

## Medical Princess 1051

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#### Chapter 1051: Satisfied, It's Great to Be Scheming

"Sir, do you know whom His Highness will bring back from his trip to the Xu State?" Shao Wanru asked calmly.

The chief supervisor's eyes gleamed, and he misunderstood her intentions. "Rest assured, Your Highness. The princess from the Xu State won't marry His Highness when she comes to the capital. It has nothing to do with His Highness!"

He thought Shao Wanru was jealous, so he hurriedly explained.

"I know that, but others don't. Some people want to use it to sound out His Highness's potential," Shao Wanru explained softly with a smile.

The chief supervisor had had lots of dealings with many people in the Palace and had experienced the previous dynasty, so he obtained a sophisticated understanding of worldly wisdom. Shao Wanru's words astounded him.

After pondering carefully, he immediately got up, bowed to Shao Wanru, and said with heartfelt admiration, "Your Highness, I thought too little of it."

He saluted from the bottom of his heart.

He treated Her Highness with respect only because of Prince Chen, but now he viewed Princess Chen in a new, more favorable light and sincerely bowed to her.

People like him, who came out on top of numerous servants in the Palace step by step, were sophisticated and tactful. He instantly discovered the critical point in Shao Wanru's words that he had ignored.

"You shouldn't have. Please sit down!" Shao Wanru said with a light smile.

The chief supervisor sat down again. "I've carefully thought over the safety of our mansion and arranged people to protect us from any potential dangers. Besides, I dispatched more people to tighten security and told all of them to pay special attention to you. I must make sure nothing bad will happen to you. Frankly, if you want to go out during this period, I will have to persuade you to stay at home."

He thought Princess Chen was secure here. No one could hurt her inside the mansion. As for outside, the chief supervisor would try his best to stop Princess Chen from going out before Prince Chen returned.

If Princess Chen insisted on hanging out, he had planned to stop her and even make her current situation clear so that she would know what should be done or not. Unexpectedly, the young master was so intelligent that she had figured out the essential part long ago. Moreover, she had even thought through the things that he had overlooked. Though he had experienced myriad hardships and hazards, he couldn't grasp the overall situation better than Princess Chen.

Deep down, he couldn't help feeling ashamed and became even more respectful to Shao Wanru.

No wonder Xiao Xuanzi praised Princess Chen many times, saying she was brilliant. At first, the chief supervisor thought Xiao Xuanzi must have been exaggerating, but now it seemed that he actually described Princess Chen in a modest way.

“Thank you very much, Sir. Before His Highness left, he seriously told me something. I’m young and inexperienced, so I should ask for your advice if I encounter any tricky things. I shouldn’t let outsiders seize any opportunity to stir trouble. Sometimes, a terrible misunderstanding might be caused by some small things and destroy our mutual trust,” Shao Wanru said, feeling very satisfied with this chief supervisor.

“Your Highness, is there any trifle in the mansion that bothers you?” the chief supervisor asked with a frown. After thinking for a while, he suddenly understood the hidden meaning of Shao Wanru’s words. He had the growing sense that he had been negligent in not considering the safety within the mansion, when he devoted most of his attention to the outside.

In the past, there was no master in the inner court. As long as he handled well the affairs in the mansion, he protected the whole mansion. As for Prince Chen, he could take good care of himself long ago.

Prince Chen was wise, deep, and precociously bright. The outsiders only saw his master grow up under his protection, but they didn’t know that his master had been protecting him since he became mature at a young age.

The chief supervisor had a lot of enemies in the Palace back then. When he was the former empress’ general steward, these people deeply hid their hatred toward him. But as soon as he became less powerful, many of them secretly trampled on him. If it hadn’t been for Prince Chen’s concern, they would have rushed up in a crowd to hurt him, and he would have been murdered long ago.

At present, he had gained both fame and benefits. Even when the Empress Dowager occasionally rewarded Prince Chen’s Mansion, she would give him some reward in passing.

“There was a dispute in the kitchen. The person who delivered the cooking ingredients was ill, so he asked his nephew to do the job. But the young man was not a good one. The food he sent was of inferior quality, and he even made a scene in the kitchen. He claimed you offered him this job and urged the people in the kitchen to inform you about this.”

Since the chief supervisor was sensible enough, Shao Wanru spoke without reservation.

“The delivery man?” The chief supervisor was stunned and did not think of this for a while.

A servant behind the chief supervisor reminded him, “Please excuse me, but I’ve heard of the servant who delivered the food. He seems to have something to do with you when you were in the Palace!”

Hearing the servant’s words, the chief supervisor finally remembered and nodded repeatedly. “Yes... right. It’s something about me. The delivery man was... the nephew of a trusted eunuch of the former empress. The eunuch died for her, and I was asked to take care of his nephew. After I left the Palace, I asked his nephew to help deliver the food ingredients to the kitchen. He had done this work for more than a decade.”

It had been so long that the chief supervisor could hardly remember it.

The news came as a surprise to Shao Wanru. No wonder their rivals started with a delivery man working in the kitchen. Shao Wanru had an idea in her heart and said, "Sir, do you still remember this person's character?"

"Yes, he is a good person. Back then, I saw that he was honest, so I sent him to deliver the food to the kitchen. In the very beginning, I would check his work personally. His performance had always been excellent. Since I let the supervisor in the kitchen manage him, no one came to report his mistake. Therefore, I suppose he should have done a good job all these years!"

The chief supervisor said after thinking for a while.

"Then send someone to check it out. Maybe something has happened to him." Shao Wanru narrowed her watery eyes slightly and reminded him.

The delivery man had been well-behaved, but he suddenly fell sick. There must be something fishy behind this. Obviously, the new delivery man was here to stir up trouble.

"I will go and investigate this matter." The chief supervisor nodded, knowing an accident might have occurred to him.

"The dishes sent here this morning were not good. I've told Qing Yue to drive him out. At this moment, he should have come to report this to you. We seldom met, but I can tell you're smart. Now I entrust this matter to you. I hope you find out who is behind this matter," said Shao Wanru.

The chief supervisor was intelligent and treated her with respect, which made it great convenient for her to tackle this dispute urgently. If he were prejudiced against her and wanted to suppress her with his seniority, it would be difficult to solve the problem.

The current situation was the best.

"Your Highness, I got it." The chief supervisor understood and grasped the meaning of the matter.

"If you need Qing Yue later, you can take her there," Shao Wanru said meaningfully with a gentle and kind smile, her lustrous eyes growing slightly larger.

Birds of the same kind generally live together. The chief supervisor felt Princess Chen's genial smile was precisely the same as the smile on his master's face.

"How could such a smile be considered pure and kind? It means scheming."

Thinking of his duplicitous master with a pretty face, the chief supervisor felt his heart racing. It suddenly came to him that Princess Chen, the delicate young lady before him, might be as underhand as Prince Chen!

"But it's good that they're not that upright. A soft heart can be fatal to noble descendants. It's great to be scheming!"

The chief supervisor left the inner court, beaming with delight. He was in a good mood along the way, walking back while smiling. He had worried that Princess Chen would be too young to know what was happening, but now it seemed that Prince Chen and Princess Chen couldn't be more perfectly matched.

When he walked out of Chuihua Gate, the chief supervisor stopped smiling, and his face darkened. Putting on a dignified look, he continued going outside with his servant. Halfway on their way back, a young male servant ran over with sweat all over his face. "Sir, you are here. Someone came to you. Now he is overly anxious and has inquired about your whereabouts several times."

"Who is it?" The chief supervisor wrinkled his brows and asked.

"I heard that he was responsible for sending food to the kitchen. He wanted you to uphold justice for him, but I don't know what has happened. His complaint sounds confused!" The servant trotted and reported.

As expected, Princess Chen guessed it right. The supervisor was delighted but did not show it on his face. He strode forward and asked. "What did you tell him where I was?"

"You have taught me how to deal with this, so I certainly didn't tell him where you went. I just said that you hadn't gotten up because you went to bed late last night." The young male servant wiped the sweat on his forehead and said.

When any outsider came to find the chief supervisor, who might be too busy to meet the person, his servants would let the visitor wait and stall for time. As for the specific affairs that the chief supervisor was doing, they wouldn't reveal any to others.

This time, seeing that it was still early, he deliberately came up with a valid excuse.

"Okay, let's go and have a look!" The chief supervisor nodded and followed the young male servant out.

After they walked through a few courtyards, they saw a young man in his twenties anxiously walking around in circles. When the chief supervisor stepped out, his eyes immediately lit up. He rushed over, knelt before the chief supervisor, and kowtowed hard three times. "Sir, please uphold justice for me!"

After that, he burst into tears, as if he had been wronged.

Behind him were two baskets full of vegetables and meat. There was even a tied chicken struggling with all its might. It moved so vigorously with incredible strength that it nearly shook the vegetables above it out of the basket.

In addition, a fish lay on the food with its tail wagging. From time to time, it would jump up and twitch its tail, making a loud noise.

"What's going on?" The chief supervisor stopped and asked, checking the current situation with his hands clasped behind his back.

"I... I didn't know why they would do that to me. Today, I brought the food to the kitchen, but they said that the chicken was not very active, the fish was dying, and the vegetables were not fresh. But in fact, all of them are in perfect condition. You can send someone to check them if you don't believe me. Anyone finds anything wrong with these things, and I'm willing to take all punishments."

The young man wiped away his tears and said, "My uncle has been ill these days, so he asked me to send food for him in a few days, but these people in the kitchen bullied me fiercely. They pointed at me and blamed me for everything. I was so annoyed that I wanted to let you decide which side was right, but they felt reluctant to do that. Then they called a girl named Qing Yue over to punish me. She

ordered her helpers to throw me out along with all the baskets. All the ingredients were ruined... And... and there are some badly broken ones that I didn't dare to show you. I want nothing but justice. Please help me, Sir."

He sobbed out all of this, his broken voice full of grievance. Then he bowed deeply to the chief supervisor.

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#### **Chapter 1052: An Accident Caused by a Box**

The vegetables and meat presented before them indeed looked good. Even the pickiest person could not say that the chicken was sick and the fish was near death because they were alive and kicking. He turned to see the young man, who looked aggrieved and angry. It could be seen that he had really been bullied. They disgraced him even when he did nothing wrong, which was a shame for the chief supervisor.

In particular, the young man was the nephew of the eunuch, who was the former empress's trusted servant.

The chief supervisor's face fell, and he looked terrible. "Did these people in the kitchen say that?"

"Sir, I swear I was telling the truth. If I lied, let me be struck by lightning and split into two halves!" The young man wiped away his tears and swore viciously.

It sounded more authentic, and several young servants in the outer court couldn't help getting indignant. These people were the chief supervisor's trusted helpers who had been loyal to him. When they learned some people in the kitchen didn't take the chief supervisor seriously, how could they not be angry?

"Sir, I'll go and ask the supervisor in charge of the kitchen."

"Sir, when Princess Chen married into our mansion, Qing Yue came here with her."

"That's too unreasonable. Even when His Highness was in the mansion, the affairs of the outer court were under the management of the chief supervisor."

Several young male servants all talked indignantly.

The chief supervisor shook his hand, and all the servants stopped talking.

"Go and invite Qing Yue, Her Highness's principal maid," he ordered blandly.

"Yes, I'll go now." A clever servant answered and ran inside.

"Thank you, Sir. Thank you so much. In fact... it's my fault. It wouldn't have been like this if I had sent it out then." The young man kowtowed to the chief supervisor with gratitude and murmured.

"What's that?" a servant asked.

"Well..." The young man realized he had made an indiscreet remark. He looked around, feeling uneasy because too many people were around him.

"Bring him here," the chief supervisor commanded and turned to an empty yard aside.

Immediately, a young male servant stepped out and reminded the young man to follow them while the others dispersed.

The chief supervisor didn't enter the principal room in the middle of the courtyard but just sat at the yard's stone table. With his penetrating eyes on the young man, he knocked on the stone table twice with his fingers and spoke up, "Tell me, what's the secret?"

Only the chief supervisor and his two trusted young male servants were in the courtyard. The young man observed around and suddenly took a small brocade box from his arms and handed it over. "Sir, here it is. Take a look!"

A servant took it and brought it to the chief supervisor sitting at the stone table. He was in no hurry to open it but looked at the young man up and down.

"Is this what the people in the inner court wanted from you?"

"Yes. It's my bad. When I came to deliver food, someone spotted it. Today, a person asked me for it when I sent the food, but I refused. Then she left with a sneer, threatening that I couldn't do the delivery job if I didn't give it to her. After that, they picked on me when I carried these goods to the kitchen."

"Who wanted it from you?" The chief supervisor asked, calm and collected.

"I don't know it either. The old maid looked ordinary, and I didn't know if she was from the mansion. I wondered about it at that time. But my box accidentally fell when I was delivering the cooking ingredients. The person who saw it must have been from the mansion. Moreover, they threatened and punished me by not letting me do my delivery job."

The young man thought for a moment and said bitterly, "In fact, I didn't take it seriously. Maybe it had nothing to do with the mansion. However, I still worried about it, so I kept it in my arms. I didn't expect someone who wanted it to frame me up."

The more the young man talked about it, the more aggrieved he felt.

The chief supervisor didn't ask anymore and let his eyes settle upon this obsolete brocade box.

This kind of brocade box was hardly seen in the outside world, but it was not rare and even common in the Palace. With time passing on, it faded and looked much outworn. On its engraved corner hung a rusty lock.

"What is this?" the chief supervisor asked in a solemn voice.

"I don't know. It's from my uncle. He told me that it was passed down through the generations in my family. When my uncle was seriously ill, he gave it to me. That day, I happened to carry it in my arms, but the people in the mansion saw it. I didn't know what was inside and wanted to check it out after going back. However, I suddenly remembered that my uncle had told me not to see it."

With this, the young man said, taking out a key from his arms and handing it over respectfully.

There was a brocade box and a lock. If the chief supervisor hadn't met Shao Wanru, he would have opened it to see what was inside and asked about it.

At this moment, he didn't open it rashly and just glanced casually at it, weighing it in his hand. Then he scrutinized the lock. It seemed that the lock hadn't been opened for many years. The lock had rusted so that the box was hard to open. If the lock were forced open, the clot formed by rust under it would inevitably be damaged.

No one had opened this brocade box over so many years.

"You mean, someone in the mansion recognized it and thought there was something good inside, so the person wanted to get it from you?" He asked.

"Uh... I don't know. I honestly don't mind giving it away, but my uncle had warned me not to give it to others." The young man scratched his head and said uneasily. He appeared very flustered and helpless. "My uncle also said that if there was anything, I could come to the chief supervisor because you would protect me."

The chief supervisor was someone who kept old friendships in mind.

"Let's call it a day. Qing Yue is Princess's maid. Do your job as usual in the future. I'll place some people in the kitchen," said the chief supervisor.

"Thank you, Sir. Many thanks! Fortunately, you're here. Otherwise, I didn't know who could help me out. I never imagined it was Her Highness... She worked for Her Highness... Sir... I..." The young man was grateful and panicky.

Anyone who offended Princess Chen would panic.

But when he added a few words at this time, coupled with what he had said before, the chief supervisor might think of something else.

Except for him, only Princess Chen in this mansion possessed such marvelous abilities and could mobilize the servants in the kitchen. Since the chief supervisor didn't give the order, Princess Chen must be behind this conflict.

The chief supervisor looked back at the brocade box and seemed lost in thought.

The young man didn't dare to interrupt, so he just quietly stayed by his side.

Before long, Qing Yue arrived here after a servant. After entering the door, she bowed to the chief supervisor and said, "Greetings, Sir. I'm Qing Yue."

"Qing Yue?" The chief supervisor looked Qing Yue up and down. He was unfamiliar with Princess Chen's servant girls in the inner court, and Qing Yue rarely went out of the inner court.

"Yes, I'm Qing Yue." Qing Yue answered, carrying herself with ease and natural poise.

The chief supervisor pointed at the young man who delivered the cooking ingredients and asked, "Have you seen him before?"

Qing Yue turned around to look at him and nodded. "I met him before. He delivers the food to the big kitchen. To my surprise, he sent us defective goods and quarreled with the kitchen staff. Seeing that he was arrogant and aggressive, I asked some people to throw out the things he had brought in and asked him to return with fresh vegetables and meat. Otherwise, he will not be allowed to send food for the mansion in the future."

"His Highness agreed to him to deliver the food for our mansion. Do you know that?" the chief supervisor asked unhappily.

"I don't know. I only know that his goods were bad. I couldn't let masters in our mansion have these rotten dishes that would damage their health!" Qing Yue answered in a very matter-of-fact way.

Somehow, her calm and disapproving attitude irritated the chief supervisor. He pounded the table heavily and snapped, "You're merely a humble servant girl. How could you stick your nose in your master's business? Guards, take her away and flog her ten times before sending her back to the inner court!"

"Sir, Her Highness also knows about it." When two servants came over to pull her away, Qing Yue said anxiously in a hurry.

"It's really Her Highness." The young man who delivered the food looked frightened.

"When His Highness is away, even Her Highness will have to discuss it with me before making the decision. You are just a low servant girl, but you intervened in the affairs of our mansion at will with Her Highness's power. How dare you?" The chief supervisor scolded with growing anger.

The two servants came at Qing Yue from both sides, dragging her out.

Qing Yue shouted anxiously, "Sir, I am the servant girl of Her Highness. Only Her Highness has the right to punish me. You're just a supervisor of the outer court and can't reach the affairs of the inner court..."

In the end, her voice stopped abruptly — she should have been gagged.

"Sir, this... this matter is related to Her Princess. Why don't we... give this box to Her Highness!" In a great rush, the young man knelt and pleaded.

It was going to be a big deal! The young man complained bitterly before the chief supervisor in a fit of pique. However, as a servant responsible for food delivery, he lost the courage to foment trouble further.

Her Highness, instead of others, was involved. He was just a servant who came here to deliver food, so he would have to weigh his words while watching others' expressions. How dare he confront Her Highness?

"Does Her Highness want this box?" The chief supervisor's eyes darkened, and there was a hint of fierceness in his eyes. Unlike other ordinary supervisors, he had an imposing manner because he had been the general steward in the Palace.

"I... I don't know. Maybe it's not Her Highness. Perhaps, she asked for it for other elders. Or possibly, Her Highness..." The young man who delivered the dishes stammered and looked at the chief supervisor with a pleading look. "Sir, please just give the box to Her Highness. Please!"



He seemed scared out of her wits and didn't dare to make trouble anymore.

The chief supervisor sneered in his heart. "This kid is good at acting. His performance would have been more believable if he had not mentioned Her Highness frequently but talked more about Her Highness's elders.

"He would have taken me by surprise if I hadn't discussed it with Her Highness in advance.

"I'm too old indeed. After living a peaceful life in Prince Chen's Mansion for so many years, I've lost my vigilance and nearly fell into a trap.

"He talked about not only Her Highness but also Rui'an Great Elder Princess. Since the box looks so old and worn out, it sounds more authentic if it is related to Her Highness's elders other than Her Highness. Among these elders, only Rui'an Great Elder Princess has the closest relationship with the Palace.

"They set up a chain of tricks that starts with the smallest thing. Each scheme leading me by the nose will lure me into investigating it further until I fall into their trap."

The chief supervisor's eyes fell on the brocade box, which looked more and more similar to the one in his memory...

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#### **Chapter 1053: Almost the Same Time**

In his memory, the brocade box was forbidden to be seen by others!

The chief supervisor felt his heartbeat quicken, his panic-stricken eyes falling on a minor breach in its corner. Abruptly, he froze, and his eyes widened.

He recognized it — it was the brocade box that the former empress had lost.

Sure enough, it was that brocade box.

His previous master's warning seemed to be still ringing in his ears. When she couldn't find the box, she told him something important.

"Don't open that brocade box. Even if you get it, don't try to open it. Otherwise, you will die if the Emperor knows it."

After the brocade box disappeared from her place, the former empress called him over and carefully warned him about the danger with a pale face. Even if he saw the box in the future, he should pretend that he didn't see it and never open it because the Emperor back then didn't want anyone to know what was inside.

If someone was found to have opened it without authorization, he was done for!

Sweat was beginning to break out on his forehead. The chief supervisor had never expected them to target him. If Princess Chen hadn't reminded him in advance, he wouldn't have recalled such an old story and might have already opened the brocade box!

Everything that had happened before was an illusion, and what was happening now was real!

It was sent to him but might also be given to Princess Chen, who knew nothing about the past. So, she would open it upon receiving it and get implicated. His back was soaked in a cold sweat as he thought of this possibility. The small box almost put the whole Prince Chen's Mansion in danger...

"Sir, the imperial guards are here!" A servant ran in, followed by several imperial guards. As the Emperor's personal guards, they wouldn't even obey the Empress's command.

As soon as their head in shining silver armor entered the room, his sharp eyes landed on the brocade box on the table. With a wave of his hand, several imperial guards immediately surrounded the chief supervisor.

The chief supervisor composed himself, stood up hurriedly, and asked with a smile, "Why have you called upon us, Your Excellency?"

"Where did this brocade box come from?" The head of the imperial guards pointed at the brocade box and asked.

"From him." The chief supervisor answered, pointing at the young man who delivered the food. However, he didn't elaborate on the details.

"Have you opened it?" With a faint murderous look, the head of the imperial guards looked gloomily at the chief supervisor, his hand on the sheath of the sword on him.

"No. I felt strange when this man handed in the brocade box. Since it looks like an item from the Palace, I don't dare to open it casually," The chief supervisor said calmly, with serious doubts in his calm eyes.

Once again, the guard leader looked the chief supervisor up and down but found nothing unusual. It seemed that he did have a suspicious brocade box, so he was not in a hurry to open it. He was cautious.

The chief supervisor of Princess Chen had worked as the general steward for the former empress. Indeed, his cautious manner was far more appropriate than ordinary people's. No wonder he could earn his current position in the Prince Chen's Mansion.

The guard leader turned to look at the young delivery man. "Did you bring this brocade box over?"

"Yes... It was from me..." The young man who delivered the ingredients stammered because he had a bad feeling about this.

"Where did you get it?" asked the guard leader coldly.

"Um... It was passed down from my ancestor. He... was a humble... a humble eunuch serving the former empress by her side!" The young man who delivered the cooking materials took a step back in a panic, looked around, and fixed his eyes on the chief supervisor with a pleading look.

"Why haven't you opened the item from your ancestor?" The guard leader asked again as if he didn't see the panic in the man's eyes.

"No... no. My ancestor's order... He didn't allow the descendants to see..." Seeing that the chief supervisor stood aside in silence, the young delivery man got too panicked to finish his words.

"Your ancestor's order? Guards, take him away!" The guard leader waved his hand.

Immediately, two imperial guards approached the young delivery man's two sides and pulled him away.

"Your Excellency..." The young man fell into a sudden flutter and pleaded for mercy. He seemed totally in the dark. "Why did such a thing happen? The man promised to give me a rich reward after I did what he said. But what's going on now?"

The two guards slapped him from his right and left sides. Blood flowed out from the corners of his mouth. He almost blacked out and couldn't say anything more.

Then he was dragged out in a daze like a dead dog.

The courtyard quieted down. The guard leader took a few steps forward and got the brocade box in his hand. After checking it carefully for a while, he looked relaxed. It could be seen that no one had opened it for more than ten years.

"I'm sorry, Sir. I came in a hurry and disturbed you. His Majesty heard the leftover evils of the previous dynasty schemed to harm Princess Chen when Prince Chen was away, so he specially asked me to come here. If I bothered you, I sincerely hope you would excuse me."

The guard leader put on a polite smile.

"Your Excellency, you shouldn't have. The remnant evil elements of the previous dynasty should be captured. Since His Highness isn't around, a few of us are responsible for Her Highness's safety. If anything bad happens to her, we won't be able to absolve ourselves from the blame. Our mansion's security measures are indeed not good enough. Since you're here, please check around the mansion as well."

The chief supervisor said with a smile, stepping aside to invite them in. He made this concession to gain some advantages.

It would not be easy to find out who did this to the Prince Chen's Mansion. Originally, he thought it was the person who delivered the food, but now the young man seemed to be merely a pawn that had already been discarded. If the chief supervisor wanted to prove their innocence, asking these guards to do an overall inspection of the mansion would be the best way.

"His Highness is not at home, and now there is only Her Highness. So, it's inconvenient for us to investigate." The guard leader hesitated.

If it were another prince's mansion, he might scout the mansion. But this place was the Prince Chen's Mansion. Everybody knew the Emperor liked Prince Chen best. Once Prince Chen learned about this when he returned, he would never let him off.

"Your Excellency, since you've come, we'll have to trouble you to investigate. We will not be at ease if you don't do that," said the chief supervisor earnestly.

"Well..."

"Your Excellency, please check it out. We could get prepared if you find out who is plotting against our mansion. When His Highness is away, only Her Highness stays in the mansion. It's indeed not safe for her," the chief supervisor urged him to take action.

The guard leader was tempted by his repeated pleas.

"It would indeed be best if we could check it out."

"Then..." The guard leader was about to agree, but another imperial guard tugged at his sleeve.

The leader immediately came to his senses. Hurriedly, he waved his hand and refused it. "Since it has nothing to do with Prince Chen's Mansion, then forget it. Arrange people in your mansion well to protect Princess Chen, and don't let anything happen to her!"

The so-called dregs of the previous dynasty were just an excuse for them to get this brocade box. Someone reported that they had seen a person take Princess Chen the brocade box that the previous empress had lost more than ten years ago.

The Emperor got furious and sent some guards here. Moreover, he had told the guard leader to kill anyone who had seen what was inside the box. If it were Princess Chen, they should bring her under control and wait for the new order from the Emperor.

If they searched this mansion now, they would suffer when Prince Chen was back.

Prince Chen, though he appeared vulnerable, was wicked and merciless. Imperial guards had suffered a lot because of him. As they entered the Prince Chen's Mansion just now, several of them couldn't help thinking it was lucky that Prince Chen was not there. Otherwise, all of them who rushed into his mansion would come to no good end.

They had completed their job, and no one had ever opened this brocade box, which meant they wouldn't come into conflict with anyone from the Prince Chen's Mansion. That was the best result, so how could they investigate further to cause trouble?

Nothing serious happened, which was the best result for them.

The imperial-guard leader left with the brocade box.

The chief supervisor walked them to the gate. Only then did he find out that except for the few imperial guards who entered the mansion, a group of guards with fierce eyes was standing by outside. Ordinary guards could not compare with them.

The imperial guards went back to report. The chief supervisor at the gate watched them leave with a big smile. But when they were out of his sight, his face changed drastically, and he hurried to the inner court.

A servant was sent to run and report the arrival of the imperial guards to Shao Wanru, and the chief supervisor headed there after him.

He had approved of Shao Wanru. At such a critical time, he would certainly have to discuss the urgent matter with Shao Wanru. Only masters in this mansion had the right to decide on such a thing.

Even though he used to be the general steward in the Palace, he didn't dare to take the risk and decide all by himself. The leader of the imperial guards came in with a murderous look, which showed that it must be the Emperor who gave them the order.

They left in peace only because the brocade box hadn't been opened. When the chief supervisor suddenly realized he had been so close to death, he felt a chill in his heart and was still in a cold sweat.

Shao Wanru first got the news from a servant and was very surprised by the incident related to the brocade box.

She had guessed that some people had been secretly plotting against the Prince Chen's Mansion. Since starting on significant matters was difficult, they might play some little tricks. To her great surprise, this small brocade box seemed important and was related to the Emperor, which frightened her.

Initially, she thought that these things would be exposed one by one, but she did not expect that things would change so quickly. Fortunately, the chief steward was cautious. Otherwise, bad things might have happened at this time.

The chief supervisor came quickly. Hardly when the servant finished telling the whole story in detail, the chief supervisor came over and asked someone to tell Shao Wanru that he had arrived. Then, he waited near the corridor.

It didn't take long for Shao Wanru to invite him in. She had asked all the other maids to withdraw, leaving only Yujie and Qu Le, her two trusted subordinates.

Looking at the chief supervisor's pallid face, Shao Wanru slightly knitted her willowy eyebrows. Without beating around the bush, she asked directly, "Sir, do you know that someone intended to kill us?"

### Medical Princess

#### **Chapter 1054: Withhold the Terrible News, Princess Chen Was in Trouble or Not**

"Your Highness, there is indeed someone who wants to get us in trouble. If any of us had opened the box rashly, it would have inevitably brought disaster to us." The chief supervisor lowered his head, and a trace of imperceptible panic flashed in his eyes.

He had once been the former empress's general steward, yet the matter of the brocade box still frightened him.

Shao Wanru had been paying attention to him. When she caught the panic in his eyes, her heart skipped a beat, and she asked slowly, "Even His Highness couldn't save us?"

"If His Highness were here, he might save you, but now he is not..." The chief supervisor said implicitly, without mentioning himself at all. Of course, he meant that Chu Liuchen couldn't save him even when Chu Liuchen was in the mansion and wanted to do it.

In the current situation, even Shao Wanru was in danger.

Shao Wanru took a deep breath. Before this, she had planned to inquire about the brocade box, but now she decidedly gave up the idea because anything related to the brocade box might be hazardous.

"What do you think will happen next?" Leaving behind the matter about the brocade box, Shao Wanru started to talk about other things.

The chief supervisor felt relieved. Though Princess Chen was intelligent, she was young. He was afraid that she would pursue the matter out of curiosity.

He knew something, but there were many things that he was not familiar with. But whether he understood it or not, it was wrong for Princess Chen to inquire about it at this time. If someone with evil intentions heard it, no one knew what kind of sensational rumors would come out.

It was indeed best not to ask about it at this time, and it was also the best method to avoid arousing suspicion.

“Your Highness, please rest assured. At least we can live in peace for some time!” said the chief supervisor. Such an issue had attracted the Emperor’s attention. Although the imperial guards didn’t come in to search the mansion, their visit had shown others that the Emperor’s imperial guards were keeping a close watch on the Prince Chen’s Mansion.

If any foolish fellow dared to offend the Prince Chen’s Mansion at this time, the Emperor would notice it.

“The delivery man should be an abandoned accessory. No matter how deeply we probe into his past, we can’t find anything. The first one sent to deliver the food was a nephew of the eunuch in the Palace. The eunuch was loyal to the former empress and died for her. This brocade box should have nothing to do with him. At most, it might have some connections with his nephew. Your Highness, I think it’s better to send someone to investigate him,” the chief supervisor continued.

He had pretended he didn’t know about the inside story because he needed to show others that he had no idea what was going on and that the dispute was simply about the food delivery. With the appearance of the brocade box, he should send someone to ask about it as the young man’s employer.

“Thank you for your help, Sir. You can deal with the matter about the food delivery in the usual ways!” Shao Wanru nodded and didn’t ask about his specific methods. It was the outer court’s business. Since the chief supervisor had decided to handle it normally, he certainly had a set of procedures.

Shao Wanru might mismanage the affair if she intervened rashly without the necessary information.

“Don’t worry, Your Highness. I’ll take care of it!” The chief supervisor nodded. It was indeed the most appropriate thing to do at this time. By doing so, they could confuse their enemies.

“I won’t go out in the near future and will inform my grandma about this. If anyone invites me, please turn down the invitation and say I’m sick!” Shao Wanru thought for a moment and said.

“You mean...” The chief supervisor didn’t understand her arrangements at first. After he thought it over, his eyes lit up, and he looked at his young master with great admiration. Shao Wanru was impressive in his eyes because she could stay so calm and unhurried at such a young age. “Everything in our manor remains unchanged except that you are not feeling very well. Am I right?”

“I just feel a little uncomfortable, so you don’t need to disturb any imperial physician, let alone call for a doctor outside,” Shao Wanru added softly with a smile when she knew that he understood what she implied.

“Yes, I see.” The chief supervisor, completely convinced by Shao Wanru, nodded repeatedly.

Shao Wanru said meaningfully, "Our life in the mansion continues as usual, and let's do nothing special. Even if we have to do something, it should be a minor matter. Let's see which side can no longer stay calm first."

This matter had come to an end for the time being. From now on, anything that happened outside the Prince Chen's Mansion would have nothing to do with her. Shao Wanru just needed to wait for Chu Liuchen's return.

With some efforts, Shao Wanru and the chief supervisor calmed down the people in the Prince Chen's Mansion and subsided this tumult. People in the mansion only knew that the young man who delivered the food was imperious. He offended the master after helping his uncle deliver the cooking ingredients for two days. Since then, he was not allowed to do the job, and another person replaced him. It was said that this person was also the nephew of the man who had sent the food before. The first delivery man was indeed sick.

The servants in the mansion also heard that the imperial guards came to investigate the matter of the surviving evils of the previous dynasty, but they didn't take it seriously. In their minds, these guards just came to ask some questions and left. They even took away the young man lying all the time who delivered the food for their mansion, which saved the Prince Chen's Mansion a lot of trouble.

Anyway, the whole Prince Chen's Mansion was peaceful and in perfect order.

Nothing was wrong with the Prince Chen's Mansion, but hidden currents surged in the capital city. Many people were worried in the dark. It seemed to be a simple thing, but a lot of people tried to meddle in the affair.

In a deserted Zen room of the Yuyun Temple, Master Jieyan, the Yuyun Temple's abbot, was sitting in a chair by the side window with his palms together devoutly. He did not look well.

Prince Cheng looked even worse. He slammed his hand on the table so violently that several cups on it jumped up. "How could this be? Didn't you say that we must succeed this time? And as long as the brocade box was opened in the Prince Chen's Mansion, Princess Chen would be severely punished. But what was all this about?"

How could he not be pissed off? It was not easy for him to get this brocade box back then. He had kept it carefully for so many years because he wanted to use it at the right time. But this time, it didn't work. One of the precious cards in his hand had been wasted.

Slowly, Master Jieyan opened his eyes and said, "Your Highness, have you checked it out? Nothing happened to Princess Chen?"

"Yes. It was said that the chief supervisor of the Prince Chen's Mansion appeared in public and looked fine. He even went to find the person who delivered the food to their mansion. He has been like this for so many years. How could he not be fine?" Prince Cheng said in a bad mood.

He didn't have many such cards in his hand, but now the box was wasted. He got nothing back from it. The more Prince Cheng thought about it, the angrier he felt.

"The chief supervisor of the Prince Chen's Mansion is fine, but it doesn't mean that Princess Chen is also okay." Master Jieyan didn't believe their plot was useless and reminded Prince Cheng, "Your Highness,

perhaps, we can consider it from another point of view? The chief supervisor is fine because he didn't open the brocade box. However, the box has been sent to Princess Chen. No matter how smart Princess Chen is, she is young."

"You mean something has happened to her?" Prince Cheng's eyes lit up, and the anger drained from his face.

"Do you think Princess Chen may be in big trouble now? But they can't let others know about it. If it's related to the Emperor in the Palace, the chief supervisor of the Prince Chen's Mansion doesn't dare to show any feeling toward it. Since he had served in the Palace for so long and had become the former Empress's general steward, he must be sensible enough to stay calm."

Master Jieyan analyzed after thinking for a while.

Hearing this, Prince Cheng nodded repeatedly and said, "There is some truth in what you said. This wily old fox doesn't dare to disobey His Majesty's order and has pretended to live a normal life. If this is the case, I'm afraid that something has happened to Princess Chen. But this is only our speculation that may not be true!"

Prince Cheng's last sentence brought them back to where they started. He didn't think Princess Chen could avoid the disaster, but the Prince Chen's Mansion remained quiet and peaceful as if nothing had happened, which greatly worried him.

"Your Highness, you'd better not take action rashly for now. I'm afraid His Majesty has already kept an eye on the Prince Chen's Mansion. Whether Princess Chen is in trouble or not, the imperial guards have already taken action. If you want to find out the truth about her, I'm afraid you will attract His Majesty's attention."

Master Jieyan shook his head, thinking it was not the right time to investigate.

"I see. But what if someone whom Princess Chen is obliged to see visits her?" Prince Cheng knocked on the table and said slowly.

"You'd better not act on impulse at this time. You have waited so many years, so why are you in such a hurry? Anyway, you are not the only one who is anxious, and this incident has nothing to do with you. So, it's not worthwhile for you to arouse suspicion. If the Emperor distrusts you, it will be a big deal!"

There was a hidden meaning in Master Jieyan's words.

Once the Emperor found out Prince Cheng engaged in conspiratorial activities, he would immediately inflict punishment on him without showing the mercy he might give to other princes.

"Okay. Then let's wait a little longer and focus on the Prince Zhou's Mansion."

Prince Cheng managed to send the box to the Empress, so the person directly related to this matter should have something to do with the Prince Zhou's Mansion.

"Your Highness, it's best for you to think so!" Jieyan breathed a sigh of relief. He feared Prince Cheng would refuse to listen to his advice and proceed imprudently.



In the Prince Zhou's Mansion, Chu Liuzhou was smashing cups, also in anger. In addition to him, there was only one person in the study: Ji Lingzhen, Chu Liuzhou's biological uncle and the second elder brother of the Empress.

"Your Highness, the Empress asked you not to let others see anything unusual and do what you should do as normal. Don't stay too close to the Prince Chen's Mansion." Ji Lingzhen advised him. He was not the eldest, so he didn't inherit the title of nobility. Usually, he was doing his job with little work and didn't look like a person capable of outstanding achievements in daily life. Yet, he always gave Prince Zhou advice and suggestions from behind the scenes.

"Second Uncle, didn't you say that this matter would inevitably cause great chaos? Why is nothing serious happening now?" Ill-tempered Chu Liuzhou felt increasingly aggrieved at this time. Like a stone dropped into the sea, their conspiracy drew little response, even though his mother had considered it a powerful weapon.

The battle of scheming brought him much less gratification than the real fights on the battlefield.

They wanted Princess Chen to disappear from the Prince Chen's Mansion. It would be best to take her away or kill her. After such a big event that was supposed to be sensational occurred, nothing happened to the Prince Chen's Mansion. Their plot sounded like a joke.

"No, I have to find someone to inquire about it. I can't just wait and do nothing." Chu Liuzhou stood up and called someone outside, "Anyone!"

A young male servant came in from the door. After saluting, he said respectfully, "Your Highness, I'm here!"

### Medical Princess

#### **Chapter 1055: Complicated, Who Did It?**

"Your Highness, please wait." Ji Lingzhen, seeing that he might worsen the situation, hurriedly stood up to stop him. "Your Highness, do you forget what the Empress said?"

As Chu Liuzhou thought of the words of the Empress, he cooled down from an agitated state and waved his hand helplessly. "Leave!"

"Yes!" The servant quickly withdrew.

"What should we do now? Mother told me to wait without doing anything. But nothing will happen to them if we go on waiting like this! And Chu Liuchen is on his way back to the capital city." Chu Liuzhou said, swinging his sleeves very impatiently.

"Your Highness, don't worry. I think you should be even sober at this time. Don't let others notice that you and Her Majesty got involved too." Although Ji Lingzhen was Chu Liuzhou's uncle, he didn't dare to demonstrate his authority as an elder before Chu Liuzhou, so he could only persuade him softly.

"Mother asked me to wait, wait, and wait. I have to wait even in an emergency like this. If we keep waiting, Chu Liuyue will make greater development. Even Chu Liuchen, the invalid, may become more valuable than me." Chu Liuzhou was filled with anger. After waiting for so many years, he felt he couldn't wait any longer.

He was the legitimate son. Why couldn't he become the crown prince?

His mother was the Empress, and he was her only son. In any case, he should be appointed as the crown prince because he was the legitimate son. Compared with him, Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuchen were nothing. However, his father had been partial. The Emperor had made Chu Liuyue powerful enough to compete with him. Recently, he seemed to have also offered the sick man a chance.

"Your Highness, calm down. Don't you think Prince Yue should be anxious instead of you? He sent that man to the Prince Chen's Mansion." Ji Lingzhen comforted the irritable Chu Liuzhou with a smile.

Prince Yue arranged for the delivery man to bring food to the Prince Chen's Mansion. The Empress accidentally got the brocade box, and Prince Yue's servant sent it to the mansion. Therefore, Prince Yue should be responsible when anything went wrong. Ji Lingzhen felt Prince Zhou didn't have to be so anxious at all. At present, the most nervous person should be Prince Yue.

The Empress asked someone to drop this brocade box, and Consort of Virtue's servant got it. As they had expected, Consort of Virtue and Prince Yue took action. Chu Liuzhou's people just added fuel to the fire on the side. The one who really failed should be Prince Yue.

These words reminded Chu Liuzhou, who no longer looked that furious. After thinking for a while, he laughed and said, "Chu Liuyue has every intention of harming the Prince Chen's Mansion, but he unexpectedly got nothing. It is gratifying to see this result."

Seeing that Prince Zhou suddenly turned happy, Ji Lingzhen smiled bitterly, feeling a little bit lost for words.

"Second Uncle, didn't he succeed?" After laughing for a while, Chu Liuzhou suddenly stopped and asked a new question.

"The Empress said that he might have failed!" Ji Lingzhen said vaguely.

"So the result hasn't been verified? Why didn't you figure it out?" Chu Liuzhou waved his sleeves discontentedly and asked.

"We can't investigate the Prince Chen's Mansion casually. The Emperor's imperial guards are watching it," Ji Lingzhen said. For fear that Chu Liuzhou would send his people there on impulse and attract the Emperor's attention, he reminded him again. "Your Highness, don't act rashly at this time."

"Are you sure Princess Chen is all right?" Chu Liuzhou was concerned about something else.

"Uh... I really don't know. The Empress only heard that she was ill," Ji Lingzhen replied.

Now, no one dared to interfere in the affairs of the Prince Chen's Mansion. All the information they knew was heard inadvertently. No one, not even the Empress, dared to inquire about it on purpose. They didn't even dare to mention Princess Chen before the Emperor so as not to draw his attention.

"How is it going with Chu Liuyue?" Chu Liuzhou calmed down and asked.

"They stay quiet as well. Nothing has happened," Ji Lingzhen said.

“Oh, he is quite composed. He sent his people to set up such a trap but eventually got nothing. Yet, he can keep calm. He is indeed the most insidious among the few brothers.” Chu Liuzhou sneered and said sarcastically.

“Your Highness, Prince Yue, who took action directly, can keep a cool head, so why do you have to respond with anger? You shouldn’t step out to find out if anything happened to Princess Chen or if this plot has failed. It is because Prince Yue will be anxious about these problems. This time, you can wait aside and watch them. Anyway, this matter can’t be traced up to you.”

Ji Lingzhen knew Prince Zhou well, so he specially said something Prince Zhou cared about. Hearing this, Chu Liuzhou nodded repeatedly.

“You are right. I see. I won’t investigate this matter at will. I will listen to my mother and you. Let’s wait and see!” Chu Liuzhou said with a smile. He was satisfied with what he heard and readily followed Ji Lingzhen’s suggestion.

The Prince Yue’s Mansion looked peaceful on the surface, but Chu Liuyue, staying in his study, couldn’t calm down.

Not only his advisor Mr. Liu but also Wen Xichi was in his study.

Sitting in the corner, Wen Xichi watched the pattern on a fan in his hand. It was an authentic piece of work done by a gifted scholar from the previous dynasty whom he appreciated. He nodded as he looked at it. It seemed that he had focused his attention only on this work of art. Chu Liuyue used it as an excuse to invite him here on purpose.

But he had been listening attentively to the conversation between Chu Liuyue and Mr. Liu.

“Mr. Liu, it didn’t work?” Chu Liuyue asked uneasily.

“It seems so. Your Highness, you’d better be prepared for failure,” Mr. Liu said implicitly. Given the current situation, his counselors couldn’t help trying to persuade their master. At this time, whoever stepped out would come to no good end.

“How could it be? How could we fail? My mother said...” Speaking of this, Chu Liuyue immediately realized that he had made an indiscreet remark. Hurriedly, he stopped talking, coughed hard, and said with a relaxed face, “Mr. Liu, what should we do now? Please enlighten me!”

After that, he stood up and bowed respectfully to Mr. Liu.

Mr. Liu hurriedly rose to his feet and stepped aside to show that he wouldn’t dare to accept his master’s special salute.

“Your Highness, you don’t have to be so polite. We’ll have to give the matter further thought and discussion,” said Mr. Liu.

The two of them sat down again.

“What do you think we should do now?” Chu Liuyue asked respectfully again.

"Your Highness, you don't have to do anything now. Just wait and see. I heard that Princess Chen caught a chill in the mansion. I don't know if it's true or not. Her illness sounds not serious, and she hasn't invited any imperial physician. For the time being, we can't find out what is happening." Mr. Liu analyzed logically, "At present, it's better to inquire about it, but I'm afraid that the Emperor will find out something."

Mr. Liu was actually a little anxious. This plot was his idea, but it didn't work at the moment. What was worse, he had no idea of the actual situation.

"Yuanqing, what do you think?" After thinking it over, Chu Liuyue suddenly turned to Wen Xichi, who seemed to be focusing on the fan.

Hearing Chu Liuyue's question, Wen Xichi raised his head and glanced at Mr. Liu, who looked a little anxious. "Your Highness, I think it needs further consideration."

He didn't pretend that he didn't hear them and just said lightly to play along with their ideas.

"Yuanqing, do you think we should take the initiative to check on Princess Chen?" Chu Liuyue questioned closely with his burning eyes on Wen Xichi's face.

Wen Xichi didn't seem to notice the tentative look in Chu Liuyue's eyes. After thinking for a while, he said, "It's inconvenient for you to visit the Prince Chen's Mansion, but you can go to the Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion to get some information."

His words reminded Chu Liuyue, who nodded repeatedly and said, "You're right. I should go to see my great-aunt. At this time in the past, I would pay a visit to her."

Among the princes, although Chu Liuyue looked indifferent, he had always been nice to the elders of the royal family, and the Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion was one of the places he paid special attention to.

According to Consort of Virtue's instruction, he often called at the Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion when he was little. After Shao Yanru moved there, he went there more frequently.

Chu Liuzhou followed him to the Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion. When Shao Yanru lived there, Chu Liuzhou was a frequent visitor. But he seldom dropped by when Shao Yanru returned to the Duke Xing's Mansion. However, Chu Liuyue still went to see Rui'an Great Elder Princess regularly.

For this reason, the Emperor often praised him in front of Consort of Virtue, saying that he was a man who respected elders.

It was indeed time to visit Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

After figuring this out, Chu Liuyue asked Wen Xichi and Mr. Liu to go back first, and he left for the Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion with gifts.

His carriage arrived at the Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion. As the gatekeeper saw that it was Prince Yue's carriage, he asked someone to report his coming while unlocking the door and inviting Prince Yue in.

In the past, Prince Yue came here often, so the gatekeeper could recognize his carriage.

Prince Yue's carriage followed the twists and turns of the road in the mansion and stopped at the parking lot inside. Chu Liuyue got out of the carriage and saw two good-looking servant girls waiting for him ahead.

Seeing him coming down, they hurriedly stepped forward and bowed. "Greetings, Your Highness!"

"Please get up!" Chu Liuyue waved his hand amiably and asked, "Is my great-aunt well? The weather has been bad recently, so I bring some tonics here."

"Thank you, Your Highness. Our master knows that you are here and has been waiting for you. She has been very well lately. Thank you for being so concerned!"

One maid answered smartly, while the other added a few words with a smile.

Chu Liuyue nodded and followed the servant girls inside. When he came to the Rui'an Great Elder Princess, he stepped forward and bowed with a bright smile. "Nice to see you, great-aunt!"

"That's so nice of you. Please sit down!" Rui'an Great Elder Princess smiled and said.

Chu Liuyue no longer stood on ceremony and settled back in his seat. When the servant girl brought him the tea, he picked up the teacup and took a sip before saying, "How is your old trouble?"

Rui'an Great Elder Princess seemed to be healthy, but she was not in perfect condition and was vulnerable to a few minor ailments, especially during this period.

"Thank you for your concern. I feel fine!" Rui'an Great Elder Princess said.

After asking a few more questions with concern, Chu Liuyue got to the point. "Where is my cousin? Shouldn't he be with you at this time like in the past?"

Chu Liuyue had thought it through. Compared to Rui'an Great Elder Princess, Shao Yuanhao was the key for him to make a breakthrough.

"Hao'er has been sick. It gives me a headache." Rui'an Great Elder Princess sighed and said helplessly.

"Is he sick? Is it serious? I happen to have an imperial physician with me right now. I can send him to see Hao'er!" Chu Liuyue stood up with concern.

### [Medical Princess](#)

#### **Chapter 1056: Confirming the Information**

Rui'an Great Elder Princess cast a glance at Chu Liuyue with a faint thoughtful look in her eyes and said, "He has taken the medicine. At this time, he should have fallen asleep!"

"Since he is asleep, I'll see him next time!" Chu Liuyue said with a smile, "My cousin is now the heir of a duke of the Marquis Xing's Mansion. Your wish came true."

"From the beginning, everything belongs to him." Rui'an Great Elder Princess said, her face turning cold.

"In any case, everything should be his, but will Marquis Xing be willing to accept this result? You'd better be careful!" Chu Liuyue said with concern.

After a brief pause, Chu Liuyue continued, "By the way, the First Young Master of the Marquis Xing's Mansion collided with Infanta Yuan'an's carriage. Do you know that?"

"What's the matter?" Rui'an Great Elder Princess frowned and didn't understand what Chu Liuyue meant by mentioning this.

This matter had caused a sensation, so Great Elder Princess had certainly heard of it.

"Actually, that thing..." Chu Liuyue hesitated and looked at the people around Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess coughed in a low voice and said, "Don't worry. They are my trusted subordinates. Say anything you like here!"

"When Shao Hua'an bumped into Infanta Yuan'an's carriage, he was fine. It was Yuan'an who ordered her people to hit him!" Chu Liuyue lowered his voice.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess opened her eyes wide. "But... why?"

"In the race to the position of the heir of a duke, I've been to the Ruiping Great Elder Princess's Mansion. Speaking of this matter... Aunt Ruiping probably doesn't like Marquis Xing very much!" Chu Liuyue said with a smile.

He made only a veiled reference to the past issues, but the hidden meaning was easy to understand. Chu Liuyue said something to Ruiping Great Elder Princess. Because of this, she loathed Marquis Xing. As a result, after Shao Hua'an accidentally crashed into her carriage, Infanta Yuan'an used it as an excuse and gave him a violent beating.

So, he said all of this to express goodwill toward Rui'an Great Elder Princess. When Infanta Yuan'an was in the Palace, she said it was a sheer accident.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess was slightly stunned but understood quickly. The smile on her face became more genial. She narrowed her eyes and nodded approvingly. "Has Yuan'an recovered from her injury?"

"Her face is wounded. My second brother has sent a miracle-working doctor there. His medical skills are excellent, so there shouldn't be any problem," Chu Liuyue said.

"That's good. I'll ask someone to see her!" Rui'an Great Elder Princess said softly with concern.

Her action was to show Chu Liuyue her gratitude to Infanta Yuan'an and him. Hearing this, Chu Liuyue was overjoyed. If Rui'an Great Elder Princess stood on his side, it would be highly beneficial to him.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess had firmly supported Shao Wanru, her granddaughter, which was enough to make Shao Wanru work for him, not to mention her relationship with the Empress Dowager. Chu Liuchen's actual background had always been mystic. If he placed a pawn beside Chu Liuchen, it would give him many advantages.

"Her injury isn't serious. It doesn't matter whether you go to see her or not. If you visit them often, it will arouse suspicion. Perhaps, the Marquis Xing's Mansion would find something out and talk nonsense to my father," Chu Liuyue said considerately to show his concern for Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

He just mentioned it casually to please Rui'an Great Elder Princess. However, it would not be appropriate if Rui'an Great Elder Princess and Ruiping Great Elder Princess were in close contact. They only needed to reach a tacit understanding.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess thought for a moment and nodded. "I worried too much!"

"I'm afraid that Shao Jing won't leave Cousin Hao's matter at that, will he?" After Rui'an Great Elder Princess received his kindness, Chu Liuyue looked more concerned.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess snorted coldly, and her face fell. "He can do whatever he wants. I am not afraid of him."

"Great-aunt, you certainly don't have to fear him, but what if Shao Jing wants to deal with Princess Chen and Cousin Hao? Now my third brother is not in the mansion. If anything happens in his mansion, I'm afraid that Princess Chen will be too young to handle it!"

Chu Liuyue reminded Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

"Even if Prince Chen is not at home, Shao Jing can't suppress Princess Chen with filial piety because of her high status. Besides, Old Madam of the Marquis Xing's Mansion is not in the mansion." Rui'an Great Elder Princess had been paying attention to the affairs in the Marquis Xing's Mansion, so she knew Old Madam had already packed up and moved to the Yuhui Nunnery.

Old Madam of the Marquis Xing's Mansion might have the right to hold back Princess Chen with filial duties, but it was hardly a justifiable excuse for Shao Jing, Marquis Xing!

"Great-aunt, you are right, but I am just afraid that Shao Jing might play some dirty tricks. I heard His Majesty had sent his imperial guards to the Prince Chen's Mansion. I don't know if it has anything to do with Shao Jing!"

Chu Liuyue came here today to inquire about Shao Wanru's business. Initially, he wanted to ask Shao Yuanhao about it. But since Shao Yuanhao had fallen ill, he could only inquire about something from Rui'an Great Elder Princess in a roundabout way.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess waved her hand and said indifferently, "It was a false alarm. Nothing serious. His Majesty sent his guards to catch the remaining evildoers of the previous dynasty, for they thought that these people might hide in the Prince Chen's Mansion. After asking the chief supervisor some questions, these imperial guards left. They didn't disturb Princess Chen, so this matter was unlikely connected with Shao Jing."

"Shao Wanru is fine? Has my plan failed?"

Chu Liuyue was shocked, but he didn't show it on his face. He still looked concerned and said, "That's good. My third brother is away, and I fear the Marquis Xing's Mansion will make trouble again. Father asked about my third brother the day before yesterday."

"Did His Majesty tell you when Prince Chen would return to the capital city?" Rui'an Great Elder Princess raised her spirits.

"Uh... Please forgive me for not being able to tell you that!" Chu Liuyue said in embarrassment.

The diplomatic mission could also be considered a major military affair, so he certainly couldn't say it. Chu Liuchen was heading back to the capital city. Usually, it was safe on their way back. However, there was no guarantee of his safety. Some people might attempt to hurt Chu Liuchen or the two Xu State princesses going to the capital city with him.

It was easy to cause an accident if Chu Liuchen's schedule was exposed. The best choice was not to ask or tell!

"I've asked too much!" Rui'an Great Elder Princess understood what he meant and apologized slowly.

"Great-aunt, if my third brother enters the capital city, I will inform you immediately." Chu Liuyue stood up and said with a smile, "I have something else to do now. See you then!"

Rui'an Great Elder Princess nodded and said, "Go ahead if you have something to do!"

After bowing to Rui'an Great Elder Princess, Chu Liuyue turned around and strode away.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess frowned slightly. Chu Liuyue came over and talked aimlessly without stopping. There seemed to be no critical or practical issues. What was his purpose?

Zhuozhuo had sent someone to tell her that if anyone came to inquire about her, she should pay special attention to it. However, many people had asked about Zhuozhuo, including several Madams who had some dealings with her in the past. When they met her, they would mention Zhuozhuo and especially the news that the Emperor's imperial guards had once entered the Prince Chen's Mansion.

In addition to these Madams keeping in constant touch with her, Rui'an Great Elder Princess only mentioned her granddaughter to Chu Liuyue.

"Then who is the one plotting against my granddaughter in secret?" Rui'an Great Elder Princess had always thought that Ruiping Great Elder Princess was suspicious, but now she felt Chu Liuyue seemed a little fishy too.

She reflected on all he had said to her but found nothing special because he only said a few words of concern.

"Who could it be?" Rui'an Great Elder Princess was in a dilemma. Anyway, she had to tell her granddaughter about it. Shao Wanru was brilliant and would find some clues from these people...

Chu Liuyue's mind was in tumult, but he managed to remain calm when walking out. "Shao Wanru has nothing to worry about, which means that my plot failed!"

He was a little annoyed and couldn't help pondering over it. "My plan is detailed and perfectly coherent, but the people of Prince Chen's Mansion didn't fall into the trap. Which part went wrong?"

"Needless to say, Shao Wanru might be lucky. However, the chief supervisor of the Prince Chen's Mansion, who was supposed to take this bait, turned up safe and sound!"

"First of all, I should get rid of the chief supervisor of the Prince Chen's Mansion. Then it would be much easier to deal with Shao Wanru. At that time, I could kill her or make her disappear without much effort. The chief supervisor of the Prince Chen's Mansion was the biggest trouble. He had been the general steward of the former empress, so it won't be easy to finish off this sly old fox."



Right after Chu Liuyue got on the carriage, his face fell, and a trace of fierceness flashed across his eyes. There must be a reason for his failure, but he didn't know which part had gone wrong.

His carriage slowly went through the gate of Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion.

"Go to the Number One Scholar Restaurant." As soon as they were out of the gate, Chu Liuyue ordered.

The coachman answered, raised his whip, and drove the carriage to the Number One Scholar Restaurant, Chu Liuyue's favorite place.

Halfway, the carriage stopped there for a moment, and a young eunuch dressed as a servant got out of the carriage. He ran away quickly to invite Wen Xichi, Third Young Master Wen of the Mansion of the Prime Minister.

The Number One Scholar Restaurant was doing well. Those successful candidates hadn't yet been awarded official jobs. From time to time, they would entertain guests here. In addition, many elegant scholars liked this place, so its business was brisk.

When Chu Liuyue got off the carriage, a sharp-eyed shop-boy spotted him and immediately approached to greet him with a smile, "Master, please come in!"

Chu Liuyue had ordered that no shop-boy here was allowed to call him Your Highness, for he was not willing to expose his identity here.

He followed the shop-boy into the Number One Scholar Restaurant. The first floor was almost full. He didn't linger there and went straight to the fourth floor.

A private room on the fourth floor had been reserved especially for him the whole time.

"Who is this man? Didn't they say that there was no private room available?" Someone asked bitterly when seeing the shop-boy lead Chu Liuyue to the private room upstairs with a flattering look.

"He must be a noble child in the capital city. Even if we passed the exam, we can't be compared with them." Another man beside him raised the corner of his mouth and said with sarcasm, feeling unconvinced in his heart.

Some of them passed the exam, while others didn't. When they drank together in the past, they were attracted to each other by common tastes. So they specially gathered here a few more times to have fun.

They asked for a private room, but the shop-boy kept saying there was none. Now that they saw someone else was directly taken to a private box, they were full of righteous indignation.

Yan Xi's eyes followed Chu Liuyue upward. Coincidentally, he was among this group of people...

### [Medical Princess](#)

#### **Chapter 1057: Real or Sham, Who Had the Whip Hand?**

Wen Xichi followed the shop-boy who led the way and walked slowly to the stairs. When he reached the landing, he turned slightly, and his eyes met the eyes of Yan Xi, who was watching him below. They looked at each other and quietly looked away.

Wen Xichi recognized Yan Xi, a party to Wang Shengxue's case.

Yan Xi also knew Wen Xichi, the Number One Scholar of the last exam and a current official of the Ministry of Justice.

Wen Xichi continued going up while Yan Xi lowered his head thoughtfully...

He went up to the fourth floor, pushed open the door of the private room, and saw Chu Liuyue sitting there with a gloomy face, holding a glass of wine. Immediately, he took two steps forward and bowed to him. "Your Highness!"

"Yuanqing, don't stand on ceremony. Please sit down!" Chu Liuyue reached out to press his forehead and said with slightly relaxed eyebrows.

Wen Xichi went straight ahead and gracefully sat on the chair opposite Chu Liuyue. A set of cups was there. The young eunuch dressed as a servant came over and poured a cup of wine for him. Then, the eunuch retreated aside.

"Your Highness, what's the matter?" Instead of raising his cup, Wen Xichi observed Chu Liuyue's expression and asked.

"You and I grew up together and have been friends since we were young. Since you're supporting me wholeheartedly, I won't hide anything from you. Nothing has happened to the Prince Chen's Mansion. Yuanqing, please help me analyze the matter. How could they remain entirely unscathed? Didn't my father find the prohibited item in the Prince Chen's Mansion?"

Chu Liuyue spoke out the doubts in his heart.

The brocade box had a considerable bearing on many significant matters and people. Therefore, even before Wen Xichi, he just dared to mention it vaguely. He only said that he occasionally got a prohibited item related to the previous dynasty.

Chu Liuyue and Mr. Liu decided on this matter, but they did not hide it from Wen Xichi when discussing it in the study.

"Is Princess Chen fine?" Wen Xichi asked calmly.

"Nothing serious. She feels slightly uncomfortable, but it should be a minor physical problem. This is not what I wanted. I thought my father must have taken Princess Chen into custody and intended to put her to death!" Chu Liuyue frowned and said.

Previously, there was no news about Shao Wanru, so he thought his father had locked her up but told the others that she was sick. Then she would be executed. The others would only think she died of illness before Chu Liuchen returned to the capital city. Such a result would be much more reasonable and acceptable than sudden death.

"If there is nothing wrong with Princess Chen and no change in the Prince Chen's Mansion, your plot didn't work," Wen Xichi said lightly, "You'd better not act rashly at the moment. Although Prince Chen is not in the capital city, your plot has drawn the Emperor's attention to the Prince Chen's Mansion. Perhaps, you'd better think more about how you got this so-called prohibited object."

"I got it by chance." Chu Liuyue narrowed his eyes in horror, his pupils dilating. Suddenly, he felt he seemed to have missed something important.

"Are you sure you obtained it accidentally? Someone might deliberately let it end up in your hands. You should figure it out!" Wen Xichi said, "Maybe this is why the whole plan went wrong!"

Chu Liuyue's heart wildly thumped twice, and he asked tentatively, "Do you mean that some people were scheming against me..."

"You should know best if someone is plotting against you!" Wen Xichi said.

Chu Liuyue's face changed. He didn't know what was in the brocade box, either, but he saw his mother's countenance change. Then she warned him not to open it and asked him to send away this troublesome brocade box, saying it was the source of trouble. If the Emperor found out who had it, the person would be doomed.

After Chu Liuyue got this mysterious brocade box, he utilized it to plot against others. Could it be that someone sent this box to him on purpose?

He got this brocade box in the Palace. Back then, he saw a little eunuch running out in panic and happened to run into him. So, Chu Liuyue's servants caught him. However, the little eunuch banged his head and killed himself without saying anything, leaving only this brocade box. Seeing the rust on it, Chu Liuyue was cautious then and didn't open it. After that, he went to visit his mother, Consort of Virtue.

His mother seemed to know something about it, but not the whole thing. When she saw the brocade box, her face was distorted by fear.

If someone in the Palace wanted to plot against her, it was most likely to be the Empress.

He believed that it was just a coincidence. Then he was astonished by Consort of Virtue's ghastly expression, so he didn't have time to think about other possibilities at that moment.

Wen Xichi's remark awakened Chu Liuyue to the reality. Immediately, he realized that he might have fallen into the trap of the Empress and her son.

He was not the only one who wanted Chu Liuchen to marry Princess Yutao of the Xu State. The Empress and her son should have a much stronger desire to make this marriage come true.

He slammed his hand on the table so hard that all the dishes on the table jumped up. Chu Liuyue sprang to his feet, paced up and down twice, and stood still. "I walked into a trap!"

"Your Highness, if the brocade box's appearance were strange, the following changes would be normal!" Wen Xichi said, his eyes cool as if he did not see the anger on Chu Liuyue's face.

"Please teach me, Yuanqing!" Chu Liuyue bowed deeply to Wen Xichi.

Wen Xichi hurriedly stood up and saluted back.

The two of them sat down again.

"If the brocade box is of questionable origin, someone else also intends to plot against the Prince Chen's Mansion. They may enjoy a good show aside or reveal your trick to the Prince Chen's Mansion. Once

Princess Chen knows what happened in her mansion was done by you, the confrontation between you and the Prince Chen's Mansion will begin!" said Wen Xichi in detail.

"Opposing the Prince Chen's Mansion? Going against Chu Liuchen?"

When Chu Liuyue thought of Chu Liuchen, his heart twitched for no reason, and a jealous and resentful look rising like a black mist darkened his eyes. "I am the biological son of my father, but why does my father concern this invalid more than he cares about me?"

"They should be enjoying a good show. It is impossible for them to expose my plot to the Prince Chen's Mansion." Chu Liuyue shook his head and said decisively.

"Since they watch the fun aside, they may do something else in secret. Maybe the people of Prince Chen's Mansion will get some clues. Since you didn't make any mistake, the other secret party must have leaked the news," Wen Xichi said unhurriedly.

Chu Liuyue was shocked, but after thinking carefully, he felt it made sense. He nodded repeatedly and said, "I didn't do anything wrong, and no one has come to investigate me. It seems that there is a third party behind this matter. They wanted to watch me plot against the Prince Chen's Mansion in the dark but didn't expect to be exposed."

It could explain what had happened in the Prince Chen's Mansion.

Chu Liuyue was so pissed off that his face turned livid. He had always thought that he had been plotting everything smartly behind the scene. At this time, he finally learned that in this elaborate plan, he was the one standing right in the forefront of the struggle and had already been spied on in the beginning.

Wen Xichi did not leave with Chu Liuyue but left the private room first.

After going downstairs, he somehow met Yan Xi's gaze again. As they looked at each other, Yan Xi smiled gently at him, silently raising the wine cup in his hand to Wen Xichi.

Wen Xichi went downstairs and walked straight to Yan Xi. After giving him a fist and palm salute, he greeted, "Number Three Scholar Yan?"

"Lord Wen!" Yan Xi was stunned for a moment. Then he put down the wine cup in his hand, stood up, and saluted Wen Xichi with joined hands.

Everyone around Yan Xi was startled. Someone who recognized Wen Xichi whispered to the people around him, "This man is the Number One Scholar of the last exam, the Third Young Master of the Mansion of the Prime Minister."

"Third Young Master Wen!"

"Lord Wen!!" The scholars who came with Yan Xi stood up together to greet Wen Xichi.

Candidates of the imperial exam respected the Number One Scholar the most. Moreover, Wen Xichi was still young. It could be seen how famous he was back then.

Wen Xichi bowed with a smile and said to Yan Xi, "Childe Yan, could you please treat me to a small cup of wine?"

"Making an appointment is not as good as meeting by chance. I should invite you first, Lord Wen, please!" Yan Xi said. He looked around and saw there happened to be an empty table by the window. Then, he hurriedly led Wen Xichi there.

The shop-boy had cleaned up the table quickly. The two of them went over and sat down, and the shop-boy served tea.

"Lord Wen, is it about the previous case?" Yan Xi asked as soon as he took his seat.

"It is indeed about this. I want to ask you something." Wen Xichi said lightly.

"Please go ahead!" Yan Xi looked a little nervous, guessing there might be a follow-up to the previous case. When Wang Shengxue died, this matter came to an end. It was said that Wang Shengxue was the chief plotter. And Ning Caixian, his accomplice, was exiled to a distant land.

At this point, the matter had been ultimately settled, but Yan Xi thought it should not have ended like this.

"Childe Yan, do you think Wang Shengxue's case has anything to do with the Marquis Xing's Mansion?" Wen Xichi asked directly.

Yan Xi's eyes fell on Wen Xichi's face. He tried to compose himself and said carefully, "Does the Ministry of Justice have any other doubts about this case? But the official of the Ministry of Justice said that this matter was settled. It had nothing to do with anyone else except Wang Shengxue!"

That was what the official of the Ministry of Justice said at that time. After saying that, he turned around and left without giving Yan Xi any chance to ask more about it.

"The Ministry of Justice has already closed the case, saying that it was all done by Wang Shengxue, but I feel there are still a few questionable points in the case. Do you think it has anything to do with Princess Chen?" Wen Xichi asked again, locking his sharp eyes on Yan Xi.

"How could it have anything to do with Princess Chen?" Yan Xi's face also darkened, and he looked at Wen Xichi suspiciously.

"So, it has nothing to do with Princess Chen?" Wen Xichi asked again.

"Absolutely not!" Yan Xi answered decisively because he sincerely thought so.

"Then is it related to the Marquis Xing's Mansion?" Wen Xichi's expression softened and he asked with a smile.

"I don't think so!" Yan Xi relaxed, shook his head, and said with a bitter smile, "I had stayed in the Marquis Xing's Mansion for some time, for my elders asked me to live there. During that period, I had been concentrating my effort on studying and only met Marquis Xing a few times. Why would he hurt a junior like me?"

Wen Xichi observed his expression closely. After a long while, he slowly spoke up, "I worried too much, thinking there was something hidden behind Wang Shengxue's case. Since there is nothing, I'm sorry to have disturbed you!"

As he spoke, he stood up and cupped his hands to salute as an apology. While Yan Xi also stood up to return the salute.

"You're so polite!"

Again, Wen Xichi's thoughtful eyes fell on Yanxi's face. He was in a trance for a moment because he seemed to have seen Yan Xi in a dream. Therefore, he couldn't help wondering Yan Xi's relationship with him...

### Medical Princess

#### **Chapter 1058: The Hidden Maid**

"My Lady, Great Elder Princess said that only some elder Madams remaining in contact with her had asked about you. But Ruiping Great Elder Princess and Prince Yue also mentioned you, which surprised her a little. She couldn't tell which one of the old Madams asked it on purpose." An old maid of the Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion reported.

"Prince Yue went there in person?" Shao Wanru was taken aback and put down the maple leaf in her hand. The painting in her hand was about to be finished, and she was putting the finishing touches on it.

"Prince Yue visited our mansion often in the past, so my master said it was nothing." The old maid answered cleverly. Before she came, Rui'an Great Elder Princess had repeatedly told her to report as clearly as possible so as not to mislead Princess Chen.

"Did Ruiping Great Elder Princess also drop by frequently in the past?" Shao Wanru smiled lightly and asked after thinking for a while.

"She seldom came because she is not close to my master. They are on friendly terms with each other merely on the surface. She came to my master's mansion and chatted with her this time. From time to time, she would ask about you. Also, she mentioned that Infanta Yuan'an was in a bad mood and wanted you to soothe her, saying that you were all young people, so it would be more convenient for you two to talk things through!" The old maid said.

"How is Infanta Yuan'an's face?" Shao Wanru asked.

"Infanta Yuan'an seems to be recovering soon, but she appears upset. Ruiping Great Elder Princess didn't tell my master the details about it."

"I see. If anyone inquires about me, tell my grandma to send someone to tell me," Shao Wanru nodded and said.

The old maid of the Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion answered and left.

Qu Le brought a basin of clear water to Shao Wanru. After washing her hands, Shao Wanru walked to the window, looking outside at the sky. It was sunny. Now was a good time to enjoy the scenery.

"Come on, let's take a short walk in the garden." Shao Wanru walked out.

Qu Le and Yujie hurriedly followed her.

The Prince Chen's Mansion occupied a large area. Its garden was exquisitely built. There were waterside pavilions, flowing rivers, and gaily painted pleasure-boats on the water's surface. Everything here exuded the elegant and gorgeous atmosphere of the royal family.

It was reasonable to call this place Southern Palace. Without that small side door, the Prince Chen's Mansion appeared to be a natural part of the Palace.

Standing before a flight of steps, Shao Wanru stopped and looked out leisurely.

It had been a long time since she married into the Prince Chen's Mansion, but she hadn't gotten rid of some knots in her heart. For example, it seemed she had never been to this place, but this spot was clear in her memory.

There were flowers in full bloom before her. Through them, she could see the eave corner of a tall tower. Under the two rows of tall trees were exquisite small pavilions. However, with a chill in her heart, she couldn't take the next step, no matter how hard she tried.

These giant trees helped to create a noble atmosphere belonging only to the royal family around those high imperial buildings and gorgeous steps. All of this looked excessively royal and bloody. Unconsciously, she breathed heavily and felt it difficult even to take one step forward, as if she had gotten stuck in the mire.

"My Lady, what's wrong with you?" Noticing Shao Wanru's strange look, Yujie hurriedly reached out to hold her and asked.

Shao Wanru's delicate small face had an unhealthy pallor, and her lips were equally pale.

"My Lady..." Qu Le also noticed Shao Wanru's unusual act and said anxiously.

Shao Wanru closed her eyes tight and took a deep breath to overcome the waves of nausea in her heart. Finally, she calmed down and shook her head. "I'm fine!"

She stood still on the spot. In the end, she turned around and walked to the pavilion on the side. She wanted to stay away from this spot as far as possible.

"My Lady, are you feeling uncomfortable? Do you need an imperial physician?" Yujie helped her into the pavilion and asked with concern, "I can feel your pulse first!"

"No, I suddenly felt a bit under the weather. I'm okay now." Shao Wanru shook her head and refused.

"My Lady, shall I invite Mingqiu Nun to have a look at your condition?" Yujie blinked and suggested again. Shao Wanru seemed to be in a bad situation, so she couldn't help worrying about her.

"There is no need to bother Mingqiu Nun and disturb her meditation. We have agreed to invite her over in a few days," Shao Wanru said.

The last time she invited Mingqiu Nun here, Mingqiu Nun agreed to come back in a few days. But it was not the right time for Mingqiu Nun to enter the mansion because they might put her in danger.

The Prince Chen's Mansion was in a troubled time, so Shao Wanru was unwilling to get Mingqiu Nun involved.

"My Lady, is it because of the messages sent from the Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion?" Qu Le thought for a moment and felt it was possible. Princess Chen had been fine, but after talking with the maid of Rui'an Great Elder Princess and walking around outside, she unexpectedly felt unwell.

"It's not because of these words." Shao Wanru shook her head again.

"My Lady, do you think the people scheming against you are from the Prince Zhou's Mansion or the Prince Yue's Mansion?" Yujie asked candidly. She had wanted to ask about it before. However, she didn't dare to ask when she saw Shao Wanru's dreadful look.

Those who plotted against Prince Chen must have done it to benefit Prince Zhou or Prince Yue. Prince Xin was too young and vivacious to organize such a secretive plan.

"I think they might work for the Prince Cheng's Mansion. I heard that the brocade box has rust on it, so it was made many years ago. At that time, Prince Yue and Prince Zhou were still young, and only Prince Cheng was an adult at that time!" Qu Le retorted with different ideas.

She thought that Prince Cheng was the most likely mastermind of this plot.

"But only Ruiping Great Elder Princess and Prince Yue acted a little strangely. Infanta Yuan'an will be Princess Zhou, and Prince Yue came to inquire about it in person. None of them looks innocent." Yujie retorted, still feeling that Prince Zhou and Prince Yue were suspicious. "Since the brocade box is locked, it might not be directly relevant to Prince Zhou and Prince Yue. But the Empress and Consort of Virtue must have gone through that past period!"

"But..." Qu Le was unconvinced and wanted to argue, but Shao Wanru waved her hand to stop her.

"How dare you disgrace the Empress and Consort of Virtue?" Shao Wanru reproached, her face set and hard.

"I..." Yujie and Qu Le looked at each other and saw the fear in each other's eyes. They knelt with a plop and said, "We made a slip of the tongue. Please punish us, Your Highness!"

"We're in the Prince Chen's Mansion. His Highness said we can rest assured to talk here, but many people, many words. If someone spreads fatal rumors against us, do you think you can stay alive?" Shao Wanru asked with a hint of anger on her face.

Thinking of this terrible consequence, the two maids trembled with fear and hurriedly promised, "My Lady, I dare not!"

"I will never do it again!"

"You must remember that the Southern Palace is also part of the Palace. It's okay if the people in the imperial Palace don't know anything about it, but if they want to know, it is easy for them to find out what we've said." Shao Wanru warned them.

What the two maids said also made her vigilant. In the past, she didn't restrain them too much. If they talked freely like this in the Palace, they would get themselves killed.



"My Lady, we understood!" The two of them said in unison. At this time, they were really in panic. They were so excited that they forgot that they were talking outdoors. The thought of this sent chills up their backs.

How could they discuss the Empress and Consort of Virtue casually? What was more, they were talking about such a treacherous topic.

"If you can't make it, I won't dare to keep you around me. I might as well let you out and be free. After leaving the mansion, you'd better go far away from the capital city. I really neglected you in the past so that you dared to say such things outside!" Shao Wanru said angrily.

"My Lady, we know we were wrong. We won't do it again!" Hearing that Shao Wanru might drive them away, the two maids were so panicked that they even cried. They hurriedly kowtowed to Shao Wanru three times and pleaded.

"Be cautious with your words and deeds. Otherwise, you may not live long in the Palace!" Seeing the two maids sincerely apologizing, Shao Wanru sighed and said, looking slightly relieved. "Get up! Remember to be more careful outside in the future. If you are in the Imperial Palace, you should be careful even in the room."

"Yes, Your Highness!" The two servant girls wiped away their tears and stood up, knowing their master criticized them for their sake. They couldn't help but feel cold in their hearts. Upon arriving at the Prince Chen's Mansion, nothing serious happened, so they became much less vigilant. In the past, they would never say such words outside.

Even if they were in the room, they would lower their voices and speak cautiously.

"My Lady, what is that maid doing?" When Qu Le wiped her tears, a figure suddenly flashed by. She looked up and saw a servant girl hiding behind a clump of trees in the distance, acting sneakily.

"Let's go and have a look!" Shao Wanru also turned to see the servant girl.

Yujie trotted over quickly and soon came back with a trembling servant girl.

"Gre-greetings, Your Highness!" The 12 or 13-year-old servant girl seemed to be in a great panic and couldn't even speak clearly before Shao Wanru.

"What are you doing here?" Shao Wanru looked the little servant girl up and down and asked gently.

"I... I'm tending flowers and plants in the garden. When I saw Your Highness coming over... I was... afraid, so I hid. I didn't do it intentionally," the little maid reported in a trembling voice. She looked terrified.

"What did you hide?" Yujie took a step forward, reached out to point at the little servant girl's wrist, and asked. The little servant girl clenched her hand that was half hidden in her sleeve. In a panic, her sleeve was slightly rolled up, so no one could notice it without a close examination.

"I... I'm fine." The servant girl subconsciously hid her hand behind her.

"Get the thing in her hands," Shao Wanru ordered steadily.

Yujie took two steps forward and grabbed the hand of the little servant girl who struggled and tried to throw away Yujie's hands. However, she was rather weak before Yujie, who was born with great strength.

Yujie pulled out her wrist in her sleeve. Then, a very thin gold bracelet on her wrist was exposed. Yujie had accidentally flattened part of it. The bracelet was made of gold, which was definitely not something the little servant girl could afford.

At first glance, the gold bracelet was evidently too large for the servant girl, and Yujie pulled it away from her arm with great ease.

### Medical Princess

#### **Chapter 1059: A Servant Girl Found a Bracelet, It Looked Familiar?**

It was a very thin gold bracelet. When Yujie pulled it off her arm, it was twisted, so this original round gold bracelet was no longer round.

This bracelet was thin without any patterns.

"Where did you get this gold bracelet?" Shao Wanru asked.

"My... my mother left... left it to me," the maid said in a panic.

"Since it's from your mother, why bother hiding it? It's not appropriate for you to wear it like this. Weren't you afraid of losing it when working?" Shao Wanru asked softly.

However, the little maid became more panicked and shook her head hurriedly. "No... I wouldn't lose it. I... I've been cautious. It's just a memento left by my mother. I was afraid that others might see it and think it belonged to the mansion, so I put it on carefully inside!"

"How could your mother give you such a valuable thing! You must have come from a decent family. Let Nanny Yu check it out and see what her family background is and if she has such a biological mother. If there is nothing wrong, give the gold bracelet back to her," Shao Wanru said, handing the bracelet back to Yujie.

Before the mansion accepted each servant, their family background would be clearly recorded for future reference.

Such a bracelet was enough to buy a few servant girls like her.

"I... It's true... Your Highness, please spare me. It was really from my mother. I hid it secretly because I feared someone would take it away. Your Highness... Your Highness, I'm telling the truth," the little servant girl kowtowed and cried.

"Since it is true, what's wrong with checking it out? Can't we investigate it?" Qu Le deliberately said, "I'll ask Nanny Yu to come over now and find out your background. See? This bracelet carries weight. Only well-off families can own it."

"No, it's not mine. Your Highness, it's not mine. I picked it up." Seeing that Qu Le was about to leave, the servant girl was so scared that her face changed dramatically. She burst into tears and stammered to confess.

“Not yours? Where did you find it?” Once again, Shao Wanru’s eyes fell on the bracelet made of very thin gold threads without any patterns. Unlike those exquisitely-made bracelets, it was unappealing at first glance. If the servant girl hadn’t acted nervously, Shao Wanru wouldn’t have suspected her.

“I... I picked it up there. It... it was behind the flower... the place where I stood!” The servant girl pointed somewhere ahead while crying.

She was terrified.

Shao Wanru walked forward, and the servant girl hurriedly got up to follow her. They came to the back of the bushes — there was a tree in blossom. Some flowers had withered and fallen to the ground. The pink petals were lovely, but now they had been ground to dust and scattered into the mud.

“Your Highness, I found it here. When I took it, you and several sisters came over, so I wanted to leave as soon as possible. But you saw me, anyway.” The servant girl wiped her tears timidly and said.

After confiding her secret, she became much less nervous.

There seemed to be a small hole under those flower petals, fallen leaves, and branches.

“Your Highness, see? This bracelet was buried here. Only a small part was above the ground. I saw the gold and dug it out, leaving this small hole.” The servant girl was afraid that Shao Wanru did not believe her, so she explained while pointing at the small hole under branches and leaves.

“Did you just dig it up?” Shao Wanru stared at her and asked again.

“Your Highness, I didn’t lie. I saw you and two sisters just after I got it from the hole. I wanted to hide and leave after you walked away.” The servant girl said in fear with tears falling. She looked at Shao Wanru expectantly with a pleading face.

“Had you seen anyone here before that?” Shao Wanru asked.

“I didn’t. When I came here, I saw no one around and didn’t even notice Your Highness and two sisters. After I dug out the bracelet, I was overjoyed. But at that time, you happened to come over!” The little maid burst out crying again, feeling scared. She thought she had hit the jackpot, but it seemed that getting this gold bracelet was not a good thing. It was obviously a lethal misfortune.

If she had known this earlier, she wouldn’t have been greedy. If she had handed the bracelet to Princess Chen, nothing terrible would have happened to her.

“Was there really no one else?” Shao Wanru pondered for a moment and said to Yujie, “Bring her back and make a thorough investigation!”

“Your Highness, I really didn’t see anyone.” The little servant girl’s face turned ashen with fright. Her legs went weak, and she was about to kneel again — but Yujie pulled her up.

“My Lady ordered you to go back with us. Then just shut up and follow us,” Yujie scolded.

The little servant girl trembled and collapsed on Yujie, who brought her back.

Shao Wanru observed the gold bracelet on the table, deep in thought.

"Is there anything wrong with this bracelet?" Yujie asked. She and Qu Le had looked at it for a long time, but they couldn't find anything wrong with it. The bracelet was so simple that there was no flower pattern on it. Those who didn't look at it closely might think it was a tiny copper bracelet.

It was unremarkable.

Though they were both servant girls, Shao Wanru rewarded them with a lot of items, including gold bracelets. Different from this humble one, their gold bracelets were heavier and more exquisite.

"This newly-made gold bracelet is of high purity, but it looked overly thin and simple." Shao Wanru's eyes were still on the gold bracelet, which looked strangely familiar to her. She seemed to have seen something similar before but couldn't recall it at the moment.

Yujie said disapprovingly, "How could such a gold bracelet be newly-made? Could it be possible that you made a mistake? The original one must be ugly to the extreme. Otherwise, no one would have considered making this one from it." This bracelet was the most graceless one she had ever seen. The fine gold was wasted when made into this bracelet.

"My Lady, could it be recast from something else?" Qu Le thought of another possibility and asked.

Shao Wanru reached out to pick up the bracelet and shook it between her fingers before saying softly, "It's possible. Who accidentally dropped it or deliberately buried it there?"

"Don't worry, My Lady. Before I came in, I had secretly asked Nanny Yu to keep an eye on that place!" Yujie said.

Right after they were back, she told Nanny Yu about it. Then Nanny Yu quietly left to watch the spot in person.

"My Lady, don't you have a similar pair of simple bracelets?" Qu Le's eyes suddenly lit up.

"Is that so?" Shao Wanru was slightly stunned and immediately remembered her pair of simple gold bracelets. No wonder she felt this bracelet looked familiar. When she was in the Huaguang Temple, Chu Liuchen gave her a pair of simple gold bracelets.

"Go and get them!" Shao Wanru ordered.

Qu Le took out a box from the bottom of the dressing table. There was a pair of gold bracelets in it. They were simple but heavy ones without any patterns, which were weighty and quite valuable at first glance. The two bracelets that appeared solid and rough were too heavy for Shao Wanru to wear, and thus they were only suitable for collection.

Shao Wanru picked up the pair of heavy gold bracelets from Chu Liuchen with one hand and the gold bracelet as thin as a thread with the other.

They were both solid. One was broad and heavy, and the other was thin and light, but they had the same color.

It meant the two kinds of gold bracelets were almost identical in purity. Or, this larger solid gold bracelet could be remade into at least a dozen pairs of thin gold bracelets like the smaller one.

"My Lady, why would you guess this thin gold bracelet was reforged?" Yujie suddenly asked.

"The gold looks very new and has been polished. Although it is dusty, it can be wiped clean," Shao Wanru said, her willowy eyebrows frowning slightly. "Bring her in."

Yujie answered and left. Then she returned with the little servant girl trembling with fear.

"Your Highness, please forgive me." The little servant girl was so scared that her face turned pale. As soon as she entered the door, her legs buckled, and she knelt on the ground with a thump and begged.

"Are you a child of a servant in our mansion?" Shao Wanru asked, fluttering her long eyelashes.

Princess Chen seemed to know everything, so the servant girl didn't dare to hide anything. She nodded repeatedly and said, "Your Highness, yes. My mother belongs to this mansion and is in charge of the flowers and trees in that area. I help her take care of those flowers and trees."

"Is your mother Lady Wang who is in charge of the flowers and plants over there?" Qu Le, quite familiar with the mansion's affairs, asked in surprise after thinking for a while, sizing up the little servant girl.

"Yes, my mother is Lady Wang. If you don't believe me, you can call my mother over and ask her about it." At this time, the little servant girl no longer dared to talk nonsense and spoke everything honestly.

"Are you Qing Lian?" Qu Le asked again with a strange look on her face.

"Yes, yes, I'm Qing Lian. Sister Qu Le, you know me, right?" The little servant girl asked hurriedly. Many people in the inner court knew the several principal maids around Princess Chen. Though these people had few dealings with them, they had seen Qu Le and the others from a distance.

Qu Le bowed respectfully to Shao Wanru and said, "This servant girl should be called Qing Lian, the daughter of Lady Wang managing the flowers and plants. Lady Wang has told me that she alone couldn't look after those flowers and trees, so she wanted her daughter to help. Her daughter was a rough servant girl who did the cleaning."

"But your mother could do the job alone before. Why is she so busy now?" Shao Wanru asked curiously.

"She did before. But recently, a few precious peonies were sent and planted in the place under her charge. She feared she couldn't take good care of these valuable flowers, so she begged you to send me over. In this way, she could get more time and energy to care for those precious peonies."

Shao Wanru rolled her liquid eyes and asked, "Are there new peonies in the mansion?"

"I don't know either. I'll inquire about it later!" Qu Le said.

"Since there's nothing else, I should let you go. But what will you tell others after you go back?" Shao Wanru asked meaningfully with a smile.

### [Medical Princess](#)

#### **Chapter 1060: Engaged Couple, Each with Their Own Motives**

"Her Highness will keep this gold bracelet. A few days ago, imperial guards came to investigate. They said there were remaining evildoers of the former dynasty. Now such a strange gold bracelet has appeared..." Yujie said and beamed.

The servant girl huddled up with fear and repeatedly begged, "Your Highness, I saw nothing and knew nothing. I just walked past the bushes and saw you and two sisters. I was scared and hid. I don't know anything else."

"You can withdraw now!" Shao Wanru answered with a soft smile.

"Yes, I'll leave. I'll go now!" The little servant girl said in a hurry. After kowtowing to Shao Wanru a few more times, she scrambled up and was about to run out.

"Wait a minute!" Qu Le stopped her.

"Sister Qu Le, is there anything else?" The servant girl wiped off the cold sweat on her forehead and asked timidly.

"If anyone comes to inquire about this matter in the future..."

"Sister Qu Le, please rest assured. If someone keeps asking about this matter, I will definitely report it to you." The little servant girl hurriedly expressed her loyalty. It would be a capital crime to involve the remaining evildoers of the former dynasty. What was worse, not only she but also her whole family might be implicated.

The servant girl was young, but anyone working for this mansion knew this kind of crime was a felony. Whoever got involved might be sentenced to death. The best way was to stay far away from the trouble.

Even if they couldn't avoid it, they had to make their master understand they were innocent.

When the servant girl occasionally got this bracelet, she thought she was incredibly fortunate. At this moment, she recognized that she was, in fact, exceptionally unlucky. How could she have come to that place? Why would this bracelet come into her view? She was somehow bewitched and wanted to hide it secretly. How she wished she had presented the golden bracelet to Princess Chen directly.

The little servant girl was very sensible and seemed to be smart, so Qu Le didn't make things difficult for her this time. Instead, with a smile, she told her to leave.

Only when the little servant girl left did Qu Le return.

In the room, Shao Wanru was still comparing the two bracelets. The longer she looked at them, the more she felt they were made of the same gold. After Chu Liuchen gave her a pair of gold bracelets, there was no follow-up. Thus, she had no idea if what had happened now had anything to do with this past. Besides, Chu Liuchen was not around.

"Put away the bracelet and wait for His Highness to come back." Shao Wanru ordered.

This matter couldn't be simple or might be beyond her control. Shao Wanru had the wisdom to know herself. Plus, in precarious times, she wouldn't act rashly.

Anyway, she should cope with shifting events by taking a very cautious approach. Waiting for Chu Liuchen to return to the capital city would be her best choice. She couldn't ruin Chu Liuchen's grand plan for some trivial things. It was easy to make things worse if she rashly intervened in a matter that she was unclear about.

It no longer looked like a matter of the inner court.

As expected, Nanny Yu came to report that everything seemed normal. She had watched that place for about two hours but didn't see anyone walk there. Only a few servant girls and old maids passed by, but no one went there on purpose.

The only unusual thing was the bracelet in Shao Wanru's hands.

After composing herself, Shao Wanru carefully adjusted the collage of maple leaves again. This craft was almost done.

It was a portrait of a noble lady in autumn woods.

Maple leaves of different shades danced in the glow of the sunset, scattering on the woman's dress and belt fluttering in the air. With some simple and light lines, Shao Wanru decorated a few crucial parts. Maple leaves cut into different shapes were placed on the rest of this piece of art. There were the beauties of nature in the gentleness. In the end, a few deeper lines on pieces of maple leaves decorated the dress corners, adding natural strokes that no painting brush could make.

Maple leaves made the picture more natural and attractive.

"My Lady, will Her Majesty like this painting made of maple leaves?" Yujie, serving her carefully nearby, couldn't help asking.

She had been to the Palace many times but had never heard that the Empress Dowager had such a hobby.

"Her Majesty will like it very much." Shao Wanru nodded and took two steps back to see the overall picture. Though she appeared leisurely, a trace of coldness flashed across her eyes.

In her previous life, it was said that a painting of maple leaves triggered the disaster on the Empress Dowager's birthday. Then there were a lot of rumors flying around, but she couldn't find out the details of her status at that time. The Empress Dowager fell sick and remained in bed. After that, the Empress was put under house arrest, and her power was taken away. A complete change occurred in the Palace. In that catastrophe, many people were killed.

This great disaster was one of the major causes of Prince Zhou's rebellion.

After the Empress fell from power, Prince Zhou, the legitimate son, was in a tottering position. Hence, he made the reckless move in desperation.

This matter had nothing to do with her, but she heard Prince Chen was also implicated. Shao Wanru reached out to rub her head but still couldn't remember how exactly he got involved in trouble. Perhaps, or to say she didn't know it at all. Anyway, she only knew this matter was very important.

She had no idea how the Empress Dowager got that painting. This time, she intended to destroy the picture and replace it with hers. The Empress Dowager shouldn't punish her severely for accidentally ruining the original painting because of her love for Chu Liuchen and her artwork.

Then who sent the original painting to the Empress Dowager?

She could remember the painting caused serious trouble but didn't know where it came from. Why? It seemed that the Emperor and the Empress Dowager didn't punish anyone.

Such a major event had happened. Even if no one was punished for being related to the initiator of the evil, the initiator couldn't go unpunished.

Who could escape unscathed after causing such big trouble?

When Shao Wanru was confused, Chu Liuchen suddenly decided to speed up his pace.

In the past few days, the group set out late when the sun rose high in the sky and rested early before the sun went down, considering Prince Chen's uncomfortable situation. And no one was allowed to complain about the slow pace.

However, something was not right recently. Their speed was twice as quick as before. They rose to move before daybreak. If they were in the middle of nowhere at midnight, they would set up several tents and casually spend the night in the wilderness.

Under Chu Liuchen's command, the diplomatic corps made a rapid march. The sudden change confused all the people in the group.

In the beginning, Princess Yuyan of the Xu State tried a few times to appear before Prince Chen. But lately, she had been too exhausted to dress up and go out.

When their carriages moved forward, Princess Yuyan sent for Chu Qing. The Xu State had much fewer rules than the Kingdom of Dongcang. Moreover, everyone had learned about their romantic involvement. Therefore, it was not a big deal for Princess Yuyan to call Chu Qing over to her carriage for a chat. As long as they entered the capital city, it would be perfectly justifiable for the couple to stay together.

"What does Prince Chen want to do?" Just as Chu Qing sat down in the carriage, Princess Yuyan asked gloomily.

She looked charming. Though less delicate than Princess Yutao, she was more gentle and lovely as a woman. Thus, more people in the Xu State would like to marry Princess Yuyan than Princess Yutao.

According to Princess Yuyan's original plan, family members on her side could take the Xu State under control after driving Princess Yutao away by marriage. Unexpectedly, she ended up with Chu Qing instead. Whenever she thought of this, Princess Yuyan would become furious. So, when Chu Qing came in, she treated him abominably and secretly despised him in her heart.

Chu Qing was handsome. However, Chu Liuchen appeared way more graceful than him and attracted most of the attention as they stood together. At first, Princess Yuyan had resigned to her fate, but now she was a little reluctant to do so. Others saw her and Chu Qing lying together in messy clothes. So what? Nothing happened between them.

Her identity as a princess of the Xu State could make up for her shortcomings. She had considered herself a more charming and good-looking lady than Princess Yutao. How could Chu Liuchen not fall for her?



It was a pity that Chu Liuchen was not attracted at all, and she felt highly wronged in her heart. She had never suffered such a crushing defeat because of a man. No matter how hard she tried to seduce him, Prince Chen looked at her indifferently without affection, as if she were a piece of wood.

She couldn't even get close to Chu Liuchen, let alone do other things.

After Chu Liuchen ordered the group to speed up, she went to ask him for a reason. However, he just smiled gently, saying he was in poor health. Then he ignored her other questions and sent a eunuch to talk to her.

Since she got no answer from him, Princess Yuyan could only ask someone to call Chu Qing over. As soon as she saw Chu Qing, she got more upset. If it hadn't been for him, she would have still lived happily in her country and been the most beautiful princess in the eyes of the local men. How could she follow him to the Kingdom of Dongcang so far, far away?

"Maybe he wants to go back to the capital early. Imperial Grandmother's birthday is coming soon," Chu Qing said vaguely. It was the Empress Dowager's birthday, and her age would reach a good round number this year so that the whole nation would celebrate it joyously. Chu Qing also wanted to return early and gave her a birthday gift.

When Chu Liuchen's poor health hindered them from going back fast, he was worried about the delay. Now, although they were a little more tired, there was still hope for them to get to the capital before the birthday.

"You can ask about it. You're Commandery Prince Qing, Prince Chen's brother, aren't you? What can't you say before him?" Princess Yuyan cocked her eyebrows and asked coldly.

"How can we be the same?" Since there was no one else here, Chu Qing put on a straight face and said grumpily.

In his mind, Princess Yuyan was destined to be his wife, so he no longer needed to be as respectful and courteous as before. Moreover, he had become the host ever since they entered the Kingdom of Dongcang.

"Don't visit Chu Liuchen so frequently when you're free. As his sister-in-law, you should keep a certain distance away from him. Otherwise, others would gossip about you," Chu Qing scolded Princess Yuyan again.

He was not happy about his engagement with Princess Yuyan. It never crossed his mind that he would marry a princess from Xu State. He was the one who proposed to Princess Yuyan's mother that they could marry Princess Yutao to Chu Liuchen. He didn't expect Princess Yutao to fight back, forcing him to marry Princess Yuyan instead.

It was difficult for him to explain his relationship with Princess Yuyan to others. He especially didn't know how to face his previous fiancée. So, Chu Qing had been in low spirits along the way. After spending some time traveling, he slowly accepted the reality. If he could do nothing about it, he might as well take the previous fiancée as his secondary legal wife. With Princess Yuyan's noble status, she should be his wife, and being his secondary legal wife wouldn't disgrace the previous fiancée.

“Smack!” Princess Yuyan slapped Chu Qing hard across the face, raising her willowy eyebrows in anger. Chu Qing suddenly widened his eyes and looked at her in utter astonishment.