked at the eager look on Zhang Qilan's face and couldn't help laughing. Since Zhang Qilan appeared very interested in it, Luo Xiaowan would have to say it even if she didn't want to.

Seeing them full of curiosity, Luo Xiaowan continued resignedly, "Well, but I don't know if it was true. The parents of cousin Miss had returned to the capital city to discuss the marriage with the Mansion of the Prime Minister, but they were talking about her marriage with the Third Young Master Wen, which was different from what I had heard before. I guess it should not be true."

The affair between Gu Xishu and Second Young Master Wen was partly spread out. Although Gu Xishu wasn't considered a concubine, they must have had a romantic involvement. Back then, the Mansion of the Prime Minister intended to keep Gu Xishu as a concubine. They hushed this matter to find another daughter-in-law from a noble family for Second Young Master Wen. After all, when the other families learned Second Young Master Wen had a dubious relationship with his cousin in the mansion, they wouldn't accept the marriage with him.

But in reality, there were still some sorts of rumors about them.

Everyone had a vague feeling that they would get married.

"Miss Gu's father has been promoted?" Shao Wanru thought for a moment and understood the critical point, so she considered the news authentic.

"Yes. He jumped several ranks and made many contributions as an official outside. Next, he would stay in the capital city." Zhang Qilan knew about it and answered. After that, she frowned and said disdainfully, "Gu Xishu is really unworthy of Third Young Master Wen. Even if her status becomes much higher, so what?"

Like Shao Wanru, Zhang Qilan was keenly aware of the vital point.

Her father's promotion steadily emboldened Gu Xishu, so she dared to propose marriage to Third Young Master Wen. Young masters of the Mansion of the Prime Minister all looked good, but the most outstanding one was certainly Third Young Master Wen.

Zhang Qilan recalled that her father had praised Wen Xichi for having an infinitely bright future. For this reason, he harshly scolded her Eldest Brother and complained that he never amounted to much, ordering his son to learn from Wen Xichi. Both were young sons of Prime Ministers, but how could Wen Xichi be much more outstanding than his son?

"It was not necessarily true. If that was the case, that Madam must have made a slip of the tongue!" Luo Xiaowan panicked and waved her hand hurriedly when she saw Shao Wanru and Zhang Qilan analyze it seriously.

Shao Wanru gave a winsome smile, while Zhang Qilan held Luo Xiaowan's hand to comfort her and said, "Don't worry. It's okay. There are only three of us. It doesn't matter if we just had an idle chat about it. We won't talk about it once we get out of here."

"Fine!" Luo Xiaowan said helplessly.

"Princess Chen, I heard Number Three Scholar came from the same place as you. His hometown is also around Jiangzhou." Zhang Qilan changed the topic, stared at Shao Wanru, and teased her.

Jiangzhou. Qi Tianyu was from Jiangzhou. People like Prime Minister Zhang should have dug out more information about Qi Tianyu than that!

A faint solemn expression crossed her limpid eyes, but soon she smiled to cover the gloominess in her eyes and said blandly, "He comes from Jiangzhou. Not merely does he know me, but he had helped others frame me up."

She couldn't hide their past from others. Anyone who cared about this matter would know the old grudges between the Qin's Mansion and the Qi's mansion.

After Qin Yuru's issue was widely known, some of these things were also exposed.

"Don't be sad for such an unkind man. My mother told me that even if the bad ones succeeded in the exam, they wouldn't gain a secure future for their bad character."

Luo Xiaowan hastily said.

"Princess Chen, I'm really sorry. Somehow, this matter just occurred to me. Well, let's not talk about this unpleasant matter and person. It makes me uncomfortable to talk about this wicked man," Zhang Qilan apologized.

"That's all right. It was a long time ago. It's okay to mention the past that has nothing to do with me now!" Shao Wanru replied, smiling.

The three of them chatted and laughed for a while. Seeing that it was getting late, Zhang Qilan couldn't stay any longer and was the first to leave.

Since she was about to go home, Luo Xiaowan had to go back with her. Shao Wanru sent them to the door of the private room and watched them go downstairs before returning to the box.

Yujie called the waiter over, asking him to prepare hot water and make tea again. Then she poured a cup of tea for Shao Wanru and said, "My Lady, why do I feel Miss Zhang behaved strangely today?"

"Is that so?" Shao Wanru lifted her eyebrows, took the teacup, and said slowly after taking a sip.

"Yes, it was weird. Miss Zhang seems to be a little different from what she used to be," Yujie said in low spirits. She couldn't tell what was different at the moment and only sensed something different from the past.

"Maybe she mentioned Third Young Master Wen and Qi Tianyu!" Shao Wanru rolled her eyes slightly and got the answer.

"Right! She mentioned the two persons, which made me feel unusual as if she did it intentionally." Yujie's eyes lit up as she nodded repeatedly. "When you were talking, I felt these two points particularly queer. In the past, Miss Zhang wouldn't say things like that!"

"Maybe she was in a bad mood today after being locked up!" Shao Wanru laughed in spite of herself.

"Excuse me, is it Princess Chen inside?" Someone suddenly knocked on the door. These people inside immediately quieted down and stared at the door in astonishment.

### Medical Princess

#### **Chapter 1042: The Mistress Secretly Kept Outside for Long Made Her First Appearance**

After receiving Shao Wanru's hint, Qu Le walked to open the door and saw a clean-cut servant standing outside, but she didn't recognize him for a moment. After looking him up and down, she asked, "What's the matter?"

"Oh, great! Her Highness is here. What a coincidence! Marquis Xing said he had seen you coming and wanted to invite you over. He is in the last box." The servant smiled and pointed to the innermost box.

"Is Marquis Xing there?" Qu Le surveyed him and said with suspicion, "But I haven't seen you before."

"It's normal that you haven't seen me because I've been handling part of the marquis's affairs outside and seldom go back to the mansion," the young servant explained with a smile, seemingly not bothered by her doubt.

In other words, this young man before her was more than a servant. He could be regarded as the supervisor of the outer court. It was rare for such a young man to become the supervisor of the outer court. At least Qu Le had never heard of any. Hearing his words, she looked at him narrowly again and said, "Wait a minute!"

Afterward, she turned around and closed the door, leaving the young male servant outside.

"Miss, why would the marquis be here?" Yujie, who was inside, had already heard the conversation outside and asked in surprise.

It had always been the women's favorite thing to watch the top three scholars of the imperial examination. Shao Jing had no daughter keeping him accompany now, so he couldn't be here with his daughter.

"Let's go and have a look!" Shao Wanru said with a smile. When she saw the figure before, she knew it was Shao Jing, who was blessed with a big and bulky figure. She could recognize him from a distance.

However, Shao Jing specially sent someone to invite her, which made her quite confused. But since she was here, she had to go and see him.

The door was opened again, and the servant outside was still waiting with a smile. When he saw Shao Wanru coming out, he hurried forward to salute her respectfully to the utmost.

Indeed, she didn't know this servant.

She slightly raised her eyes and said, "Let's go!"

The servant led the way, heading for the innermost private room. When they arrived at the door, he faced the door and reported, "Your Grace, Princess Chen is here!"

"Invite her in!" After a slight cough, Shao Jing's voice came from inside.

The young male servant gently pushed the door open and stepped aside, his hands reaching out to guide Shao Wanru inside. "Your Highness, please!"

When Shao Wanru entered the private room, she saw Shao Jing and a woman in her thirties sitting next to him. This charming and a little shrew woman looked very intimate with Shao Jing.

At the sight of Shao Wanru, she hurriedly stood up and retreated aside, behaving somewhat amorously. Although she stood behind Shao Jing with a bright smile, her appearance came as a surprise.

"Greetings, Second Uncle!" Shao Wanru took two steps forward and said. With her current status, Shao Wanru didn't need to salute Shao Jing.

Shao Jing rose to his feet and said with a big smile, "As I said, the person I saw was you! I asked my servant to inquire about it, and it turned out to be you, Princess Chen. You live alone in the mansion, so you ought to get out of the house more if you feel bored."

After saying that, Shao Jing waved to the woman beside him and said, "E'niang, come here to greet Princess Chen!"

"Greetings, Your Highness!" E'niang came over gracefully and paid the highest respect by making a deep bow to Shao Wanru.

"As you were!" Shao Wanru took her seat, looked the woman up and down, and asked in a puzzled tone, "Second Uncle, this is..."

"I've been living in misery. When I met His Grace, he saved me from my miserable life. I will serve His Grace wholeheartedly for the rest of my life!" E'niang cooed.

The faces of Qu Le and Yujie darkened. They understood this woman was Marquis Xing's mistress. Well, he could keep his mistress as he pleased. It had nothing to do with Princess Chen. But what exactly did he mean by introducing her to Princess Chen? Did he want Princess Chen to act as a witness to their relationship before others?

"The Young Madams from Prime Minister Zhang's Mansion and Duke Yangqu's Mansion were watching the fun with me just now. Why didn't you come over to look for me earlier? Then we could watch the fun together. But it doesn't matter. They will come back after buying some flowers."

Shao Wanru withdrew her gaze and no longer paid attention to E'niang. With a wave of her hand, she motioned for her to step back as if she was no longer interested in her.

E'niang was stunned for a moment, for she didn't expect Shao Wanru to ignore her because Princess Chen was very curious about her when entering the room.

"Oh, there are two Misses from the other two mansions. I'm an elder but still a male outsider. It is inconvenient for me to meet them at this time." Shao Jing hesitated before replying.

Of course, he didn't intend to see the two Young Madams. After going upstairs, he looked back and saw Shao Wanru enter the private room, so he asked someone to keep an eye on that booth. Later, after he was sure the two Misses coming over had left, he asked the servant to invite Shao Wanru over.

E'niang was indeed his mistress, and he planned to use Shao Wanru to publicize her first.

But if there were outsiders around, it would be inconvenient.

"Then, shall I... go back first?" Shao Wanru asked.

"Yes, please, Your Highness. I'd like you to formally meet with E'niang if there is a chance the next time!" Shao Jing said with profound resignation. He had to waste this good opportunity, since E'niang couldn't meet outsiders at this time.

"Then I'll go back first." Shao Wanru stood up and said with a smile.

"Your Highness, please!" Shao Jing had to say.

Shao Wanru nodded at him. Without looking at E'niang standing aside in embarrassment, she turned around, walked out, and returned to the door of her private room.

After entering the private room, Yujie and Qu Le came to their senses.

"What did he mean? What did he want to do? He led his mistress to our master. Did he want our master to confirm her status?" Yujie complained angrily.

Qu Le was also upset and said, "How could His Grace do such a thing? Even if he meant to announce their relationship, he should let Old Madam of his mansion do this. How could he ask our master to do that? It may impair her honor. He has gone too far."

The mistress didn't look like a decent lady at all. As a mistress, she behaved as if she were a Madam from a noble family. She wished to show up before others with Princess Chen's support! How could she have such a high opinion of herself?

Shao Wanru, however, remained meticulous and thoughtful in handling this matter. After pondering over the entire process, she figured out that this woman was Shao Jing's mistress, and Madam Jiang had been looking for her for a long time but never found her. Since Shao Jing was very careful and seldom called on his mistress, Madam Jiang could not find any traces. Unexpectedly, Shao Jing would lead this woman to her. It seemed that Shao Jing had another plan.

In the previous life, Shao Yanru flew into a rage because of this woman. To her surprise, such a woman came out again in this life. Not only did she appear, but she seemed eager to marry into the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

Shao Jing insisted on letting her marry into his mansion when Madam Jiang was out of luck. Did Shao Jing like this woman so much that he must marry her now?

At present, the Marquis Xing's Mansion was in a bad situation. Old Madam had moved to the Yuhui Nunnery to recuperate while Madam Jiang was locked up. Besides, Zhao Xiran had a miscarriage. Since Third Madam had been sick all the time, she let Zhao Xiran take care of the family affairs instead. After all, compared with the third branch, it would be more appropriate for the second branch to be in charge.

With Zhao Xiran around, Third Madam found it inconvenient for her to intervene. Moreover, she preferred staying quiet for self-protection and not involving herself in the affairs of the whole Marquis Xing's Mansion.

If Shao Jing brought this mistress in at this time, she could probably get involved in household affairs.

In the Marquis Xing's Mansion, there were several concubines, most of whom were not favored. When this one joined them, she was likely to take over the affairs of the mansion with Shao Jing's support.

At this critical moment, Shao Jing couldn't wait to implement such an idea. He must love this mistress called E'niang deeply. Was that so?

This matter had nothing to do with Shao Wanru, but Shao Jing was thinking of taking advantage of her. If she hadn't left early, E'niang would have begged her to agree to this matter.

With Shao Jing sitting aside and watching, she couldn't take an uncompromising attitude towards E'niang as his niece. Even if she couldn't officially accept E'niang, she would have to agree to some small requests. Given Shao Jing's character, he would use these small matters to benefit himself, which might implicate her.

He could advertise that Princess Chen knew about his affair long ago, and E'niang had even paid a courtesy call on her. Then, people would think she had accepted this mistress. If Shao Jing asked E'niang to see her off or do something with her, the rumors about them would sound more authentic to others.

"Does he plan to step on me to aggrandize E'niang?"

In silence, the smile on her lips turned cold. In this life, Shao Wanru would not allow anyone to trample over her for their interests. As for this mistress, she had casually asked about her but never looked into her business seriously. It seemed that she had to inquire thoroughly into the matter.

Madam Jiang had been investigating it for so long but found nothing, so it was not easy to dig out any information. But now, Shao Jing's intention appeared quite strange, and it might be much easier to conduct this survey.

Shao Wanru left there very late. Only after Shao Jing took his leave did she walk out. Even so, she was not in a hurry to go back. With her two maids, she loafed about the street.

The top three scholars had passed, but a lot of people remained there, talking about them along the way. The Number Three Scholar attracted the most attention. After all, Yan Xi was the youngest bachelor among the three, and the other two were much less popular than the top three winners in the last exam.

Many people claimed that the top three in the last exam made the best group they had ever seen. Whether the Number One Scholar, the Number Two Scholar, or the Number Three Scholar, they were all



very eye-catching, creating a scene bustling with noise and excitement. By contrast, there was only the Number Three Scholar to keep up the festive atmosphere this year.

A lot of onlookers were comparing the top three in the two exams, and Wen Xichi was still the most talked-about person. As the Number One Scholar in the last exam, he overshadowed the others.

Along the way, they listened to the discussions of passers-by, feeling at ease.

Qing'er suddenly popped up by the roadside. When she saw them, she breathed a sigh of relief and squeezed through a crowd from behind, bowing to Shao Wanru. "Master!"

"Why are you here?" Qu Le asked in surprise, for they didn't come out with Qing'er today.

"I asked the coachman just now and found you. Master, there is news from the prison!" Qing'er took another step forward and approached Shao Wanru to whisper in her ear.

Shao Wanru paused for a moment. Her eyes lit up when she saw the unusual look in Qing'er's eyes. Then she lowered her voice and asked tentatively, "Qin Yuru?"

### Medical Princess

#### **Chapter 1043: The Two Had to Combine Against a Common Enemy**

"Yes, master, there is news from the other side that Qin Yuru wants to see you and has something to tell you!" Qing'er nodded and said.

Shao Wanru seldom checked Qin Yuru. A secret in Jiangzhou was related to the Qin's Mansion and the Qi's Mansion. She couldn't get it from others but Qin Yuru.

Shao Wanru was clear about Qin Yuru's taking advantage of the situation. By relying on the power of the Grand Prince's Mansion, she had negotiated with Qi Tianyu.

Qi Tianyu was ambitious. Otherwise, he wouldn't have suffered losses to accept Qin Yuru. His purpose was the Duke Yong's Mansion in the capital city. Now, seeing that he could build ties with the Grand Prince's Mansion through Qin Yuru, how could he let the perfect chance slip?

When in Jiangzhou, Qi Tianyu was a well-known young talent who was good at studying. In addition, he was the eldest son of the magistrate of Jiangzhou, so everything fell in with his wishes back then, and he had never taken a beating. Only the Qin sisters got him in an unfavorable situation. But even so, when people in Jiangzhou talked about Qi Tianyu, they would give him a thumbs-up.

Though Qi Tianyu was a famous gifted scholar in Jiangzhou, he was much less popular than other outstanding men in the capital city. He was indeed the Number Three Scholar, but he had been stranded in his official career. The support he could get from Jiangzhou was so little that it was nearly negligible.

If Qi Tianyu wanted more tremendous achievements, he could only depend on his own efforts.

Qi Tianyu should want to make peace with the Qin's Mansion. If Qin Huaiyong was willing to back him up, it would be good for Qi Tianyu. Unfortunately, she was not Qin Huaiyong's biological daughter, so his hope of allying with the Qin's Mansion by marriage was dashed.

It was impossible that no one was interested in his marriage. Perhaps, he just didn't even bother to consider ladies from ordinary families.

Yan Xi was the Number Three Scholar, and Luo Xiaowan of Duke Yangqu's Mansion happened to have canceled her marriage, so he immediately went to propose the marriage. Both Yan Xi and Qi Tianyu came to the capital alone, so Qi Tianyu must have encountered the same thing as Yan Xi. But since he married no one for a long time, he must want to marry another lady from a noble family.

It was a pity that Qin Yuru had stained his reputation. Since he became a standing joke for some people, no influential family wanted to let their daughters marry him even if he was the Number Three Scholar.

Now there came a great chance for Qi Tianyu if he could play up to the Grand Prince's Mansion.

For this benefit, he could ignore that Qin Yuru had betrayed him and even her previous marriage. As long as Qin Yuru could get out of prison and join the Grand Prince's Mansion as a daughter, he could even consider marriage with Qin Yuru again.

In fact, this was the best time for Qin Yuru to inquire about things. In her current situation, Qi Tianyu would not stay very vigilant against her.

Moreover, he would even curry favor with Qin Yuru. Once Qin Yuru was let out of prison, she would owe him a big debt of gratitude. However, if she couldn't get out, he would waste some of his kindness at most. Qi Tianyu could make big profits with a small investment, so why not go ahead with it?

It was almost time to receive some news from Qin Yuru.

She saw Qin Yuru again in prison, but Qin Yuru was vastly different from what she used to be. Though dressed simply, she looked clean and tidy. Someone must be taking care of her at all times.

She was putting on weight as if she had been living more comfortably in prison than in Duke Yong's Mansion.

When she saw Shao Wanru coming over, she didn't look at her with intense hatred. After just looking her up and down carefully a few times, she cracked a smile.

"Second Sister, you came fast. Can you go in and out of Prince Chen's Mansion freely?" She greeted Shao Wanru and said with a smile, addressing her like old times.

Hearing this, they fell into a trance, thinking of their past that seemed to have happened a lifetime ago. Shao Wanru had never seen such an even-tempered Qin Yuru, who appeared generous and open-minded. It was as if her previous malicious and insidious self had broken into pieces in her heart.

Shao Wanru looked down, and her eyes fell on the thick chains around Qin Yuru's wrists. With each step, there would be creepy sounds of something heavy being dragged.

"Please take a seat!"

"Thank you, Second Sister!" Qin Yuru sat on a stool aside and pulled the chain in her hand before raising her head to say, "After I die, please bury me beside my mother. Only she is sincere to me in this life, although she had always been vicious and cheap in the eyes of others."

Shao Wanru looked at Qin Yuru and saw the relief in her eyes. After a long while, she asked, "Didn't the Grand Prince's Mansion respond?"

"The mansion has granddaughters. How could they care about an illegitimate daughter like me who appeared abruptly?" Qin Yuru raised the corners of her mouth with sarcasm and continued, "Mother didn't mention it all these years. She must have known the Grand Prince's Mansion wouldn't take me in nor recognize me as a descendant. It is much better for me to be the legitimate eldest daughter of the Ningyuan Army General's Mansion than an illegitimate daughter!"

Qin Yuru had been locked up in prison for such a long time. In the beginning, she was busy plotting and was filled with boiling anger. Then she felt aimless and helpless before being caught in a whirlpool of hate. Later on, she dug up the past, little by little. Everything that had happened seemed to be a dream, a crazy one. In it, she was out of her mind. For an illusion that she could enjoy no end of wealth and honor, she sacrificed everything she had.

But in the end, she got nothing and even lost Madam Di.

"My life is a tragedy. My mother lost her virginity and gave birth to me, but she was always afraid that others would know it, so she tried every means to marry me back into Duke Yong's Mansion. For one thing, Duke Yong's Mansion was inferior to the Ningyuan Army General's Mansion at that time. For another, she feared the matter of her losing her virginity at a young age would come to light. It would be better for me to marry back and shut up everyone. Unfortunately, my mother forgot the wild ambition of my uncle and others."

Qin Yuru said slowly without joy and sorrow as if she were talking about someone else's business. After spending a long time in prison, how could she not understand the past after taking her time recalling every bygone event?

In the past, she was blinded by the glitter and the glamor of the luxurious life, so she didn't know about herself, nor did she want to see her true self.

"The Duke Yong's Mansion broke up, and I can't go back to the General's Mansion. As for the Grand Prince's Mansion, it has nothing to do with me. Royal blood? I'm an illegitimate descendant, which will only tarnish the royal bloodline," Qin Yuru said. The clearer she saw the reality, the more ridiculous she felt she was.

For others, she was as malicious and selfish as her mother. They were right because she could sacrifice everyone else only to benefit herself.

Now that she ended up with nothing, she finally realized what she had possessed was the most precious to her.

"Father didn't come to see me even once. I know, I brought dishonor upon him..." The rims of Qin Yuru's eyes were red, and she couldn't finish what she was saying. Silently, she wiped the corners of her eyes with her rough sleeves.

Shao Wanru didn't interrupt her and just listened to her quietly, waiting for her to recall the past. Her liquid eyes remained serene and tranquil.

As far back as her rebirth, she had already recalled her previous life. Now it was Qin Yuru's turn to recollect the path she had taken in this life, including her mistakes and her regrets.

"Second Sister, I don't want anything else, but please bury me beside mother." Raising her head, Qin Yuru wiped her tears and begged.

After Madam Di's death, the shameful story about her was exposed, which damaged her reputation. The Qin family expelled her, and Old Madam of the Duke Yong's Mansion casually buried her in an open place.

Qin Yuru was in a similar situation as Madam Di. No family would accept her. Taking her long sleep with Madam Di could be regarded as the best ending for her.

"Okay, I promise you!" Shao Wanru nodded and spoke unhurriedly.

"Magistrate Jiang and General Qin reached a mutually beneficial agreement at the very beginning. It was about the time that you arrive at my family." Qin Yuru stopped recalling and went straight to the point with gratitude in her eyes.

"When I got to the Qin's Mansion?" Shao Wanru's heart thumped heavily. Her long eyelashes fluttered, and her eyes looked deep and solemn.

"Yes, not in Jiangzhou at that time, but Magistrate Jiang and General Qin were there. They had a good relationship and were like old friends at first sight. Originally, they were not officials in the same place." Qin Yuru nodded, telling her the information she got from the servant.

It was also her achievement in the past few days.

The servant was clever and careful, but what she asked was all about the past events in Jiangzhou. From time to time, when she mentioned some other things, the servant would answer in passing. After that, Qin Yuru would go back to their previous topic without him noticing anything wrong.

Fortunately, Qi Tianyu ordered the servant to accompany her to chat about the past. Even if Qin Yuru made a slip of the tongue, it did not alarm the servant.

"Because of one thing, something that both of them didn't want others to know, they made the mutually beneficial agreement. They said they felt like old friends from the start, but it was just a story to hide the truth from outsiders." Qin Yuru said, "I couldn't get any more information from the servant. It seemed that General Qin and Magistrate Jiang joined hands because of the arrival of one person."

"With this cooperation, the two families felt like sharing honor through marriage, but my mother thought differently. After that, many things happened. But even so, after they came to the capital, Qi Tianyu and his sister were still entrusted to General Qin. If it weren't for the close relationship between the two families, such a thing would never happen at that time."

Qin Yuru added with certainty.

The servant was Qi Tianyu's trusted subordinate, who came from Jiangzhou with him. Qi Tianyu had several other servants, but this servant was the most favored one. He handled some affairs related to Jiangzhou, including the letters and gifts between Qi Tianyu and Magistrate Jiang and some other private matters.

However, this tight-mouthed servant never talked about these things. He would only put in and say a few words when Qin Yuru raked over the past in Jiangzhou. At other times, only Qin Yuru was talking.

"I heard this person went there occasionally and seemed unwilling to let others know. Moreover, since they didn't dare to offend this high-status person with great power, they had no choice but to agree to resist him together. They must have discovered some of this person's secrets, so they allied out of fear."

"Does this person have anything to do with me?" Shao Wanru asked, staring at Qin Yuru.

"Yes, sure. He is your Second Uncle, Marquis Xing!" Qin Yuru looked at Shao Wanru and inclined her head very slightly.

Shao Wanru closed her eyes and opened them slowly. A trace of blood crawled over her deep eyes.

"Indeed. Sure enough..."

### [Medical Princess](#)

#### **Chapter 1044: There Might be an Illegitimate Daughter**

After talking with Qin Yuru and returning to Prince Chen's Mansion, Shao Wanru sent everyone out of her room and sat quietly alone, sorting out all the news she had heard.

Shao Jing went to the border where the army was suppressing a rebellion. Back then, her parents concealed their identity and joined the army with her, who was still a little child. When the forces were redeployed, they happened to go to Qin Huaiyong's place. Then, they moved into the Qin's Mansion and knew Old Madam Qin.

Their war had been going badly, so her father wanted to send her pregnant mother and her away. However, they were separated by the rebels. Her father found her, but her mother was missing.

After that, her father died for Qin Huaiyong. Before he passed away, he entrusted Qin Huaiyong with her, who would soon become an orphan. Since then, she had been Qin Huaiyong's second daughter. After putting down the rebellion, Qin Huaiyong was sent to Jiangzhou, not far from their previous battlefield, and became Jiangzhou's Ningyuan Army General.

Meanwhile, his comrade Qi, who suppressed the rebellion with him, became Magistrate Qi. One was in charge of the civil affairs, and the other military. The two were in charge of Jiangzhou, guarding there.

Shao Wanru didn't know what happened to her mother after they lost touch with each other. All her servant girls were dead, and she was in a confused state of mind, probably because she had been scared. The people sent by Duke Xing's Mansion found her and took her back. After giving birth to her younger brother Shao Yuanhao in Duke Xing's Mansion, she also died.

Grandmother said her mother was no longer breathing when she saw her. At first glance, her grandmother fainted. When her grandmother woke up, her mother's coffin had been tightly sealed.

Shao Jing happened to be there at that time and was very afraid that others would know that he had sneaked over. Though he got along well with Yan Xi's father after they met, he didn't want Yan Xi to live in the capital city, so he instigated Wang Shengxue to plot against Yan Xi. It represented Shao Jing must have done something bad with a guilty conscience.

After so many years, he still felt guilty. It could be seen how horrific the crime he committed was.

Even after so many years, Shao Jing was so terribly frightened that he plotted against Yan Xi as a matter of urgency. Then what kind of thing could drive him to do that? After turning this matter over in her mind again and again, Shao Wanru thought the most likely answer was that Shao Jing caused her father's death.

Shao Jing was afraid that others would know about it and did all of this to get rid of all the traces of this crime. Only by preventing people of the Yan family from coming to the capital could he keep this secret well hidden.

For the same reason, Shao Jing was on guard against Yan Xi, Qin Huaiyong, and Qi Ping who was Magistrate Qi. Not just Yan Xi but Qin Huaiyong and Qi Ping had seen Shao Jing back then.

They might not have cared about seeing Shao Jing there, but after Shao Wanru's father died, they should have vaguely noticed something wrong. But their official positions were far inferior to Shao Jing's, so they had to stick together and maintain a close relationship.

Many problems that troubled her before were now solved. With Qin Huaiyong's character, he should protect her well because her father died to save his life, but he had turned a blind eye to her trouble. The main reason behind his abnormal behaviors should be that, in Qin Huaiyong's view, her father was the target, and he just happened to be there.

Even worse, Qin Huaiyong might feel that her father represented a danger to him.

With this idea in mind, adopting Shao Wanru became a show. Other soldiers had witnessed her father's death, so Qin Huaiyong had to take care of her. But how could he sincerely accept Shao Wanru as his daughter? The adopting show shouldn't be his true intention.

Qin Yuru ground her under foot: she wanted to make Shao Wanru the scapegoat and tarnish her reputation instead. As their father, Qin Huaiyong only looked on indifferently. If it weren't for her grandma's continuous help, she would end up in a miserable situation. Even then, Qin Huaiyong watched without taking any action.

After all, Qin Yuru was his biological daughter.

For the sake of her biological daughter, he could bear to sacrifice Shao Wanru, though he had raised her as his daughter for so many years.

Shao Wanru bit her cherry lips lightly, feeling hurt, but her heart ached even more. In her two lives, she genuinely regarded Qin Huaiyong as her father. Even though Madam Di and her daughter were vicious, Qin Huaiyong was good to her.

She thought he was kind to her only because he had never taken the initiative to scheme against her. However, his passive attitude helped others push her off the cliff.

Shao Wanru could imagine what had happened back then. Shao Jing was the murderer who pretended to be one of the rebels. Her father, Qin Huaiyong, and even Qi Ping were at the scene. Before her father died, he stood up to protect Qin Huaiyong, which must have touched Qin Huaiyong deeply. But after discussing the matter with Qi Ping, they found out that these people were from Duke Xing's Mansion in the capital city.

Another possibility was that they captured one enemy alive and learned that Shao Jing was behind the murder case. So, they put the blame on her father, thinking it was him that put their lives in danger.

Shao Jing knew what they had discovered, so Qin Huaiyong and Qi Ping united to build a closer relationship when they noticed the danger. Over the years, intimacy grew between the two families since they coincidentally lived in the same place. Children of the two families grew up together, and the two families had a tacit mutual understanding of the relationship between Qi Tianyu and Qin Yuru.

However, Madam Di, who didn't know the ins and outs, had been trying hard to marry her daughter back to cover up her scandal. If it weren't for her, the relationship between the two families would have been stronger.

Even if the two families failed to unite by marriage, Qi Ping was willing to leave his son and daughter to Qin Huaiyong when they arrived in the capital city. Later, when Qi Tianyu intended to marry Shao Wanru, Qin Huaiyong happily agreed, regardless of the worsening relationship between the two families.

Shao Wanru didn't know when drops of her tears had fallen, rolling down her delicate cheeks. No matter how hard she bit her lips, she couldn't stop her tears from falling down.

Among all these things, her parents were the most innocent, but even so, no one would pity them.

Her father died, her mother went crazy, and her younger brother was still a child. No one mentioned her family background. She was just an orphan in troubled times with her family broken up. All of this was caused by Shao Jing, who was gasping for the title of nobility.

He targeted his biological elder brother only to become the Heir of Duke Xing.

"My Lady..." Yujie's concerned voice came from outside the door. The few servant girls didn't dare to come in without Shao Wanru's instructions and could only stand at the door, looking very worried.

Shao Wanru wiped the sad tear stains on her face with a handkerchief, trying to calm down. Then she said, "Come in!"

The four maids entered with the greatest of care. At the sight of Shao Wanru's face, they knew she had cried just now. For a moment, they looked at each other and began to panic.

Shao Wanru had always been their mainstay.

Shao Wanru's eyes fell on Qing'er, who was the last to come in. She had sent Qing'er to inquire about Shao Jing's mistress.

"What do you find out?"

"My Lady, I learned that place is an external residence that the Marquis Xing's Mansion purchased lately. They moved there from somewhere else. Marquis Xing should have been with this mistress long ago. Besides, they have a daughter." Qing'er observed Shao Wanru's expression and reported.

Shao Wanru had completely sobered up and looked up slightly, her watery eyes deep and penetrating. "Is it easy to inquire about it?"

"Yes, I found it out merely by asking a few people. None of them had seen her face but only a figure viewed from behind. She seldom showed up in public. A few people spotting Marquis Xing knew his mistress lived there."

Qing'er thought for a moment and said, "My Lady, I think it was strange. I got the information easily, but I heard the Madam of Marquis Xing failed even after putting in a great deal of effort. Besides, this mistress has just moved there. There seems to be something wrong!"

She had always been highly sensitive to unusual things.

"He did it intentionally. Madam Jiang hadn't found the place where he hid his mistress before, but now it was very easy to locate the mistress's house. More than that, Marquis Xing wanted others to know that his mistress is living here with their daughter. He did all of this on purpose."

Shao Wanru sneered.

Through conspiratorial means, Shao Jing became the Heir of Duke Xing and took the title of Duke Xing. Now he had become Marquis Xing and might not even keep his noble title. Did he resort to unusual tactics?

"Does Marquis Xing want to marry E'niang into the Marquis Xing's Mansion and let her help him deal with the internal affairs of his mansion?" Yujie said. She saw E'niang in the private room just now. "That woman is very shrewd and seems capable, but she comes from that shameful place. How can she show up in public? There is no way she can take over the power of managing the mansion from the Eldest Young Madam!"

"My Lady, over so many years, Marquis Xing had never planned to let her show up and was constantly on guard against her, so why would he disgrace himself and allow this woman to marry into his mansion at this time? If he cared about her, he would have done it long ago and wouldn't have had to wait until now. Am I right?" Qu Le asked another question.

"I also feel something is wrong here. His Grace doesn't seem to be a person who would do such a thing for a woman," Qing'er said.

The servant girls uttered many more opinions and finally analyzed this matter comprehensively. Anyway, Shao Jing would never do such a thing. It would be a hard but thankless job and might ruin his reputation.

"He chose to make their relationship known to the public at this time. How much does he care about this woman?"

"It's unlikely to be true!"

Shao Wanru had been listening calmly when her several servant girls talked about the matter. The sadness on her face had faded away, leaving only coldness. She pursed her lips tight.

After they finished discussing, she slowly concluded. "It's not for that woman!"

This was absolutely impossible for that woman called E'niang, then for whom exactly? She would watch whatever would happen next, swearing that she would get her revenge.



She would never let Shao Jing go.

Shao Jing's branch rapidly climbed up the social ladder at the cost of her family, her parents' lives included. Debts of blood must be paid in blood. This time, she would make them pay the price.

"Qing'er, let our people keep an eye on that house and the woman." Shao Wanru paused and went on speaking, "You'd better find out the information about the illegitimate daughter."

She intuited that Shao Jing's strange behavior at the moment might have something to do with the mysterious illegitimate daughter. Although it was inconvenient for a young lady to show up in front of others, she never left the house. When they moved there, the others only saw her back and then learned she was their daughter through some efforts. The whole matter appeared excessively unreasonable!

An uncultured woman like E'niang couldn't bring up such a well-behaved daughter who faithfully struck to disciplines set for unmarried women!

### Medical Princess

#### **Chapter 1045: Chu Liuyue's Wishful Thinking**

"Yes, My Lady, I know," Qing'er replied. That was all she could do for now. Prince Chen put her in charge of some people to protect Princess Chen. If she sent them all out to inquire about the news, they might not get what she wanted, and there would be fewer people around to ensure Princess Chen's safety.

Recently, the capital was amidst turbulence. Qing'er had been responsible for Princess Chen's safety, so she didn't dare to be careless.

Qing'er felt a little uneasy, but she didn't know the news that the Xu State's princess would marry into the Kingdom of Dongcang had spread out...

"Will Princess Yutao of the Xu State marry Chu Liuchen?" Chu Liuyue dropped the note in his hand, waved it, and handed it to Mr. Liu, his assistant. "What do you think?"

Mr. Liu took it and looked at it carefully. Then he burst out laughing and said, "Your Highness, here comes an ideal opportunity!"

"What do you mean?" Chu Liuyue asked.

"Your Highness, look, Princess Yutao is going to marry Prince Chen, but he has already married a legal wife. However, Princess Yutao's marriage is supposed to make peace between the two countries, so she can't be a consort. There must be contradictions between the two women. Won't it be the best time for us to stir up trouble between them?" Mr. Liu said with a bright smile.

There were too many meanings in his words. Chu Liuyue thought for a moment and asked tentatively, "Will my father let my third brother marry another legal wife?"

"I don't think so. Unlike common people, princes can't marry a secondary legal wife for it will cause confusion in the strictly-graded royal family." Mr. Liu shook his head and said, "But Prince Chen's situation is different. We can sound out His Majesty's intention with this!"

"Sir, please enlighten me!" Chu Liuyue bowed and said.

Mr. Liu hurriedly stood up to show his respect for Chu Liuyue and his gratitude for the recognition. Then he sat down with Chu Liuyue and said, "If His Majesty agrees to the marriage between Prince Chen and Princess Yutao, you can rest assured in all respects and even start using Prince Chen."

He didn't put it very clearly, but Chu Liuyue understood what he meant. After carefully thinking about it, he pounded the table and exclaimed with admiration, "Great! Princess Yutao from the Xu State intends to marry my third brother. I'm going to report this to my father and let him decide!"

"Hold on. You shouldn't do this." Mr. Liu denied this idea.

"Why?" Chu Liuyue was confused. Since they needed to find out his father's intention, why couldn't he inform his father about it?

"Your Highness, do you know if His Majesty has received this news?" Mr. Liu asked with a smile.

Chu Liuyue shook his head and said, "I don't know. The people I've placed around my father are not capable enough, so I have no specific information."

He had bribed several people and arranged a few. However, these people only worked outside and couldn't get close to the Emperor at all. So, Chu Liuyue had only a scanty knowledge of the affairs of the Emperor. Most of the time, he didn't dare to act rashly.

"Your Highness, since you're not sure if His Majesty has gotten the news, I believe you haven't heard any other officials talk about it, right?" Mr. Liu asked again.

Chu Liuyue thought for a moment and shook his head. When he went to court today, nothing unusual happened. The matter of the Marquis Xing's Mansion ended, and their mansion had no objection. In addition, Marquis Xing's son provoked Infanta Yuan'an because he accidentally crashed her. Both of them were injured. He heard the leg of Marquis Xing's son was seriously injured. It was unknown whether he could walk in the future.

If Marquis Xing's son was disabled, being the heir of a duke was useless for him.

How could the Marquis Xing's Mansion choose a crippled heir of a duke over a healthy descendant?

Moreover, these words would disgrace the Ruiping Great Elder Princess and might even enrage the Empress and Prince Zhou.

There was much to consider. The day before yesterday, the position of the heir of a duke in the Marquis Xing's Mansion fell on Shao Yuanhao, who was raised in the Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion. Many people had expressed their dissatisfaction with the arrangement. However, the next day, no demur was heard. Those who protested fiercely stopped clamoring for various reasons.

The dispute about the position of the heir of a duke was settled without acrimony. Peace was restored in the imperial court.

"Since no one mentioned it, it means that none of them knew about it. How did you learn about it?" Mr. Liu said meaningfully.

Chu Liuyue went to tell the Emperor, proving he knew about this matter. If the Emperor had no idea about it, then there was a big problem: how could he receive the news before the Emperor? If the Emperor got the message but didn't tell others about it, it would be even more improper for Chu Liuyue to bring up this. The Emperor might be displeased and think Chu Liuyue overstepped his authority.

In any case, Chu Liuyue could only pretend he was as much in the dark as everyone else.

"Yes... It was my negligence. I forgot about this." Chu Liuyue finally came to see the truth and repeatedly nodded in agreement. He was wrong, indeed.

"Then what should we do now?" Chu Liuyue turned his head and asked. He was eager to publicize this matter. In any case, it couldn't be a good thing for Chu Liuchen.

"Your Highness, you can pretend you don't know it for now. If anyone mentions it in court, you can share with them a few things we've discussed, emphasizing that it is not easy to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries. Though the Xu State is a savage small country, it is not very obedient to the Kingdom of Dongcang. Moreover, some evil magics from the Xu State are said to be horrifyingly creepy. Therefore, it was best to maintain a good relationship with this small state by the border. The soured relations between the two countries would push the border into chaos. The Xu State is small, but it is difficult to suppress it because of its special terrain and some black magics. We should stay on good terms with them," Mr. Liu explained.

Chu Liuyue nodded vigorously.

This perfectly justifiable reason could force Chu Liuchen to step out and make a choice.

If Chu Liuchen yielded to pressure from outside, he had to divorce the current Princess Chen or make her his consort. After all, she had to give up her position to Princess Yutao. Even Rui'an Great Elder Princess couldn't oppose this because national affairs were much more important than personal emotions. As a princess, she should understand and accept it.

Thinking of Princess Chen, Chu Liuyue thought of Shao Wanru's flower-like features and moonlike face. It was a great pity for such a beauty to be Chu Liuchen's consort. The sickly man would hurt her a lot. What a bad guy!

Chu Liuyue didn't think Shao Wanru would be driven out of Prince Chen's Mansion but was sure that Princess Yutao would be superior to Shao Wanru. No matter how partial his father was, he would have to consider the special status of the Xu State!

With this in mind, Chu Liuyue was inflamed with passion.

"Becoming my consort will be much better than being the sickly man's consort, right?"

After a low cough, Chu Liuyue asked, "Do you think my third brother will divorce Princess Chen and make Princess Yutao his legal wife?"

He knew it was unlikely to happen, but still, he couldn't help asking.

Mr. Liu glanced at Chu Liuyue and read something from his face. He shook his head with a smile and advised, "Your Highness, when you achieve great success, you can have all kinds of women. Why do you

have to think about the woman that doesn't belong to you? You'd better think about what you can do if His Majesty doesn't allow Prince Chen to marry Princess Yutao."

Chu Liuyue was stunned by his words and immediately woke up from his unrealistic romantic dream. Yes, there was another possibility: the Emperor and the Empress Dowager didn't approve of this marriage.

It was possible. At least, it was more likely to happen than making Chu Liuchen divorce Shao Wanru.

"Then... does it mean that Chu Liuchen is also a possible candidate?" Hearing this, Chu Liuyue abruptly stood up. After spinning around twice on the spot with his hands clasped behind his back, he pursed his thin lips tightly and suppressed the anger in his heart. "Father should clearly know who his biological sons are!"

Instead of his nephew, the Emperor's sons should be the legal heirs to the imperial throne. No matter how stupid a person was, he wouldn't pass on his fortune to his nephew, not to mention that his father was never a fool.

Sometimes, Chu Liuyue wanted his father to be muddle-headed, but his father kept a cool head. He couldn't understand his father's attitude toward Chu Liuchen.

There shouldn't have been a chance for Chu Liuchen to grow up, but his father and Imperial Grandmother had protected him wholeheartedly and left Chu Liuyue aside. As the Emperor's son, he had to give in to Chu Liuchen when they met. Whenever he thought of this, Chu Liuyue would feel upset and suffocated.

"Your Highness, have you ever thought... maybe..." Mr. Liu hesitated. What he was going to say would be highly offensive, but that was exactly what he thought.

"Please go ahead, Mr. Liu. There is no one else here. Just speak out what is on your mind!" Chu Liuyue said.

"Your Highness, do you think it is possible that Prince Chen... with His Majesty..." Mr. Liu said, unconsciously in a wobbly voice, and stopped. If it was true, then it would be a top royal secret. Those who knew it might not be able to survive.

Chu Liuyue didn't understand what he referred to. After making it clear, he shook his head with a wry smile and said, "You worry too much. It's absolutely impossible!"

How could the eldest legitimate son of the deceased emperor have connections like that with his father?

"It might have something to do with Consort Lan... She is my father's favorite consort who is said to be the younger sister of the deceased Empress, but I have never seen her," Chu Liuyue said.

This was only a guess from his mother. In fact, people in the Palace had always been very curious about Consort Lan's background. Some people said that she had always been the most favored consort of the Emperor. While some said that she used to be the favorite one, but not now. Otherwise, she wouldn't have been locked up and even not allowed to greet the Empress and the Empress Dowager.

Some people even suspected that Consort Lan was old and weak and wouldn't live long.

There were many speculations about Consort Lan in the Palace. Chu Liuyue's mother firmly believed that Consort Lan was the younger sister of the deceased Empress.

"Consort Lan? Why haven't I heard of her before?" Mr. Liu asked in surprise. He really didn't know that there was such a consort in the Palace and had never heard the Emperor had such a favored consort.

"Only some people in the Palace know about her. But she doesn't seem to be favored at present because my father seldom goes to see her. No one will care about an imperial consort who is grounded and locked up. What's more, it has been more than a decade. Who will remember such an imperial consort?"

Chu Liuyue didn't take it seriously. If his mother hadn't mentioned Consort Lan, he might not have known her.

For a period, he even had another speculation. To verify it, he deliberately asked Shao Yanru to investigate the past of Consort Lan...

Consort Lan's life was also full of twists and turns...

### [Medical Princess](#)

#### **Chapter 1046: All Sides Act to take Her Away!**

Concubine Lan was said to be the younger sister of the former Empress. Though she was of peerless beauty, she was down on her luck. It was believed that this little girl would bring misfortune to her parents, so this noble young lady was sent to live an ascetic life in a nunnery. Since then, she had grown up there. The Emperor, who was still a prince then, passed by and saw her by accident. At first sight, he fell in love with her and brought her to his mansion. Otherwise, she would have spent her remaining years till death in the nunnery.

When the Emperor brought her back to the mansion, he didn't know her identity and thought she was an orphan girl taking the nunnery as her shelter in a chaotic world. Later on, she told him the story of her life.

Of course, the Emperor took her to see the deceased emperor, who was seriously ill. The whole nation was gripped by the deceased emperor's affairs. No one cared about an unimportant girl's marriage. Besides, she was just to be a consort. Thus, the matter was minimized.

Because the previous Emperor was seriously ill, the ceremony of her becoming the consort was canceled and postponed. So, only a few people knew about it.

After the previous Emperor passed away, the Emperor ascended the throne and conferred the title of Consort Lan upon her. However, a few days later, she provoked the Emperor because of the title and was locked up. After so many years, he hadn't yet set her free. Many people who newly entered the imperial harem had not even heard of Concubine Lan. Only a few old people like Consort of Virtue remembered Consort Lan and what happened to her.

Consort Lan lived in a remote area close to the Cold Palace. It was obvious that she had been neglected.

There were so many imperial consorts in the Palace, so no one would pay attention to a consort without a child and the Emperor's concern. When Shao Yanru investigated her, she discovered that the Emperor

had loved Consort Lan deeply and treated her with partiality. If it were not for this finding, Chu Liuyue wouldn't pay much attention to Consort Lan. He deliberately asked his mother and was told that Consort Lan was probably Chu Liuchen's aunt.

"She has been locked up for so long, but is she still alive?" Hearing Chu Liuyue's words, Mr. Liu frowned and raised new doubts.

"Well... she should be alive. There are guards at the gate of her place. Even the Empress is not allowed to enter," Chu Liuyue said after thinking for a while. He wanted to check it afterward, so he had done many tricks. However, after a long survey, he only found limited information.

"Even the Empress can't go in there? Your Highness, I think there's something wrong with it." Mr. Liu pondered for a moment and said, "Could it be that Consort Lan is not out of favor? The so-called confinement is to protect her. After all, her position is not as high as the Empress', and she has no child..."

Chu Liuyue interrupted Mr. Liu and said with a smile, "It's impossible. Even though the Empress has a high status, my father can protect her. Can't he ensure the safety of his beloved woman?"

If the Empress were so powerful, they wouldn't have to compete for the throne at the moment. She would let Chu Liuzhou win the throne and leave no chance for Chu Liuyue to strive for it!

Although the Empress held considerable power in the imperial harem, she had no influence over the imperial court.

"If that's not the case, could it be that the Emperor still has fond feelings for her so that he is nice to Prince Chen? Even if Prince Chen is just His Majesty's nephew, the Emperor values him in the heart." Mr. Liu put forward his second guess.

"Because of Consort Lan, my father thinks better of Chu Liuchen?" Chu Liuyue had never thought of this idea, but now he felt that it was possible.

At that time, Shao Yanru repeatedly told him that the Emperor doted on Consort Lan. Even if she got grounded, the Emperor might do that to protect her.

It was certain that Consort Lan was still alive; otherwise, the guards would have withdrawn long ago.

Consort Lan did not have any other relatives but Chu Liuchen, her sister's son. It was possible that the Emperor also showed favoritism to him when seeing Consort Lan cared so much about Chu Liuchen. If this were true, Consort Lan would be amazing. How could she affect the Emperor after being locked up for many years?

Chu Liuyue's face darkened because he had neglected this. If he had known that Consort Lan was so powerful, he would have asked Shao Yanru to investigate more thoroughly at that time.

"Your Highness, you can inquire deeply into Consort Lan's matter later on. At present, Prince Chen is of the utmost importance. We don't know how the Emperor views him and whom Princess Yutao will marry. But if you finish off one person, this matter will inevitably succeed. The Emperor will have to agree with this marriage even if he disapproves of it."

Mr. Liu calmed down and came up with the idea that had just occurred to him. It could be considered the best way to solve the current predicament.

“Who?” Chu Liuyue frowned and asked. He had a bad feeling.

“Get rid of Princess Chen!” Mr. Liu knocked on the table gently and gave a simple and horrifying answer.

“No!” Chu Liuyue refused subconsciously. After that, his heart thumped violently against his ribs, and he had an indescribable and complex feeling.

“Your Highness, Princess Chen is the key. If she dies, there will be no doubt that Princess Yutao will marry Prince Chen who can no longer take Princess Chen as an excuse to refuse this marriage. Even if the Emperor has other ideas, he will give priority to the state affair and agree to this matter. As long as Prince Chen marries Princess Yutao from another country, no matter who is behind him, he can never link himself with His Majesty to fight for the throne. It’s known to all that the future crown prince should have no blood relationship with the Xu State.”

Mr. Liu looked at Chu Liuyue in confusion. Wasn’t this method the best for the time being? With one single move, they could solve many problems and assure victory in the future.

“Princess Chen is just a weak lady and can’t be that crucial!” Chu Liuyue shook his head and explained vaguely.

“Your Highness, the great things are achieved from not obsessing small details. Princess Chen is the key to everything. It is not about whether she is a delicate woman or not, but about her status and situation now. If we can murder her, we can get away with a heap of trouble. It will be a highly profitable investment for you.”

Mr. Liu advised him. Prince Yue was always willing to follow his advice, so he couldn’t understand why he hesitated at this time. Shouldn’t he agree with this on the spot and send someone to look for an opportunity in secret?

“She is just a defenseless lady. Since we want her to leave her position as Princess Chen, killing her is not the only way. Or we can take her away!” Chu Liuyue tried to compose himself and said.

Princess Chen was as pretty as flowers and as delicate as jade. If she disappeared from this world, it would be heartbreaking.

“Take her away?” After Mr. Liu pondered it over, his eyes brightened, and he nodded repeatedly. “Your idea is great, better than mine. Even if she gets back in the future, her reputation will be tarnished, and she can no longer be Princess Chen. No one will stand in Princess Yutao’s way if she can’t return. Brilliant! An excellent idea!”

“Then let’s find a way to kidnap her!” When hearing Mr. Liu’s praise, Chu Liuyue was full of excitement. Since he seized such a stunning beauty, he would not send her back to Chu Liuchen. At present, Chu Liuchen, who was arrogant and overbearing, happened to be far away from the capital city, so it was the best time.

However, other than him, Chu Liuzhou also got the same insidious idea.

"Mother, take her away. It's best for Princess Yutao to marry Chu Liuchen, lest he thinks so highly of himself as if he will be the crown prince." Chu Liuzhou made this suggestion to the Empress. As he thought of Shao Wanru's unrivaled appearance, excitement surged in his bosom too.

He had been jealous of Chu Liuchen who was sick and dying, but how could he marry such a devastatingly beautiful woman? In his heart, his wife and consort couldn't compare with Shao Wanru. Every time he thought of this, Chu Liuzhou felt annoyed.

He had the highest status. Why did the best woman not marry him but the invalid good-for-nothing?

"Let's kill her and end all our troubles!" The Empress standing by the dusky window insisted, and her face looked distinctly green.

How could she not know what her son had in mind? He took a fancy to Princess Chen. However, she wouldn't allow him to get involved with her because Shao Wanru had become Princess Chen. If they had an affair, it would be meticulously recorded in history, which would damage her son's reputation.

"Mother, if we kill Princess Chen, what if... by any chance we need her to be alive? There will be no turning back for us." Chu Liuzhou whispered.

His words silenced the Empress. After a long while, she gritted her teeth with determination and looked at Chu Liuzhou. "Since you must kidnap her, I will deal with her after we get her. She must not be left with you."

Shao Wanru seemed a troublesome hot potato. It wouldn't be a good thing to leave her to her son. The Empress felt it would be much more secure to keep Shao Wanru under her surveillance.

"I am at your orders, Mother." Chu Liuzhou was very obedient to the Empress. A faint smile appeared on the Empress' face, which made her livid face look better.

"It's best for you to think in this way. I do everything for your own good. At this time, you must overcome your selfish considerations and strike sure blows. On the surface, we enjoy a high noble status. But we're in a dangerous situation. Besides, we have to take good care of many people and things. Never let others take advantage of our loopholes and never become other people's stepping stone."

The Empress hinted. She was afraid that once they started a fight with Chu Liuchen, Chu Liuyue might reap all the benefits.

"Mother, don't worry. I will keep it in mind." Chu Liuzhou nodded repeatedly.

Before the emissaries returned, political disturbances secretly occurred in the capital city. Many people had received news that Princess Yutao of the Xu State would marry Prince Chen and move into his mansion. But didn't Prince Chen already have a legal wife? This matter appeared tricky.

But no one discussed it out loud. Everyone just thought it over inwardly, waiting for a suitable opportunity to express their opinions after others.

At this time, everything else became a trivial matter. No one cared about the disfigured face of Infanta Yuan'an or the injured leg of the First Young Master in the Marquis Xing's Mansion. They bumped into each other. Maybe both of them were responsible for their sufferings...



## Medical Princess

### Chapter 1047: Thorough Preparations, Where Did It Start?

"My Lady, a pigeon mail from His Highness!" Qing'er came over in a hurry and delivered it to Shao Wanru.

Chu Liuchen's letters were usually sent from the courier station or delivered along with Empress Dowager's letters. Compared with his thick letters to the Empress Dowager, the letters that Shao Wanru received were thinner. But even so, each letter had several sheets of paper.

But this letter only had one piece of paper. After opening it, Shao Wanru saw only a few words.

"A rumor: Princess Yutao will marry me. Be careful!"

These few scarlet words were written with a cinnabar pen. It seemed that these vigorous strokes were going to go through the paper. Even the back of the paper looked blood-red, which looked quite terrifying.

Shao Wanru's heart thumped. She reached out to touch her head and closed her eyes slightly. The red words made her feel weird.

For some reason, the color reminded her of the remaining memories of her previous life. There was a bloody imperial palace with so many dead palace maids and beauties...

"My Lady, what's wrong with you?" Seeing Shao Wanru's uncomfortable look, Qing'er asked hurriedly.

"I'm fine!" Shao Wanru shook her head and struggled to open her eyes. She heaved a deep sigh after carefully folding the letter paper in her hand.

"Recently, let's stay in our mansion and handle everything at home." Shao Wanru instructed them to make preparations. "Reinforce our mansion's security. If anything goes wrong, report to me right away."

"Okay, I see. Shall I inform the Palace?" Qing'er answered and asked again.

She was now in charge of Princess Chen's safety, so Qing'er felt worried.

"No, we don't have to do that. We can cope with shifting events by sticking to some fundamental principles." Shao Wanru shook her head. The situation in the Palace was unclear, and she couldn't see through it at the moment. It would be better for her to stay in her mansion.

By a carrier pigeon, Chu Liuchen passed the message with a few words to her, exhorting her to be doubly careful. Their enemies must have been busy preparing for attacks.

She had always believed in Chu Liuchen's words!

As Chu Liuchen said in his previous letter, he had handled the trouble with Princess Yutao. This mail the pigeon brought to her was short but clear.

Some people wanted Princess Yutao to marry Chu Liuchen. In this case, she was the only obstacle. Only her death could make way for Princess Yutao. When making that clear, Shao Wanru felt the shadows that those coming perilous events cast before her.

"My Lady, before His Highness left, he said you could go to find Consort Lan in the Palace when encountering something too much for us. She will protect you!" Qing'er suggested.

"Consort Lan?" Shao Wanru said, her arched eyebrows frowning slightly. She had heard of Consort Lan and even inquired about her later, but few people had seen her. It was said that the people who had seen were senile and muddle-headed. It has been such a long time. They only knew Consort Lan was exceedingly beautiful but couldn't tell any special thing.

"But when I mentioned Consort Lan, he looked displeased. Why would he ask me to rely upon Consort Lan?"

"You'll be in charge of the safety of the mansion from now on. Go and invite Nanny Zheng here!" Shao Wanru said. They mentioned Consort Lan, who had sent someone here to deliver a message. Anyway, she had to ask Nanny Zheng about it.

Qing'er withdrew. After a while, Nanny Zheng came in. After bowing to Shao Wanru, she stepped aside.

"Please sit down!" Shao Wanru said politely.

After thanking Shao Wanru for that, Nanny Zheng sat on the round stool of average height on Shao Wanru's right side, smiling at her.

"Nanny, could you tell me whether Consort Lan is reliable or not?" Shao Wanru looked at Nanny Zheng seriously and said bluntly.

"My Lady, trust me. Consort Lan is reliable and will never have any bad intentions towards you and His Highness," Nanny Zheng didn't hesitate for a moment to answer this question sincerely.

"Won't she do anything for others?" Shao Wanru asked, putting her doubt in another way.

"She won't put His Highness and you in danger for others. Consort Lan... owes His Highness a lot and always wants to do something for him, but His Highness never accepted her kindness..." Nanny Zheng blurred the critical points.

Shao Wanru looked deeply at Nanny Zheng but didn't intend to ask more. If Chu Liuchen wanted her to know something, she would investigate it. But if not, he wouldn't ask.

Just now, Nanny Zheng's every action and expression told her that Consort Lan genuinely cared about Chu Liuchen. In addition, Chu Liuchen said that Consort Lan was reliable. So, she could ask for Consort Lan's help at a critical moment.

Of course, it would be best if she could get through the crisis herself. Shao Wanru didn't want to use Consort Lan's power until the last moment.

"My Lady, Consort Lan wanted you to know she can protect you if you are in danger. Even the Empress can't do anything to her!" Nanny Zheng was afraid that Shao Wanru was not confident in Consort Lan, so she lowered her voice and added.

Shao Wanru was astounded, her liquid eyes lighting up and her thick eyelashes raising. How could Consort Lan be so confident to say that?

The master of the imperial harem was the Empress. Shao Wanru had seen Consort Lan, a bright and pretty lady who couldn't say such arrogant words for no reason. So, was it true?

"But why would it be like this? Did I misunderstand something?"

"You can contact Consort Lan, can't you?" Shao Wanru calmed down a little and asked slowly. It wasn't the time to figure out why Consort Lan dared to say that.

"Don't worry, My Lady. I can do it. That day, Consort Lan also found something unusual, so she sent someone to notify you." Nanny Zheng nodded and said with certainty.

"Okay, then let's wait and see what will happen!" Shao Wanru felt secure and said coolly, her rosy lips lifting slightly and revealing a trace of coldness.

Nothing venture, nothing have. All the people in the imperial court were concerned about Princess Yutao of the Xu State, which brought convenience for her to carefully do something she wanted to do and prepare for any changes as soon as possible.

The Empress Dowager's birthday was close at hand, which made the coming period more critical. With a wave of her hand, Shao Wanru let Nanny Zheng leave and sat alone in the room. After thinking for a while, she sent for Nanny Yu.

Nanny Yu was now the supervisor in charge of the inner court. As for the outer court's affairs, the chief supervisor was handling them. The chief supervisor and the outer court supervisor worked for Chu Liuchen loyally. Even if Chu Liuchen was not at home, his people arranged everything well. Shao Wanru didn't intervene in the affairs of the outer court. Since Chu Liuchen was assured of the people in the outer court, her intervention would only make them panic.

Nanny Yu didn't come fast because she was occupied with many things. The servant girl didn't find Nanny Yu soon. After searching for some time, she found Nanny Yu in the kitchen.

Hearing that Shao Wanru needed her, Nanny Yu ran over, panting and sweating profusely.

"Nanny, don't worry. It's nothing serious. I need to ask about some petty things." Shao Wanru smiled and ordered Yujie to serve tea for Nanny Yu.

Nanny Yu sat down and drank a cup of tea before recovering. She reached out to wipe the sweat on her forehead and said with a bitter smile, "I'm old now. If I were younger, I could be more capable."

"Nanny, you are not old. With you around, I could live a comfortable and safe life," Shao Wanru said with a smile.

Qu Le brought a basin of warm water for Nanny Yu to wash her face, and then she bowed to Shao Wanru again before taking her seat.

"Nanny Yu, you were in the kitchen. Did anything happen just now?" Shao Wanru asked with a smile after Nanny Yu sat down again.

Nanny Yu was in charge of the affairs of the inner court, but she didn't have to manage everything herself. There were many big and small supervisors under her command. Previously, Shao Wanru usually asked her to order others to run errands.

The inner court of Prince Chen's Mansion, which was under Shao Wanru's control, had been kept in good order. She would ask several supervisors about the general situation every day, and Nanny Yu dealt with other things for her. In a sense, Nanny Yu was managing everything, so the low-ranking supervisors would usually go to see Nanny Yu for advice.

"Indeed, I was dealing with something. Nothing serious. There was something wrong with the food ingredients, so I went there to check it up. The kitchen is a little far from here, so I came here late!" Nanny Yu was in a peeve over it.

"What's the matter?" Shao Wanru asked leisurely.

"Actually, not a big deal. The person delivering the food for our mansion was sick, so he asked someone else to do the job. But the newcomer is not very sensible. Although the number of ingredients was correct, they were obviously of inferior quality. The supervisor of the kitchen asked me to go and have a look."

Nanny Yu reported in detail.

"Couldn't you just return the bad ones?" Shao Wanru was surprised because it was a trivial matter. She could refuse to accept them and ask the person to deliver fresh vegetables and meat instead.

"I'm afraid... I couldn't..." Nanny Yu said with embarrassment.

"Why not? Could there be some reasons behind it?" Shao Wanru said with a vague feeling of surprise. She didn't have the faintest idea why Nanny Yu couldn't do that.

Nanny Yu heaved a sigh and said helplessly, "The delivery guy is said to have some link with the chief supervisor. Returning those vegetables and meat would humiliate him. So, the servants in the kitchen didn't have the courage to... Well, in fact... I didn't dare to do it either!"

She came here when Shao Wanru married into this mansion. In contrast, the chief supervisor, Prince Chen's trusted subordinate, had been processing everything inside and outside the mansion for a long.

Speaking of the chief supervisor, Nanny Yu admitted his superiority because he was highly experienced and astute. In her view, he was way superior, and she couldn't compare with him. If without Princess Chen's support, Nanny Yu would get too flustered to behave normally whenever she saw the chief supervisor.

"How bad is the food?" Shao Wanru pondered for a moment and asked.

"Many leaves outside cabbages are rotten, and some vegetables don't look fresh. The meat is overly fat and shoddy at first sight. As for those potatoes and many other things, they look much smaller." Nanny Yu recalled for a while and presented many examples.

"Nanny, how did you respond to it?" Shao Wanru blinked, her long eyelashes fluttering, and asked.

"I had asked the chief supervisor for advice. He let me handle it, but I didn't dare to make any hasty decisions and intended to discuss it with you. It happened that you asked to see me, so I hurried over!" Nanny Yu said with a bitter smile.

## Medical Princess

### **Chapter 1048: Storms Are Brewing, Envoys Come Back!**

Nanny Yu didn't dare to make any decisions on this matter, though she was Princess Chen's wet Nanny. The chief supervisor was said to be a eunuch of the Palace who brought up Prince Chen. In the previous dynasty, he was the chief eunuch of the deceased Empress. Nanny Yu thought she was not a patch on him.

"Then what do you think?" Shao Wanru, who had understood everything, asked calmly.

"I mean, My Lady, you'd better not have a conflict with the chief supervisor because of this matter. Before I came here, I had already told the kitchen supervisor to scold the delivery man when he came with the food material tomorrow. If he wanted to send the food for our mansion, he mustn't send any inferior ingredients over."

Nanny Yu said, trying to reconcile this dispute.

"So we just let it go?" Shao Wanru asked, raising her eyebrows.

"My Lady, take a step back, and everything will be fine. It's not a big deal. I can't let such a trifle cause any misunderstandings between His Highness and you!" Nanny Yu thought Shao Wanru was unwilling to make concessions, so she hurriedly advised, "The chief supervisor has been taken care of His Highness since he was little, so they must be particularly close. I heard that even Xiao Xuanzi, His Highness's trusted servant, was cultivated by the chief supervisor."

Looking at Nanny Yu's anxious face, Shao Wanru felt warm and safe in her heart. Though this wet nurse didn't seem to be much helpful, she was loyal in both her previous life and this life.

Nanny Yu would compromise as long as it could benefit her. Though she was a powerful chief supervisor of the inner court, she wasn't eaten up with pride.

Her opponents in the dark must have gotten Nanny Yu wrong!

When many women married into their husband's families, they would first scheme for power. Even if the previous servants made no mistake, they would fabricate some and replace these servants with their trusted ones.

But Shao Wanru was different. Though she had been swift and fierce, she and Chu Liuchen were of one mind. She trusted Chu Liuchen in every decision, so she wouldn't put on air before his chief supervisor to display her power when Chu Liuchen was away.

Shao Wanru had thought about it before. Those plotting against her wouldn't give up even if she didn't leave the Prince Chen's Mansion. Since she was merely a woman staying inside the inner court, they couldn't implicate her in a major event. Moreover, Chu Liuchen was not at home now. Even if there were something big, they would not blame her.

If so, there could only be small matters going wrong.

Every family had trivialities in day-to-day life. So, which part of her mansion was the most vulnerable?

The kitchen should be somewhere others could stir up trouble with the least effort because it had frequent contact with the outside world. After all, fresh vegetables and meat had to come in daily.

Shao Wanru didn't expect bad things to happen in the kitchen before she could put up a strong defense. It seemed that some people were excessively eager to hurt her.

The people plotting this frame-up against her must have gained some understanding of her, knowing that she couldn't tolerate a little mistake. That was why they started from the kitchen.

First, they drove a wedge between Shao Wanru and the chief supervisor. Then, their following conspiracies would go on smoothly.

It hadn't crossed their minds that Nanny Yu was loyal and timid. If anything related to the inner court happened, she wouldn't make any decision before reporting it to Shao Wanru. Unluckily, they also misjudged Shao Wanru!

How could a person who had died once worry about her gains or losses?

"Nanny, be careful. Many people intend to deal with our mansion. His Highness is not here now. I'm afraid I might be killed if any of them succeeded." Shao Wanru mentioned it to Nanny Yu with frankness.

Nanny Yu's face changed dramatically. She was scared and jumped up from the stool, looking at Shao Wanru in horror.

It was the first time the two maids heard Shao Wanru say such a thing. They were so frightened that they could not speak for a while.

"My, My Lady, why did you say that?" After a while, Nanny Yu came to her senses and asked in a trembling voice.

"Yes, My Lady, who wants to hurt you? They're audacious in the extreme!" Yujie also collected her wits and exploded with rage.

"My Lady, let's not go anywhere and stay in the mansion, waiting to see who else dares to attack." Qu Le gave more consideration to it and suggested with a pale face.

Shao Wanru's words spooked the three of them.

"Nanny, sit down first. I merely brought it up in passing. In his letters, His Highness has reminded me about it. So, we have to be much more cautious during this period. Since His Highness trusts the chief supervisor with the affairs in the mansion, I believe in him too. If any matter in your charge conflicts with his management, please follow his ideas. In this way, we can unite and overcome difficulties together."

Shao Wanru comforted them with a smile.

Nanny Yu nodded vigorously and said, "Don't worry, My Lady, I will. I will never argue with the chief supervisor nor disgrace him. As long as he can protect you, My Lady, I will do anything."

Nanny Yu was severely frightened. How could she argue with the chief supervisor at such a critical moment? Even if he threw away all the dishes in the kitchen, she would only ask someone to pick them up at most and wouldn't get angry with him, let alone collide with him.

Princess Chen's life was of the utmost importance. She had to keep her safe until His Highness came back to protect her.

Although His Highness looked a little weak and infirm, he was the mainstay of the mansion. His absence would considerably lower Shao Wanru's safety level, and Nanny Yu felt she shouldered a great responsibility to safeguard Princess Chen. Things about food like this were nothing serious and didn't matter.

"Nanny, there may be more than one thing. More trouble will follow." Shao Wanru hinted with a smile.

"My Lady, please set your heart at ease about it. I will remain calm and fair in approaching these problems. Never will I let anyone deteriorate the relationship between the inner and outer courts. As for the affairs of the outer court, I will not interfere in them." Previously, Nanny Yu was lacking in knowledge and experience. Later, after Nanny Zheng taught her for some time, she became acquainted with the inner-court affairs of the Prince Chen's Mansion and gradually took steps in the right direction.

Sometimes, Nanny Zheng would talk to her about things in the Palace. Nanny Yu had heard a lot, so she naturally learned some ways of thinking. Again and again, she warned herself not to become a burden to her master like those useless servants in the Palace who brought unexpected disasters to their masters living peaceful lives.

"That's good. Then let's wait and see!" Shao Wanru said meaningfully, her eyes slowly darkening. She was going to deal with the changes by staying calm. No matter who plotted to injure her, she would be on the alert and combat-ready in the mansion.

Since something came up in the kitchen, she could ask someone to keep an eye on it. "Nanny, Qing Yue has been working under your command and helps you manage things from time to time. Just let her watch the kitchen. As the supervisor of the inner court, you can't monitor the situation there all day long. We don't have to make a big fuss about it. Unlike you, Qing Yue can stay there as my trusted principal maid."

Qing Yue was Shao Wanru's first servant girl, who was as loyal to her as Nanny Yu. However, she was too timid and couldn't be as helpful as Yujie at the critical moment, for Yujie was much stronger than her. Thus, after they arrived in the capital city, her efforts were centered on assisting Nanny Yu. Though she served Shao Wanru sometimes, she did it much less than Yujie and Qu Le.

Nevertheless, she had always been regarded as Shao Wanru's principal maid. While doing jobs for Nanny Yu, she gained some prestige among servants. All in all, Qing Yue was indeed the most suitable person in charge for the time being.

"Okay, I got it. I'll inform Qing Yue later. Ow! what a coincidence!" Nanny Yu abruptly slapped her thigh and said with a smile, "When the incident happened, I happened to take Qing Yue there. When you called me over, Qing Yue stayed behind to count how many food ingredients were rotten. Now, she is in the kitchen, doing the tasks you've just assigned her."

“That’s perfect!” Shao Wanru nodded delightedly...

The envoys were on their way back to the capital with two princesses and some generous gifts from the Xu State. The diplomatic mission went on smoothly. Of course, the most valuable thing should be the national letter from the Xu State King in Prince Chen’s hands.

As a small affiliated country of the Kingdom of Dongcang, the Xu State had sent a lot of presents over, but the number of their gifts gradually declined. In recent years, few messengers came over to offer tribute. They had reached a new agreement with the Xu State King, who indicated in the national letter that messengers from his state would visit the Kingdom of Dongcang with gifts every year.

The marriage between Princess Yuyan and Chu Qing had been settled. As for Princess Yutao, she left her country in the name of sending Princess Yuyan off. The First Prince, Princess Yuyan’s elder brother, was supposed to come over in the first place. However, somehow, Princess Yutao was appointed to do this job, so she had to set off with the Xu State’s diplomatic corps and head for the capital of the Kingdom of Dongcang.

After walking for only a few hours on the first day of their trip, Prince Chen said he had to rest because his weak body couldn’t endure the long-distance travel. Neither Chu Qing, who was full of worries, nor the severe Qin Huaiyong could turn down this righteous decision.

Nothing mattered more than Prince Chen’s health. Though the sun was high in the sky, everyone had no choice but to go to rest at the courier station!

In the largest courtyard of the courier station, eight guards were standing at the door, which showed Prince Chen was much superior to Commandery Prince Qing, with only two guards at his door

Looking further inside, Princess Yuyan found the heavily-guarded courtyard quiet and solemn, which made her nervous. In her mind, Prince Chen was so handsome and kind. Although he was a little delicate, he was nice. But why did his guards look so murderous and scary?

She heard this prince had always been so fragile, but he had such an impressive bearing, like the sun’s son in mythology. Thinking of this, Princess Yuyan blushed slightly with a bit of shyness in her eyes. She turned around and slowly walked somewhere else. How she wished she could run into Prince Chen!

However, the situation in the main room was not as enchanting as Princess Yuyan had imagined.

“How’s it going?” Chu Liuchen leaned leisurely on the thick and soft cushion, but a trace of gloom flashed in his eyes. He used to be gentle and elegant, but now his eyes appeared cruel and bloodthirsty.

Xiao Xuanzi stepped back and reported, “Don’t worry, master. It’s done!”

At this moment, he showed his true features. The mild and gentle look was nothing but just a mask. How could it be real?

“Have you well arranged her safety?” Chu Liuchen asked again.

“Trust me, master. We’ve made more prudential arrangements for Her Highness. Beyond the team under Qing’er, another group secretly keeps an eye on Princess Chen and will never let anything bad happen to her.” Xiao Xuanzi knew Chu Liuchen best and was fully aware that his master was worried about Her Highness.



Princess Chen was the apple of his eye.

His master had more concern for Princess Chen than for himself.

### Medical Princess

#### **Chapter 1049: A State of Chaos: Three Women of Phoenix Fate Coexist**

“The Grand Witch of the Queen’s tribe said so?” Chu Liuchen drawled lazily. His tone sounded surprised, but he didn’t seem to care about it.

“The Grand Witch said this trip wouldn’t be dangerous for me, so my mother let me out. Otherwise, how could my opponents send me away so easily? They want me to go far away and never return, but they must ask for my permission first!” Princess Yutao said with a fierce look. However, she felt slightly unconvinced when tilting her head to look at Chu Liuchen because he obviously didn’t believe the reason.

The Grand Witch, born in her mother’s tribe, had worked for the Xu State but returned to her mother’s tribe when getting too old. That was why Princess Yutao introduced the witch to Chu Liuchen as the Grand Witch of her mother’s tribe.

“Don’t you believe me?”

“Do you have a few more convincing things to share?” Chu Liuchen asked out of boredom. It seemed that he just casually picked up something interesting to talk about when feeling bored on the way.

He felt like chatting idly at this time.

However, Princess Yutao was increasingly bitter about his careless attitude. In her state, the Grand Witch had a high status, and even her father had to consider the witch’s perspectives. Without the Grand Witch, her mother might have lost her position as the Queen. Merely from this point of view, Princess Yutao deeply respected and believed in the Grand Witch.

She couldn’t tolerate Chu Liuchen’s suspicion toward the Grand Witch.

“Your Highness, before my mother became the Queen, the Grand Witch predicted that she would become the Xu State’s Queen with crowning prominence and glory.”

“Yes, the Queen of your country is incredibly lucky,” Chu Liuchen said lazily, very offhand with her.

Princess Yutao glared at him with displeasure. How could she not know he took no notice of it? Realizing he didn’t believe it, she stamped her feet hard with determination and lowered his voice to a whisper.

“There is now a destined lady with Phoenix Fate in the Kingdom of Dongcang, just like my mother in the past!”

“You mean the Empress?” Chu Liuchen raised his eyebrows.

“Of course not. All the people in the world know she is the Empress!” Princess Yutao said, feeling a little annoyed by what he said.

After thinking about it, she thought she might not express it right. After making some efforts to recall the Grand Witch’s ambiguous words, she interpreted them in her way of thinking. “Actually, one woman

with Phoenix Fate is emerging in the Kingdom of Dongcang. The previous two women who have already become the empress don't count. However, I don't understand why there are a total of three women with Phoenix Fate coexisting."

Princess Yutao stopped there, looking Chu Liuchen up and down. The Grand Witch had hinted that Prince Chen was honorable to the extreme, but even so, the witch warned Princess Yutao to stay away from him. According to the Grand Witch, Prince Chen was wrapped in scarlet among corpse mountains and blood seas, and nobody could see through this extremely dangerous prince.

Moreover, there were two roads behind Prince Chen: a bloody road and one with a chance to live. But the Grand Witch didn't know which one was the way of Prince Chen.

The cold-blooded Prince Chen was firm and resolute in deciding people's fate and life. Few people could come into his heart. In his eyes, beauties were no different from skeletons. This cruel and ferocious man was doomed to be alone. However, after hearing that Prince Chen was married, the Grand Witch sighed, saying that Princess Chen also had influential backing. The Grand Witch asked Princess Yutao to be on good terms with Princess Chen. Then, no matter what Princess Yutao said, he made no reply and fell asleep with his head down.

Thinking of this, Princess Yutao gave a deep sigh. The Grand Witch could tell she was interested in Prince Chen and warned her to keep a certain distance from him, so she became more convinced of the Grand Witch in her heart.

Since then, she hid her desire for Chu Liuchen deep in her heart.

"Three women with Phoenix Fate living in the same era?" Chu Liuchen remarked casually, squinting at her with a hint of sarcasm in his beautiful eyes. "Is the Grand Witch's prediction accurate? The Empress got her Phoenix Fate, and there are two more women with Phoenix Fate. Does it mean that two empresses or two emperors will emerge?"

He spoke those treacherous words without worrying as if he were talking about the weather.

Princess Yutao's heart thumped violently. Chu Liuchen dared to say it, but she wasn't brave enough to do the same thing. So, she merely laughed and said, "Well, I don't fully understand it either. Maybe there is a deeper meaning. The Grand Witch only mentioned that the surname of a woman with Phoenix Fate was..."

She couldn't finish her words because the surname mentioned by the Grand Witch escaped her for the moment. She could only smile awkwardly at Chu Liuchen and said, "I forgot it, but it shouldn't be at the front of the list of commonly used surnames."

The Xu State had its own language, but its nobles would study the traditional Han culture of the Kingdom of Dongcang. Princess Yutao, the Xu State's distinguished princess, had been studying Han characters and writing since she was a child.

However, Princess Yutao preferred practicing martial arts and couldn't rouse herself to read and write, so she only learned some elementary knowledge. Even though she could speak, write, and read this foreign language, she couldn't remember any complex content. As a result, she merely knew the

surnames that were most commonly used, such as Zhao, Qian, Sun, Li, Zhou, Wu, Zheng, Wang, and the like.

“Did your Grand Witch say what you should pay attention to on this trip?” Chu Liuchen picked up a teacup elegantly, took a sip, and asked slowly.

It was obvious that he didn’t care about the answers. After all, he didn’t even inquire further about the surname of the woman with Phoenix Fate.

Princess Yutao blinked and suddenly whispered, “Don’t you have any great ambitions?”

“Do you have any?” Chu Liuchen asked in reply with a casual air.

“Of course, I have high aspirations. As the eldest legitimate daughter of my father, I was born with noble status. I believe I’m more qualified to succeed to the throne than the eldest son of the concubine. Moreover, the Grand Witch said that my hope lies in the east. With support from the east, I can ascend the throne. Isn’t the Kingdom of Dongcang in the east? This time, they wanted to kick me away by this trip, which would instead be a chance for me.”

Princess Yutao gave the table a thump which shook the cups. Then she looked at Chu Liuchen with burning eyes and said, “Your Highness, let’s cooperate!”

Every hegemonic overlord had to go through mountains of corpses and seas of blood. Now that she needed a powerful helper, she had to pick up the most powerful one — Chu Liuchen.

Princess Yutao had given up her girlish affection towards him. The moment that she saw herself as the future overlord reigning over her country, she had cast the love between men and women far away. Besides, from Prince Chen’s eyes, she didn’t spot any interest in her. No matter how dazzlingly beautiful she was, she might be a dull skeleton for him. Unlike Yuyan, she wouldn’t bring contempt upon herself.

No woman could win over such a man. Princess Yutao wondered how devastatingly beautiful Princess Chen in the capital city would be that she could draw this prince of the devils to her.

As a woman, Princess Yutao had observed everything very carefully. The warning of the Grand Witch shattered all her illusions about Chu Liuchen’s love. When observing Chu Liuchen as a sober-minded onlooker, Princess Yutao felt she could see things more clearly.

When talking about business, Chu Liuchen was full of smiles, always appearing attractive and graceful on the surface, but he held no genuine feelings. Only at the mention of Princess Chen would his eyes reveal a trace of gentleness sometimes, but even a moment like that was rare.

Prince Chen was highly adept at controlling his facial emotions.

Princess Yutao’s intuition as a woman told her that Prince Chen treated Princess Chen differently. Maybe he had given all his little tenderness to Princess Chen so that he was cold-blooded and ruthless to others.

Chu Liuchen remained silent. Princess Yutao straightened her back again and said seriously, “My younger sister will stir up trouble in the Kingdom of Dongcang, for she is never a well-behaved woman. If Princess Chen confronts her someday, I’ll lend Princess Chen a hand.”

Women had their social places where men were not allowed to interfere.

“Okay!” Chu Liuchen finally relented and said, “I’d like to meet the Grand Witch!”

The Grand Witch sounded quite interesting. If he had heard the Grand Witch earlier, he would have invited the witch over. This kind of person wasn’t new to Chu Liuchen. The Huaguang Temple’s abbot was one of a kind. However, his words always sounded ambiguous, and he would never give Chu Liuchen a definite answer. The abbot wasn’t as frank as the Grand Witch, who aroused Prince Chen’s interest.

“There will be a chance!” Princess Yutao spoke with certainty.

That was what the Grand Witch had said, so Princess Yutao believed it right away.

The rest of their journey was peaceful. Chu Liuchen traveled and stopped at will; no one would be stupid enough to go against him. He could go on his way or take a rest whenever he wanted. In high spirits, he hurried on with this journey at midnight. Yet, he would rest at noon when he was in a foul mood.

Since Chu Qing was back from the Xu State, he had stayed quiet and far away from Princess Yuyan, as if he had nothing to do with her.

Princess Yuyan was delicate and graceful. Though she looked less attractive than Princess Yutao, she had a gentle disposition, which helped her win many people’s favor. Princess Yuyan took no notice of Chu Qing either. Instead, she frequently appeared around Chu Liuchen. Her odd move raised a storm of conjecture.

Of course, people only gossiped about Princess Yuyan, and none had the guts to involve Chu Liuchen in this.

Qin Huaiyong was the busiest. Matters on the trip had little to do with him, but he maintained the order of this group, which made him more preoccupied than anyone else.

They had a busy but peaceful journey. In contrast, Prince Chen’s Mansion in the capital city, a target of many people now, couldn’t restore its peace.

Fresh vegetables and meat were delivered to the kitchen early in the morning.

All the food must be picked fresh and sent to Prince Chen’s Mansion on the same day. The person delivering the food ingredients had been doing this very cautiously over the years.

But in the past two days, someone had replaced him. It turned out that the previous delivery man was sick and asked his nephew to take charge of these things.

The food was brought in from the back door by baskets. When all cooking ingredients were brought to the kitchen, a young man in his twenties wearing a short jacket and pants waved the paper in his hand and asked, “Where is the kitchen supervisor? Ask the supervisor to check the goods and sign here.”

A lot of people were bustling around in the kitchen. The breakfast was almost ready. At this time, many pots were open, giving off hot steam. They moved around, busy going about their different duties in good order.

The young man saw no one pay attention to him, so he shook the paper in his hand again and shouted, "Hey, the supervisor of your kitchen? Hurry up and check the goods. I still have something else to do."

"Here I am. I'm coming!" An old maid in her fifties came over and said, "What's the hurry? No need to hurry!"

### Medical Princess

#### **Chapter 1050: Beginning! A Minor Matter in the Kitchen**

"I'd like to stay idle, but I have only done half of my work since I got up early today," the young man complained impatiently.

"Hey, how could you say that?" The old maid in charge was displeased and stood with her arms akimbo, scolding the youth, "The previous delivery man never talked rudely like you."

"Okay, okay, okay, I can't talk nicely. I'm busy and not as good as my uncle. Okay?" The paper in the young man's hands jumped twice in the air, and he looked increasingly impatient.

"Come on, check the ingredients and see if they are qualified!" The old maid in charge roared her orders with a grim face.

A few old maids and servant girls came and poured out all the vegetables and meat from the baskets, ready to check them.

"Alas, don't you know how to do a good job?" The young man was upset. He pointed to the food and shouted, "You dump them all over the ground. No matter how perfect they were, you must have messed them up. Don't blame me for offering you defective goods!"

"Were these items good?" The old maid in charge was unhappy. She reached out to pick up a stalk of celery and said with her hands pointing at it, "It is not fresh. See the leaves. They are shriveled up. The celery must have been stored for two or three days!"

The young woman snatched the celery away from the old maid in charge and clamored, "Excuse me? What's wrong with your eyes? Can't you see it is choice celery? You poured it out and smashed its branches. How could you say that? Are you trying to blackmail me?"

"Seriously?" The old maid in charge was well pissed off about it. She picked up another cabbage, showed it to the young man, and said, "Its outside leaves are rotten, but they haven't been removed. Do you think it's still fresh?"

"How can it not be fresh? Obviously, it was picked up not long ago from the ground. I sent it here as fast as possible, so I had no time to remove its outer layer. See? It looks fresh and juicy with dew. It can't be fresher!"

There was indeed water dripping on it, but it was not dew, but water he just poured on it.

He argued so unreasonably to defend himself, which irritated everybody present. Did he think that everyone was blind?

"These vegetables were collected a few days ago. Most of them are rotten inside."

"The meat is going stale too. It's smelly. How long has it stayed in storerooms?"

"This fish is alive, but why is it so small? It looks half-dead. I touched it, but it only moved a little without much vitality."

"Is this chicken sick? Why is it so listless? It can't even stand still."

"This duck is not good either. It's still pooping!"

The people in the kitchen chattered.

The young man got increasingly annoyed and was genuinely angered at their accusations. Suddenly, he threw the paper onto the ground, reaching out to point at those servant girls and old maids circling him, "Okay, fine! Do you want to rock the boat? Great! Go and report it to the chief supervisor of your mansion. He has agreed with my uncle's matter and approved of me replacing my uncle. Everything went on well before. Now, you're bullying me only because I'm a newcomer!"

"Don't you know how to do business? Look at these things. None of them is fresh! The supervisor of our inner court told you to pick some fresh ones for us. We won't accept anything stale." The old maid in charge said with hands on her hips and elbows turned outwards while pointing at the food the young man took here today.

"Does the inner-court supervisor want to pick a quarrel with me? She dares to provoke me because she thinks the chief supervisor doesn't care about the petty matters of the inner court! How could I send over stale things? We've been delivering the food for so long. How could you think a long-established group would do such a thing to tarnish its reputation? Go, let's go. Let the chief supervisor judge who is right and who is wrong!"

The young man was so furious that his face turned livid.

But it was still dark. The chief supervisor must have been sleeping. Weren't they asking for an insult if they went to see him?

For a moment, all the people in the kitchen quieted down, staring speechlessly at each other. No one dared to go to the chief supervisor for real.

Seeing them cease fire, the young man, still unwilling to make peace, barked again in a louder voice, "Go, go! Why not? Don't you have the confidence to go there? Now you know that you're in the wrong! Every one of you pointed an accusing finger at me as if you weren't in the right!"

He picked up the paper flung to the ground and raised it before the old maid in charge, shaking it with arrogance and threatening, "Sign it or go to find the chief supervisor. It's up to you!"

"Where did this troublemaker come from? Show him the door!" Suddenly, a woman's calm voice came from behind the crowd.

"Miss Qing Yue is here."

"It's Miss Qing Yue!" The group of people hurriedly stepped back as Qing Yue walked over steadily.

The young man didn't know Qing Yue, so he looked her up and down. In his eyes, this lady was good-looking and dressed well, which showed she should be a prestigious servant in this mansion.

Anyway, she was a servant. The most powerful assistant in the mansion should be the chief supervisor. What could a little servant girl do?

"Who? Who's making trouble? I'm here to deliver the cooking materials. How could you take me as a troublemaker... I..." The young man said disdainfully, not afraid to blow up the matter.

In other words, he was here to make a big deal out of this, and it would be better if this wrangle were out of control.

"Haul him out, and throw out the vegetables and meat!" Qing Yue surveyed him and ordered lightly.

Qing Yue was Princess Chen's principal maid. Nanny Yu had specially told her that she would be in charge of the kitchen affairs. No matter what she did, Princess Chen would back her up, so there was no need to be overcautious.

Hearing Qing Yue's words, two burly old maids came to his two sides and dragged him out. Since they had been working in the kitchen, they had great strength. Pulled by them, the young man couldn't steady himself and could only step back while shouting at the top of his voice. "You've gone too far. The chief supervisor asked me to send food to your mansion, but you want to shut me out..."

It was quiet around early in the morning. His shouts could be heard at a great distance.

"Gag him!" Qing Yue said.

Some of them couldn't endure the young man long ago. With Qing Yue's order, someone instantly took out a wet rag and stuffed it into his mouth. The greasy and wet feeling nearly made this delivery man vomit on the spot.

A few other rough old maids and servant girls carried the ingredients and baskets he sent here and tossed all of them outside.

"If you still want to do the delivery job, pick some fresh ones quickly and send them over; otherwise, we no longer need you to send vegetables," Qing Yue stood at the back door and said coldly.

The young man pulled the rag out of his mouth, glared at Qing Yue with bloodshot eyes, and bellowed, "If you're so capable, go and tell the chief supervisor about it. He has the final say in matters about food delivery. If you're useless, don't invite humiliation. Don't you know what an inferior servant you are? How dare you use such a filthy trick to deal with the chief supervisor? Don't even think about it."

"Close the door!" Qing Yue ignored him and said to the old maid guarding the back door after entering the room.

The old maid swiftly responded and shut the door, leaving this young man clamoring and jumping with rage outside.

When she returned to the kitchen, all the servant girls and old maids were watching her and waiting for her to make a decision.

"I've sent some people to buy fresh ingredients, and they'll be here soon. You can continue to make breakfast later. I'll report the whole thing to Her Highness. It doesn't matter, even if you serve breakfast at a later time. Everything will be okay as long as the food is fresh. None of us can bear the severe consequences if Her Highness falls ill after having any stale food sent to the kitchen," Qing Yue said.

She knew well what they were worried about.

Fresh ingredients were on the way here. Learning this, the servants in the kitchen breathed a sigh of relief. The old maid in charge waved her hand and said, "Do what you should do. Don't block the way here. It's worrying."

The others dispersed, but the old maid in charge didn't. Looking at Qing Yue, she said haltingly, "Miss Qing Yue, what if the chief supervisor asks about this? What should we do?"

"It doesn't matter. Her Highness will deal with it!" Qing Yue said with complete composure.

The fresh ingredients were delivered quickly because Shao Wanru had prepared for this. As a result, the breakfast was still served on time. As soon as they had breakfast, the chief supervisor was invited into Shao Wanru's courtyard.

After entering the door, he bowed respectfully to Shao Wanru.

"Please sit down!" Shao Wanru stood up, bowed back politely, and said softly.

As the former empress's general steward, he deserved Shao Wanru's respect.

The chief supervisor lost no time in returning a bow. Then he took his seat and asked, "Your Highness, what can I do for you?"

He only met Princess Chen once, on the next day after her wedding. After that, they made no contact. When Prince Chen was around, the chief supervisor would ask him to decide on various affairs. Now that Prince Chen was away, he dealt with everything by himself and did not bother Princess Chen with any of these things.

"You were a trusted servant of the former empress. For His Highness and me, you're like an elder. You've been taking care of him and his outer court for many years. So, I should thank you deeply on behalf of His Highness." Shao Wanru bowed again.

The chief supervisor was greatly moved but felt flustered. In a hurry, he leaned to one side and said, "Your Highness, all of this is my duty. How could I be worthy of your bows with much gratitude?"

"You shouldn't be so modest. You've been protecting His Highness for so many years. When he is out on a diplomatic mission, we have to count on you to protect the entire mansion," Shao Wanru said with a wry smile. She sat down on a chair on one side and invited the chief supervisor to sit down.

After serving tea, Yujie and Qu Le retreated aside.

The chief supervisor's expression changed. "Your Highness, did anything happen?"

Usually, he would pay attention to almost everything inside and outside the mansion. Before Prince Chen left, he repeatedly enjoined that he should take care of the whole mansion. Of course, Princess



Chen's security was of the utmost importance. The chief supervisor had served Prince Chen since he was little, so he was pretty familiar with his characters. Besides, Xiao Xuanzi also offered him some advice about it. How could he not understand how important Princess Chen was to his master?

"Sir, to tell you the truth, some people are aimed at our mansion," Shao Wanru told him in a soft voice.

"What did you find? I have been keeping a close eye on the outside but haven't noticed anything unusual." The chief supervisor frowned. He had thought there would be no chance of an error. Did he neglect anything?

"It happened in our mansion, not outside. Some people intended to cast a bone between us and launch an attack against the Prince Chen's Mansion." Shao Wanru looked at the chief supervisor and put it bluntly.

The chief supervisor's respectful attitude and kind tone relieved much of her worry. At least he wouldn't impose his ideas on others with his seniority. In this way, everything would be much easier to deal with...