

## Medical Princess 1131

### Chapter 1131 To Enjoy Harmonious Two Wives

The two princesses and their accompanying members of the Xu State didn't live in the courier station. A courtyard had been prepared for them beforehand.

Chu Liuchen separated from the others at the city gate, heading straight to Prince Chen's Mansion.

Sitting on the horse, Chu Liuyue gazed thoughtfully after Chu Liuchen's receding figure. Initially, he didn't take Chu Liuchen as an opponent, but now he no longer dared to underestimate Chu Liuchen.

Second Princess from the Xu State was going to marry Chu Qing. Only then did he know the marriage had nothing to do with Chu Liuchen. None of the messages delivered to him was accurate. He had thought Princess Yutao, who had a special relationship with Chu Liuchen, would get married into his country. Before today, Chu Liuyue had planned to sound out his father's intention with Princess Yutao's marriage. At present, it seemed he didn't need to do that anymore.

He was simmering with resentment. Chu Liuchen was not his father's biological son. How could Chu Liuchen have the right to inherit the throne like him? How could his father pass the throne to his nephew?

His father must have done that under the pressure of circumstances! And there was Consort Lan in the imperial harem. As her nephew, it was perfectly justifiable for Chu Liuchen to accept the throne. Anyway, Chu Liuyue didn't believe his father would be so selfless as to make such a decision.

"Your Highness, our master invites you in!" A servant of the Xu State came out and said to Chu Liuyue, who was still sitting on the horse, with a smile.

Chu Liuyue swiftly dismounted his horse and followed the servant inside.

People in the courtyard bustled around, busy sorting out their things. Only Princess Yuyan was in the living room, which greatly surprised Chu Liuyue.

"Greetings, Your Highness!" When Princess Yuyan saw Chu Liuyue walk in, she stood up and bowed, her watery eyes sparkling. As a princess from a small state, she should be respectful and courteous when meeting Chu Liuyue.

"Please don't stand on ceremony!" When Princess Yuyan got out of the carriage, Chu Liuyue saw her face. So, he knew the woman before him was Princess Yuyan, who would marry Chu Qing.

The host and guest took their designated seats.

"If you feel anything improper living here, you can tell me. I'll ask someone to make adjustments for you," Chu Liuyue said with a light smile. Since he had accepted the task of welcoming guests from the Xu State, he was in charge of all affairs related to the Xu State in the capital.

"Thank you, Your Highness. I'm far away from my homeland. I'm afraid I'll have to trouble you in the future!" Princess Yuyan said softly. Slowly, she lowered her head, and the rims of her eyes turned light red. Even if she was a noble princess, so what? She had to get married and live in a foreign country. Chu Liuyue couldn't help feeling pity for the outstanding beauty before him.

Worse still, her future husband, Chu Qing, was a good-for-nothing who could only remain a useless prince at best. Frankly, if Princess Yuyan was willing to marry him as a consort, he might as well accept her.

"You went far away from your homeland to marry into the Kingdom of Dongcang. We should give you a warm reception!" Chu Liuyue said mildly.

A servant girl served tea and respectfully retreated aside.

"Your Highness, could you..." Princess Yuyan flushed crimson up to her cheeks, appearing even more lovingly pathetic.

"Please go ahead, Princess Yuyan. I'll do all I can to assist you!" Chu Liuyue promised.

"Commandery Prince Qing, in the Kingdom of Dongcang, does he..." Speaking of this, Princess Yuyan looked around hesitantly. Seemingly shy, she lowered her head and nervously pinched the handkerchief. "Does he remain in obscurity?"

"He is my father's nephew and Prince Chen's brother. How could he live in frustration? Where did you hear the rumors?" Chu Liuyue asked in surprise.

"Your Highness, please forgive my frankness, but... but Prince Chen and Commandery Prince Qing seem to be treated very differently. But they are brothers, aren't they?" Princess Yuyan said with red eyes. As her tears finally fell, she looked fragile and frustrated. "My Eldest Sister was supposed to marry into your country, but... but... In the end, it was me..."

At this point, Princess Yuyan got emotional. Feeling pretty wronged, she wiped her tears with a handkerchief.

The Xu State didn't choose Princess Yutao, who was First Princess. Instead, Princess Yuyan was sent to marry a foreign prince. Chu Liuyue was trying to find out why. After all, he heard Xu State King favored Princess Yuyan's biological mother, and Princess Yuyan was younger. In principle, Princess Yutao should get married before her. But somehow, Princess Yuyan became the princess marrying into the Kingdom of Dongcang.

"If you have something to say, tell me. I also want to know the reason. Princess Yutao was supposed to marry, wasn't she?" Chu Liuyue softened his voice and asked and looked at Princess Yuyan with warm eyes, showing her a little sympathy.

No one had shown her sympathy, even when she was in the Xu State. After such a scandal happened to her, even her father didn't bother to see if she was okay and directly arranged for her to marry into the Kingdom of Dongcang. No matter how her mother cried and begged him, he didn't change his mind.

Thinking of this, Princess Yuyan felt so wronged. She never intended to marry Chu Qing, whether in the past or at present. In her eyes, Chu Qing was useless. She was widely known as an exceedingly beautiful woman, but how could she be so unlucky? When Chu Liuyue treated her with a caring attitude and looked at her tenderly, she forgot to put on an act and felt sadness welling up.

"In the beginning, my father decided to let Eldest Sister marry first. However, my Eldest Sister secretly schemed against Commandery Prince Qing and me and forced me to marry him..." Princess Yuyan covered her face with a handkerchief, her tears falling like pearls and beans.

"Don't cry. Commandery Prince Qing has a good character. He will be very nice to you!" Chu Liuyue took out a handkerchief from his arms, handed it to her, and comforted her.

The two palace maids standing behind Princess Yuyan remained motionless as if they had seen and heard nothing.

"A good character? "Doesn't he have other merit points except that?" The more Princess Yuyan thought about it, the more aggrieved she felt. Frankly, Chu Qing was not a decent man. Otherwise, he wouldn't have conspired with her. Of course, Princess Yuyan would never consider herself a woman of bad character. In her mind, Chu Qing wasn't worthy of her. Marrying such a person would make the rest of her life utterly hopeless.

She reached out to take the handkerchief from Chu Liuyue's hand. While looking up at him, she cried, "You know what, my request is very simple: I hope to marry someone who sincerely cares about me, but... but Commandery Prince Qing has another woman in his heart. I heard that she was recognized as his consort long ago!"

She cried so hard that her hand trembled a little. Her fingers happened to curl around Chu Liuyue's, and their fingers rubbed against each other. Subconsciously, Chu Liuyue reached over and touched her hand. Princess Yuyan, deeply embarrassed, blushed scarlet and quickly withdrew her hand. Then, she stood up and darted inside, too shy to say anything more.

After bowing to Chu Liuyue, the two palace maids chased after her.

Chu Liuyue smiled pleasantly and rose to his feet, moving his fingers and savoring the intimate moment with obvious relish. Her tender hand impressed him. Sure enough, unlike the women of his country, those from the Xu State were more daring. If Princess Yuyan was willing to be his consort, he could benefit greatly.

Of course, the premise was that Princess Yuyan could accept the position as his consort. Otherwise, he would have to make Princess Yuyan his legal wife. But Chu Liuyue was reluctant to give up the support from Prime Minister Zhang, so his legal wife could only be Prime Minister Zhang's daughter.

It was a real blessing to have both of them. Then, he could be backed up by Prime Minister Zhang and the Xu State. It seemed like a good idea.

Before seeing Princess Yuyan, he didn't have such an idea. Back then, he concentrated on plotting against Chu Liuchen. As long as any princess from the Xu State became his legal wife, Chu Liuchen would lose the right to inherit the throne. It had never occurred to him that Princess Yuyan was so charming and sweet. Chu Liuyue was attracted to her and wanted to let her marry into Prince Yue's Mansion as his consort!

At most, he wouldn't allow her to give birth to any children. Even if she did, he wouldn't pass the throne to their son. The throne wouldn't be passed on to any alien races. In this way, his imperial father and officials wouldn't object to him.

In the twinkling of an eye, Chu Liuyue had come up with a new idea: he would like to take Princess Yuyan as his consort if she agreed. Princess Yuyan was very dissatisfied with Chu Qing. Most importantly, Chu Liuyue was confident that being his consort would be even better than being Chu Qing's legal wife.

With this in mind, he suddenly became clear-minded and turned to leave, his face radiating with smiles. As for how to implement this idea, he had to discuss it with his aides. Of course, he would also consult Wen Xichi, just to be sure.

Just as Chu Liuyue got out of his mansion, he sent someone to invite Wen Xichi for a discussion in the Prince Yue's Mansion. They had always been on good terms, so Chu Liuyue was not afraid of others gossiping about them.

When Chu Liuyue returned to the Prince Yue's Mansion, the guard he dispatched to the Mansion of the Prime Minister returned. It turned out that Third Young Master Wen was not in the mansion but in the Huaguang Temple. Only then did Chu Liuyue remember that it was the first few days of the month. During this period, Wen Xichi would usually visit the Huaguang Temple. Thus, he didn't think much about it. Back to his mansion, Chu Liuyue went to discuss the plan's feasibility with his advisors...

Wen Xichi was not in the mansion because he had gone to the Huaguang Temple. At this time, he was sitting in the Zen room in the main temple of Huaguang Temple and enjoying tea. There, two people were engaged in a chess game between them. A chess piece landed on the chessboard, but after a long time, no other chess pieces joined — the chessboard remained unchanged.

"Master, I heard you delve into my future when I was little. You predicted that I would die young. I would become incurably sick, and no one could reverse this hopeless situation. Though I was profoundly learned and talented, I had no chance to carry out my ideals. Even worse, I couldn't even protect the people I loved. In the end, I would be driven to my tragic doom!"

Wen Xichi put down the teacup in his hand, smiled slightly, and asked.

His fate revealed by the master sounded exceedingly horrible. Yet, Wen Xichi described it with a delicate touch, as if he were talking about someone else's life. He looked up, his beautiful eyes without any emotion.

"Master, is it possible that you misjudged it?" At last, Wen Xichi asked lightly.

"Third Young Master Wen, in most cases, a person's fate won't change, but not absolutely. Sometimes, a subtle change will affect a person's chess game and even the overall situation."

The Huaguang Temple's abbot raised his eyes and flashed him a kindly and amiable smile.

As the abbot put down a chess piece in his hand, the chess game coming to a deadlock immediately changed. He reached out, slightly rolled up his sleeves, and said, "Please have a look!"

Wen Xichi looked at the arrangement of chess pieces on the chessboard. "Master, what kind of chess piece do you think will change the whole situation? Is it possible? If so, can we relive the previous life and this life?"

He also picked up a chess piece and put it down, turning the game of chess into a killing game. Immediately, his arrangement of chess pieces outshone his rival's.

"Each life, in the previous or at present, has its own fate. Likewise, you're a different person in each life. Why are you so obsessed with the connections between the two lives?" The Huaguang Temple's abbot didn't put down his chess piece. Instead, he gazed at Wen Xichi with otherworldly eyes. Putting his palms together devoutly, he said, "You are so smart. Don't you think you've seen it clearly?"

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#### Chapter 1132 Third Young Master Wen, You've Blinded by Superficial Phenomena

Wen Xichi, looking up at the Huaguang Temple's abbot, no longer beat around the bush and said bluntly, "Master, I think I saw the previous life, but it's different from this life. My fate in my previous life turned out as you predicted. However, things in this life deviate from my previous destiny!"

His words sounded unimaginably queer, but Wen Xichi said them matter-of-factly without hesitation: he must be earnest about it.

The Huaguang Temple's abbot knitted his long eyebrows. "If there is the previous life, which one do you think is better: the previous life or this life?"

Wen Xichi pursed his lips. In his last life, he died of illness on the bed, and in this life, he had a successful life. In this respect, this life was certainly better. But in this life, why did he barely have any connections with the desire of his heart? In his previous life, he was unable to protect her, but in this life, he could do it.

However, it was too late for him to realize the truth. All of a sudden, his heart ached as if being stabbed.

"Master, there are sufferings in my previous life and distress in this life. It's really difficult to tell which one is better!" Wen Xichi said with a bitter smile.

Which one did he prefer? With all kinds of feelings welling up in his heart, he couldn't come up with an answer.

In silence, the Huaguang Temple's abbot studied him for a long time. Finally, he opened his mouth. "Third Young Master Wen, you've been misled by externals!"

Wen Xichi touched his head and said with a wry smile, "I lost my way among superficial things. Master, what should I do?"

"The last life has passed; you can never get it back. In this life, your favorable fate makes your regrets less regretful!" The Huaguang Temple's abbot said with a chuckle.

Like a wake-up call, his words jolted Wen Xichi's heart wide awake, and he came to a sudden realization. He stood up, bowed deeply to the Huaguang Temple's abbot, and said, "Many thanks, Master!"

"This is the answer in your heart. You don't have to thank me!" The Huaguang Temple's abbot also got up. His face creased into a smile.

Wen Xichi shook his head and soon nodded. Then he said goodbye to the abbot.

The Huaguang Temple's abbot sent him to the Zen room's door, bidding farewell to him with a cupped-hand salute.

In return, Wen Xichi turned around and bowed again. He turned around and walked out of the Zen room. His servant had been waiting outside. When he saw Wen Xichi coming out, he hurriedly kept up with him.

Outside the gate in the mountain, Wen Xichi got in the carriage and went all the way down the mountain. He sat in it and bowed his head with his eyes looking down. In his servant's eyes, though his master appeared as calm as he had been when they went up the mountain, he looked slightly different. His master looked much more energetic, as if he had put down something heavy in his heart. Seeing his master no longer in low spirits, the servant breathed a sigh of relief in his heart.

Upon arriving at the Mansion of the Prime Minister, he got out of the carriage. Then, he saw a young male servant running over and handing over a letter. When Third Young Master Wen took it and looked at it, he couldn't help showing a hint of joy on his face. Then, waving the letter in his hand, he said, "Reply to the letter for me and say I will be there tomorrow!"

"Yes, I'll deliver the message!" the servant said and left.

"Third Cousin!" An affectedly sweet voice came from the corridor on one side. Wen Xichi frowned darkly and looked up, his eyes on Gu Xishu. She ran over from a few steps away, her hands lifting the edge of her skirt.

"Third Cousin, I've been looking for you for a long time. Why did you come back so late?" Gu Xishu was a little breathless because of running, and her large and round breasts looked more and more inviting. She reached out to pull Wen Xichi's sleeve.

Wen Xichi took a step back and avoided her hand, reproaching bluntly. "Watch out! We have grown up, not children anymore. We should keep a certain distance!"

"I..." Gu Xishu's eyes turned red. "In my heart, we can always be as close as when we were children. We can play and talk together!"

"But we're grown-ups now!" Wen Xichi, unmoved, looked at Gu Xishu and said.

"We have grown up, but so what? Aren't we dear cousins?" Gu Xishu said, seemingly a little annoyed. Once again, she was about to pull Wen Xichi's sleeve.

Wen Xichi took another step back and said, "If you have nothing serious to say, go back now!"

After saying that, he ignored Gu Xishu, turned around, and strode inside. Gu Xishu was left behind and gazed pitifully after his receding figure.

After taking a few steps, Wen Xichi turned at an intersection and happened to meet her second brother, Wen Shian. They almost bumped into each other.

They both took a step back before regaining their balance.

"Third Brother, where did you come from? Why are you in such a hurry?" Wen Shian looked at Wen Xichi and asked with a smile, but his smile seemed a bit far-fetched.

However, he reacted very quickly. Just after he forced a smile, it looked a little unreal, but in a short time, he managed to smile sincerely.

"I came back from the Huaguang Temple. Is there something urgent outside for you to deal with?" Wen Xichi stepped aside and let Wen Shian go first.

"I'm in no particular hurry. I have something to tell my cousin. Just now, I saw her, but why can't I find her in the blink of an eye?" Wen Shian said with a trace of gloom across his eyes. Actually, he had seen Gu Xishu talking to Wen Xichi.

Gu Xishu would be with him, and Wen Xichi knew it. However, he deliberately got so close to her with no intention of avoiding arousing suspicion. In this case, how could Wen Shian smile genuinely? He was enraged by Wen Xichi's conduct.

However, Wen Xichi, his younger brother, had always been doted on by his parents. If he argued with him about that, his beloved cousin might marry Wen Xichi instead. How could Wen Shian accept that?

His marriage with Gu Xishu should have been placed on the agenda. To his dismay, she told him that Wen Xichi went to fawn over his father and tried every means to show that only he was a good match for her. At the thought of this, Wen Shian wanted Wen Xichi dead.

When he was a child, Wen Xichi competed with him for toys. And now, he even wanted to take away the woman he loved the most. Everyone in the mansion knew that Gu Xishu was his favorite. How could Wen Xichi shamelessly covet his woman?

"She was at the gate just now, but I don't know if she is still there. You can go and look for her!" Wen Xichi said with a smile.

"Okay. Then, I'll go first. I'll talk to you when I'm free!" Wen Shian nodded, smiled friendly, and walked to the door.

Wen Xichi continued to go inside with the same peaceable smile, but there was a trace of deepness in his eyes.

"Wen Shian, Gu Xishu, I won't let you off..."

This life was different from the previous one, but he wouldn't leave any regrets behind...

"What? She invited me over?" Wei Dahai was stunned and asked the servant in sheer astonishment.

"Yes. Madam Dong asked you to go there tomorrow, saying that the matter of Butterfly Clothing Shop must be settled!" The servant nodded and said.

Wei Dahai turned to his wife, Madam Ouyang, who was sitting next to him, and asked in confusion, "What... what is she up to?"

He knew Lady Ming pretty well. So, was it possible that she gave in at this time? It didn't seem like what she would do. Even when she was pregnant, she chose to leave him. At present, she hadn't yet come to a dead end. Then, how could she bow down to him? This invitation came as a total surprise to them.

"My Lord, go and have a look tomorrow. Since she is bold enough to send out the invitation, I dare to take my people to make trouble. As your mistress, where does her property come from? It all belongs to you!" Madam Ouyang sneered, put the teacup on the table, and squinted at Wei Dahai. "But I don't know if you are willing to do that!"

Wei Dahai shook his hand and said indifferently, "Don't you know what I'm thinking? We've been husband and wife with one heart and one mind for many years. How could I worry about her? Besides, she just gave birth to a daughter. Do I lack a daughter?"

"Are you sure of it? I heard you had been missing this old lover for many years!" Madam Ouyang said with sarcasm.

Wei Dahai reached out and held her hand to comfort her. "Dear, I've treated you well for so many years. Don't tell me you don't know what I've done for you. We can gain a better future if we are of the same mind. At this critical point, I won't make a mistake. I know there is a saying that an ant may well destroy a whole dam."

Hearing what he said, Madam Ouyang snorted, and her face softened. "It's best that you think so. Keep our plan in mind. In the future, you'll reach the highest rank possible. You're of great talent but only a fourth-rank official. It's unfair!"

As he heard all of this, Wei Dahai felt very depressed and sighed heavily before putting down Madam Ouyang's hand. Indeed, it was the most unpleasant thing in his heart. He thought he was endowed with extraordinary talents. In his mind, because no powerful officials in the imperial court backed him up, he accomplished nothing. Without his father-in-law's help, he couldn't have become a fourth-rank official and might have fallen into a more disgraceful situation.

It was a pity that Madam Ouyang's father had passed away early. Afterward, there was no one in the court supporting him.

Later on, since he got in touch with Nanny Wei, he had expected to make rapid advances in his official career. However, he merely made a tiny process and turned from a fourth-rank official with no power to a fourth-rank official with real power. His official ranking didn't rise at all. Thinking of this, Wei Dahai was full of complaints about Nanny Wei.

Nanny Wei was said to be a favorite with the Empress Dowager, but she couldn't even help her nephew.

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"My Lord, calm down. We have opportunities, right? And there is one chance right before us. Everything was fine at first, but because of what happened to Qiuyi..." Madam Ouyang sighed, waved her hand with a headache, and said to the servant who delivered the message, "Tell her that His Lord will go there tomorrow!"

At the mention of Mo Qiuyi, Wei Dahai felt quite frustrated. Initially, she was supposed to be Commandery Prince Qing's wife, but now her future became uncertain because the princess from the Xu State would marry Commandery Prince Qing. Mo Qiuyi was determined to be Commandery Prince Qing's legal wife for a bright future. Once her husband ascended to the throne, she would be the empress. How could she give away the position as Commandery Prince Qing's legal wife?

However, her opponent was a Xu State princess who came here to get married. How could Mo Qiuyi compete with a princess with a much higher status? Even if Commandery Prince Qing's mother went all out to fight for Qiuyi, she wouldn't make it. Moreover, according to the news from the Commandery



Prince Qing's Mansion, Consort Dowager Qing seemed satisfied with Princess Yuyan and had no objection to this marriage.

Well, she didn't oppose it, but Wei's Mansion strongly disapproved of this arrangement. They had plotted for so long and put in a lot of effort. If they gained nothing, how could they take this lying down?

As such, Madam Dong's shop became a crucial thing. Even if he and Nanny Wei had suffered because of it, he didn't intend to give up the shop. At present, money was the most important thing, and he was determined to get the Butterfly Clothing Shop.

"Okay, I'll meet her there tomorrow. Join me at the right time." When the servant withdrew, Wei Dahai said through gritted teeth. At this time, he couldn't be defeated. "Let's think everything over and take down the Butterfly Clothing Shop in one fell swoop!"

#### Chapter 1133 A Vicious Couple's Interlocking Traps

Wei Dahai was very cautious. For many years, he had been prudent in his words and deeds. Gradually, he was in his element at work. Besides, his discreet attitude helped him escape a few disasters!

Therefore, he believed that being cautious would be of great help. However, the conflict with Madame Dong frustrated him. He had thought that it was no big deal. Madame Dong was merely a businesswoman with a history of close contact with him. They hadn't met for many years, but so what? She had to follow his arrangements obediently no matter what.

Therefore, he relaxed vigilance against this matter. As a result, he provoked Princess Chen.

Wei Dahai paid no attention to Princess Chen, who had just married Prince Chen. It was universally known that Prince Chen was a dying sick man. Since Princess Chen would soon become a widow, how could he care about her feelings?

However, against his expectations, this matter implicated him, and his backer, Nanny Wei, was punished because of it. Nanny Wei was furious at him and even sent someone to rebuke him. She even knew that he had asked someone to impersonate Lady Ming.

Early in the morning, Wei Dahai appeared in the teahouse opposite the Butterfly Clothing Shop and asked for a private room facing the Butterfly Clothing Shop. From this position, he could see the people coming and going from the shop.

He had been sitting there for the whole morning. During this period, the Butterfly Clothing Shop looked peaceful, and no unusual people appeared. All people seemed to be ordinary guests coming here to buy things. From time to time, a shop-boy would send some guests out with a bright smile. Many people had visited the shop, most of whom were Misses and Madams of aristocratic families.

All smiles, these customers came out, followed by servant girls carrying the items they had just bought. It was evident that they were very satisfied with the goods of Butterfly Clothing Shop.

Judging by what he saw, Wei Dahai estimated that the shop would earn lots of money even in one morning. With this conclusion, his desire to take over this shop was becoming stronger and stronger. Now, he needed money to stay afloat. It would benefit him a lot if he got Lady Ming's shop. For Lady

Ming, marrying him as a secondary legal wife was worthwhile. Wei Dahai felt that he was pretty considerate toward her.

As he thought about it, he became increasingly confident that it was an excellent idea. It was also a good thing for Lady Ming. However, Lady Ming was somehow bewitched by Princess Chen and was determined to sell the shop to her.

However, Wei Dahai wouldn't let Princess Chen succeed so easily. Deliberately, he implicated the Butterfly Clothing Shop in a case of the Ministry of Justice. Before the matter was made clear, the Butterfly Clothing Shop wouldn't be allowed to change hands. In this way, he still had a chance to get it.

The key to the matter was Madame Dong. As long as she changed her mind, everything else could be negotiated. Princess Chen couldn't abuse her power to bully people.

Because Prince Chen recently shot up into eminence, many people treated him with reverence and awe. But meanwhile, the Prince Chen's Mansion was pushed to the heart of the power struggle. At this time, it was best for the Prince Chen's Mansion to keep a low profile. From this point of view, Wei Dahai was sure about one thing: Princess Chen couldn't and didn't dare to make trouble at this time. If she ruined Prince Chen's business, what benefits could she get as a woman?

After thinking about this, Wei Dahai relaxed. Then, he ordered a few snacks in the teahouse but didn't go downstairs — he kept watching the shop. He was relieved that no carriage from the Prince Chen's Mansion appeared. It seemed to be only Lady Ming's idea.

When it was almost time, he straightened his clothes, stood up, and went downstairs with a trace of smugness on his face. According to his perfect plan, he felt the Butterfly Clothing Shop was already in his pocket.

If Lady Dong was sensible enough, she should voluntarily put the shop under his name. Otherwise, he would tell others that she was only his mistress.

Anyway, his official position was not high, and he was a nobody in the capital city. No one would criticize him before the Emperor for such a small matter. He and his wife were willing to do this. Besides, since Lady Ming appeared to be in the wrong, she wouldn't argue. Under these conditions, others wouldn't care about their business. With this in mind, Wei Dahai grew more and more certain that he would succeed.

When Wei Dahai stepped into the Butterfly Clothing Shop, a shop-boy saw him. He approached Wei Dahai with an unhappy look and reluctantly clasped his hands together to greet him. "Lord Wei!"

Almost all the people of Butterfly Clothing Shop were familiar with Wei Dahai. However, they knew he had schemed against their shopkeeper, so few would be nice to him.

"Where is your shopkeeper?" Wei Dahai asked, not taking their negative attitude seriously. The shop-boy's hostile attitude showed that Lady Ming wanted something from him.

"The shopkeeper is in the accountant's office!" The shop-boy pointed to a room in the corner. This accountant's office on the ground floor was much larger than the one upstairs. Madame Dong had handled most of the affairs in it.

Wei Dahai waved his hand carelessly and said, "I'll go and find Lady Ming!"

Without waiting for the shop-boy to lead the way, he walked over along the familiar route with his servant. When they reached the slightly closed door, he asked the servant to wait outside and walked in.

The young servant understood what he meant. After Wei Dahai entered, he closed the door and waited outside.

Behind the large desk, Madame Dong raised her head and stared at Wei Dahai coldly.

Madame Dong's reaction didn't surprise Wei Dahai at all. Smiling broadly, he came in and sat on the chair opposite the desk. With great ease, he put his hand on the desk and asked, "Lady Ming, what can I do for you?"

"Wei Dahai, you know the answer, don't you?" Madame Dong threw the account book onto the table rudely and snapped, "Wei Dahai, I have nothing to do with you now, and it's the same with the Butterfly Clothing Shop. Princess Chen owns it now. Do you dare to play tricks on her?"

"Of course, I won't dare to do that. But are you sure this shop belongs to Princess Chen? Lady Ming, you've always been stubborn, but what's the benefit of that? You must have been deceived for nothing. Do you think everything will be fine with her help?"

Wei Dahai leaned back and said with indifference.

Glancing around, he found that no one else but Madame Dong was in the room, which was very good. Of course, he figured that there was no one around Madame Dong.

Madame Dong was not a Madam of an aristocratic family, so she had no servant girl accompanying and serving her. The shop-boys would only come here occasionally. How could they stay by her side all the time?

"These account books must have been placed behind the large screen, right?" Thinking of this, Wei Dahai felt a surge of excitement in his heart.

"What have you done to my shop?" Madame Dong asked, glaring at Wei Dahai.

"Lady Ming, why do you act like we're strangers? What's your relationship with me? Why would I do anything to your shop? If you're in trouble, how can I be fine? What happened that year was a misunderstanding. Back then, I was determined to marry you. The result came as a surprise, I must say!"

Wei Dahai sighed, ignoring Madame Dong's furious look.

It could be said that the angrier Madame Dong was, the calmer Wei Dahai became. There was even a light smile on his face. He looked at Madame Dong with a bit of magnanimity, which made Madame Dong feel nauseous. Wei Dahai acted like an affectionate man facing an unreasonable woman.

After taking a deep breath, Madame Dong calmed down and said, her eyes turning cold, "Wei Dahai, no matter what your plan is, I can tell you clearly that I don't like you at all now. Don't think you can still fool me like before. Now, you..."

At this time, Madame Dong gave him a contemptuous look and said with a sneer, "Madame Ouyang didn't give you enough money, did she? You look so anxious. You must have lived in poverty and misery after marrying her. Your life must be no better than that of the past, right? After all, you live off a woman. In fact, I can understand why you are so hungry for money. I can give you some for old times' sake!"

As she spoke, Madame Dong took out about ten taels of silver from her sleeve and pushed it to Wei Dahai. She didn't hide the sarcasm in her eyes. "Wei Dahai, stop scheming against me. If you can't make a living, take the silver and leave. Please don't come here and bother me anymore. It's all I can do for you!"

Looking at the piece of silver on the desk, Wei Dahai couldn't bear it anymore, no matter how generous he was. He suddenly jumped to his feet, pounded the table, and snarled, "Lady Ming..."

"What's wrong? Are you going to hit me because you can't deceive me?" Madame Dong also stood up, glared at Wei Dahai, and rebuked him loudly, "You're a good-for-nothing gigolo. What makes you think you can get a secondary legal wife? Your Madam wants to get my money by making me your secondary legal wife. Am I right?"

Her words, "a good-for-nothing gigolo," irritated Wei Dahai so much that the blue veins on his forehead bulged. The last thing he wanted to hear were those comments.

It reminded him of the miserable past when he was still a poor young man. Now Madame Dong brought up the old days that were too sad to reflect on for him. No one but Madame Dong knew about his tragic past.

These harsh words were like a hard slap in his face. It seemed that he was in charge of everything in the mansion, but it had always been Madam Ouyang who made the final decision.

Because of that, he felt aggrieved and depressed in the depth of his heart. Now, Madame Dong ruthlessly touched him on his most sensitive spot.

"Lady Ming, you don't know how to appreciate favors, do you?" Wei Dahai flew into a great rage and barked.

"Wei Dahai, do you think you can trample upon me at will? Don't kid yourself! You involved the Butterfly Clothing Shop in the case of the Ministry of Justice. You are competent. How could you naively assume that the Prince Chen's Mansion can't do anything to you?" Madame Dong said coldly.

"So what? If she has the ability, she can do it." Wei Dahai was so angry that he was in no mood to hide the sinister thing he had done. In exasperation, he glared at Madame Dong with wide-open eyes. Initially, he planned to coax her into giving up the shop, but Madame Dong drove him mad. In a fit of anger, he forgot the refined manner he had cultivated for years.

"So, you secretly played the trick? Wei Dahai, how dare you plot against the Prince Chen's Mansion? I don't know you have such an exaggerated opinion of your abilities!" Madame Dong spared no effort in displeasing Wei Dahai. Since they fell out openly, she no longer showed any consideration for his dignity. "Does your Madam know about this? Or is it her idea? Wei Dahai, you have to ask for her opinion even on this kind of thing. Shame on you!"

Madame Dong had seen his Madam before. It was that woman who forced her to go far away. Otherwise, she and her baby in the belly would die. Madame Dong kept this old grudge firmly in her mind and had never mentioned it to anyone!

But now, her old wound was mercilessly reopened!

"Madame Dong, good to see you again!" The door was suddenly opened. The woman stood there and glared proudly at Madame Dong in the accountant's office as if she were looking at something filthy. What an aggressive posture!

Chapter 1134 The Bitchy Couple Go Back on Their Words

"If you want to live with him, don't blame me for aborting the child in your belly. Our mansion didn't need the eldest son from a concubine. Besides, no one knows if this bastard in your belly is his own child!"

"If you want to follow Young Master Wei, you can be his servant girl first!"

"A cheap woman wants to climb up the social ladder. You things so highly of yourself. What bare-faced cheek!"

A torrent of foul words overwhelmed the woman sitting on the ground with her hands on her belly. Helplessly and vigilantly, she looked at the people around her and the Young Madam surrounded by the crowd.

Today, the past scene seemed to have happened again. After so many years, her face showed distinct signs of age. Yet, Madame Dong still recognized her at a glance: she was Miss Ouyang, the Young Madam back then.

Now, she should be Wei Dahai's Madam, Madam Ouyang!

So many years had passed, and the same scene reappeared.

"Dear, is this the mistress you found? Is she the woman you've kept outside for so long?" Madam Ouyang stood there and looked at Madame Dong with disdain. The meaning of her words was clear: the legal wife was here to expose and denounce the mistress. Many people who came to watch the fun became restless and watched Madame Dong with contempt.

The legal wife caught a mistress, and there was only a man with this woman in the room. Sure enough, they had an affair.

"Madam Ouyang? Your husband is here to talk business. It's okay if you don't know about it. Otherwise, aren't you afraid of making a dreadful mistake?" Madame Dong snorted contemptuously. She was no longer the lonely girl with nothing. Many years ago, she had no choice but to flee for her life overnight to protect the baby in her belly.

"A dreadful mistake?" Madam Ouyang repeated coldly. She represented the first branch and enjoyed all the glory. She eyed Madame Dong with scorn and said, "You're nothing but a humble shopkeeper. How dare you say something like that? Who gave you the courage? You've been intimate with my husband, and he gave you this big shop. I've known all of these things. It's time to settle this matter!"

“So, did Madame Dong get this shop from Wei Dahai?”

Many people shifted their eyes from Wei Dahai to Madame Dong. “Is this true? “If not, why would they secretly meet in one room?”

“Nonsense. I had never seen Lord Wei when our shopkeeper took over this shop!” A shop-boy, who had worked here for a long time, defended Madame Dong indignantly.

Madame Dong had taken a lot of time and effort to run this shop. This shop-boy saw it with his own eyes.

“Dear, you cared about this woman so much! You gave her all the money of our mansion for investment, and now... You even want to fool me with her. But I’m your legal wife... Honey, if... if you like her so much, you can take her in. You don’t have to do this!”

Madam Ouyang ignored the shop-boy and looked at Wei Dahai imploringly, eyes brimming with tears. The sadness in her eyes got much sympathy from the crowd.

If this was true, Madam Ouyang was also a victim. Thinking of this, some people began to feel sorry for her.

“Madam Ouyang, your mouth can eat whatever you want, but you can’t talk nonsense. How do you know we weren’t talking about business? Or did you come here to stir up trouble on purpose? Lord Wei covets my shop and still attempts to get it by cheating. Now, you join in. Won’t you give up until your goal is reached?”

Madame Dong spoke in a slow and deliberate way.

“You’re a mistress. What business can you talk about with him?”

“Do you have to do business behind a closed door? When a man and a woman are in one room, how can they talk about business?”

“Sex trade?” A few people in the crowd sneered, and their words sounded rather unpleasant to the ear.

“Dear... I like Lady Ming... We already have a daughter!” At this time, when the anger faded from his face, Wei Dahai looked bewildered by the situation. He stamped his feet hard as if he had been forced to say that.

By saying that, he confirmed they had a relationship and even a daughter. In this case, how could Madame Dong not be a mistress?

Some people had been hesitating, wondering if they had wronged the shopkeeper. This time, they decisively chose to support Madam Ouyang. “As expected, she is a slut. She has given birth to his daughter, but she refused to admit the affair!”

“No one wants to marry such a woman. How dare she talk back to his legal wife!”

Madame Dong knew Wei Dahai was shameless, but she didn’t expect this. It made her feel angry and hateful toward him. However, she didn’t argue and stepped back.

A neatly dressed servant girl came out from behind the large screen. Her appearance stunned everyone. "Didn't they say only the man and the woman were talking about business in the room? How could there be someone else?"

In an instant, Wei Dahai's eyes narrowed. He had been in the room for so long but didn't find anyone behind the screen.

"Lord Wei, my master was talking to Madame Dong about something, but you rushed in. Thus, my master had to leave to avoid you. We can be regarded as witnesses!" Yujie said coldly, glancing at Wei Dahai and Madam Ouyang. "My master said Madame Dong could sue you for this matter. Madame Dong is your first wife, but you two drove her away. Do you want to force her to do anything again?"

Her words explained the relationship between Madame Dong and Wei Dahai and why they had a child. It turned out Madame Dong was not Wei Dahai's mistress. Instead, she was his first wife. Therefore, the legal wife was the one who broke up their marriage.

Suddenly, these unfriendly remarks targeting Madame Dong fell on Madam Ouyang. Some of these on-lookers in the marketplace were good at insulting others with filthy language. As a result, Madam Ouyang was so pissed off that she turned red with rage. Today, she and Wei Dahai had planned to catch "the mistress" here. Then, they would coerce Madame Dong into marrying Wei Dahai. Unexpectedly, a master popped up in the room.

Beyond that, the master's servant girl expressed clearly the history between Madame Dong and him in a few words.

At this moment, anyone with a discerning eye could immediately understand what was happening.

"Who is your master? Why doesn't your master dare to show up openly?" Madam Ouyang burst into a fury with embarrassment and angrily pointed to Yujie.

"Madam, you'd better not know who my master is. Why must we step out? Since Lord Wei rushed straight in, my master had to find a place in haste to avoid him. However, we didn't expect to hear such a wonderful argument. You forced a woman to be a concubine. Lord Wei, you put on a brilliant performance. I just heard you lived off a woman. Then, Madam Ouyang came here. Indeed, her masculinity is not in question!"

Yujie answered with a sneer. She was skilled in making sarcastic remarks. More importantly, she didn't intend to spare Madam Ouyang at this time.

"How dare you!" Madam Ouyang had never been humiliated like this in public, let alone by a servant girl. As cross as a bear, she strode forward to slap Yujie.

Wei Dahai's face darkened, and his fierce, piercing eyes landed on Yujie. He hated the most others saying that he lived off a woman. With anger, his face turned ghastly pale, and the corners of his mouth twitched, but he couldn't utter a word.

Yujie took a step back and avoided Madam Ouyang's hand. Suddenly, she smiled and said, "Do you mean this shop belonged to your mansion in the first place? What a coincidence! Madame Dong happens to have witnesses here, which can prove that this shop has nothing to do with your mansion. It

hasn't been a long time since you found Madame Dong. To get this shop, you could employ the meanest tricks. Please go ahead. His Lord of the Ministry of Justice will come over later!"

"Someone from the Ministry of Justice has intervened!" Wei Dahai and Madam Ouyang exchanged glances and knew something had gone wrong.

Wei Dahai didn't possess much power. Some affairs he arranged would go through many people's hands. As such, the people who worked on these things might not even know he was in charge.

"My Lord, how do you explain this? What did you tell me? How could you... lie to me for this woman?" Madam Ouyang reacted very quickly. At once, she turned to Wei Dahai, her lips trembling and tears showering down her cheeks.

She meant Wei Dahai had deceived her, and she didn't know anything!

"Dear... I... I really want to marry Lady Ming. We separated because of a misunderstanding. I said that because I feared you wouldn't agree to it."

Wei Dahai cooperated very well and appeared sad at once. Looking at the sad look on Madam Ouyang's face, the onlookers felt confused again. They looked around and finally fixed their eyes on Madame Dong, who seemed to be an outsider at this time. She remained calm as if the couple was talking about someone else.

"You two, please come in. My master is waiting for you inside. This matter has to be made clear so as not to make such a scene again." Yujie stepped aside and made way for them, looking at the couple with a faint smile.

"Your Lord... this matter... You see... I... I don't care anymore!" Madam Ouyang seemed to be extremely sad. She flicked her sleeves and was about to leave this place in tears.

However, when she turned around helplessly, she found two old maids behind her blocking her way. "Madam Ouyang, please. My master will help you make everything clear today. Even if my master fails, the Ministry of Justice will help. Don't worry. The Ministry of Justice has always been fair and won't make things difficult for you two."

Yujie smiled and watched Madam Ouyang. The two old maids behind her pressed forward aggressively. Although there were old maids from the Wei's Mansion here, they looked weaker than the two old maids. In addition, Madam Ouyang didn't dare to start a fight, for she had no idea who the master inside was. Since Wei Dahai's official rank was too low, many masters in the capital city enjoyed a higher status than him. If they raised an uproar, they might be in great trouble.

Madam Ouyang had to retreat into the room. She turned around when the door was tightly closed, and her face instantly became less sorrowful. She wiped her tears with a handkerchief, looked at Yujie, and said, "About this matter, I... I really didn't know the truth. My husband still doesn't forget his former lover after so many years. If... if I had known it, I wouldn't have let him come here!"

She insisted that she knew nothing and was deceived by Wei Dahai. Also, she said Wei Dahai was in deep love with Madame Dong. In fact, they had discussed all of this before they came here, just in case. At this point, it was just the right time to take the countermeasure. Madam Ouyang secretly thought that if she said this, at least Wei Dahai and she could stay safe!



“But who is the master? Why would the master help Madam Dong?”

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#### Chapter 1135 My Mother Only Gave Birth to One Child

The door was on the latch, blocking everyone’s curious eyes. Many people wanted to eavesdrop, but the two old maids guarding the door were obviously not easy to deal with.

The outsiders retreated, gossiping while pointing to the door. They paid close attention to whether or not this Madam was telling the truth. Was it true that the couple wanted to seize the first wife’s property? If that was the case, the couple was heartless and vicious. How could they do such an immoral thing?

Many people didn’t leave. Although they couldn’t see the scene, they could at least listen to the sound. How would they solve this matter? In the end, there would be a solution. They had to see which side was in the wrong.

Two strong old maids removed the screen in the accountant’s office. Then, they saw Shao Wanru sitting on a large chair behind the screen.

Wei Dahai’s eyes twitched involuntarily. Subconsciously, he took a step back when he recognized Shao Wanru.

Madam Ouyang looked at Shao Wanru but didn’t recognize her for a moment. It was not convenient for her to ask Wei Dahai, so she just measured Shao Wanru with her eyes.

At the sight of her imposing manner, Madam Ouyang knew she was not from an ordinary family. Watching this elegant and noble lady, Madam Ouyang was confused. She looked young but was dressed as a married woman. How could she not be a Young Madam from an aristocratic family? A trace of panic flashed across Madam Ouyang’s eyes when she remembered who she was.

It was said that Princess Chen hadn’t reached the age of fifteen when she married into the Prince Chen’s Mansion.

“Lord Wei and Madam Ouyang, it seems you know who I am.” Shao Wanru said lightly, her peaceful eyes watching the couple. “I heard clearly what Lord Wei said to Madame Dong in the room just now. Nanny Wei in the Palace framed me; I heard she did it for you, Lord Wei. At present, the Butterfly Clothing Shop gets dragged into a court case. Lord Wei, even if you’re a fourth-rank official, you can wield tremendous power!”

Wei Dahai’s face changed considerably.

“Lord Wei, you seem to know me, don’t you?” Shao Wanru asked.

Wei Dahai was stunned. Then, in a hurry, he answered cautiously, “I’ve seen Your Highness in the Marquis Xing’s Mansion!”

“The Marquis Xing’s Mansion? I thought you saw me when I came to the Butterfly Clothing Shop. You seemed to want this shop badly. Am I right?” Shao Wanru cracked a light smile and asked leisurely.

“Er... It belongs to Lady Ming. I want to be with her... If the shop is under my name, she and my daughter can return to me!” Wei Dahai murmured and restrained the panic in his heart. He had never thought that Princess Chen would really come to him. She hid inside and heard everything he said.

Shao Wanru couldn't help sneering in her heart. At this point, Wei Dahai still wanted to get away with this excuse.

“Lord Wei, let's put aside the dispute between you and Madame Dong for the time being. Don't even think about this shop. This shop has always been mine; now it's under my name. Do you have any complaints?”

Shao Wanru asked.

“Wh-what?” Wei Dahai's eyes widened in shock, and he looked at Shao Wanru in disbelief.

In astonishment, Madam Ouyang also looked up at Madame Dong and Shao Wanru. They had planned for so long and regarded this shop as theirs. At this moment, they were told that this shop didn't belong to Madame Dong at all. Then what was the point of them scheming incessantly?

Their efforts were a complete waste of time, and their mistakes made them a laughingstock.

“Your Highness, I know you have a distinguished status, but you can't snatch the property from law-abiding citizens!” Madam Ouyang calmed down a little and said.

“Snatching? I'm afraid you've made a mistake. I was young then, and it was inconvenient for me to show up and take this shop. Thus, I asked Madame Dong to do it. Madame Dong came to the capital city with me. Because I didn't have enough money, I got a mortgage from a private bank and received the money. An official of the Ministry of Justice helped me with the process. We've undergone complete formalities, and there were records of it in the private bank!”

Shao Wanru said with a smile, reached out to take the tea served by Yujie, and took a sip slowly.

Her purpose was to shatter Wei Dahai's wishful thinking. With the arrival of the Xu State princesses, the situation in the capital city was getting chaotic. At this critical time, the Prince Chen's Mansion should adopt a lower profile. In the past, she didn't mind dealing with Wei Dahai slowly, but she couldn't do that now. To avoid being distracted, Shao Wanru had to act decisively and kill Wei Dahai's unrealistic hope of getting this shop as early as possible.

There was a light knock at the door. Yujie hurried forward to open the door. And Wen Xichi, wearing a gentle smile, appeared.

Wei Dahai couldn't help withdrawing a few steps — he knew Wen Xichi.

“Lord Wen, thank you for coming here!” Shao Wanru stood up and bowed politely.

“It doesn't matter. It's my duty!” Wen Xichi said, making a cupped-hand salute to Shao Wanru.

The two of them greeted each other and took their seats.

Yujie served tea and retreated to Shao Wanru's back. As for Wei Dahai and his wife, they were still standing there. No one invited them to sit, let alone ask them for tea.

"Lord Wen, when I asked for the loan, you were my guarantor. I wonder if you can be a witness and prove that I bought this shop. And because I was young at that time, I specially entrusted it to Madame Dong to manage." Shao Wanru asked.

"Yes, we still kept the contracts!" Wen Xichi nodded. From the pocket in his sleeve, he took out a few contracts, put them on the table, and said in a businesslike manner, "Your Highness, please take a look. Are these the contracts you want?"

Shao Wanru motioned for Yujie to take it. After examining them in her hands, she looked pleasantly surprised. "Thank you, Lord Wen. I happened to have met you once, but you helped me greatly. Now I have to trouble you to testify for me!"

Wen Xichi was very thorough in his work. As soon as she mentioned that, he got the evidence immediately, though the matter happened three years ago. Wen Xichi was indeed efficient and capable.

"No need to thank me, Your Highness. It's no bother!" Wen Xichi turned to look at Wei Dahai and said, "Lord Wei, Princess Chen bought this shop from my friend. I happened to be there that day. Seeing a little girl with great ambitions, I was glad to lend a hand. Since then, she had this shop."

"Lord Wei has also taken a fancy to this shop and is determined to get it. I think you should go to court!"

"Go to court?" Wei Dahai's face was ashen, and his hands trembled involuntarily in his sleeves. How could they go to court in the current situation?

He knew perfectly well who Wen Xichi was. With Wen Xichi as a witness and these contracts, Wei Dahai could never win the case. More importantly, it might jeopardize his future.

He had been sure that Princess Chen wouldn't dare to make a big deal out of it. In his mind, she only wanted to get the people in the Butterfly Clothing Shop. But now, it turned out that Princess Chen owned this shop from the start. Therefore, how could he fantasize about winning the shop? In particular, Wen Xichi was willing to be a witness. He was the Third Young Master of the Mansion of the Prime Minister and had an excellent reputation. Beyond that, Wen Xichi was now working in the Ministry of Justice. Although his position was similar to his, Wen Xichi had real power.

In contrast, Wei Dahai was just a fourth-rank official. How could he imagine taking the shop from Princess Chen?

Her legs went limp, and Wei Dahai reached out to hold the corner of the table before he could stand firm.

"Lord Wen, there's no need to do that. It's... it's a misunderstanding!" Wei Dahai smiled more bitterly than when he cried. How could he have the guts to think about other things at this time? He only wanted to go back safe and sound. From then on, he would completely give up the idea of taking the shop.

If he had known the shop didn't belong to Lady Dong, he wouldn't have dared to have any unrealistic expectations!

"A misunderstanding? How could it be? This matter has caused such a stir. Lord Wei, you'd better come with me. I heard that another case involving this shop was also related to you. I'm curious to know who colluded with you to do these despicable things!" Wen Xichi snorted, and his face fell.

"Are they going to follow up the clues and take me down?" Wei Dahai was afraid of being found out, although he thought he didn't leave any clues behind. But no one could guarantee it. If by any chance, any evidence pointed toward him. He wouldn't get away with it by telling others it was a misunderstanding.

"Lord Wen, I swear it's a misunderstanding..." Wei Dahai reached out to wipe the cold sweat off his forehead. Then, he joined his hands to plead with Wen Xichi, appearing subservient and servile. Once the situation got out of hand, he would find himself in serious trouble.

"Lord Wen, this... I had a little misunderstanding with them. I thought my husband was really..." Madam Ouyang said with an awkward smile. She turned to Madame Dong and bowed sideways. "Sister, I'm truly sorry. I believed... I made such a big scene out of jealousy. I'm sorry for what I've done. Sister, please forgive me!"

"Madam, you are wrong. My mother only gave birth to me. I have no sister!" Madame Dong looked at Madam Ouyang coldly, eyes full of sarcasm.

Her words choked Madam Ouyang and shamed her to death. While biting her lip determinedly, she looked up at Shao Wanru, saying, "Your Highness, my father arranged this marriage with him. I didn't know the details. If I had known my husband had a family already, I wouldn't have married him. Now... now... the horrible mistake has occurred, yet my husband refused to realize his error and still tried to be with Madame Dong..."

Madam Ouyang spoke with grief and continued to assert that she was innocent.

Shao Wanru interrupted her bluntly, "Madam Ouyang, these old things have nothing to do with me, and I don't want to hear about them. If there is nothing else, please go back. Don't ever intervene in the affairs of Butterfly Clothing Shop in the future. If you attempt to mess with the Butterfly Clothing Shop again, don't blame me for raking up the past, and let's wait and see the court's decision!"

Madam Ouyang was slightly taken aback but soon came to her senses. She took Wei Dahai's hand and said repeatedly, "Yes, yes. We'll leave right now. From now on, we won't interfere in the affairs of Butterfly Clothing Shop, never!"

After that, she turned around and left with Wei Dahai, who was slow in reacting to the situation.

If Princess Chen intended to pursue the case, Wei's Mansion would face imminent disaster. For some unknown reasons, Princess Chen chose to let them off. Whatever her purpose was, they had better go away as soon as possible.

...

The couple came out of the accountant's office in a panic. They didn't dare to stay any longer and hurried out. Many people stayed outside to watch the fun. When seeing the couple walk out in dejection, plus what they had heard, they immediately understood the couple was in the wrong.

It could be seen that they had plotted to get the Butterfly Clothing Shop. Thus, many people pointed at their backs and broke out into curses.

#### Chapter 1136 Weren't You Afraid I Would Deceive You?

"Thank you, Lord Wen!" Shao Wanru said in the accountant's office.

"You don't have to be so polite." Wen Xichi said, his clear and soft eyes on Shao Wanru. "May I ask you a question?"

"Please go ahead, Lord Wen!" Shao Wanru smiled.

"Back then, you had just moved to the capital, but you seemed to have trusted me at first glance. Why would you believe me, a person you just met? And you even let me vouch for you. Weren't you afraid that I would deceive you?"

They first met in the Butterfly Clothing Shop. At that time, Shao Wanru was just an eleven-year-old girl who had just entered the capital. While Wen Xichi, Third Young Master Wen of the Mansion of the Prime Minister, hadn't yet become the Number One Scholar. Nevertheless, it was certain that they had never met before.

"I was young then. When I saw you, I thought you must be a good person, so I took it for granted that you would help me. Now when I think about it, I feel myself childish!" Shao Wanru thought back on it and laughed in spite of herself.

She was under fifteen but beyond her years in speech. Her charming, liquid eyes slightly crinkled up at the corners as she smiled. He felt a natural charm emanating from her. Meanwhile, she held herself slightly aloof, neither close nor distant to him.

"Then, thank you for trusting me!" Wen Xichi averted his gaze and said with a lopsided smile. He stood up and gave Shao Wanru a fist-and-palm salute. "I still have something to do in the yamen, so I'll take my leave first!"

Shao Wanru got up, bowed sideways with a smile, and said, "I have to thank you for what you did today. Without you here, I don't know what would have happened!"

She deliberately planned to take Wei Dahai down with one blow today and shatter his fantastic idea. Lucky for her, Wen Xichi was well-prepared and brought all the evidence necessary to convict them. In this way, even if Wei Dahai and his wife had other ideas, they didn't dare to say anything.

Shao Wanru had these formal documents and an official of the Ministry of Justice to be the witness. So, even if they had to go to court, Wei Dahai couldn't win the case, not to mention Madame Dong had been supporting Shao Wanru wholeheartedly.

"I'm happy to help, Your Highness. If Wei Dahai makes trouble again, just send for me!" Wen Xichi said in a businesslike manner and turned to leave.

Many people had gathered around the Butterfly Clothing Shop, gossiping about the matters among Wei Dahai, his wife, and Madame Dong. When they saw Wen Xichi come out, someone exclaimed in a low voice. Obviously, the person recognized Wen Xichi.

She leaned aside and took a few steps to avoid Wen Xichi, her eyes landing on the accountant's office with the door unlatched. Then, she looked up at Wen Xichi's back with a trace of disapproval in her eyes. Sure enough, Shao Wanru was never a decent woman. Not only did she hook up with Chu Liuyue, but she also had an intimate relationship with Third Young Master Wen.

"My Lady!" When a servant girl called her in a low voice, she withdrew her eyes. Then she looked down at the few bolts of gauze before her. Just now, she casually picked them to cover up her real intention.

"How could Shao Wanru uphold justice for others here?"

She came late and roughly heard that, which aroused her curiosity. Thus, she stayed to listen to the gossip and was surprised to see Wen Xichi come out of Shao Wanru's room.

Wen Xichi, a noble young master, was also one of the few well-known young talents in the capital city. Infanta Yuan'an rather admired him and even regarded him as an ideal husband. Of course, marrying a prince was always the best choice for her. After all, she was looking forward to getting the high and mighty position as the empress.

"All of them!" Infanta Yuan'an said carelessly, asking her servant girl to pay the bill. Before they walked away, Infanta Yuan'an stood at the door and looked outside, but she didn't see Wen Xichi. He should have left early. A gloomy look flashed across her eyes. "Chu Liuyue, Zhang Qilan, and now Wen Xichi..."

"Your Highness, isn't it time for us to go back to the mansion?" The servant girl reminded her cautiously. Infanta Yuan'an had sneaked out of the mansion without noticing Ruiping Great Elder Princess. The wedding was approaching, so Ruiping Great Elder Princess didn't allow Infanta Yuan'an to go out casually.

"Let's go!" Infanta Yuan'an nodded and was no longer in the mood to stroll around. When she got on the carriage, she thought for a moment and ordered the servant girl, "Go to Prince Zhou's second courtyard outside the capital!"

Chu Liuzhou spent much time in his second courtyard outside the city. When Infanta Yuan'an went to ask his whereabouts, she learned that Chu Liuzhou had been living in his dwelling place outside the city these days.

"Your Highness, this... this is a breach of etiquette!" The servant girl hurriedly cautioned her.

"Don't chatter on and on!" Infanta Yuan'an frowned unhappily, her fierce eyes sweeping across her. The servant girl was so scared that she hurriedly lowered her head and no longer dared to try to stop her master.

The carriage turned a corner and drove out of the city. Around the corner, Wen Xichi appeared at the intersection with his hands clasped behind his back. From a distance, he watched the carriage leave. He learned from the mark on the carriage that it belonged to the Ruiping Great Elder Princess's Mansion. It should be Infanta Yuan'an who peeped at him outside the shop.

When in the Butterfly Clothing Shop, Wen Xichi seemed to have seen a familiar figure out of the corner of his eye. However, she dodged aside fast, so he didn't find out who it was. In the past, Wen Xichi would smile and ignore this matter. He didn't care who paid attention to him but avoided him later. But since he served in the Ministry of Justice, he became more vigilant and deliberately kept an eye on her.

"Why would Infanta Yuan'an avoid me? Shouldn't she be waiting to get married in the mansion now?" Infanta Yuan'an didn't wear a veil. Although Wen Xichi didn't see her clearly, he knew her wound must have healed. Otherwise, she wouldn't go out without wearing a veil. He watched the carriage leave. It turned into the official road in the middle and sped up, advancing without the intention of stopping. It seemed it would go out of the city along this official road.

"What's outside the city?"

"Prince Zhou's second courtyard?" This answer arose naturally in Wen Xichi's mind. He pondered for a moment, looked again in the direction the carriage left, and turned to leave...

Shao Wanru had no idea what had happened outside. Little did she know Infanta Yuan'an imagined many unreal things according to the partial facts she had seen. In addition, she had gone to tell Chu Liuzhou everything.

"My Lady, is this matter settled? Won't they come over again?" Madame Dong was still worried, fearing that Wei Dahai and his wife wouldn't give up. She deeply hated this couple and didn't want to see them again.

"Wei Dahai dare not do that. I won't solve the dispute privately if they trouble us with it again. Instead, I'll sue them and bring them to a bad ending." With a smile, Shao Wanru comforted Madame Dong.

"But... but..." Recently, Madame Dong had been restless with anxiety because of the couple. Even at this time, she was a little unsure about the future.

"Don't worry. It won't happen. The couple is not simple. Except for their crisis of money, the matter of their niece will keep them busy." Seeing Madame Dong still feel uneasy, Shao Wanru revealed some information. "If Commandery Prince Qing wants to marry the Xu State princess, their niece will have no choice but to be a consort."

Mo Qiuyi was also a woman who couldn't be seen through easily. How could she be simple?

"That's the best. They'd better not come again." Madame Dong made an effort to compose herself and said, gritting her teeth decisively. Princess Chen's words appeased her. The Xu State princess had just entered the capital, so Wei Dahai and his wife would be too occupied to deal with her. "My Lady, when can I transfer the shop to you?"

"In a few days, Yujie will come and take you to close the case in the Ministry of Justice. We'll get everything done!" Shao Wanru said. She had written a letter to Wen Xichi, asking him to look into the case involving their shop-boy. Since Wen Xichi mentioned it before the couple, the case wouldn't be a big problem.

"Yes, I'll wait for Yujie to come over!" Madame Dong nodded. With the ownership of Butterfly Clothing Shop settled, she breathed a sigh of relief in her heart.

They only needed to change the owner's name in a register. Everything else remained the same. For Madame Dong, Wei Dahai lost an excuse to harass her, which was the best.

After solving this issue, Shao Wanru asked about the shop's situation before leaving with her servants. She was going to ask Chu Liuchen to send someone to check up on Wei Dahai. Why was he so short of

money? To get this shop, he even had the courage to confront Princess Chen. Anyway, there must be something fishy about it.

Wei Dahai and his wife returned to their mansion in low spirits. Both of them looked very embarrassed. After asking all the servants to leave, the couple watched each other in uncomfortable silence.

“What should we do now?” Wei Dahai touched his head and asked in distress. He did need money, a large sum of money. Initially, he intended to make ends meet with the Butterfly Clothing Shop.

“Did Commandery Prince Qing say anything?” Madam Ouyang thought for a moment and asked, wearing a worried frown. Her face set in grim lines. “Would he make Qiuyi his consort?”

“That was what Commandery Prince Qing meant. After all, the princess from the Xu State is also... of royal blood. And her status is much higher than Qiuyi’s!” Wei Dahai vaguely said.

“Much higher? I think they’re the same. They are both the descendants of the princesses. Why do you think she is nobler? Honestly, Qiuyi’s blood relationship is closer, and her background is better. He thought the Xu State princess had higher status and changed his mind. But what did he promise us? We had made a deal, but he got back on his word!”

Madam Ouyang slammed her hand heavily on the table and scolded angrily, “Ungrateful thing! Doesn’t he remember who saved him? How dare he break off the engagement now!”

After a long silence, Wei Dahai spoke, “What’s the point of getting angry? We can’t let him dissolve his marriage with Qiuyi. Why don’t you go and talk to Consort Dowager Qing? In the first place, we made a big effort to save Commandery Prince Qing and her mother, but now they can’t even guarantee Qiuyi a position. How could they do that?”

“It’s all your fault. You should have let Qiuyi marry him earlier, but you decided to postpone it. You said they couldn’t marry before Prince Chen got married. Now, great! You’ve given them a reason to break off the engagement!” Madam Ouyang said grumpily.

“Don’t worry. Commandery Prince Qing has to rely on us to get married. At present, the best approach is to prove our strength. It’s just that we lack a sum of money!” Wei Dahai said.

“We can sell a few pieces of land and go to the Commandery Prince Qing’s Mansion. I’ll talk to Consort Dowager Qing about it!” Madam Ouyang said, smoldering with indignation. At this point, she could only sell something to get the money!

“That’s it. You’ll have to take the trouble of going to the Commandery Prince Qing’s Mansion!” Wei Dahai said helplessly. He had given up on the Butterfly Clothing Shop and would never dare to think about getting it. Princess Chen almost had all the evidence. If he insisted on taking it from her, he would bring destruction upon himself. Wei Dahai could swallow his pride and endure in silence. This was why he managed to live safely without causing any serious problems!

Chapter 1137 His Official Rank, Neither High nor Low, Just Perfect!

When Shao Wanru returned to the mansion, she went straight to the study!

Chu Liuchen’s study was in the building where he had lived. It was a three-story house, but it only appeared to have two floors from the outside.



Hearing that she had come, Xiao Xuanzi hurriedly led her to the second floor and retreated.

Shao Wanru asked Yujie to stay outside the room on the second floor. Then, she went to the third floor along the stairs inside. Chu Liuchen was leaning against a large chair and reading the official documents.

The sunshine came streaming in at the window, making his handsome face shiny and creamy, like pearls and jades. When he raised his pretty eyes and saw Shao Wanru, he waved to her and beckoned her over.

Shao Wanru walked over. Before she could say anything, he pulled her down into his seat.

Chu Liuchen's hand dropped and wrapped around her slender waist. He pressed against her as if he had no bones to support himself and asked lazily, "How is it going?"

At the moment, Shao Wanru could barely move.

Shao Wanru knew she could never compete with Chu Liuchen in strength, so she gave up struggling and said helplessly, "The matter has been settled. I'll let Yujie go to the yamen and put the Butterfly Clothing Shop under my name in a few days!"

Shao Wanru had mentioned the matter of the Butterfly Clothing Shop to Chu Liuchen long ago.

"Nothing serious happened?" Chu Liuchen raised his eyebrows and looked at Shao Wanru with an enchanting smile, his eyes sparkling.

"Yes, nothing much, but I think Wei Dahai and his wife are really pressed for cash." Shao Wanru spoke out the doubt in her heart. Her long eyelashes fluttered, and her eyes looked a little confused. She tilted her head to look at Chu Liuchen and asked, "Do you think that... Wei Dahai is unusual?"

"More than that. He's exceedingly unusual!" Chu Liuchen's lips curved in a smile. He threw the memorial to the throne in his hand onto the table covered with memorials. When Shao Wanru came here before, she hadn't seen so many memorials.

The Emperor had really sent a lot of memorials to him!

"Although Wei Dahai has a concubine, I heard he didn't keep many mistresses. Nanny Wei has no other relatives but him, her only nephew, so she must have given him a lot of money. But he seems to have an insatiable desire for money. Why?" Shao Wanru asked in confusion.

Nanny Wei was the most helpful servant of the Empress Dowager. Otherwise, she couldn't have continued serving the Empress Dowager after making such a big mistake. So many years had passed, and she must have gotten considerable private savings. Besides, it was not easy for her to find Wei Dahai, her only junior. Since she cared much about him, how could she not support him with money?

In the Marquis Xing's Mansion, Wei Dahai didn't have a large family to feed. Then, what made him so poor that he even dared to go against Princess Chen?

He wouldn't have done this if he hadn't been extremely short of money!

"Wei Dahai came from a poor family. Later, he married the daughter of the Ouyang family, and his father-in-law was an average official. He used to have a good reputation in official circles. But apart from

that, there was nothing else worth mentioning. Guided by his father-in-law, Wei Dahai started as a minor official and later became an intermediate-level official. If it hadn't been for his relationship with Nanny Wei, he wouldn't have obtained any real power!"

Chu Liuchen mentioned Wei Dahai casually. He narrowed his eyes and said with deep eyes, "He is such an inconspicuous official. Although he hasn't gained much improvement, he didn't make any terrible mistakes. He has been an official for many years but has never stood out. We pay attention to him because his niece will be Commandery Prince Qing's legal wife!"

His rank was neither high nor low, and he kept a low profile. Even Prince Chen nearly neglected Wei Dahai. It could be said that Chu Liuchen knew him because his niece would be Chu Qing's legal life. His conflict with Shao Wanru aroused his real interest!

When Chu Liuchen set his eyes on Wei Dahai, he realized he had almost missed such a big fish.

Shao Wanru didn't want to pay too much attention to Chu Liuchen's business. Since he had already known some questionable points of Wei Dahai, she didn't need to worry about what would happen next.

"I'm going to the Marquis Xing's Mansion," Shao Wanru said softly.

"What are you going to do there?" Chu Liuchen asked casually.

"Old Madam will come back. As her granddaughter, I have to meet her. Otherwise, if she sends someone here to invite me, others will think I'm too pretentious!" Shao Wanru said. Qing'er had told her that Old Madam would return to the mansion this afternoon.

With Old Madam's character, she would stir up trouble if Shao Wanru didn't show up.

"It doesn't matter if she returns. You did this favor and helped her come back. Why would she be dissatisfied with you?" Chu Liuchen said with a trace of displeasure. He didn't like the people or things in the Marquis Xing's Mansion. "You will be wronged if you go there!"

Incidents related to the Marquis Xing's Mansion always got Shao Wanru into trouble. If possible, he would be glad to crash the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

"Anyway, she is my elder. There is no easy excuse for not going to see her!" Shao Wanru shook her head and said, "I won't suffer losses with you around!"

She understood what Chu Liuchen meant. The smile on her lips was faint but tender. The air of aloofness on her dissipated as she watched Chu Liuchen with her lustrous eyes as limpid as autumn water.

Chu Liuchen gave a cold snort and said, "Since you've decided to go there, you don't have to stay for dinner!"

Shao Wanru thought for a moment and said, "I'll go and come back early, but I'll have to have a meal there."

"Just say I'm waiting for you to have dinner!" Chu Liuchen reached out and held one of her slender hands with his warm hands.

"I will go back soon. Don't worry. Everything will be fine. The Marquis Xing's Mansion is no longer what it used to be. Old Madam won't choose to offend me at this time." Shao Wanru gently flipped her hand and pinched Chu Liuchen's hand, blinking her eyes and curling her lips.

"My Second Uncle is going to marry a mistress. Dealing with this matter should be the first thing Old Madam will do when she returns to the mansion." Shao Wanru said, "I also want to inquire about the woman named E'niang. My grandma said my mother had such a servant girl, but she didn't move into the Marquis Xing's Mansion with my mother when my mother got married. She seemed to have lived in the Marquis Xing's Mansion in the first place."

When a woman got married, her closest people were often servant girls who moved from her original family into her husband's family with her. Unlike servant girls from her husband's family, these close servant girls growing up with her knew her living habits very well. In this case, the woman would use servant girls familiar with her than those who knew nothing about her.

Surprisingly, E'niang seemed to be the principal maid of her mother.

According to her grandma, four servant girls came with her mother, all of whom were her principal maids. They grew up with her mother and were very loyal to her. However, they all had an accident. Only the servant girl from Marquis Xing's Mansion survived.

Grandma didn't notice this servant girl before, but after her daughter had an accident, she came back only with this servant. The Marquis Xing's Mansion didn't let her grandma know the details. When Shao Wanru's mother died, her grandma certainly wouldn't follow a servant girl with interest.

If it weren't for what had happened recently, no one would have thought this servant girl would climb onto Shao Jing's bed. She even gave birth to a daughter who didn't exist in Shao Wanru's previous life. Shao Wanru was intensely curious about this. Why didn't Shao Jing have such a daughter in her last life? But now, he had one. Could it be that her rebirth had changed many things?

However, if they wanted a child, they would have already given birth to her before Shao Wanru was reborn.

From this point of view, it had nothing to do with her rebirth!

Shao Wanru pondered for a while in her heart, slightly knitting her eyebrows. When she leaned back, Chu Liuchen drew her into his embrace with the faint smell of medicine. His medicine smell was much lighter now. Whether in the past or at present, his embrace inexplicably made her feel at ease.

She closed her eyes and said softly, "I always feel this woman named E'niang is full of craft!"

"Since she is wily, get rid of her!" Chu Liuchen said lightly, pulling her closer to him. He was used to handling these trifles in such a simple and rough way.

He had a hundred ways to slaughter a servant girl like her. It was said the woman was more than a servant girl, but so what?

"Don't do that. I'll deal with it!" Shao Wanru was taken aback. Hurriedly, she reached out to hold Chu Liuchen's hand as if he would kill E'niang soon. "She is related to my mother. I want to find some clues from her!"

It was not easy to meet such a person, so Shao Wanru didn't want to lose the chance to investigate E'niang.

Such a person must know something secretive. Even if E'niang was devoted to Shao Jing, Shao Wanru had to find traces from other aspects.

"Well, do as you like!" Chu Liuchen said dotingly. The tenderness in his eyes reduced the hostility on his face.

Shao Wanru suddenly opened her watery eyes and said with a sweet smile, "Then I'd better leave right away and go to the Marquis Xing's Mansion early. I might check out something!"

Old Madam would come back in the afternoon. It was a little early if she set off now. She could deal with her own business by making use of her free time. During this period, E'niang might show up.

E'niang had been nurturing schemes for a chance to approach Shao Wanru. However, E'niang got nothing in return. How could she take such a result lying down? No matter who was behind this, there must be a follow-up plan. This time, Shao Wanru would come to them...

...

Seeing the cunning look in her eyes, Chu Liuchen could only nod in agreement and said, "You can leave now, but don't stay for supper. Tell them it's my order."

"Okay, I'll be back in time." Shao Wanru nodded obediently. Seeing her delicate and beautiful appearance, Chu Liuchen smiled and said in a severe tone, "Don't try to fob me off. Don't have supper there!"

"I'll never have supper there, no matter how much they want me to stay!"

Shao Wanru promised, her liquid eyes on the handsome man near her. Her long eyelashes fluttered twice, revealing the clear figure in her eyes. Looking at Chu Liuchen like this, Shao Wanru felt less depressed.

"Consort Lan, will she be conferred a higher title and status?" she blurted out. After that, Shao Wanru rolled her watery eyes uneasily. She was not that curious about this kind of thing. Chu Liuchen would tell her whenever he wanted to say it, and she would not force him to do anything.

"No, she won't. Her current position is perfect. Since she is a consort, why should she compete for a higher rank? It's meaningless for her to occupy a higher position. She enjoys her life now, doesn't she? A life neither too dazzling nor too humble seems to be ideal for her." Chu Liuchen said with a deep look. He didn't make it clear or avoid this topic.

But even so, Shao Wanru inexplicably felt sorry for him. She turned around and hugged Chu Liuchen closely, burying her head in his arms. Then, she muttered something irrelevant, "You have me anyway!"

Chapter 1138 Third Madam Was Seriously

"No matter what, she is with me!"

Chu Liuchen's eyes softened. He reached out to hold Shao Wanru in his arms and looked down at his beloved woman in his embrace. Because of what she had said, her delicate face turned pink. Even if she had buried her head in his arms, he could still see the blush on her face. Chu Liuchen felt peaceful and happy, even going into raptures over such a scene.

No matter what happened, he had everything as long as she was around.

"Don't worry. I won't be sad!" Chu Liuchen's response sounded inexplicable, but Shao Wanru raised her head slightly and peeked at him. Seeing the tenderness in his eyes, she immediately lowered her head again.

They stopped talking and focused on enjoying the sweetness in their hearts brought by each other. There was no need to say anything else. The couple snuggled up together, knowing the wonderful feelings in each other's hearts...

After coming out of Chu Liuchen's study, Shao Wanru went outside and got onto the carriage. According to Chu Liuchen's request, this time, she brought Qing'er and Yujie. With her current status, Shao Wanru could take a few more servants.

Her carriage arrived at the Marquis Xing's Mansion. Zhao Xiran got the news and came out early, waiting for Shao Wanru on the spot.

Yujie and Qing'er supported Shao Wanru when she got out of the carriage.

"Your Highness!" Zhao Xiran bowed and stepped aside. Shao Wanru was surprised to see Zhao Xiqiong, Second Miss Zhao. Since Shao Wanru met her, Zhao Xiqiong often turned up before her.

Zhao Xiqiong bowed deeply to Shao Wanru.

Shao Wanru said with a smile, "Sister Zhao, I'll visit Third Aunt first. She asked me to see her when I came back."

"Your Highness, please do as you like. I'll go to prepare lunch." Zhao Xiran looked at the color of the sky and said sensibly. Shao Wanru came at this time, waiting for Old Madam to come back in the afternoon. So, she would certainly have lunch in the mansion.

"Thank you for that!" Shao Wanru narrowed her eyes and said with a trace of gloom across her eyes, "Then I'll go to see Third Aunt first!"

"Please suit yourself, Your Highness!" Zhao Xiran stepped aside and let Shao Wanru go over with two servant girls. She then called another servant girl to report to the third branch.

"Eldest Sister, why didn't you allow me to take Princess Chen there?" After Shao Wanru went far away, Zhao Xiqiong asked unhappily.

She had just hinted to Zhao Xiran that she wanted to take Shao Wanru to the third branch.

"What are you going to do there? Didn't Shao Caihuan make it clear enough that day?" Zhao Xiran's face darkened as she said unpleasantly.

“So what? My father agreed with me. It’s none of their business. They are just jealous!” Zhao Xiqiong said indifferently, not taking this matter seriously.

Upon returning home that day, she implicitly told her idea to her father, who didn’t object. He said that Prince Chen was no longer the same as before and that she should be careful not to provoke him. Besides, he warned her not to offend Princess Chen either. Princess Chen, chosen by Prince Chen, must be unique to him.

It was precisely for this reason that Zhao Xiqiong specially came to the Marquis Xing’s Mansion. Since Old Madam would come back today, Princess Chen should also come. Zhao Xiqiong was trying to build a good relationship with Princess Chen. She only needed to make sure Princess Chen wouldn’t hate her. It would be even better if she could please Princess Chen. Perhaps, Princess Chen would take the initiative to take her in before she asked for help.

With this in mind, Zhao Xiqiong came over, determined to ingratiate herself with Shao Wanru. To her disappointment, her sister threw cold water on her idea, which deeply distressed Zhao Xiqiong.

“This is the Marquis Xing’s Mansion, not the Minister Zhao’s Mansion. You’re a guest, but Princess Chen is the host. Do you think she needs a guest to show her the way? And Third Aunt doesn’t like you. Since she asked Shao Caihuan to invite Princess Chen, Third Aunt must have something to do with her. As an outsider, how could you follow her the whole time?”

Zhao Xiran said with displeasure.

In her heart, she was unhappy with her father’s decision. Her father used to be very clear-minded, but recently, he seemed increasingly confused! How could he tell Prince Chen would take Zhao Xiqiong into his mansion? Why did he think Princess Chen would bear it and take the initiative to accept Zhao Xiqiong as Prince Chen’s consort?

When Zhao Xiran married into Marquis Xing’s Mansion, Shao Wanru was not married yet. Therefore, they spent some time together. They were not close to each other, and Zhao Xiran never dared to underestimate Shao Wanru. When Zhao Xiran was newly married, she was once pushed to the end of her rope due to a tiny oversight. How could any ordinary woman be capable of that?

Her father seemed to take it for granted, while her second sister flattered herself.

Zhao Xiran wanted to disillusion her younger sister. However, Zhao Xiqiong turned a deaf ear to her repeated warnings. Zhao Xiran felt helpless as she looked at Zhao Xiqiong, who was full of unreal expectations. In her opinion, this marriage couldn’t be achieved at all. Prince Chen would only accept the woman he liked. Otherwise, why didn’t he get a legal wife for so many years?

Prince Chen, favored by the Empress Dowager and the Emperor, could marry anyone he fancied. Even Young Madams with status as high as Infanta Yuan’an would have to marry him. Though he had been a sick man who would die soon, it didn’t matter! Somehow, Zhao Xiran felt Prince Chen must have fallen in love with Shao Wanru, her sister-in-law, a long time ago.

There was no evidence. It was just a woman’s intuition.

But since Zhao Xiran had nothing to prove her intuition was correct, her sister wouldn’t believe it. Thinking of this, Zhao Xiran sighed helplessly. She reached out to hold her sister’s hand and said, “Go

back with me. Let's prepare a decent meal for Princess Chen. It will make her happy. Third Aunt is in poor health. She won't keep Princess Chen for long!"

Zhao Xiqiong thought Zhao Xiran's suggestion sounded reasonable. Though reluctantly, she followed Zhao Xiran back. When Shao Wanru was back from the third branch of Marquis Xing's Mansion, she would try her best to fawn at her. Zhao Xiqiong believed that Princess Chen would readily accept an obedient consort like her. She had a noble status and was willing to be a humble consort. How could Princess Chen not be dissatisfied with her?

Second Miss Zhao was trying her best to please Shao Wanru, hoping that she would let Chu Liuchen accept her as a consort. However, Shao Wanru didn't know it.

With Yujie and Qing'er, Shao Wanru went to the third branch. Someone had already gone to report when they arrived at Third Madam's courtyard. Then, Shao Caihuan and Shao Cailing came out to welcome them.

At the sight of Shao Wanru, they were about to salute her, but Shao Wanru smiled and told them to skip it. Afterward, they entered the main room together.

The smell of medicine in the main room was strong. Since Third Madam was always weak in health, she had taken medicine almost all year round. The window was open for fresh air, but there was still a distinct smell of medicine inside.

After Shao Caihuan and Shao Cailing, Shao Wanru entered the inner room. There, she saw Third Madam lying on the bed — she was all skin and bones. Shao Wanru couldn't help but be stunned. "Was the Third Madam so seriously ill?"

Third Madam was very thin, but it could be seen that she remained quite calm. When she saw Shao Wanru coming over, she struggled to rise up.

Shao Wanru hurriedly stepped forward and prevented her from getting up. Then, she sat down on the chair beside the bed.

"How do you get so sick? What did the doctor say?" After taking her seat, Shao Wanru asked in astonishment.

It had never occurred to her that Third Madam would be terribly sick. When Shao Caihuan came to tell her about it, she didn't say that her mother was at death's door from her illness.

Third Madam was in poor health for a long time, yet she had never become so hopelessly ill that she could barely get herself out of bed.

"Nothing serious. I caught a cold and don't feel well. I'll be fine after a short rest!" Third Madam said carelessly, her smiling eyes on Shao Wanru's face.

"Have you asked an imperial physician to examine you?" Shao Wanru asked with a frown.

"Not everyone can send for an imperial physician in the Palace!" Third Madam shook her head and said.

"Didn't Third Uncle tell Second Uncle about your condition?" Shao Wanru asked in confusion. Although the third branch couldn't get an imperial physician, Shao Jing could.

"His Grace has been very busy recently and seldom stays in the mansion. My illness is nothing serious. There is no need to bother him!" Third Madam shook her head and said.

"Is Shao Jing hardly at home? Has he always been with E'niang? He seldom lives in the mansion. E'niang must be a really tough woman."

"No matter what, you need an imperial physician!" Shao Wanru said in displeasure. She turned to Shao Caihuan, who was standing beside her, and said, "Ask for someone to get an imperial physician with my name card. Your mother looks so sick. Only an imperial physician knows her physical condition!"

The rims of Shao Caihuan's eyes turned red. She wiped the corners of her eyes with a handkerchief and nodded.

No one in this messy mansion cared about her mother's illness. Shao Caihuan had told her father about the problem, but he was unsympathetic. He only said he would go to tell her Second Uncle, but she received no reply. Shao Caihuan had tried to find her Second Uncle but never succeeded. Marquis Xing was not there every time she went to his place.

It appeared to be a minor illness, but her mother was confined to bed by sickness, which made Shao Caihuan very anxious.

That day, her mother asked her to see Princess Chen in the Prince Chen's Mansion. Shao Caihuan had planned to tell her bad condition to Princess Chen. But later, she decided to say it when Shao Wanru returned to the mansion.

She didn't expect that Shao Wanru would take the initiative to help as soon as she came.

With tears in her eyes, she lowered her head and followed Yujie out silently. She took the name card handed over by Yujie and asked someone to invite an imperial physician over.

...

In the room, Third Madam's eyes were also slightly red. She sighed softly and said to Shao Cailing, who was standing aside and wiping her tears, "You can leave now and stay outside with your sister for a while. I have something to talk to Princess Chen!"

"Yes!" Shao Cailing turned around with tears streaming down her face.

When she got out of the door and saw Shao Caihuan standing there, she suddenly felt sadness welling up. She threw herself into Shao Caihuan's arms and wept softly.

"Mother will be okay. She will be fine!" Shao Caihuan comforted her in a low voice, but she didn't know whether she muttered these words to soothe Shao Cailing or herself.

The wound on her face had almost healed. There were only a few tiny scars, indiscernible from a distance, but they could be seen under close examination. Fortunately, her rouge and powder were of good quality, which could cover the minor flaws. But even so, Shao Caihuan felt herself inferior and hardly left her home.

She was flustered and afraid that something terrible would happen to her mother. She looked up at the door and forced herself to hold back the tears in her eyes. Her mother had told her not to be willful



again. If anything happened, she would try every means to protect them and never let anyone scheme against them...

The room fell silent. Third Madam wiped away the tear stains from the corners of her eyes and sat up straight. "Your Highness, my illness situation looks unbelievable to you, doesn't it? I fell sick not long ago but have one foot in the grave now."

#### Chapter 1139 Shocked to Learn the Truth About Her Mother's Death

"You used to be in poor health. But you just caught a cold. How could you suddenly... become so feeble?" Shao Wanru asked, looking Third Madam up and down. She was indeed startled. Third Madam had always been weak, but she was just not strong enough. How could she sink into such a dreadful condition? She seemed to have become a wreck and rotten to the core.

Even if Shao Wanru didn't feel her pulse, she could tell Third Madam was dying. She couldn't help raising her willowy eyebrows slightly. Somehow, she struck upon an idea.

"I've completely broken down in health and become too frail to stand a minor ailment!" Third Madam looked at Shao Wanru and said seriously.

"Was your previous medicine used for refreshing people's spirits?" Shao Wanru asked tentatively.

"It should be. Although I don't know why it happened, my desperate situation should be related to the medicine Doctor Qiu gave me," said Third Madam.

Shao Wanru blinked and asked, "Have you kept some dregs of the decoction?"

"No!" Third Madam shook her head and said with a wry smile, "Doctor Qiu's medicine worked fairly well. Though I had been in poor health, I felt much better after taking his medicine. I even obtained the energy to deal with the mansion's affairs then. I was in such a good state that I thought I would soon recover. However, I have had a bad feeling recently. My illness struck like a landslide, but my recovery is as slow as reeling silk. Gradually, a small problem becomes a severe illness!"

Shao Wanru was silent for a moment, knowing very well what Third Madam meant to say. Since the medicine was good, she didn't deliberately leave any medicine residues behind. At this time, Third Madam could only rely on her feelings to judge this matter. But she must have preserved the prescription!

"What about the prescription?"

"There is no prescription. Doctor Qiu filled the prescription and sent the herbal medicine here!" Third Madam's answer was the same as what Shao Wanru had guessed.

"Third Aunt, don't worry. You may be fine after the imperial physician's treatment. After all, you just feel slightly uncomfortable and caught cold by chance." At this moment, Shao Wanru could only try to comfort Third Madam.

"I know my condition. Even if... I'm afraid no one has the power to save me from my desperate situation... It was my fault to believe in Doctor Qiu, introduced by the second branch. I even praised him as a capable doctor. Little did I know that his medicine would exhaust all my energy. As a result, I've become too seriously ill to be cured merely because I caught a cold!"

Third Madam gave a little cough and smiled wanly. Seeing that Shao Wanru still wanted to console her, she shook her head and said, "Your Highness, I didn't invite you here to talk about my illness today. My illness, serious or not, is not a big deal for me. Death might free me from all encumbrances. I only feel sorry for my poor daughters, Caihuan and Cailing. How could they live well if they lost their mother at such a young age? I'm really worried about them!"

"Third Aunt, the imperial physician can always find a way to cure you!" Shao Wanru could only give her some mollifying remarks!

"Her Highness, I beg you to do me a favor. Could you please take care of my two daughters for me? They don't have to marry into rich and powerful families. But, at least, they should marry husbands who are sincere to them," Third Madam pleaded bitterly.

"Third Aunt, I can't intervene in Third Sister's and Fourth Sister's marriages. Old Madam has her arrangements, and as a junior, I'm not allowed to meddle in these affairs!" Shao Wanru reminded Third Madam. She really didn't want to get involved in this matter. First, she had no justifiable reasons to do so. Second, others would criticize the Prince Chen's Mansion, blaming her for being insolent. They would think she was trying to suppress her sisters by taking advantage of the Prince Chen's Mansion's power. No one would believe that she genuinely tried to help them.

"Your Highness..." Third Madam's eyes dilated with anxiety, and she straightened up. It seemed she wanted to get up and salute Shao Wanru. However, she went limp and almost fell.

Shao Wanru got up, walked to the bed, and slowly helped her lie down.

Although Third Madam lay down feebly, she still held Shao Wanru's hand tightly and implored, "Your Highness, please help me!"

"Third Aunt, it's not within my power to help you. You have much more influence on your daughters' marriages than I do. Besides, you are not as desperately weak as you imagined. You should take good care of yourself and build up your health. You might not fully recover, but it's not impossible!" Shao Wanru said softly, but she resolutely refused her request.

In particular, the Marquis Xing's Mansion was in a mess. How could she intervene at such a bad time?

"How could you... how could you be so cruel? They are your cousins!" Third Madam gazed at Shao Wanru with a hint of accusation in her tearful eyes. "Please save them. Aren't you willing to lend them a hand?" asked she, tears trickling down her cheeks.

"Third Aunt, it's not that I don't want to save them. They don't even need me to save them. As Misses of the Marquis Xing's Mansion, elders should decide their marriages. Even if Old Madam put this matter aside, Second Uncle and Third Uncle are supposed to take over it. No matter what, elders wouldn't let me, your daughters' younger sister, handle their marriages. Do you think Old Madam would grant me the right to handle their marriages? Or do you think I can compete with Old Madam for the right?"

Third Madam was about to argue. Seeing this, Shao Wanru bluntly interrupted her. "Third Aunt, you may think that as Princess Chen, I can do things at will and forcibly intervene in the affairs of Marquis Xing's Mansion. Even if Old Madam has complaints about me, she won't do anything to me."

"But, Third Aunt, think about it. My two sisters would have to mourn for three years if you passed away. After that, they would grow much older. Even if Old Madam and Second Uncle don't intend to do anything harmful to them, it will be difficult for them to get a good marriage. Besides, concerning Old Madam's character, do you think she will let others decide their marriages?"

Old Madam had always been good at scheming. It was not a big deal for her to sacrifice one or two granddaughters to benefit the mansion. Old Madam was capable of doing such a thing.

It was not easy for them to get married, and Old Madam was plotting against them behind the scenes. Third Madam could imagine that Shao Caihuan and Shao Cailing were very likely to enter into bad marriages.

These words were unpleasant to the ear, but they reached the bottom of Third Madam's heart, hitting her most sensitive point heavily.

Shao Wanru knew who Old Madam was, and so did Third Madam. If what Shao Wanru said happened, she knew her two daughters would be stuck with miserable existences for the rest of their lives.

With surprising strength, Third Madam gripped hard at Shao Wanru's hand. Looking at Shao Wanru with burning eyes, she asked word by word in a low voice, "What if I separate the third branch from the Marquis Xing's Mansion?"

"Are you going to break away from the Marquis Xing's Mansion?" Shao Wanru was quite surprised.

The third branch of Marquis Xing's Mansion had always been dependent on the second branch. Now or before, it was the second branch that supported the Marquis Xing's Mansion. Besides, Third Madam couldn't live apart from the second branch as she wanted. At least, she had to get the consent of her husband.

Shao Wanru's Third Uncle had always been obedient to Old Madam. He didn't even spend much time in the mansion. It seemed that he was not close to Third Madam. Since he was so indifferent to Third Madam's illness, Shao Wanru knew her Third Uncle didn't care about Third Madam. Would he listen to her and separate his family from the Marquis Xing's Mansion?

Once the third branch split away from the Marquis Xing's Mansion, its financial situation would become precarious.

"I don't care what he thinks. We'll live independently!" Third Madam determinedly gritted her teeth and said with a sharp look in her eyes. Though she slightly loosened her grip, she held Shao Wanru's hand and said, "Your Highness, I don't know what happened to your parents at that time, but your mother had been in an unusual condition. Her sudden death was very suspicious!"

"My... My mother... Was she murdered?" Shao Wanru's voice trembled unconsciously. She held Third Madam's hand instead and tightly pursed her cherry lips in shock.

"Honestly, I don't know. I only felt it very strange. Infanta Qinghua had been in a confused state of mind. After giving birth to Yuanhao, she had always been in a daze and often repeated your childhood name. Occasionally, she would say your father's name. Anyway, she was in a poor mental state. But she couldn't go out, fall into the lotus pond, and drown!"

Third Madam said.

"Didn't they say my mother... she died of depression after giving birth to my brother... because she missed my father?" Shao Wanru's voice trembled, and her fingers twitched unconsciously. As if something had bumped violently against her heart, she was too painful to breathe, feeling a burning pain across her heart.

"That was the story they told to outsiders. They feared that others might pursue the matter and that your grandma might blame them and make a scene in the mansion. With this excuse, your grandma wouldn't have learned the truth. When your grandma heard that your mother died, she only came over to have a last look at her. However, she fainted before seeing your mother's face. After that, she fell ill and couldn't get up. The funeral was held hastily in the mansion!" said Third Madam.

Shao Wanru's face turned deathly pale and colorless. She pursed her delicate lips tightly and fixed her eyes on Third Madam, knowing she must have something else to say.

As expected, Third Madam added after a pause. "I just felt suspicious then but didn't dare to say anything. You know that the second branch has been in charge of our mansion. I'm in poor health and not favored by Old Madam and my husband. Worse still, I gave birth to two daughters. I'm the Third Madam in the mansion, but few people take me seriously. Besides, there is no evidence for this accident. There was nothing I could do about it. My question would be useless and might bring disasters!"

Third Madam tilted her head and coughed twice. Then she turned back and continued, "I've been keeping this matter a secret in my heart. I didn't say anything for so many years. At that time, your Third Sister had an accident in the Palace, and her face was almost ruined. I quarreled with your Third Uncle, asking him to see your Second Uncle. I wanted him to find a good marriage for your Third Sister. In the quarrel, I talked about my suspicion. After that, your Third Uncle went to meet your Second Uncle. As a result, Shao Jie'er gave up the marriage originally arranged for her to your Third Sister!"

Shao Wanru's hands shivered, and her long eyelashes drooped. She knew about it. Back then, she wondered if her Third Uncle had learned about any secrets, such as when Shao Jing murdered her father. Unexpectedly, it was not about her father but about her mother. The third branch threatened the second branch with her mother's death and asked Shao Jie'er to give up the marriage.

The corners of her lips curled up silently, but she couldn't squeeze out a smile. Her eyes behind her drooping upper lids turned cold and malicious.

These so-called relatives had made the best use of her parents. They could even benefit from her mother's death. People in the Marquis Xing's Mansion were truly cruel and merciless!

"We should apologize to you for this! Because I concealed the truth, I've been punished and ended up like this. Since I beg you to help my daughters, I must show my sincerity. In a few days, I will separate the third branch from the Marquis Xing's Mansion and expose your mother's suspicious death!"

Third Madam gave a wry smile and looked up at Shao Wanru with her earnest eyes. "I know I'm dying, but it doesn't matter. It's best if I can survive. But if I can't survive, I won't care as long as my daughters live a good life!"

## Chapter 1140 Whoever Touches Her Will Lose the Hand

After loosening her grip, Shao Wanru slowly clenched her fists again and exerted all her strength to suppress the towering rage in her heart. However, no matter how hard she tried, she failed to restore her equilibrium. At this moment, overwhelmed by her burning desire to wreak revenge, she could hardly wait to ruin everything here and destroy the Marquis Xing's Mansion. This place was permeated with foul odors. Every time she breathed, she felt a great rush of sickness!

Her mind was occupied with disturbing thoughts, and her heart was full of anger and grief. She retreated with heavy steps. Abruptly, she turned sideways, covered her chest, and began to vomit.

She didn't eat much in the morning. It was almost lunchtime. When she was in Butterfly Clothing Shop, she only vomited up some thin liquid.

But even so, she couldn't stop vomiting violently.

"My Lady!" Yujie and Qing'er cried out, their faces changing dramatically. In a great hurry, they rushed over to support Shao Wanru.

Third Madam struggled to straighten up and looked at Shao Wanru anxiously.

At the door, Shao Caihuan and Shao Cailing heard something wrong inside. They pushed the door open and hurried in. When seeing Shao Wanru vomiting water with an unhealthy trace of scarlet on her pallid face, they were so scared that they ran to Third Madam in a hurry.

"Go and check your Fifth Sister out!" Third Madam ordered, waving her hand.

After taking two steps forward, Shao Caihuan reached out to help Shao Wanru but was stopped by Qing'er's vigilant glare. So, she could only ask nervously, "Fifth Sister, what's the matter with you? What ails you?"

"Leave... Let's go back..." Shao Wanru covered her mouth with a handkerchief and said with a trembling voice.

At this time, she was so fragile that she couldn't stand steadily, and her mind was in turmoil. Instinctively, she wanted to find a safe harbor for a moment of peace.

She had to go home. She must go home right now! The more she learned about the past, the more unbearable she felt. There was no excuse for them to keep back the truth. Evidence was not necessary. All she needed was just a kind reminder.

Third Madam didn't remind Shao Wanru in the past because it was not good for her. However, to get benefits, she revealed it to Shao Jing now!

Yujie and Qing'er answered and helped her go out.

Third Madam, lying on the bed, suddenly gathered some strength and pushed Shao Cailing's hand away. She sat up and screeched, "Fifth Girl, I'll take the third branch as a start and bring up the past events. In any case, the third branch will break away from the Marquis Xing's Mansion and dig up the past!"

By the time she finished her words, Shao Wanru had left with the help of her maid.

Third Madam collapsed to the bed from exhaustion. Shao Cailing hurriedly held her in her arms and sobbed anxiously, "Mother, Mother..."

Shao Caihuan had no time to care about Shao Wanru. Instantly, she turned back and ran to the bed to check on her mother.

Third Madam exerted strength and took a few deep breaths to steady his nerves. When she had a little strength, she took the hands of her two daughters and said, "I'm fine. I just... I just pushed a little too hard. If I die, you should keep in touch with your Fifth Sister. She is scheming, but she is young and not cold-hearted. You should always be good to her even if she vents her anger on you. One day, she will let it go!"

"Mother, what happened?" Shao Caihuan asked anxiously. After all, Shao Wanru's reaction looked so frightening. She had no idea what her mother had said to her. As for the last few words her mother shouted at Princess Chen, she didn't understand them either. What did her mother mean by saying "break away"? Why would the third branch take the initiative to leave the family? Her mother mentioned the past events. Then, what had happened back then?

The more Shao Caihuan thought about it, the more flustered she became, and her eyes turned bloodshot. If she had overheard their conversation, she wouldn't have fallen into a flutter without knowing anything.

"You don't have to know the details. Keep my words in mind. As sisters, you should hold Fifth Sister in affection no matter what. I... Even if something bad happens to me... it's because of the second branch. The second branch invited Doctor Qiu to treat me... Not only the second branch but also your grandma... I don't believe she knew nothing about it. Doctor Qiu's medical skills are detrimental to his patients. He has never intended to treat an illness. Instead, he saps and dries up the energy of his patients..."

Third Madam said with difficulty, and a trace of hatred flashed in her eyes. How could she not hate them? That vicious old woman and the second branch got her into this sorry state!

The imperial physician came quickly. When he heard that Princess Chen needed him, he immediately came over without slacking off. But after he diagnosed Third Madam's illness, he shook his head.

"Sir, how is my mother?" Shao Cailing asked. She was younger and was not calculating. When seeing her mother's pale face turn dark, she panicked and paid no attention to the meaning of the conversation between her sister and her mother. She just looked at the imperial physician urgently in a great panic.

The imperial physician shook his head again and watched the two sisters and Third Madam lying on the bed. Then, he said, "Madam, your health has been severely damaged. This time, your illness is life-threatening. I'm afraid you must recuperate well to recover from it!"

When Third Madam heard his subtle remarks, her hand twitched. Then, she slowly unwrapped her fingers with a bitter smile. Luckily, she was not going to die soon. There was still some time left for her to do something to make up for her misdeeds. It could help her daughters form good affinities with Princess Chen.

The imperial physician went aside to prescribe medicine. When the two sisters heard their mother was dying and could only live for a few months at most, they were wracked by sobs.

Finally, Shao Caihuan asked Shao Cailing to wipe away her tears. She forced a faint smile and returned to the main room. While ordering the servant girl to decoct the medicine, she helped Third Madam lie down.

Third Madam asked all the servant girls to leave. When she was only with her two daughters, she sighed and looked at Shao Caihuan with a slightly severe face. "Huan'er, Ling'er, I want to separate from the mansion and take you away. From then on, you will no longer be the Misses of Marquis Xing's Mansion. Would you hate me?"

Even though the Marquis Xing's Mansion had declined, it was still an aristocratic family. If the third branch were separated from the Marquis Xing's Mansion, they would become ordinary Misses whose statuses were much inferior to the Misses of Marquis Xing's Mansion. More than that, it would be challenging for them to get decent husbands with a good family background!

"Mother, you can do whatever you want!" Shao Caihuan had faintly sensed something unusual, so she agreed after pondering for a while.

Shao Cailing was a little confused. She looked blankly at her mother and her elder sister. But when she thought of her mother's poor health, the rims of her eyes turned red again, and she wiped her tears with a handkerchief.

"I'm afraid the Marquis Xing's Mansion is going to be destroyed!" Third Madam murmured.

Shao Caihuan's heart lurched in shock, and her face changed slightly. "Mother..."

"There must be something fishy behind Infanta Qinghua's death. When your father mentioned it to your Second Uncle, he instantly gave in and gave up Shao Jie'er's marriage arrangement. Instead of Shao Jie'er, he was willing to let you marry Commandery Prince Qing as a consort. But it was hard luck that I had aimed too high, which made you fall into your current position. At that time, if... if I had directly told Fifth Girl everything, she would have helped you out of trouble!"

Third Madam regretted it very much.

Even if she couldn't tell it to Rui'an Great Elder Princess more than a decade ago, she should have hinted about the truth to Shao Wanru.

It was too late to talk about it now. Third Madam hated the second branch and Old Madam. In the meantime, she wanted to protect her two daughters. Therefore, she could only do all of this in exchange for Shao Wanru's forgiveness, hoping she could protect her two daughters.

"Huan'er, Ling'er, you must remember that you mustn't hate Princess Chen, no matter what happens. We owe her a lot!" Third Madam, eyes on her two daughters, stretched out her slightly cold hands to hold her daughters'. Her face was full of hatred and resentment as she stared straight ahead and repeated, "It's the second branch's fault. Madam Jiang and Shao Jing did this to us!"

Shao Wanru was stopped. When Shao Wanru went weak and limp, Qing'er and Yujie helped her walk out. Before long, they came across Zhao Xiran, who was startled to see Shao Wanru's feeble condition. Zhao Xiran hurried forward, but Qing'er and Yujie avoided her.

After that, no matter how anxiously Zhao Xiran urged them to stay for dinner, the two servant girls tried their best to assist Shao Wanru in leaving this place. Since their master didn't want to stay, they would protect her and send her out.

As they arrived at the place where their carriage was parked, another carriage happened to come in. They were surprised to see Nanny Yu get out of the carriage. When Nanny Yu saw Shao Wanru and Zhao Xiran, she was stunned. After a brief pause, she hurriedly stepped forward to greet Shao Wanru. "Greetings, Your Highness!"

"Our master is not feeling well, so she has to go back first!" Yujie replied in a brusque tone.

With her eyes half-closed, Shao Wanru leaned against Qing'er and was practically carried forward by Qing'er and Yujie, who supported most of her weight.

"Didn't Her Highness come to welcome Old Madam?" Nanny Yu was taken aback and asked in surprise. When Princess Chen and Eldest Young Madam approached one behind the other, she thought they came specially for Old Madam after the mansion received the news that Old Madam would return.

"My Lady is not feeling very well, so we must go back now. She can pay another visit when she gets better!" Yujie said coldly, ready to take Shao Wanru to the carriage of Prince Chen's Mansion with Qing'er.

The curtain of the carriage that had just arrived was suddenly pulled open, revealing Old Madam's gloomy face. "Fifth Girl, since you have come, you should go back after lunch. Otherwise, others would criticize our mansion."

Just now, when Nanny Yu said Shao Wanru was outside, Nanny Yu was overjoyed. She originally wanted to put on airs and talk down to Shao Wanru, but to her surprise, Shao Wanru was on her way to leave. Old Madam was immediately displeased.

"Your Highness, since grandma is back, please leave after lunch!" Zhao Xiran followed her all the way here. When she saw Old Madam, she echoed without hesitation.

She still didn't know what had happened. Why would Princess Chen turn so pale after meeting the third branch? The two servant girls almost carried her out. At this time, she was leaning against them in low spirits.

"Thank you, Old Madam. But my master isn't well and has to return to the mansion first!" Yujie bowed to Old Madam, who sat in the carriage, and explained.

"How dare you! How could a servant girl interrupt me? Anyone? Go and slap her!" Old Madam snapped, vehemently thumping on the handle of the carriage beside her. She got exasperated when being refused by a servant girl.

Near her carriage, two rough old maids looked at each other hesitantly and came over with caution. It seemed that they were going to hit Yujie.

...

"Hurry up. She's just a cheap servant girl. As Princess Chen's grandmother, can't I teach her servant girl a lesson?" Seeing the two old maids cowering before Shao Wanru, Old Madam became particularly



furious. In her mind, not to mention the two servant girls, no one would say anything, even if she wanted to slap Shao Wanru!

Shao Wanru suddenly opened her eyes and threatened word by word, "No one can touch the people of Prince Chen's Mansion. Otherwise, I'll chop off her hand!"