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Chapter 1061: Dong Xiuer's Thoughts

"Are you crazy?" Chu Qing glared at Princess Yuyan and asked angrily.

"Am I crazy? You must be out of your mind! How dare you scold me like this? Do you think I am willing to marry a useless person like you?" Princess Yuyan asked, her eyebrows twitching uncomfortably with anger. "If you weren't useless, how could I end up like this? At that time, you and my mother conspired together and just asked me to pass a message. But how could I become the one marrying into your country in the end?"

The more Princess Yuyan thought about it, the angrier she became. This matter should have had nothing to do with her.

She was only the messenger. Why did she end up with marriage? And she had to marry into the Kingdom of Dongcang!

"Yuyan, you are the princess who will marry into my country. Do you think you can go back to your home country now?" Chu Qing also got angry. He put down the hand covering his face and said coldly, "You will be my wife. How can't you still think about marrying Prince Chen? Speaking of which, Princess Chen is thousands of times more beautiful than you. You are not even worthy to carry shoes for her!"

After saying that, Chu Qing looked up and down at Princess Yuyan as if examining a humble product.

Princess Yuyan, ashamed and annoyed, flushed with anger and was about to hit Chu Qing again, but this time he squeezed her hand. "Please behave yourself if you want to live a good and peaceful life. I will treat you well for the sake of your mother. But if you keep making trouble for no reason, I won't be so easy on you. Your marriage to me is a national affair between our two countries. You will have to marry me whether you want to do it or not."

He finished speaking and shook off her hand, turning to get off the carriage.

There was a moment of silence in the carriage. Then from it came the cry of Princess Yuyan. The palace maid who served her along the way was so scared that she hid aside and did not dare to move. At this moment, she hurried over to comfort Princess Yuyan and was smacked a few times by her master.

In the carriage before them, Princess Yutao smiled radiantly, pleased to see them come to blows. She sincerely hoped they could fight and scold each other every day, for they had plotted against her. Without Prince Chen's reminder, she would have been forced to get married. Now everything was perfect.

Even if she had to go to the Kingdom of Dongcang with them, she was better than Yuyan, who must marry Chu Qing.

Chu Qing was cunning. When in the Xu State, she had thought he would suffer losses when confronting Princess Yuyan. She felt sorry for him when he was forced to marry Princess Yuyan. However, it looked like they made a perfect couple.

This pair, Chu Qing and Princess Yuyan, couldn't be more perfectly matched.

Princess Yutao hummed in her carriage, feeling delighted in her heart.

In the forefront carriage, Chu Liuchen lay back against the soft couch. He gracefully picked up a cup of tea on the table before him, took a sip, and slowly put it down.

His spacious carriage was thickly carpeted, so Chu Liuchen had a smooth journey. Inside the carriage, the water in the cup is only slightly rippling.

"Master, they quarreled behind us." Xiao Xuanzi climbed up into the carriage and reported with a smile.

"Nice, and it's just the beginning." Chu Liuchen said languidly, raising the delicate corners of his mouth. He was not surprised. At first glance, Princess Yuyan isn't a virtuous wife who would be faithful to her husband. Back then, she never intended to marry Chu Qing. There should be another reason why she was so close to Chu Qing.

Chu Qing seemed to be a nice person of excellent character, but deep down, he was ambitious which was not even smaller than that of Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou.

Where did he get the confidence to support his great ambition? Chu Liuchen was curious about it.

Uncle the Emperor wouldn't choose him even if he had no one to pass his throne to. As a powerless and uninfluential prince, what could he depend on to become the ruler with supreme power?

What was supporting his ambition?

Since Chu Liuchen had nothing better to do, he wanted to figure it out and see how Chu Qing would make his ambition come true. Sometimes, he was even willing to help Chu Qing achieve more and get closer to the throne.

"Master, Ningyuan Army General asks if we'll push on with our journey or have a rest at this time," Xiao Xuanzi beamed and asked. Of course, he could understand his master's bad taste in this regard, so he stopped talking about Chu Qing. The entanglement between Commandery Prince Qing and Princess Yuyan had just begun, and he was just a humble eunuch following his master to watch the fun.

He had to do his jobs first before enjoying the fun!

"Go on our way. They become bold enough to bully my wife when I'm away from home." Chu Liuchen's face set in grim lines, and the temperature in the carriage instantly plummeted.

The news in the capital city had already come. Even if Shao Wanru didn't tell him everything in detail, the facts were apparent at a glance after he connected all the things that had happened. They dared to stir up trouble inside his mansion when he was outside the capital. He would get even with these people once he was back.

"Okay, I see. I will tell Ningyuan Army General now." Xiao Xuanzi nodded repeatedly.

Princess Chen was in danger, so how could Prince Chen not be anxious? It seemed that they would move more quickly from now on. He didn't know who in the capital city was so stupid as to plot against Princess Chen and Prince Chen.

"How could they dare to make my master marry Princess Yutao? "These simple-minded people mistakenly thought they could manipulate my master!"

Thinking of the news from the capital city, Xiao Xuanzi felt a burst of lingering fear. If anything happened to Princess Chen, the capital city would go through a period of a lot of violence, and many people would be killed. Not to mention the capital city, even the Palace would experience the same thing. No one could stop Prince Chen from avenging Princess Chen, not even Consort Lan in the Palace.

At the thought of this, Xiao Xuanzi couldn't help shivering in his heart and hurriedly got out of the carriage to find Ningyuan Army General, hoping that no more schemes against Princess Chen and the Prince Chen's Mansion would happen in the capital city.

These people didn't understand Princess Chen's unshakable position in Prince Chen's heart.

Over the years, Prince Chen didn't care about his health. However, because of Princess Chen, he seriously started nourishing himself. It could be said that she made the present Prince Chen. It was Princess Chen who slowly pulled his master out of the darkest abyss.

If Princess Chen had an accident... Xiao Xuanzi didn't dare to think about the consequences. Then, he decided to pass on the message to Ningyuan Army General first.

As Xiao Xuanzi walked past Princess Yuyan's carriage behind them, he suddenly heard a loud cry and shook his head. His master only cared about Princess Chen. No matter how pitiful Princess Yuyan appeared and how much disturbance she created, she wouldn't get his attention. So what if she cried to him? His master would not care.

Hearing Chu Liuchen's intention from Xiao Xuanzi, Qin Huaiyong helplessly asked others to handle the horses well and go on their way. The sun was about to set, but this master didn't plan to rest, so they all had to move on.

With a bit of sympathy in his eyes, he shot a glance at Commandery Prince Qing riding a horse aside. He had witnessed Princess Yuyan's acts in the past few days. Obviously, she was not a decent lady. Chu Qing married a really unruly goddess who refused to accept her status as his wife.

However, it could be considered Chu Qing's fault. He was pretty close to Princess Yuyan, as if he had fallen in love with her at first sight. He had to face this troubled relationship and only had himself to blame.

Perhaps Princess Yutao had wickedly aggravated this complicated situation, but so what? Chu Qing had behaved frivolously and had long had an affair with Princess Yuyan.

The Prince Chen's Mansion had been closed for a few days. Finally, its gate was opened, and a large carriage drove out. In no time, many spies watching the Prince Chen's Mansion sent the news to their masters.

Princess Chen left the mansion.

This spacious carriage was Princess Chen's, and they heard that Prince Chen specially made it for her.

Sure enough, Princess Chen suffered from no punishment — she had just fallen ill.

After all the forces had gotten the exact information, they ordered their people not to act rashly. They had to wait and see. What had happened attracted the attention of the Emperor, so they must do nothing hasty to the Prince Chen's Mansion.

Shao Wanru went to Butterfly Clothing Shop, which she hadn't visited for a long time. After entering Madame Dong's accountant's office, she removed her curtain hat.

Madame Dong hurried forward to salute.

"Has anything happened these days?" Shao Wanru asked with a broad smile. She had always been very scrupulous because she was afraid that people would know what had happened in the Butterfly Clothing Shop.

"Well... he would send his people here from time to time. They no longer spied on me and only delivered some items to me." Madame Dong sighed and looked very conflicted.

"Do you want to be with him?" Shao Wanru smiled slightly and asked calmly.

"He... I don't want to be with him. I've had enough of him, and I won't take it anymore. But I didn't expect him to trace up to Xiuer. Wei Dahai found Xiuer..." Madame Dong frowned more tightly. "Xiuer is soft-hearted. She feels pitiful for him!"

The more Madame Dong thought about it, the angrier she became. Obviously, Wei Dahai failed them, but Xiuer accused her of being hard-hearted and couldn't tolerate Wei Dahai's legal wife. In Xiuer's eyes, Madame Dong was the one who is ungrateful in love. Thinking of these words, Madame Dong felt like crying.

She had been raising Xiuer alone for many years and had experienced untold hardships. She only hoped her daughter would grow up and live a good life. To her dismay, Xiuer couldn't understand her and blamed that she was narrow-minded and intolerant toward others. Also, she said she should have lived a better life as the daughter of an official's family, but she was forced to bear the miserable life outside with Madame Dong for so many hard days.

"Xiuer wants to acknowledge Wei Dahai as her father?" Shao Wanru couldn't help sighing in her heart. She knew it as soon as she saw Madame Dong's glum look. When Dong Xiuer had that incident, she could tell that girl was not smart enough. Dong Xiuer was credulous and would easily fall for words, not to mention words from her biological father.

Shao Wanru had never expected that Dong Xiuer would break her mother's heart. Madame Dong loved her deeply because of her biological father, who ignored them.

Wei Dahai seemed scheming. When he couldn't compel Madame Dong to submit, he took a soft approach through Dong Xiuer, his daughter.

By using Dong Xiuer, he wanted to force Madame Dong to go back to his mansion. Shao Wanru slightly pursed her lips with an intuition that Madame Dong was not his ultimate goal.

"Do you think that Wei Dahai is sincere to you?" Shao Wanru smiled, asking casually in a low voice. What she needed to see now was Madame Dong's attitude.

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Chapter 1062: Meet Trick with Trick, What Was Going on?

"My Lady, I don't think Wei Dahai is so kind." Madame Dong gritted her teeth with determination and said. In her heart, she wished Wei Dahai were dead, but she cared about Xiuer's feelings. "He wants the Butterfly Clothing Shop!"

"Why do you say that?" Shao Wanru raised her thin eyebrows and asked with a tilted head, exuding a faint aura of glamor.

"My Lady, think about it. He didn't do these things for my benefit. Long ago, he took no notice of us. When so many years have passed, how could he suddenly take a fancy to me? It's even more impossible for him to care about Xiuer. He has many daughters and sons. Besides, Xiuer is not outstanding and has married into an ordinary family. There's nothing he can get from her. I've thought about it for a long time and realized his real purpose should be this shop."

Madame Dong analyzed rationally.

"And his wife, how could she possibly agree for me to marry him? If it weren't for their interests, she wouldn't be so generous. I've seen this lady before, and she isn't a gentle and obedient woman. It looks like she is the dominant one instead of Wei Dahai, so how could she accept me? There must be a substantial benefit for her to take me in, and I have nothing valuable except for this shop."

"Then what do you think you should do?" Shao Wanru remained unperturbed and said with a smile. Madame Dong was indeed rational and knew what she should do, but Dong Xiuer wasn't clear-headed.

"If Xiuer comes again, I will give up the shopkeeper position and say that this shop is not mine. I'd like to see what Wei Dahai will say after he hears the truth."

Madame Dong said peevishly. Thinking of her disappointing daughter, she was about to cry again.

She led a wandering life for half her life and only had one daughter whom she sincerely loved and cared about. Unexpectedly, her daughter fully believed Wei Dahai and hoped from her very heart that she could live a comfortable and luxurious life in her father's mansion. She didn't know that even if she could be there, her life wouldn't be any better. How could she wish to rely on the Wei's Mansion as a married daughter?

"Is it possible that Xiuer has told Wei Dahai what happened behind the scenes at the shop?" Shao Wanru asked, her long eyelashes fluttering.

"No, she won't!" Madame Dong shook her head decisively and said, "Please don't worry, My Lady. Xiuer definitely won't do that. I have repeatedly warned her not to tell anyone about this matter. If she tells anyone about it without your instruction, it may cause a fatal disaster."

Madame Dong had no choice but to threaten Dong Xiuer for fear that she would accidentally bring trouble to Shao Wanru.

Shao Wanru understood her intention and nodded. Dong Xiuer had been timid. With Madame Dong's warning, she must haven't revealed the secret to Wei Dahai.

However, Wei Dahai was not ordinary. In her previous life, Madame Dong entered the Palace with the help of Wei Dahai, and she even managed to do business with the Empress Dowager. It could be seen that Wei Dahai was not merely bright but also had powerful connections.

She felt even more strange to hear Wei Dahai's ordinary background. How could he casually arrange for people to serve the Empress Dowager? Or it could be said that someone around the Empress Dowager treated him very well.

Shao Wanru was more interested in another person, Mo Qiuyi.

It was said that Mo Qiuyi went to her relative for help who lived in the Yuhui Nunnery. She had stayed in the Yuhui Nunnery for five years since she arrived. Such a person should remain obscure all her life, just like the years she had been in the nunnery. However, her identity changed dramatically.

The first thing was that she became Wei Dahai's niece. She was taken down from the mountain three years ago and raised in the Wei's Mansion. What was more surprising was that Chu Qing's fiancee was her.

It was something that no one had expected.

Shao Wanru got such news from Chu Liuchen and could scarcely believe it. Mo Qiuyi, it was actually Mo Qiuyi.

She had been an orphan brought up in the Yuhui Nunnery. Who would have thought that she would be engaged to Chu Qing?

With this excuse, Chu Qing refused the Emperor to arrange his marriage with any beauty. The Emperor initially disapproved of it, but he somehow agreed.

Chu Qing's identity was embarrassing, but he was still the deceased emperor's son. If he got a nobody as his wife, people would think he, the son of the deceased emperor, had been treated unfairly.

However, Chu Qing made his utmost efforts to fight for her. Then, this matter was settled like this, but no one paid attention to his future wife because of her low status.

If Shao Wanru hadn't come in contact with Mo Qiuyi in the Yuhui Nunnery, she wouldn't have taken her seriously, either.

In particular, Mo Qiuyi had begged Shao Wanru's grandma to take her fellow townsman down the mountain, which attracted Shao Wanru's attention to her.

With the whole recollection of the events, Shao Wanru quickly concluded that there was no fellow townsman. Instead, it was Chu Qing who wanted to come down from the mountain and appear in front of everyone.

If her grandma made it happen, the Emperor would detest and reject her.

Shao Wanru didn't know about the gratitude and grudges between the deceased emperor and the Emperor. Yet, she was sure that the Emperor must be unwilling to see the children of the deceased emperor pop up one after another.

Nothing could be done about Chu Liuchen because he was universally known as early as he was born. As for others, the Emperor did not intend to publicize their existence.

Chu Qing was good for nothing, but the Emperor was reluctant to mention what had happened back then. It would be best if Chu Qing did not appear in public.

Mo Qiuyi, who took advantage of her grandma, didn't look like an ordinary woman. No matter how Shao Wanru looked at this matter, it seemed mysterious. "Could it be possible that Mo Qiuyi came to the Yuhui Nunnery with ulterior motives? At that time, Mo Qiuyi was still young and could not arrange such a thing alone. There must be someone else behind.

"In other words, someone else is backing Chu Qing up!

"Is it Wei Dahai?" Shao Wanru couldn't figure it out for the moment. Initially, she was not in a hurry for Chu Liuchen would deal with this kind of thing. However, Wei Dahai seemed so anxious that he couldn't wait to get the Butterfly Clothing Shop.

"Madame Dong, you can transfer this shop to me," Shao Wanru suggested.

Madame Dong didn't understand it for a while and looked at Shao Wanru in a daze.

"Since Wei Dahai badly wants you to marry him and be his secondary legal wife, you can give me this shop and move to the Wei's Mansion. In this way, Xiuer won't blame you anymore, right?"

Shao Wanru explained her idea more clearly with a smile.

However, Madame Dong's face blanched as she knelt with a thud and said, "My Lady, I really don't want to live in the Wei's Mansion and marry that heartless person again, let alone cause even more harm to Xiuer."

The Wei's Mansion was a dangerous place. Only Xiuer took it as her wealthy family.

"Get up and let's talk," Shao Wanru said softly. Yujie went over and hurriedly helped Madame Dong up.

"My Lady, you mean," Madame Dong stood up, thought for a moment, and continued hesitantly, "we should make a big thing out of it first and see how Wei Dahai will react or how his Madam will respond?"

"If you spread the news that you will transfer the shop to me, how do you think Wei Dahai will react?" Shao Wanru asked with deep meaning in her eyes, but her long eyelashes blocked the trace of darkness in her eyes, making her look harmless and gentle.

"If I tell others I want to give the shop to you, Wei Dahai can't stay calm." Madame Dong was smart enough to understand what Shao Wanru meant, so she went on delightedly, "He will stop me from selling the shop or make sure I give it to the person he recommends. Once the shop is gone, there will be nothing he can get from me. At that time, Xiuer can see his true colors."

At the mention of her daughter, Madame Dong was angry and distressed. This silly child believed her good father came back to them and even kept persuading Madame Dong to accept him. She even felt her husband was not good enough for her. As an official's daughter, she could have married someone

better. During this period, she actually set her heart on marrying into a rich and powerful family after getting divorced.

Thinking of Xiuer's bad changes, Madame Dong hated Wei Dahai to the marrow of her bones.

"Madame Dong, can you make it?" Shao Wanru asked, smiling. She must handle the Butterfly Clothing Shop properly. Previously, Chu Liuyue and Infanta Yuan'an had set their eyes on this place. In case they would stir up trouble again, she might as well make it public that she bought this shop. Or, Madame Dong would hardly cope with a volley of open and covert attacks fired at her.

Before she married, it was inconvenient for her to run her shop. But as Princess Chen, it would be no big deal even if she hired someone to run a shop for her.

"My Lady, trust me. I can do it." Madame Dong nodded vigorously and was very grateful.

At this time, they could only take drastic measures. Otherwise, Wei Dahai would never give up. Whenever Madame Dong thought Wei Dahai acted on his wife's instigation, Madame Dong would gnash her teeth in anger.

His wife came from an official family. But how shameless the couple was! Wei Dahai pretended to be deeply in love with her purely for the Butterfly Clothing Shop, which was disgusting.

Fortunately, this shop belonged to Princess Chen, who secretly supported her the whole time.

When Shao Wanru came out of the shopkeeper's room, the two servant girls behind her seemed very unhappy. Madame Dong sent them to the door of the accountant's office as respectfully as she treated the other noble Madams and Misses, but the two servant girls still looked sulky.

Qu Le snorted and helped Shao Wanru out first. No one could see Shao Wanru's face under the curtain hat, but everyone could see Qu Le's expression.

When others entered the door, they saw the carriage of Prince Chen's Mansion, and many guessed the lady must be Princess Chen, who had been keeping a low profile and recuperating in the mansion. At this time, her two servant girls with sullen looks became the center of attention. These onlookers couldn't help wondering if the shopkeeper of Butterfly Clothing Shop had offended Princess Chen.

Everyone knew that they couldn't afford to displease Princess Chen. Infanta Yuan'an seemed to have collided with Princess Chen here. In the end, both Infanta Yuan'an and her brother suffered losses.

A humble shopkeeper was far inferior to Infanta Yuan'an.

What was going on?

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Chapter 1063: Deceiving Words, No Difference Between You and Me

"Think it over. My Lady has taken a fancy to your shop. It's a great blessing for you," Yujie emphasized. Behind Qu Le and Shao Wanru, she turned around after taking a few steps and snorted coldly at Madame Dong, who was full of smiles. Then she cocked her head and added, "If it weren't for... My Lady wouldn't be so easy on you."

After that, she turned and walked away.

Her words sounded vague and imprecise. People on the scene stared at each other aghast, but no one dared to rush out and say something, so they just looked. Madame Dong's smiling expression turned into a bitter one as she watched Princess Chen go away. Finally, she turned around and walked away with sort of heavy steps.

In the afternoon, shop boys in the Butterfly Clothing Shop were busy.

In a great bustle, they received guests while checking out all the goods in the shop. Some guests were curious to know why they would make an inventory when it was neither the end of the year nor the end of the month. The shop boys said it was the shopkeeper's idea: she might sell the shop.

Madame Dong had been sitting in the accountant's office and didn't come out for once, so no one knew what she was doing inside. However, judging from what had happened, she couldn't be in a good mood — she might be checking accounts or having a good cry.

Anyway, it must have something to do with Princess Chen. Even those shop boys were discussing it in private.

When Dong Xiuer heard the news, she hurried back to the Butterfly Clothing Shop. The family she married was near the shop. When she arrived, she didn't ask the shop-boy to lead the way and went straight to knock on the door of the accountant's office.

Madame Dong opened the door listlessly, appearing a little tired.

"Mother, what happened? What did Princess Chen say?" Dong Xiuer asked anxiously in a fluster. She dreaded Shao Wanru doing something terrible.

She feared Princess Chen, who was a few years younger than her, since three years ago. Therefore, Dong Xiuer never dared to disobey her.

She knew her mother's Butterfly Clothing Shop belonged to Princess Chen. However, Princess Chen made trouble here at this time. Did she demand an explanation for her conflict with Infanta Yuan'an that day? But why? Wasn't Princess Chen the owner of Butterfly Clothing Shop? So, why would she stir up trouble in her shop?

Madame Dong let Dong Xiuer come in. After closing the door again, she turned around and sat down behind the desk. Looking at her daughter, Madame Dong heaved a deep sigh. She asked instead of replying, "Xiuer, do you really want me to move to the Wei's Mansion?"

"Mother, you are the first wife. Why can't you move to the Wei's Mansion?" Dong Xiuer asked in confusion. She really couldn't understand her mother's attitude toward this matter.

"The first wife? Who will acknowledge my status?" Madame Dong said, a faint sneer of sarcasm crossing the corners of her mouth.

"My father, of course. He said that you were the only woman in his heart. In the old days, he had no choice but to ask you to be his concubine first. When the time was right, he would make you his wife. But why did you leave him?" Dong Xiuer was exasperated with her. Why couldn't her mother endure a short period of hardship to achieve a much better life?

"So he can only take me in as a concubine?" Madame Dong responded with a sneer.

"He said he wanted to compensate for your losses for so many years, promising to make you his secondary legal wife. He has been thinking of us all these years. Mom, as long as you agree, we can reunite as a family. Father looks pitiful on his own. Besides, he has striven hard for so long just for you and me. If we don't go back, he will be very sad!"

Dong Xiuer increasingly disapproved of Madame Dong's thoughts. So many years had passed, and those past events were long gone. Why didn't her mother let go of the past?

Neither her mother nor her father should be blamed for what happened back then.

"How can Wei Dahai be pitiful?" Madame Dong was so pissed off that her eyes turned red. What did Wei Dahai say to Xiuer that caused the terrible misunderstanding? He was forcing her to agree. If she refused to marry him, even her only daughter wouldn't understand and forgive her.

"Mom..."

Dong Xiuer went on persuading her, but Madame Dong reached out and stopped her. "Stop that. Listen to your father's words and see if he deserves your sympathy. He will come soon."

"Sure. He is very concerned about you," Dong Xiuer said rightfully.

"He doesn't care about me but this shop." Madame Dong unceremoniously blew his cover and said, "If not for this shop, do you think he would bother to look at us? Even if we went begging before his mansion, he would only give us two steamed buns at most!"

Madame Dong had seen through Wei Dahai.

"Mom, how could you say that to disgrace my father?" Dong Xiuer couldn't hold her tears from falling and kept wiping them with a handkerchief. "Even if you can't understand him, you shouldn't have said that. It hadn't been easy for him to look for us for many years. There are so many people all around the world. How could he find us? Besides, we weren't in the capital but lived in Jiangzhou."

Dong Xiuer felt sorry for her father, secretly blaming Madame Dong for not listening to reason.

Suddenly there was a knock on the door, and they immediately stopped talking. Madame Dong reached out and pointed to the wide screen behind the chair, saying, "Go and sit behind the screen. Listen to how your good father deals with me, and think about whether he likes us or the interests behind us."

Dong Xiuer wiped the corners of her eyes with a handkerchief and walked in unconvinced. Even if she listened in on their conversations, so what? Her father couldn't think that way, and her mother was wrong about him.

After Dong Xiuer went to the chair behind the screen and sat down, Madame Dong collected himself and went to open the door.

As the door opened, Wei Dahai showed up with a look of deep concern.

During this period, Wei Dahai frequently sent people to deliver things. Occasionally, he would do it personally. All the staff in the shop knew that there must be an unusual relationship between Lord Wei and Madame Dong, so no one stopped him when he went straight to Madame Dong's door.

"Lady Ming, did anything happen?" Seeing Madame Dong's sullen face, Wei Dahai immediately asked with concern.

Madame Dong turned around and walked in, ignoring him.

Wei Dahai followed her in and closed the door deliberately.

Madame Dong had sat down behind the desk, on which there were a few account books. Some were open, and some were not. It could be seen that Madame Dong had been busy sorting out the account books.

"What's wrong? Did Princess Chen make things difficult for you?" Wei Dahai asked solicitously again. He picked up one of the account books, flipping through it. The more he saw, the happier he became. The shop was making a huge profit.

He had been pressed for money at the moment. It would be great to get this amount of money into his pocket.

"I'm going to sell this shop to Princess Chen," Madame Dong said with a poker face without looking at him.

"Why?" Wei Dahai stopped flipping through the account book and asked in surprise.

"There was a dispute between Infanta Yuan'an and Princess Chen here, and it has been a long time. I thought it was over, but I didn't expect that Princess Chen wouldn't let it go. She asked me to make it up for her and pushed me to transfer this shop to her," Madame Dong lowered her head and said with a depressed look.

She was obviously in a foul mood.

"She has gone too far!" Wei Dahai slammed his hand on the table and roared, "Even if it is Princess Chen, so what? She can't rob your shop!"

Then he comforted Madame Dong. "Don't be afraid. I'll stand up to this matter for you!"

"How? Your opponent will be Princess Chen!" Madame Dong didn't believe him obviously and did not have a good temper.

Wei Dahai stood up and walked around the room a few times. This matter came as a complete surprise, so he was right out of ideas for the time being. If the buyer were the wife of an ordinary official, it would not be a big deal. But the problem was that this was Princess Chen. It was widely known that Prince Chen was very protective of her. Even Infanta Yuan'an had suffered losses when confronting Princess Chen, not to mention him.

Wei Dahai felt rather regretful that he was not powerful enough.

"After I sort out the account books and check the property, I'll hand it over to Princess Chen," Madame Dong said.

"How much will she pay?" Wei Dahai asked subconsciously.

"She will give me 20,000 taels of silver.!" Madame Dong looked listless, her face going down lower and lower.

"What? Only 20,000 taels of silver? This shop's business is so good, but how could she only offer such a small amount of money? The Prince Chen's Mansion bullies us too much!" Wei Dahai was furious and upset. In his opinion, Madame Dong's money was his. At this time, letting Princess Chen get the best of the bargain made him feel as painful as cutting his flesh.

He couldn't help lamenting this significant loss.

No, he would never let Madame Dong sell this shop at such a low price. Rolling his eyes, he suddenly came up with an idea and sat back in the chair, saying, "Lady Ming, you can tell Princess Chen that this shop isn't yours but mine. You can transfer the shop to me and be the shopkeeper I hire to run the shop. In this case, Princess Chen can't do anything about it."

"Telling her this shop is yours?" Madame Dong frowned and gave Wei Dahai a meaningful look.

However, Wei Dahai mistakenly thought she liked this idea, so he immediately continued to persuade her, "Now you only need to go to the yamen and sign this shop over to me. After you marry into my mansion and become my Madam, I will let someone else run the shop. Isn't it a brilliant idea?"

The more Wei Dahai talked, the more he thought it was feasible, and his eyes lit up. In this way, it would no longer be proper for Princess Chen to snatch this shop away. After all, robbing it from Wei Dahai was different from taking this shop from an ordinary businesswoman like Madame Dong. No matter how arbitrary Princess Chen was, she couldn't do such a thing.

As soon as he seized the legal ownership of this shop, Wei Dahai wouldn't care whether Madame Dong would choose to marry into his mansion or not. Anyway, he only wanted this shop from the start. With this profit-making shop, he could get more money to spend.

As this thought ran through Wei Dahai's head, his face was full of smiles.

Dong Xiuer, hiding behind the screen, kept nodding as she listened. However, at this moment, she finally sensed something wrong. She was just soft-hearted but not stupid. Her father's words sounded unreasonable. How could he offer such a piece of unfair advice? It was completely different from those affectionate words he said when he mentioned her mother.

"Could it be that mom was right?" For a moment, her heart ached as though a knife had been plunged into it. She twisted the handkerchief in her hand to stop herself from making any noise.

"I'll transfer this shop to you as my dowry. When I marry into your mansion, you'll give the dowry back to me. Shouldn't our agreement be notarized in the yamen? What if you go back on your word?" Madame Dong said in a deep voice.

"Lady Ming, when you marry me, you'll be my wife. From then on, you'll live an extravagant life in my mansion. There's no need to make it that clear. We're husband and wife sharing everything, so why

must we notarize our arrangement? People will laugh at us. The dowry is and will always be yours. You don't have to illustrate it officially!

When Xiuer, hiding behind the screen, heard this, her heart started thumping. Her sentimental attachment to her father seemed to have broken completely...

Medical Princess

Chapter 1064: Being a Concubine Without a Dowry

"Marry you? What about your current wife? Is she going to give up her position to me?" Madame Dong sneered and said, "If I become your concubine, a dowry won't be necessary!"

A concubine didn't have the so-called dowry. If she could afford it, she just needed to bring one or two loads. Otherwise, she might as well move into her husband's house with a parcel. Such a trifling matter was usually beneath notice, so it would be a lavish affair if she took this shop as the dowry.

"Lady Ming, she is still my Madam, but you will not be an ordinary concubine. You'll be my secondary legal wife. Moreover, Xiuer will become a legitimate daughter in my mansion. A secondary legal wife is also a wife marrying into my mansion, and your dowry will still be yours in the end. Do you think I will take your dowry?" Wei Dahai said with a gloomy face.

"Since it's mine, it should be fair enough for me to notarize it in case the ownership is unclear in the future." Madame Dong refused to give in. It seemed that if Wei Dahai did not agree to it, she wouldn't take his advice.

"Lady Ming, why are you so stubborn? If you are like this, my Madam won't let you marry me as the secondary legal wife," Wei Dahai argued, stamping his foot in frustrated rage.

"Your Madam is unwilling to do that?" Madame Dong looked at him and asked, "But didn't you say that she was very virtuous and wholeheartedly devoted herself to you? She likes everything that you're fond of, doesn't she?"

Her questions rendered Wei Dahai speechless. After a long pause, he reluctantly explained, "At first, she only allowed you to be a concubine, but I told her it was inappropriate for you to be a concubine because you would bring a large dowry. In the end, she agreed. Lady Ming, I need you to understand me. Although I want you to be my legal wife, I can't make a mess in my family and become a standing joke in the capital. If I dote on a concubine and treat my wife harshly, imperial censors will impeach me."

"Do you mean that I can only be a concubine?" Madame Dong smiled, and the look in her eyes got colder.

"It's not like that. I mean, you have a dowry. How can you be a concubine..." Wei Dahai was angry at Madame Dong's unbending attitude, but he had to coax her.

Madame Dong interrupted him rudely, "That is to say, I can be your secondary legal wife if I bring a large dowry. But without this shop, I can only be your concubine!"

Her sharp and straightforward words humiliated Wei Dahai, who became furious from embarrassment and flushed with anger. He glared at Madame Dong with a sullen look and began to threaten her. "Lady Ming, this is the capital city, not the small place where you used to live in. If you want to run a shop

here, you need money and background. Without anyone backing you up, your shop will be someone else's sooner or later. See? Princess Chen had come to force you to give up your shop today. If you marry me, I have the right to protect you and your shop. It'll benefit both of us. Why don't you understand?"

Behind the screen, Dong Xiuer could no longer hold back her tears and started sobbing silently.

What she heard was utterly different from what Wei Dahai had told her. This man was her so-called father. Sure enough, she was just a child raised by her mother alone. She grew up without a father and did not want to have such a father!

Madame Dong stood up, walked to the door, and pulled it open. "If I have to sell my shop, I would rather transfer it to Princess Chen than a villain like you who tried to get it by a dishonest marriage. Lord Wei, please leave!" She deliberately faced outside when saying all of this.

Her voice was not low, so everyone outside the accountant's office could hear it. Many people looked into the office with astonishment and saw Wei Dahai.

Wei Dahai sprang to his feet and growled with a red face, "Well... well, well. Lady Ming, you... since you are so stubborn, you'd better take care of yourself!"

Then, he flicked his sleeves and strode away.

"Who is this?" A female guest asked curiously.

"Lord Wei. I heard he was our shopkeeper's ex-husband. He abandoned her and married another noble lady. I don't know what he is up to now." A shop assistant curled his lips and said. Recently, Wei Dahai frequently sent his people to deliver gifts, and he himself would also come over to please their shopkeeper. Everyone in the store knew this.

"So, he betrayed her. Why would he come back to her?" An old maid coming here with her master inquired further out of curiosity

"Of course, it's because he knew she was managing this shop and thought he could gain something from her."

"How could he do that to her? Shame on him! How could he have the cheek to come here? And did he even want to grab his ex-wife's property? Asshole!"

"A real bastard!"

"Whoever marries such a man will be unlucky to the extreme!"

The Butterfly Clothing Shop mainly sold women's clothes and accessories, so most of its guests were women. When they heard that Wei Dahai was such a despicable man, many people couldn't help cursing.

When any woman met such a greedy and cold-hearted man who coveted her possessions, she would choose to be alone than marry him. These customers felt even more sympathetic to Madame Dong.

At the moment, Madame Dong seemed to be in an unfavorable situation. If she fell out with Wei Dahai, he, who didn't seem to be a good person, might play dirty tricks behind her back. How much power could a woman have to support a large shop? Then something terrible might happen to the Butterfly Clothing Shop.

While everyone was talking, Madame Dong closed the door and returned to the office.

"Mom!" Dong Xiuer came out from behind the screen, her face full of tears.

Madame Dong's nose twitched. She bore dreadful hardships and brought up Dong Xiuer alone. Outsiders couldn't understand her sufferings, but she didn't feel bitter as long as her daughter could understand her.

"Mom, I was wrong!" Dong Xiuer walked to Madame Dong, knelt down, and burst out crying with her hands around her mother's legs.

She had thought her biological father was sincerely repentant. However, he actually tricked her. There was no need for her to accept such a father.

"Mother, I'm sorry. It was my fault. I shouldn't have imagined that he was a good person and would treat us wholeheartedly... Mom, I was wrong!" Dong Xiuer choked with sobs and felt very regretful.

Madame Dong couldn't help shedding tears. She reached out to pat Dong Xiuer on the back and sobbed, "It's best if you can understand me. Today, I let you hear it because I wanted you to know... he has never been a good man... I was afraid he would deceive you."

"Mom, don't worry. His tricks won't fool me, and I won't believe his words anymore." Dong Xiuer wiped away her tears and said resentfully.

Madame Dong pulled her up from the ground, wiped away the tears on her face, and said with tears in her eyes, "Xiuer, you are my only daughter and my only support. As long as you can understand me, no matter how hard it is, I will move on!"

Dong Xiuer, hugging her mother, sobbed so much that she couldn't get the words out.

"Mom... then... what about this shop? Princess Chen, what was her purpose..." Dong Xiuer cried for a while and finally remembered why she had come here, so she lowered her voice and asked.

This shop initially belonged to Princess Chen. What did she mean by making such a scene today?

"Princess Chen wanted me to sell the shop to her openly. On the one hand, she would like to support me aboveboard. On the other hand, Wei Dahai would give up. Without the shop, he would never take me in as his secondary legal wife. She made an unpleasant scene here only to help me keep this shop."

Madame Dong also wiped away her tears and whispered to Dong Xiuer, "You don't have to worry about this matter. Just do whatever you should do. If Wei Dahai comes to bother you again, you can say that you can't make the decision, telling him that Princess Chen is more powerful so that I must give this shop to her!"

"So, in that case, won't he bother you anymore?" Dong Xiuer nodded repeatedly, and her eyes brightened.

She didn't want to recognize him as her biological father nor see Wei Dahai interfere in her mother's affairs. There were many benefits for her mother to do so. She could get a powerful master and make Wei Dahai give up the idea forever.

Dong Xiuer had hoped to become a daughter of the Wei's Mansion, an official family, but her mother mattered the most to her. She had lived a solitary and poor life with Madame Dong for much of her life, so how could she not understand Madame Dong's misery?

"I'm not sure about it. You must be careful before him and pretend to be entirely ignorant of what is happening. As long as you are fine, I can rest assured. Princess Chen will take care of the shop, so you don't have to worry about me," Madame Dong said.

Princess Chen meant Wei Dahai wouldn't leave the matter at that. Madame Dong wasn't entirely convinced but took it with a pinch of salt.

Princess Chen had always been intelligent and had never made a wrong judgment. But how could Wei Dahai dare to confront Princess Chen?

The daughter and mother cried in each other's arms. Hearing them weeping inside the office, many female guests secretly sighed with emotion, thinking that the shopkeeper was a wretched lady. Since her ex-husband was such a scum and an official, she might not keep her shop...

After returning to the Prince Chen's Mansion, Shao Wanru entered the Palace from the side door to see the Empress Dowager.

The Empress Dowager specially granted her the right to visit her in the Palace at any time.

When passing by a courtyard on the way, Shao Wanru surprisingly saw Zhaoyi Di again. She looked at her from a distance, her kind face radiating with smiles. Shao Wanru smiled back and continued walking forward.

They passed each other and looked back. After this brief encounter, they moved on separately.

The Empress Dowager and Nanny Wei were chatting and laughing in her Palace of Benevolent Peace. No one else was in the hall, so the master and servant were at ease as if they were enjoying a simple and happy life.

Hearing that Shao Wanru had come over, the Empress Dowager quickly asked someone to invite her in.

After a while, Shao Wanru walked in and curtsied to the Empress Dowager first.

The Empress Dowager waved her hand with a smile and motioned for her to sit aside. She looked Shao Wanru up and down and learned that although Shao Wanru looked a little weary, she was not exhausted.

"You've recovered? How have you been lately?"

"Imperial Grandmother, thank you for your concern. I'm fine now. I accidentally caught a cold. Nothing serious. I'm sorry to have worried you!" Shao Wanru answered softly with a smile.

"Chen'er is not with you. You have been the only master in the mansion, and you are young. Anyway, you should look after yourself." The Empress Dowager reminded her.

She was indeed a little worried because Shao Wanru was too young. At first, she wanted to put off their marriage for a few more years. However, since Chu Liuchen insisted on marrying her, the Empress Dowager could only listen to him and even let him marry before his two elder brothers considering his health condition.

"Imperial Grandmother, I'll be careful." Shao Wanru nodded and said in a silky tone.

"Your Highness, Her Majesty has been worrying about your health. If I hadn't stopped her, she would have come to see you," Nanny Wei said, smiling.

Medical Princess

Chapter 1065: Bringing up the Past, Who Did It?

Shao Wanru blinked her eyes with a pleasant smile on her rosy lips and said, "Imperial Grandmother, you should also take good care of yourself. It is easy to fall ill during this period. I'm in good health, but I still got sick in the past few days. So, you should be even more careful."

She had a rosy complexion. There was always a faint pink tinge to her delicate and fair face. At this time, she was a little haggard but still looked healthy. Such a good color greatly comforted the Empress Dowager. How could an elder not like juniors who appeared vital and healthy?

The Empress Dowager had been worried about Chu Liuchen's health the most. Now that he married Shao Wanru, who would manage the whole mansion if Princess Chen was also sick and weak?

For this reason only, Empress Dowager was very satisfied with Shao Wanru.

"I went to the street and took a fancy to a shop. I'd like to buy it. If you like anything in the shop, I can ask someone to send it to you," Shao Wanru said with a proud smile, revealing her white teeth.

"A shop? What kind of shop?" Seeing her so delighted, the Empress Dowager showed a little interest.

"It's a shop selling women's ready-made clothes. It has fine clothes and accessories. When I buy this shop, you can choose anything you like!"

Shao Wanru grinned.

"That's great. My clothes will depend on you in the future!" The Empress Dowager was pleased to hear that and laughed heartily.

"Okay. I'll take charge of your clothes and dress materials!" Shao Wanru promised, her shining eyes dancing with joy. Her pretty face looked even more charming when she smiled.

"How could you buy that shop? Doesn't it run well?" Nanny Wei asked curiously.

"It's doing just fine, but the shopkeeper is in trouble. She has no choice but to sell this shop to me. Otherwise, someone else might occupy it," Shao Wanru said.

"Who is so overbearing to damage other people's business?" The Empress Dowager's face fell. Shao Wanru meant that this shopkeeper was forced to give up her shop.

"I heard it was the shopkeeper's ex-husband who had abandoned her. Now he and his current wife are conspiring to get the shopkeeper's property. Since the female shopkeeper had no background in the capital city, she might even die if she didn't get rid of her shop." The smile on Shao Wanru's face faded away. She frowned slightly and felt indignant for Madame Dong.

"What is going on exactly? Tell me the details," The Empress Dowager said with wide eyes, knowing there must be some hidden facts.

Shao Wanru told her the grievances between Madame Dong and Wei Dahai in full detail. The Empress Dowager repeatedly sighed in lamentation and said, "Why didn't she drive that man away?"

"I felt the same way. So, I chose to take Madame Dong in. Otherwise, as a lone and helpless woman, she may as well lose her money and even life in the end," Shao Wanru said.

"Yes, you did it right. The man is not qualified to be an official. Go and find out if he has committed some other crimes. Such a person must not be a good official." The Empress Dowager reproached in a fury.

Shao Wanru didn't say Wei Dahai's name when she told the whole story and only mentioned that he was an official.

Shao Wanru repeatedly nodded in approval and said, "You're right. After I get this shop, I'll inquire about this matter and find out which official appointed by the imperial court dared to do such dirty jobs!"

Nanny Wei had been standing beside the Empress Dowager. At this time, the smile on her face gradually froze. She glanced at Shao Wanru carefully, slowly lowered her head, and took a few steps back. Respectfully, she stood still behind the Empress Dowager without looking sideways.

"Such an immoral person does not deserve to work for the imperial court. How could he pass the imperial exam back then? The imperial exam only tests literary talent. He is morally corrupt. It's a pity that some scholars of excellent character might have to suffer many a setback during their official careers." Empress Dowager shook her head.

It suddenly occurred to Shao Wanru that the Empress Dowager seemed to be implying something.

Her long eyelashes fluttered fast. Then she raised her limpid eyes and echoed the Empress Dowager's words. "That's right. Literary talent is the foremost consideration when the imperial court appoints officials. Later on, those bad ones will gradually be exposed. Nevertheless, it's hard for those without exceptional literary talent to stand out among their fellows."

The Empress Dowager nodded in agreement and asked casually, "You had lived in Jiangzhou, right? Have you heard of the Number Three Scholar in the last exam?"

Shao Wanru shook her head and looked at Empress Dowager in confusion. "Imperial Grandmother, I was in the Yuhui Nunnery during the last imperial exam, so I didn't see any of those scholars. I only heard that the Number One Scholar was the Third Young Master of the Mansion of the Prime Minister next door."

The Marquis Xing's Mansion and the Mansion of the Prime Minister were adjacent. Even if the masters of the two mansions did not exchange the news, the servants would pass it on.

A happy event like that traveled particularly fast. Shao Wanru had heard more than once from the old Nannies in Old Madam's courtyard that they had seen Wen Xichi when he was a child. They all said that the Number One Scholar had been clever and quick-witted since childhood. At first glance, they could tell that he would be extraordinary.

"The Third Young Master of the Mansion of the Prime Minister is a nice young man of excellent character who excels in all aspects. We can consider him. Among the scholars who took the last exam, the Number Two Scholar got married, but neither the Third Young Master of the Mansion of the Prime Minister nor the Number Three Scholar has married. I heard that he also came from Jiangzhou." The Empress Dowager turned to Nanny Wei, putting her hand on her head while trying to recall something. "What's his surname?"

"Her Majesty, it's Qi. He was said to have grown up with Princess Chen. There are profoundly friendly relations between the two families." Nanny Wei reminded her with a smile.

"Yes... yes, right. My bad memory! I heard the character and wit of this young man surnamed Qi are as good as those of Third Young Master Wen. Particularly, he is a great-hearted man who values relationships." The Empress Dowager nodded in approval and said, "Tell me what this person is like. What I've said is only hearsay and shouldn't be taken seriously."

"His family name is Qi? And he was the Number Three Scholar. Qi Tianyu?" Shao Wanru asked, staying calm and collected.

"Qi... Qi Tianyu. Yes, that's him," The Empress Dowager said hurriedly and looked at Shao Wanru with a bright smile, "what do you think of him?"

"Uh..." Shao Wanru, seemingly embarrassed by such a question, awkwardly lowered her head. Twisting the handkerchief a few times, she said uneasily and helplessly, "Imperial Grandmother, who told you I knew him?"

"Is there anything wrong?" The Empress Dowager asked kindly.

Shao Wanru said with red-rimmed eyes, "I don't know how others talked about it. Prince Chen knows about it because he happened to be in Jiangzhou back then."

"How could Chu Liuchen also know about it?" The Empress Dowager was surprised. Judging from Shao Wanru's reaction, there must be something serious behind it. She didn't want to discuss Qi Tianyu's affairs, for she had to avoid arousing suspicion.

"Then I'll ask Chen'er." The Empress Dowager comforted her, "It's nothing serious. I suddenly remembered him. I heard he was also one of the top talents in the capital city, so I wanted to know more about him. Others said that he came from Jiangzhou and seemed to know you."

"Yes, but he... I don't know how to bring it up. It's better to let His Highness say it," Shao Wanru said aggrievedly, the rims of her eyes red.

She didn't know how Qi Tianyu's name came to the Empress Dowager's ears. Nevertheless, it was improper for her to talk more about him. Chu Liuchen was the most suitable person to say this matter, and the Empress Dowager had always believed in him.

Shao Wanru looked sad, but a lot of things were going fast through her head. She wondered who deliberately mentioned Qi Tianyu and why it had to involve her.

Although she had nothing to do with what had happened, she had violated the Woman Precepts and Woman Ethics. As a lady, she had behaved a little rudely. Since she hadn't yet figured out the Empress Dowager's true character, Shao Wanru didn't know if she would flare up when she heard such a thing.

"Okay, okay, I'll ask Chen'er!" The Empress Dowager said.

Shao Wanru sniffed, tilted her head to wipe the corners of her eyes with a handkerchief, and turned her head back with a gentle smile. Her delicate and mild look appeared particularly pleasant, but the glum look at the bottom of her eyes was so apparent that she made the Empress Dowager feel distressed.

"If you are tired, go back and have a rest first," The Empress Dowager said gently.

"I'm not tired. Your birthday is coming soon. What kind of gift do you like? This is the first time that I've chosen a gift for you. I sincerely hope I can pick up something you like." Shao Wanru had thrown her sadness away and turned to see the Empress Dowager with an anxious look as if she had put her whole heart into pleasing her Imperial Grandmother.

She was beautiful. At this time, all she saw in her round eyes was the Empress Dowager. Her pair of eyes were clear, and she was young, so she appeared as adorable as the little princesses in the Palace. The Empress Dowager couldn't help showing loving care for her at the sight of her pure eyes.

"In the past years, Chen'er would send me some gifts I liked. You don't have to worry about it. Chen'er must have prepared some." The Empress Dowager said, beaming in a good mood.

"It's the first time for me to celebrate your birthday, so I should do my best!" Shao Wanru said, making Empress Dowager laugh happily again.

"Your Majesty, Princess Chen is filial to you. Now you can enjoy blessings from your grandson and your granddaughter-in-law," Nanny Wei joked.

The Empress Dowager smiled more and more happily. "Well, I don't have any special hobbies. I am happy to accept whatever gifts you give me."

"Imperial Grandmother, has everything been arranged here?" Shao Wanru looked around and asked curiously. When she came in, the palace maids and eunuchs outside were moving some things, mainly in the front hall.

"Your Highness, His Majesty wants to hold a banquet in the front hall this year. It will be more convenient and spacious for everyone to have a good time. Now it is almost ready. They finished fixing up a place during this period. When Your Highness came here before, they had just started."

Nanny Wei explained with a smile.

"Imperial Grandmother, may I go and have a look to enrich my experience?" Shao Wanru's eyes brightened as she looked up and asked joyfully.

It was not difficult to fulfill her expectation. The Empress Dowager waved her hand with a smile and ordered Nanny Wei to take Shao Wanru there.

Medical Princess

Chapter 1066: Suspicious Mother-Son Playing Picture

The so-called front hall was at the gate of the Palace of Benevolent Peace. There were high steps from the gate to the big hall.

The hall was spacious. Its interior was attractively furnished, and all the tables were placed in a highly orderly manner. The palace maids and eunuchs bustled around, working methodically. Seeing Nanny Wei coming with Shao Wanru, these imperial servants bowed respectfully and stayed put until they walked past.

Shao Wanru stepped inside, running her eyes over the rows of neatly arranged tables, and asked, "Are there others besides female guests attending the banquet?"

"Male and female guests will attend the grand banquet together. The whole nation will be in elation on her birthday, so the Emperor intends that all the guests congratulate Her Majesty here. Not only the Empress and consorts in the Palace, but also the Emperor and the princes will come. In addition, there are kinsmen of the Emperor, high-ranking officials, and their womenfolk."

With a smile, Nanny Wei briefed Shao Wanru on the current situation.

Shao Wanru nodded. As she had heard, it was a great banquet, and what happened later would have the most dramatic impact.

They moved forward. On the steps before the big hall were also tables in rows. It should be the place for the imperial consorts, princes, and princesses. Only one table was set on the uppermost ground. It was not big, but the three wooden chairs around it were inset with gold, appearing large and awe-inspiring. In particular, one chair had a dragon pattern on the shoulder, which made it more distinguished.

"Nanny Wei, is this... His Majesty's imperial throne?" Shao Wanru gasped and asked. It was the first time she had seen the Emperor's imperial throne. It was said that there were not many dragon thrones, even in the Palace.

Nanny Wei nodded and said, "This chair is indeed for the Emperor. The Empress Dowager specially customized it for the Emperor. The seats on both sides are for the Empress Dowager and the Empress."

Hearing her words, Shao Wanru turned to see the chairs on both sides. Only then did she find that these two chairs were also different from other chairs. Though smaller than the dragon throne in the middle, they were engraved with exquisite and gorgeous phoenix patterns, revealing the majestic atmosphere of the royal family.

"Nanny Wei, what kind of gift does Her Majesty like the most? Is there any forbidden rule? I've never attended her birthday party, so I'm worried I may offend her unintentionally."

After Shao Wanru marveled at the magnificent venue, she raised some questions, which was an important reason why she specially asked Nanny Wei to lead the way.

Nanny Wei had faintly expected this when Shao Wanru suggested looking at the front hall's layout. Hearing this question, she smiled and answered, "You are so considerate. Her Majesty is a very nice master and there is usually nothing to avoid. Just prepare a birthday gift that you think is proper."

Shao Wanru looked at Nanny Wei with a gentle smile and pursued the matter. "There is nothing special to evade, but she must have a preference for something?"

"Uh... It may not be a special hobby. Her Majesty likes some interesting and novel things out of the ordinary. And she is fond of scripts and paintings..." Nanny Wei reminded her with an implicit answer.

"She likes the unique calligraphy and painting?" Shao Wanru's eyes lit up, and her long eyelashes fluttered. This information seemed to have stirred up her feelings.

Nanny Wei smiled silently, but the message was crystal clear.

"Thank you, Nanny Wei." Shao Wanru bowed sideways and said gratefully.

"Princess Chen, you don't need to thank me. How could I accept your bow?" Nanny Wei hurriedly leaned aside to avoid receiving Shao Wanru's salute.

"Should I send this gift in advance or wait for Empress Dowager's birthday?" Shao Wanru straightened up and asked again.

"Well... Gifts are presented to her on her birthday," Nanny Wei said.

Some, not a lot of people, would bring the Empress Dowager presents beforehand. Beyond that, many of them would send gifts on her birthday too.

Each way of offering gifts had different benefits, but those who sent gifts before the birthday party usually had a special relationship with the Empress Dowager.

However, she didn't have to make it clear to Princess Chen.

"Thank you, Nanny Wei!" Shao Wanru bowed politely again, and Nanny Wei also avoided it with a smile.

The two of them walked and chatted for a while before returning to the Empress Dowager's place.

The Empress Dowager had been tired and went to rest, leaving word that Shao Wanru could do as she liked. If she felt fatigued, she could go back. Otherwise, she might as well go for a walk in the garden and enjoy the scenery. There was no need to go back home in a hurry. She must feel lonesome as the only master in the Prince Chen's Mansion.

Shao Wanru thanked the Empress Dowager for her kindness and left the Palace of Benevolent Peace. Nanny Wei saw her off at the gate. After watching her go, she stopped smiling and frowned tightly. "The matter Princess Chen talked about, did it relate to my nephew?"

It sounded a little different from what her nephew said, but the more she pondered it over, the more likely she felt it was related to her nephew. "Could it really have something to do with Princess Chen?" If

it was true, she had to warn her nephew not to come into conflict with Princess Chen. Princess Chen might not be a big deal, but the Empress Dowager doted on Prince Chen.

With Yujie, Shao Wanru casually went back to the Prince Chen's Mansion through the back door. Since Chu Liuchen was not in the mansion, it was not convenient for her to stay in the Palace.

There were no outsiders in the Palace, but it was quite possible for her to encounter several princes. Without Chu Liuchen around, she should be more cautious.

Along the way, she didn't see Zhaoyi Di but unexpectedly met Madam Ou, a painter. They almost bumped into each other around the corner.

Madam Ou took two steps backward, dropping a few painting scrolls in her hands. When she recognized Shao Wanru on the opposite side, she was stunned for a moment and hurriedly bowed to her. "Greetings, Her Highness!"

Shao Wanru, who used to be the beauty, became Princess Chen.

"Don't stand on ceremony." Shao Wanru smiled softly, telling Yujie to pick up the paintings one by one for Madam Ou.

"Where are you going to send so many paintings?" Shao Wanru asked inquisitively, her curious gaze on the unfolded painting. It was a picture of a mother and a son having fun together.

The podgy and cute baby was playing. Aside, a young madam was quietly embroidering the baby's tiny clothes. She looked dignified and gentle with a smile.

"I was asked to draw more harmonious pictures of mother and children for the Empress Dowager's birthday. I showed them to the supervisor of the Imperial Household Department, but he was not satisfied!" Madam Ou took the paintings handed over by Yujie and said helplessly.

"Was it His Majesty's order?" Shao Wanru's eyes sparkled.

"His Majesty asked the Imperial Household Department to do it. I heard that they would present the Empress Dowager with the best ones. However, they accepted none, blaming painters for our not-that-outstanding skills. This situation has never happened before." Madam Ou sighed in distress. Honestly, those authentic paintings of famous deceased painters were their best choice. How could the Imperial Household Department push them so hard for perfect drawings?

Their paintings were not bad, but they could certainly not be compared to those painters prestigious through the ages.

"Has the order been issued this year only?" Shao Wanru raised her beautiful eyebrows and asked.

"Yes, that's what they want especially for this year's birthday celebration. I should have been sent out of the Palace, but they still keep me here to paint this kind of painting," Madam Ou said.

It had been some time since the Pageant ended. She was supposed to leave the Palace long ago but was trapped here because of this matter.

Shao Wanru asked with a smile, her watery eyes on Madam Qu, "The other painters also have to draw similar paintings?"

"Yes, the same type of paintings. Our drawings should reflect the intimate relationship between mother and sons when they were little. I was just asked to draw more children. There should be three," Madam Ou added.

If there were three sons, the deceased emperor was included.

The deceased emperor's affairs had been deliberately blurred as if he were just an ordinary monarch. Gradually, anecdotes to show his harmonious relations with his ministers had gone out of focus. Though changes like this happened slowly, they yielded practical results.

Few people would mention the deceased emperor if not for something deeply involved with him.

At this time, painters were specially asked to draw three children, which was strange.

The Empress Dowager had three sons. Among them, the deceased emperor and the Emperor were her biological sons. Then, there was Prince Cheng. Coincidentally, they were also a mother with three sons.

Ever since she said goodbye to Madam Ou, Shao Wanru had been thinking about this problem, feeling it was overly strange and unreasonable.

When the Emperor wanted to give her mother paintings as birthday presents, he should at least choose authentic artworks by renowned artists over those assignments handed by painters. It was not an appropriate choice, even if Madam Ou and other painters possessed extraordinary painting skills.

These gifts were neither from celebrated contemporary painters nor people with distinguished status. How could they be presented to the Empress Dowager? What was more unusual, they were what the Emperor wanted.

In addition, the deceased emperor's affairs appeared odd.

These things slowly flashed through her mind as if they meant something, but she couldn't grasp the focal point for a while.

After returning to Prince Chen's Mansion and sitting down, she pondered it and looked puzzled. "Could it not be what the Emperor meant?

"If not, who else wanted to do it?"

Today, she had planned to report to the Empress Dowager in advance. On the surface, Wei Dahai seemed to be a disloyal man who coveted his ex-wife's property. However, this matter involved Mo Qiuyi, who had remained strange and mysterious, and Chu Qing. All of this aroused Shao Wanru's suspicion.

It was why she visited the Empress Dowager in the Palace today.

Nanny Wei, who had been standing behind the Empress Dowager, acted a little strangely. Both she and Wei Dahai were surnamed Wei. Were they by any chance, related?

When she talked about Wei Dahai, although she didn't mention him by name, Nanny Wei looked a little embarrassed as if she knew something!

However, her abnormal expression disappeared very quickly. When Nanny Wei led her to the front hall, she had already returned to normal. No matter how carefully Shao Wanru observed her, she found nothing wrong.

Was Nanny Wei a deep one? Or did she make a mistake?

Beyond that, the matter related to Madam Ou was also a little weird. The Imperial Household Department? She might need to ask her grandmother and find out who was in charge of the Imperial Household Department. This time, the Imperial Household Department was responsible for the Empress Dowager's birthday celebration. In her previous life, when the trouble happened, she didn't hear any chief officials of the Imperial Household Department had been charged with a crime. It seemed that no one there had made any mistakes, but in the end, they had forced Prince Zhou and the Empress to rebel.

"Your Highness, a Madam asked to see you. She said it had something to do with Marquis Xing, and you have met her!" An old maid walked into the yard and reported respectfully in the corridor.

Medical Princess

Chapter 1067: The Mistress Came to Her

"Who?" Shao Wanru didn't understand, waved her hand, and asked again.

Yujie lifted the curtain and went out.

The old maid, afraid of seeing Shao Wanru, lowered her head and spoke in a low voice, "She said she was an old acquaintance and had some connections with Marquis Xing. She asked to see you, Your Highness."

The old maid didn't want to report this because that woman obviously had no powerful backing. Otherwise, she would have claimed herself to be a Madam instead of Princess Chen's acquaintance.

There were too many old acquaintances. Even those unfamiliar to Princess Chen when she was young could be seen as her acquaintances.

However, since she was an acquaintance of the Marquis Xing's Mansion, the old maid didn't dare to offend her and could only come in to report.

Yujie turned around. After lowering the curtain, she went in and asked, "My Lady, do you have any old friends in the Marquis Xing's Mansion? When we were there, I didn't see any Madam come to visit you."

They had only spent a short period in the Marquis Xing's Mansion, so they had not seen many Misses from other mansions, not to mention Madams. They had only interacted with the few scheming ladies living in the mansion. Except for them, Yujie couldn't figure out which Madam was an old acquaintance of her master in the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

"My Lady, I wonder if she comes here to blackmail you on purpose?" Qu Le got a sudden idea and asked. She couldn't remember which Madam was familiar with her master.

Since she was an old friend, Princess Chen must know her. But she didn't even meet an outsider in the Marquis Xing's Mansion, so how could she get to know a Madam?

It couldn't be Madam Jiang, Marquis Xing's Madam, for she was not allowed to go out and meet others at this moment. As for Old Madam, it was even more impossible. If it were Old Madam, she wouldn't say she was an old acquaintance. The two maids couldn't come up with anyone else.

Shao Wanru pondered for a moment and suddenly said with a smile, "There is one!"

"Which one? My Lady, we've been accompanying you all the time, but why don't we know it?" Qu Le and Yujie looked at each other in blank dismay and asked.

"On that day, when I met Marquis Xing outside..." Shao Wanru reminded them with a deep look in her eyes.

"No way! How could such a woman of low and degrading status come to see you?" Qu Le said in disbelief. The woman was Marquis Xing's mistress, and it was apparent that she was not a good person. The information she got later proved it.

Marquis Xing had kept this mistress outside his mansion for more than ten years. They even had a daughter.

Everyone from noble families would hold such a woman in contempt.

"My Lady, Marquis Xing has gone too far. How could he let his mistress come to see you? He wants you to accept her and let her marry into his mansion, doesn't he?" Yujie was so irritated that her face turned pale.

"That's impossible. If she wants to marry into the Marquis Xing's Mansion, she has to get Old Madam's permission." Qu Le shook her head and denied it.

Marquis Xing had elders, and he was Shao Wanru's elder. Thus, he couldn't ask a junior to help his mistress marry into his mansion.

"Why not? Old Madam is not in charge now. It is Eldest Young Madam who manages the mansion, and she is Marquis Xing's daughter-in-law. No matter how thick-skinned Marquis Xing is, he would be too embarrassed to ask his daughter-in-law to handle such a thing. At present, our master is the most distinguished person who can represent the Marquis Xing's Mansion. Our master's support will save them a lot of trouble. In that way, he could take not only his mistress but also his daughter into his mansion."

Yujie sneered.

Shao Wanru remained silent for a moment. There was something strange about this woman's visit. They had only met once. Ordinary mistresses would quickly hide once they saw anyone from their lover's mansion. However, she dared to come to the door of the Prince Chen's Mansion as an acquaintance. How could she be sure that Shao Wanru would agree to her request and be willing to see her?

"Ask her to go away and tell her that I don't know her," Shao Wanru said. No matter who this woman was, she didn't want to pay attention to her and just wanted to see what they would do next.

"My Lady, let me have a look!" Yujie volunteered to see the shameless woman.

Shao Wanru nodded.

Yujie lifted the curtain and went out. With the old maid who delivered the message, she went out of the mansion. When she arrived at the gate, she saw a carriage alone before the gate. In front of it stood a thirteen or fourteen years old little servant girl with double hair buns. She looked pretty delicate. When she saw Yujie coming over, she hurriedly bowed to her.

"Who is your Madam? Our princess doesn't know her." Yujie raised her head and looked at the carriage arrogantly.

The curtain of the carriage was lifted, and there was a little servant girl about twelve or thirteen years old inside.

Behind the lifted curtain, a woman called "E'niang" appeared and saw Yujie. Before saying anything, she smiled and got out of the carriage with the help of a little servant girl. She bowed sideways to Yujie and said, "Miss, we met last time. At that time, you and Marquis Xing were both there. Do you remember me?"

She was wearing a light-colored dress, which made her look very elegant. Her initially delicate appearance became even more charming.

She was very good at dressing up.

Shao Jing, Marquis Xing, brought her with him that day, but Yujie didn't dare to watch her very closely. At this time, she finally had to chance to look her up and down.

"Who are you? Her Highness doesn't know you!" After examining her, Yujie still kept a straight face and said unhappily, "You'd better go back. If you're looking for Marquis Xing, you can go to the Marquis Xing's Mansion."

"Miss Yujie, I'm E'niang. His Excellency brought me to you last time!" E'niang pleaded softly with tears in her eyes, looking extremely pitiful, "Her Highness met me in the private room before, right?"

"So what do you want to do?" Yujie was shocked. She didn't expect this mistress to know her name. Sure enough, this woman came prepared, so Yujie became serious at once.

"I'm not asking anything, and I just want to see Her Highness." E'niang wiped the corners of her eyes with a handkerchief, appearing extremely aggrieved. "After meeting Her Highness last time, I remembered one thing that should have something to do with her. So I specially came here."

"About Her Highness?" Yujie sized E'niang up and said unhappily, "How could there be anything about Her Highness that needs you to pay a visit?"

With Princess Chen's high status, how could there be a connection between her and such a woman?

"I mean it. It's about her father. Please go in and report it, Miss Yujie," E'niang said softly, bowed sideways again, and looked very respectful to Yujie.

Her master's father was the former Heir of Duke Xing. Yujie couldn't make a decision on such a thing at the moment.

Princess Chen had been trying to discover the truth about what had happened that year, and all her trusted subordinates knew about it. However, it was challenging to find out what happened back then. After all, the former heir of a duke died at the remote frontier.

"Is there any clue now?"

However, this clue was brought to them by this woman, which made Yujie doubtful.

"Miss Yujie, this is of great importance. When I met Her Highness before, I couldn't remember it. Later on, I recalled such a critical thing. Miss Yujie..." Seeing Yujie's hesitant look, E'niang knew there was hope and emphasized it with a silver voice and deep feeling.

Her expression looked very sincere.

"There's no need. My master said that she knew everything about what had happened to her parents. She didn't need you to reveal anything. If you think it is important, you can go out, turn left, and stop at the second intersection. The Ministry of Justice is there. You can say anything you like in the hall of the Ministry of Justice."

Qu Le walked out of the gate of the Prince Chen's Mansion.

She headed here later than Yujie because Shao Wanru specially asked her to go and instructed her to say these words.

"I indeed have something crucial to report to Her Highness." Seeing Qu Le come out with a poker face, E'niang knew it would be no good to her and said in a hurry.

"Madam, Her Highness doesn't know you. You must have made up things about the former Heir of Duke Xing to mislead us, so she refused to hear anything about it. If you keep pestering us, don't blame our mansion's guards for being rude. They will directly get you and throw you into prison, charging you with causing a disturbance in the Prince Chen's Mansion."

According to Shao Wanru's order, Qu Le took an uncompromising attitude.

A few guards came out from the gate, their hostile eyes on E'niang. Though their long swords were still in their sheaths, they approached with murderous looks.

These guards guarding the gate were specially sent here by the Emperor. When Qu Le went out just now, she told them that some people deliberately came to make trouble and asked their leader to dispatch several guards.

E'niang suddenly paled in a great panic. Seeing Qu Le's stern look and the few fierce guards, she didn't dare to say anything more and could get back to the carriage with her servant girl's help.

The carriage turned around and left obediently.

"Qu Le, Her Lady asked you to come here?" Yujie asked in a low voice, looking at the carriage that seemed to be on the run and the guards going back.

"Let's go back and talk about it!" Qu Le nodded.

They entered the mansion from the gate and went to the back courtyard.

"My Lady, she said she knew something about your father. She didn't remember it when meeting you back then. Afterward, she suddenly recalled it and made this visit." As soon as Yujie entered the door, she reported to Shao Wanru.

Qu Le, who arrived later than her, didn't hear these words. At this time, she was stunned. It turned out the mistress knew such essential things, so she subconsciously turned to see Shao Wanru.

Given Princess Chen's character, she would investigate this matter.

"It turns out to be such a reason!" Shao Wanru sneered with a cold smile. She had guessed that this woman must have prepared a very reasonable reason for forcing her to meet her. It seemed that she was right.

"Is it true?" Yujie asked worriedly. Anything related to Infanta Qinghua and the former heir of a duke was what Princess Chen was most concerned about. If it was true, she couldn't miss it.

"Do you think it's true?" Shao Wanru asked, her penetrating and cold eyes widening.

"I... I don't know... I think it may be true, but may also be false." Yujie hesitated. She really couldn't tell whether it was true or not.

"Why do you say that?" Shao Wanru asked with some interest.

"This woman is Marquis Xing's mistress. Based on such a background, she may know something. But even so, she couldn't suddenly come to see you unless... unless something unexpected happened! So I think it may or may not be true. It's hard to say!"

Yujie thought for a while and said bluntly.

Medical Princess

Chapter 1068: Cunning, Talking Nonsense

"Whether it was true or not, someone couldn't sit still. Let's wait and see!" Shao Wanru said indifferently.

This woman called E'niang came as a complete surprise. She was an unexpected guest.

What was Shao Jing up to now? What was his plan?

"My Lady, this woman is audacious. When I drove her away on purpose, she didn't panic but said something that made me hesitate. She doesn't look like an ordinary mistress," Yujie said uneasily.

She didn't look like a mistress. Although she wore flashy clothes and didn't look like a respectable woman, she was pretty bold. When facing Yujie, a principal maid of Princess Chen, she stayed cool and hung loose. Judging from her unusual behavior, she could tell that this mistress couldn't be that simple.

"She had been hiding under Madam Jiang's nose for so long and chose to make her first appearance in this special period. She knows how to assess the situation and seize the right time to make progress. If what she said were true, Shao Jing might suffer because the evidence against him had fallen into her hands. Otherwise, they must have conspired together!"

Shao Wanru said with an icy look in her eyes. The latter guess seemed to be more convinced in her eyes. Shao Jing was an expert in concealing his wicked thoughts and was merciless. If E'niang had gone against him, she couldn't have survived till now and given birth to a daughter for him.

It seemed that there was something strange about that daughter. She acted at the opportune moment...

"Aunt, please help me. This... this is true... I had no choice but to do this." Wei Dahai knelt before Nanny Wei, placing his hands on her knees. The tall man cried bitterly like a child before Nanny Wei, filled with genuine grievances. "Aunt, I... I had no choice!"

They were in a simple courtyard. It was not big, but expensive because it was located in the center. It was Nanny Wei's courtyard outside the Palace. The Empress Dowager had prepared it and bestowed it on her long ago. When Nanny Wei retired and was sent out of the Palace in old age, she could live a comfortable life here.

Nanny Wei was aged. Although she had spent most of her time serving in the Palace, the Empress Dowager would let her out sometimes. The Empress Dowager had been extremely kind to her, so Nanny Wei could live in this yard outside the Palace for ten days per month.

After she recognized Wei Dahai, her nephew, he would come to see her from time to time when she was out of the Palace. Since they were reunited, Wei Dahai had been very close to her. He had always said that he would take care of her after Nanny Wei retired from the Palace.

Nanny Wei was sincerely concerned about this nephew.

But at this time, she couldn't agree to his request.

Reaching out to take Wei Dahai's hand, she sighed and said, "Dahai, don't think about this shop. Princess Chen took a fancy to it, and even the Empress Dowager knew about it. Her Majesty even criticized you for being ungrateful, saying that she would find out who this man of evil character was."

When Nanny Wei accepted Wei Dahai, her nephew, she wanted to tell the Empress Dowager about it early. However, Wei Dahai stopped her from doing so, for he thought there was no need to announce it in such a hurry. Nanny Wei was still serving the Empress Dowager by her side. If he got promoted in the imperial court, people would think he made it with Nanny Wei's help.

It would do no good to Nanny Wei or him.

He said righteously that it was his own business whether he could be promoted or not. It had nothing to do with Nanny Wei, and he didn't want to take advantage of Nanny Wei. He just wanted to be her nephew, her family member, as his father had asked him to do. His father had told him that Nanny Wei had been living a miserable life since she was a child. Therefore, once Wei Dahai found Nanny Wei, he must take good care of her in her old age as if she were his mother.

These words greatly moved Nanny Wei, and she repeatedly nodded in agreement, feeling her nephew was well-behaved and filial.

Before the Empress Dowager, she only mentioned that she found her nephew but didn't take about anything else.

Unexpectedly, her nephew, willing to keep a low profile, offended Princess Chen this time, but Nanny Wei could do nothing to help.

Nanny Wei had heard about the Butterfly Clothing Shop from Wei Dahai. Wei Dahai said that the shopkeeper used to have a romantic relationship with him and gave birth to a daughter for him. He wanted to take her back and let their daughter manage the shop. Anyway, he wouldn't take a penny from them.

Wei Dahai's words sounded entirely reasonable. Nanny Wei nodded vigorously and told him that he couldn't look down on the shopkeeper because she only gave birth to a daughter. He had to treat her well if he took her into his mansion. As for her niece-in-law, he had to explain it clearly. Her niece-in-law had always been understanding and filial before Nanny Wei.

Wei Dahai said he was almost done and only needed to wait for a while. It had never occurred to him that Princess Chen would say something against him today.

Nanny Wei felt a headache. Although the Empress Dowager thought highly of her, Princess Chen was different from others — she was Prince Chen's legal wife. Besides, everyone knew how much the Empress Dowager doted on Prince Chen. Even the Empress in the Palace didn't dare to offend Prince Chen easily. Moreover, no matter what, she was just a humble servant.

"Lady Ming and I are deeply in love with each other. Back then, she had no choice but to leave me. If she were forced to stay away from me again, I... I would lose all my courage to see her. She trusts me so much and has been waiting wholeheartedly to marry into my mansion. We have already prepared a courtyard in my mansion for her, and everything is well-prepared. We even revealed this matter to some people. But now... Princess Chen forcefully intervened. Aunt, what... what should I do?"

Wei Dahai cried like a child, his face sad.

Dignity is the most valuable for men. They should never kneel before others. As for crying, Wei Dahai always came over with a smile and never cried in front of her.

"Aunt, I'm begging you only for this time. For Lady Ming and Xiuer, I beg you this time. Please help me!" Seeing Nanny Wei's face, Wei Dahai knew there was hope and cried more sadly.

He begged Nanny Wei for the sake of his wife and daughter. Nanny Wei was even more convinced that he was affectionate and had true feelings toward his family members. When seeing him be overwhelmed with sorrow, she also felt like crying.

This woman named Lady Ming and her nephew finally reunited after an enforced separation. She hadn't remarried for so many years and had strived hard to bring their daughter up. All of this was for her nephew. Obviously, she also valued her relationship with him. They had been united in their secret hearts, but the couple was forced to part because of Princess Chen. Such a tough man was pushed to the wall, nearly crying his heart out.

Somehow, she got a little angry at Shao Wanru.

Princess Chen seemed to be a lovely noble lady. How could she do such a thing and deliberately report it to the Empress Dowager? Was it because of her?

She put forth her strength and pulled Wei Dahai up before sighing helplessly. "Don't cry. We can think of a way!"

"Thank you, Aunt! Thank you so much!" Wei Dahai was overjoyed. Though Nanny Wei tried to stop him, he still struggled to kneel down and sincerely kowtow to her three times with loud and clear thumps.

"Get up quickly. Aren't you afraid of getting a headache?" Nanny Wei forcefully dragged him up.

This time, Wei Dahai didn't refuse and allowed Nanny Wei to pull himself up. Taking the handkerchief handed over by Nanny Wei, he wiped his eyes casually and scanned her face anxiously.

Nanny Wei sighed again and pointed to the chair. "Sit down and talk!"

"Thank you, Aunt!" Wei Dahai sat down and looked at Nanny Wei with high expectations in his sparkling eyes.

This big, burly man was not young anymore, but Nanny Wei's heart softened inexplicably when she saw his pleading expression. He was her only relative, her nephew, and the only son in her parents' family. Merely for this reason, she couldn't bear to let the loving couple go their separate ways.

It hadn't been easy for them to stay faithful to each other after so many years apart.

"Today, Princess Chen said in the Empress Dowager's place that you fancied the shop, so you proposed to marry the shopkeeper. Besides, she said you were greedy, cruel, and ungrateful. Tell me, is it true? Do you want the shop, or do you have feelings for each other?"

Nanny Wei asked seriously.

Since she decided to interfere, she had to make everything clear. Only in this way could she stand in a firm position. Even if they took the dispute to the Empress Dowager, she would have nothing to be ashamed of.

"How could you believe such words? It is obvious that Princess Chen likes that shop and wants to take it by force. So, she deliberately wrecks the relationship between Lady Ming and me. She might even blacken Lady Ming's name by accusing her of cheating. Aunt, Lady Ming is a good woman. We separated by accident. Otherwise, we wouldn't have been living apart from each other for so long. She took care of our child alone... I feel sorry for her..."

Speaking of this, Wei Dahai couldn't help crying again.

He looked significantly distressed about Lady Ming's sufferings. As Nanny Wei saw this, her expression softened a little. "It's pitiful! So unjust!"

"Aunt, if you don't believe me, I'll ask Lady Ming to come over in a few days and let her explain it to you. Then, you'll know who on earth takes a fancy to her shop, I or Princess Chen," Wei Dahai said indignantly. He stood up and seemed to go out to let Lady Ming make everything in the past clear.

Seeing him like this, how could Nanny Wei not believe it? She reached out to pull his sleeve and make him sit down again. "You are my nephew. How can I not believe you? But the current situation is a little troublesome. The Empress Dowager also knows about it."

"Aunt, Princess Chen abused her power to bully an orphan and a widow. It has never been easy for such a poor woman like Lady Ming to make a living with our daughter. Finally, she managed to run her own business but was driven to the wall by Princess Chen. What if she can't bear the blow and kill herself?"

A trace of maliciousness flashed in Wei Dahai's eyes. If Lady Ming didn't appreciate his kindness, she couldn't blame him for being cruel. Anyway, He was determined to get the Butterfly Clothing Shop.

Initially, he thought it was a sure thing, but because of Princess Chen, things changed. Fortunately, he had reported this matter to Nanny Wei before. His rival was Princess Chen, but so what? She was just a woman who married a sick prince.

How could Great Elder Princess have more powerful backing than the Empress Dowager?

Medical Princess

Chapter 1069: A Wicked Couple

"No, there may be a turning point in this matter." Nanny Wei shook her head and said, "Tell Lady Ming to bear it for the time being."

"I'm afraid people from the Prince Chen's Mansion have been pushing her too hard these days. Please help me save her," Wei Dahai begged again.

"Okay, okay, okay. Wait for a while. I'll have to think about it." His repeated request gave Nanny Wei a headache, and she said hurriedly.

Now her mind was in a whirl, and she didn't know how to deal with this matter at the moment. Princess Chen looked young but was intelligent and decisive, with Prince Chen backing her up. Prince Chen had broken the arm of Ruiping Great Elder Princess's grandson, but even the Ruiping Great Elder Princess's Mansion didn't dare to argue about it.

Princess Chen didn't even need to care about Great Elder Princess. Would she show Nanny Wei respect?

"Aunt, you are Her Majesty's personal Nanny. Since you moved into the Palace with the Empress Dowager, you have accompanied Her Majesty for many years. Her Majesty has a very high opinion of you, so I guess you must be much closer to her in her heart than Princess Chen. Her Majesty has many grandsons and will have more granddaughters-in-law. Besides, I heard that Princess Chen wasn't Her Majesty's favorite one."

Seeing that she was still hesitating, Wei Dahai reminded her.

What he said made Nanny Wei happy. The relationship between her and the Empress Dowager was indeed remarkable. They had gone through many hardships together in the Palace to get their current status. The Empress Dowager thought highly of her and was willing to listen to her advice.

"What I need you to do is simple. You only need to say before Her Majesty that Princess Chen took advantage of her power to bully others, rob their shop, and ruin their marriage. Her Majesty is sensible enough and has always been kind. She won't watch Lady Ming fall into a miserable situation."

Wei Dahai added fuel to the fire.

"I'm not sure about this," Nanny Wei frowned and said.

"Don't worry. I won't let you say that alone. Just echo someone else's words aside," Wei Dahai whispered.

"You have placed someone in the Palace?" Nanny Wei's face changed dramatically.

If anyone were found to have planted their people in the Palace, their whole family would be implicated.

"Relax, Aunt. It's not an important person. When we recognized each other, I was afraid that you might have a hard time in the Palace, so I bribed a little palace maid to help me keep an eye on you. If anything bad happens to you, I don't want to be the last person who knows it, and it might be too late for me to come to your aid," Wei Dahai explained.

It was just a little palace maid, and he asked her to look out for her. Nanny Wei breathed a silent sigh of relief in her heart, looking at Wei Dahai more tenderly and thinking this nephew to be very considerate.

"You don't have to do this in the future. I live a good life in the Palace, and her Majesty has been nice to me."

"Aunt, even if you say that, I am still worried. You are getting old. After this matter is settled, just beg Her Majesty to let you out of the Palace. Although I'm not that capable, I can still take good care of you for the rest of your life." Wei Dahai took the opportunity to express his love for her.

Wei Dahai knew Nanny Wei couldn't leave the Palace lately. She was robust, so even if she wanted to go, the Empress Dowager would ask her to stay. Sweet words were necessary. Anyway, they cost him nothing. No matter how nicely he talked, he wouldn't take it seriously. Could anyone believe oral promises?

However, seeing that he was so considerate of her, Nanny Wei was greatly moved and increasingly believed Wei Dahai's words. He was indeed a person who valued connections with others. How could he be the heartless man in Princess Chen's words? Princess Chen lied about this and deliberately disgraced her nephew.

She used to think that Princess Chen was a good person but didn't expect her to be so scheming. If Wei Dahai hadn't happened to be her nephew, she might have ruined a family.

"I will ask the little palace maid to tell others about it. You just need to let Empress Dowager hear her. At that time, you can say a few more words to help Lady Ming. Aunt, please, the lives of Lady Ming and Xiuer will depend on you!" Wei Dahai stood up and was about to kneel down and kowtow to Nanny Wei again.

Nanny Wei stopped him and repeatedly said, "Okay, okay, I know. Don't kneel before me. Think about what we should do next. Just tell me the person you mentioned, and I'll arrange it. I can't let Princess Chen hound someone to death."

It could be considered a good thing. Even if it were anyone else's business, Nanny Wei would intervene, not to mention it was related to her nephew.

Nanny Wei had decided to help Wei Dahai, so she tried her best to think of a solution. Wei Dahai told Nanny Wei some details before leaving her place.

He got into the carriage outside the courtyard. His benevolent and generous look vanished after he was in the carriage, and his face darkened with a trace of gloominess.

He didn't expect Princess Chen to get involved in this matter.

He had planned to let the Empress Dowager know about this matter before Princess Chen told her about it. Unexpectedly, after returning from outside, Princess Chen went straight to see the Empress Dowager in the Palace and informed her of this matter.

The business in the Butterfly Clothing Shop had proved to be pretty lucrative. Previously, when he casually flipped through the account books, he found that this shop made more money than a few shops he owned. At present, he was quite short of money. Upon learning about the shop's substantial profit, he was envious. When he returned, he discussed how to use the money with his family. How could he watch such a large sum of money go away?

He was determined to take this shop.

The carriage made a few corners and returned to the Wei's Mansion. When the gatekeeper saw his master go back, he hurried to lead the way with a lantern.

Wei Dahai walked toward the inner court with his hands clasped behind his back.

The largest main courtyard in the inner court was brightly lit. His legal wife, Madam Ouyang, was sitting under the lamp and waiting for him. When she saw him come in, she waved her hand, and the servant girls and old maids on both sides withdrew without making a sound.

"How was it?" asked Madam Ouyang.

Madam Ouyang was thin and looked ordinary. It could even be said that she was not as good-looking as ordinary people. Even under the light, she appeared extremely gloomy with her cheeks drooping. Besides, her eyes bulged, and her lips looked particularly fat. If not for her fair skin, she couldn't even compare with those old maids serving in an ordinary courtyard.

"My Lord, how is it going?" Madam Ouyang didn't rise from her chair and asked with a displeased expression. "Why have you been gone for so long? Was it that difficult?"

"It's a bit tricky. Princess Chen has already entered the Palace and reported this matter to the Empress Dowager." Wei Dahai's brows were so deeply furrowed that they could almost pinch a fly.

"What's wrong with Princess Chen? How greedy she is to covet our property!" Madam Ouyang snorted coldly with a gloomy face. "She married an invalid, who might die anytime. What's the point of her making money like this? Her husband's life is in danger. What does she earn so much money for?" Madam Ouyang sneered coldly.

Wei Dahai sat down, picked up the teapot on the table, and poured himself a cup of tea. He drank about half of it before putting it down. "My aunt said that we could do as how we had discussed. It's troublesome. At first, it was only an easy matter related to Lady Ming, but now Princess Chen suddenly popped up to scramble for it."

"Too late! If you had gotten rid of that woman early, there wouldn't have been any problem. If you had done what I told you, such a thing would never have happened. But you couldn't bear to see your daughter suffer. Don't you have a daughter or what? Why do you care so much about your mistress' daughter?"

Madam Ouyang snapped coldly as she slammed her hand on the table.

According to her previous suggestion, they should seize hold of Dong Xiuer and force Lady Ming to hand over the shop. As long as this kind of thing was handled properly, no one would care about it. Since there was no victim, no one would investigate it. They could tell others that Lady Ming had resigned. How could there be so much trouble? This matter didn't have to get any messier.

Only Dong Xiuer and Lady Ming were sacrificed, and everything would be fine for them.

"But Xiuer is my own flesh and blood," Wei Dahai said.

"Your flesh and blood? So, aren't the children I gave birth to your flesh and blood? Do you regret it now? You regret marrying me back then. Now you want to spend the rest of your life with Lady Ming." Madam Ouyang denounced him in a sharp voice.

"How could it be? Don't you know how I treat you? I treat you wholeheartedly, but how could you be so mean? I have nothing to do with Lady Ming. After breaking up with her, we haven't contacted each other for so many years. I wouldn't have contacted her again if it hadn't been for you that day. When she enters our mansion, you can decide everything about her. Even if you want to take her life, I won't say anything."

Wei Dahai lowered his voice, coaxing her.

"A lot of pleasant words. Let's see how you deal with the current tricky situation!" Madam Ouyang was unwilling to let go of him and spoke with anger.

"I'll take care of it. Don't worry. Everything will be fine. You'll be in charge of that shop. I trust you the most because you can always get things done." Wei Dahai reached out and held Madam Ouyang in his arms, saying gently.

Madam Ouyang looked a little better because he had been very docile. After thinking for a while, she said, "What if Princess Chen insists on scrambling for it with us? Perhaps, Lady Ming had begged her to help you. Do we have to continue dawdling our time like this? Prince Chen is going back to the capital city!"

"If it goes on like this, let Lady Ming die!" Wei Dahai had thought it through on his way back and said without hesitation.

Hearing his words, Madam Ouyang cracked a smile. She tenderly pulled his sleeve and said, "Sweetheart, we are of one heart and one mind. Only in this way can we fight for a good future for our children. At that time, you're no longer a small official but at least a first-class one in the imperial court. That will be our bright future."

She was not pretty and old, but she pretended to be gentle and yielding. There was even a hint of shyness in her affectionate eyes.

Wei Dahai hurriedly looked away and patted her on the back perfunctorily. Then he stood up and said, "I'll go to the study and think about it again. I'm afraid Princess Chen will have more follow-up plans."

"Why do you have to leave so late at night? Let's rest first!" Madam Ouyang's face darkened again. She shook her sleeves and stood up.

"Well... Okay!" Although Wei Dahai wanted to leave, he did not dare to for fear of causing more trouble. Unlike Lady Ming, Madam Ouyang was not someone to be trifled with. Everything he had now was related to her, so he did not dare to disobey her. No matter how much he disliked her, he had to endure it.

Medical Princess

Chapter 1070: A Dropped Contract Remained There Overnight

"Her Majesty, it's a fine day today. The flowers in the garden have come into bloom. You could be in a better mood after taking a walk. Prince Chen is going back to the capital city soon, so you don't have to worry. His Highness has always been concerned about you. Knowing that your birthday is coming, he will speed up."

With a smile, Nanny Wei accompanied the Empress Dowager to stroll in the imperial garden.

A large group of palace maids and eunuchs followed her, carrying various practical items.

"He'd better not hurry up. If he can't make it, let it be. He has just recovered a little and can't exert himself," the Empress Dowager sighed and said. She didn't want Chu Liuchen to be in a hurry.

"You care so much about His Highness. He has been wholeheartedly grateful and filial to you. Even if he can't return in time, he will ask Princess Chen to prepare a lovely gift for you. His Highness knows best about your preferences. Sometimes, even I have to ask him for advice."

Nanny Wei said with a smile, extolling Chu Liuchen to the skies.

"You overpraised. His gifts were merely a token of his regard. Only a few people dote on my grandson in poor health. This child is luckless." The Empress Dowager looked happy but sighed later on. "If I don't love him dearly, he will be more pitiful."

"With Your Majesty around, Prince Chen won't be pitiable. Now he has married Princess Chen. I think Her Highness is clever and sensible. Although young, she has behaved quite experienced in life since she arrived in the capital city. I admire her for that." Nanny Wei praised Shao Wanru, remaining as calm as usual.

A sophisticated young woman must be full of maneuvers.

Nanny Wei reminded Empress Dowager that Shao Wanru might be overly crafty and cunning, though everything Shao Wanru did was good when she arrived in the capital city three years ago.

These words were just chit-chat. Occasionally, the Empress Dowager would also gossip. Nanny Wei was a trusted personal servant, so the Empress Dowager wouldn't feel her comment was out of line.

With regret, she sighed. "Princess Chen is too young, after all. She didn't grow up in the Marquis Xing's Mansion."

Compared with Shao Wanru, the Empress Dowager preferred an elder Miss from an aristocratic family. It would be even better if she grew up with her parents. Educated by her parents and the rules of the aristocratic family, such a Young Madam must be a dutiful wife. If she was elder, she could take better care of Prince Chen.

"Your Highness, don't worry. Princess Chen is an outstanding lady. Prince Chen chose her as his wife because he likes her, doesn't he? His Highness must be heartily grateful to you, his Imperial Grandmother, for his happy life." Nanny Wei pretended not to hear the regret in the Empress Dowager's words and continued to praise Princess Chen.

"She is young and doesn't strictly follow rules of etiquette. Her mother died when she was little, and no one taught her how to behave properly. It mattered little when she was only an ordinary Miss in the Marquis Xing's Mansion. But now that she has become Princess Chen, her words and deeds will affect my grandson's reputation. If she does anything wrong, Chen'er will have to bear the consequences."

Hearing Nanny Wei's words, the Empress Dowager became increasingly worried and sighed again.

The more she thought about it, the more anxious she became. The Empress Dowager had heard that she had been unfavored in the Ningyuan Army General's Mansion for many years. Since the mansion's hostess was Madam Di, the Empress Dowager did worry about Shao Wanru's character, whether Madam Di had taught her or not. Madam Di, never a decent lady, was unvirtuous and had been unfaithful to Ningyuan Army General.

How could Madam Di raise any good child? If Madam Di didn't teach Shao Wanru herself, it would be even worse for the servants to teach her.

The Empress Dowager didn't think this way before, but now as she thought it over, she grew regretful. If she had known this earlier, she would have waited and seen. She would have waited until Chu Liuyue and Chu Liuzhou married. Maybe she could find a better one, and Chen'er might meet a more suitable wife.

Nevertheless, she couldn't do anything about it for the time being.

Thinking of this, the Empress Dowager felt depressed.

"Her Majesty, what's that?" Nanny Wei was about to speak when she suddenly spotted something red under a cluster of flowers, though no hint of red could be seen among those big, yellow flowers on the tree.

Nanny Wei walked over curiously and bent down to pick something up.

"Your Majesty, it's a note." Nanny Wei said while walking back and murmured to herself, "Why is it red?"

She walked up to the Empress Dowager, opened the folded note, and immediately a few words abruptly appeared before them.

The Empress Dowager frowned because it turned out to be a contract with a red stamp. How could such a thing be left here?

She checked the signature on it: Butterfly Clothing Shop.

"Who owns it? It actually was dropped here," the Empress Dowager said. She had been managing family affairs before getting married, so she naturally knew how vital this contract was. She didn't know who was so careless to drop a contract here. If it rained, the contract would be ruined.

"Butterfly Clothing Shop?" Nanny Wei read it out and muttered, "Why do I feel the name sounds a little familiar?"

"I feel the same way!" The Empress Dowager nodded, feeling it familiar too.

Nanny Wei thought for a while and said, with a twinkle in her eye. "I remember now. Isn't this the shop Princess Chen has mentioned? She talked about it yesterday. Your Majesty, can you recall it?"

Now that Nanny Wei reminded her of this matter, the Empress Dowager came to think of it and nodded repeatedly. "Yes, right, there is such a thing. It is indeed that shop. Princess Chen said the shopkeeper had married a villainous and ungrateful man. He was greedy for her shop and even wanted her to remarry into his mansion."

"This is..." The Empress Dowager suddenly took the note from Nanny Wei's hand and scrutinized it. "It's not an ordinary contract."

"Er... I don't quite understand. It seems to be a mortgage certificate." Nanny Wei looked quite taken aback. After taking a closer look at it, she said, "Your Majesty, take it easy. It might not be what you think!"

"How could it not be? What a surprise... I didn't expect..." The Empress Dowager's face turned livid with anger, and she couldn't even finish her words.

An ordinary mortgage certificate was nothing serious, but the problem was that the shopkeeper only got a mortgage of a bit of money. It was evident that someone deliberately took advantage of the shopkeeper's crisis to force her to sign such a contract.

There is no doubt that it was accidentally dropped here when Princess Chen entered the Palace yesterday.

The Empress Dowager checked the paper. It had got damp and didn't seem to be splashed wet by water. It should be the morning dew that soaked the paper. Otherwise, the vermilion seal paste inside the folded paper wouldn't have penetrated the paper, and Nanny Wei couldn't have noticed it at a glance.

Obviously, it was dropped here yesterday and remained under the flower tree for a whole night.

"There may be some other reasons for it. Princess Chen wouldn't take her position to lord over innocent people. She is always gentle and soft-spoken." Seeing the Empress Dowager was irritated, Nanny Wei hurriedly soothed her in a low voice, "Your Highness, you are not very well. Too much anger is like a toxin in your body. Prince Chen will blame me for not taking good care of you!"

"How can you defend her when seeing all of this? Princess Chen wouldn't make this contract if she were a good person. She had just felt pity for the shopkeeper, but soon she lost no time taking advantage of that poor woman. It's crystal clear that Princess Chen had been interested in her shop. As expected, she didn't have a mother to educate her and became ruthlessly stingy."

The Empress Dowager was pissed off and snarled, violently shaking the paper in her hand.

As a noble lady of high status, Princess Chen coveted a poor woman's shop. What was worse, she maliciously beat down the price when the shopkeeper urgently needed money. How could she buy a shop at such a low price? The Empress Dowager laughed in a fit of anger, thinking that Princess Chen was making a fool of her.

"Your Majesty, please calm down. I'll invite Princess Chen over so that you can hear her explanation. Is that okay?" Nanny Wei advised softly again.

"Don't go. Even if we ask about it, Princess Chen can explain her action. No wonder she said those words to me yesterday. In her opinion, all of this was someone else's fault, not hers. She deliberately came to me and reported the story in advance. In this way, she doesn't need to be responsible for anything bad that happens later on. She must have made up some reasons for me. I don't want to listen to these lies!"

The more Empress Dowager thought about it, the angrier she became, especially after connecting the matter's beginning and end. It made sense. Otherwise, how could Shao Wanru specially go to visit her yesterday?

The Empress Dowager didn't suspect Shao Wanru before, so she didn't think much of it. But now, when the Empress Dowager no longer trusted her, Shao Wanru's every word and action appeared suspicious in her eyes. Shao Wanru had long schemed to take the shop when its poor shopkeeper from a humble background was in a perilous plight. How could any decent and noble princess do such a despicable thing?

"Your Majesty..." Nanny Wei softly called out.

"Go out of the Palace and check it out. I don't believe her words anymore. Find out who did this. If Princess Chen did it, tell her to take care of this matter. She is not allowed to take over the shop. The shopkeeper can do anything she wants to the shop, but it has nothing to do with Princess Chen."

The Empress Dowager was fuming with rage and repeatedly urged Nanny Wei to investigate it.

"Yes, don't be angry. I'll go out of the Palace to check it out right away. Should I go to see you first or Princess Chen?" Nanny Wei nodded vigorously and asked.

"If it is her deliberate plan, you should go to the Prince Chen's Mansion before returning to the Palace. If there is anything, tell her to see me in person!" The Empress Dowager growled.

"Yes, Your Majesty. I will help you go back first and go out to inquire about this matter." Nanny Wei was secretly delighted but pretended to be only concerned about her master.

"I'd like to sit here longer. It'll be harder for me to calm down if I go back now. Take out the portraits I've prepared for Prince Chen and bring them to the pavilion ahead. I'm going to choose a few virtuous and outstanding Misses for Chen'er. Since she can't behave well as Princess Chen, let someone else take her place!"

The Empress Dowager pointed to a pavilion in front of her and said in a burning fury, regretting making Shao Wanru Chu Liuchen's legal wife. At that time, she only wanted Chu Liuchen to feel satisfied, so she agreed to his request without serious consideration. Little did she think that Chu Liuchen, a young man not sophisticated enough, might become very infatuated with a Young Madam. Since she had seen Shao

Wanru in her unpleasant true colors, she would ask Chen'er to pick up a few better Misses marrying into his mansion.

The title of Princess Chen didn't have to be Shao Wanru's.