

Medical Princess 1141

Chapter 1141 A Farce, A Mess

Shao Wanru opened her eyes at some point and stared at Old Madam coldly and steadily.

Her face turned pale and colorless, but her lips were as red as blood, as if she were a bloodthirsty vampire. Such a sharp contrast was weird. Somehow, her previous delicate face looked a little spooky in Old Madam's eyes, and her heart lurched with panic.

Suddenly Old Madam burst into a fit of temper. She was Shao Wanru's grandmother and an elder. How dare she glares at her and talk to her like that?

The two old maids doing rough work had stopped and stepped aside, fearing Princess Chen would make them the first target.

Times passed and circumstances changed. All the servants of Marquis Xing's Mansion understood this. None of them were courageous enough to offend her. Shao Wanru was not merely Fifth Miss Shao but Princess Chen.

Old Madam held a servant girl's hands and left the carriage. "Shao Wanru, how could you speak so rudely to me?" fumed she.

"How about you show me how to say it?" Shao Wanru asked, not giving in an inch.

"Damn. How dare you! You are an unfilial wretch! Even if I fall into disgrace, I will expose your disobedient deeds. The royal family will discard you, an unruly daughter-in-law!" Old Madam scolded loudly.

She didn't want to fall out with Shao Wanru. After all, Princess Chen was no longer whom she used to be. She heard Prince Chen was likely to become the crown prince of the Eastern Palace. In this way, Princess Chen might be the future empress.

However, she must suppress Shao Wanru at the moment. Otherwise, Shao Wanru wouldn't benefit the Marquis Xing's Mansion!

Pathetically, Old Madam still indulged in her wishful thinking.

"If you think I'm unfilial, you can ask the Empress Dowager to uphold justice for you." Shao Wanru delivered a sharp warning. "Her Majesty will punish me if I defy you. But, if she thinks I'm right, she will stand on the side of justice and support me. Your Grace, please!"

Shao Wanru extended a hand, motioning Old Madam to go ahead, icy eyes on her.

"Great! How dare you threaten me with Her Majesty? You're full-fledged, huh? That was why you dared to do such a thing! You're unfilial to the core. If I had known it earlier, I wouldn't have let my son marry your mother, an unfilial woman with rotten luck. As her daughter, you're equally disobedient and unlucky!"

Old Madam swore loudly at Shao Wanru without thinking, her eyes spitting rage.

She had always been the decision-maker in the Marquis Xing's Mansion. No one had ever talked back to her like this. Before this, Old Madam had been full of wonderful ideas. She deliberately came back earlier to discuss with her son how to strive for maximum benefits for the Marquis Xing's Mansion and how to make better use of Shao Wanru.

She didn't expect to meet Shao Wanru as soon as she returned to the mansion.

She had thought it was a good thing, which then went wrong.

Complaining to the Empress Dowager? How dare she do that? The Empress Dowager had driven her out of the mansion as a punishment. Now, she made trouble again when she had just returned home. It would make the Empress Dowager bristle with rage.

"My mother was unlucky and unfilial, but do you dare to broadcast it at the gate?" Shao Wanru refuted harshly.

"You... you... unfilial little slut, worse than an ungrateful and vicious beast. I..." Old Madam was so furious that she staggered. After she fell heavily to the ground, she rolled her eyes and fainted.

Zhao Xiran and Nanny Yu ran over in a hurry. One pinched the dimple in the middle of her upper lip, and the other bawled her name on the side. It took them a lot of effort to wake her up.

Shao Wanru looked on coldly, neither walking away nor stepping forward. What a coincidence! Old Madam passed out on the ground just in time. Even when looking at her in the distance, Shao Wanru could see Old Madam's eyes occasionally move under closed lids — she was awake.

"Your Highness, no matter how wrong Old Madam is, she is your elder and gave birth to your father. Do you bear to see her faint from anger? It's not good if words about such a shameful scene get out!"

Finally, Old Madam woke up. Nanny Yu instantly took a few steps forward to persuade Shao Wanru.

As soon as Old Madam woke up, she burst into tears regardless of her dignity. While wailing, she shouted out loud, "My poor son..."

She cried with pain, talking about how many hardships she had suffered to raise Shao Wanru's father.

"Did she faint from anger? Who saw it?" Shao Wanru asked flatly with sarcasm in her eyes, watching Old Madam acting. Old Madam should always sit up high in a leading position in Marquis Xing's Mansion. However, she sat on the ground, crying loudly with abandon like a shrew.

"My Lady, let's go back to our mansion. Who cares whether Old Madam has blacked out or not? Anyway, it has nothing to do with us. We didn't see her along the way and happened to miss her." Yujie was clearly lying through her teeth. It seemed she wasn't frightened of people in the Marquis Xing's Mansion stirring up trouble.

"My Lady, don't get mad. Some people may live long, but their seemingly noble lives are as worthless as dirt!"

Qing'er echoed and squinted at Old Madam, itchy for a fight. After all, she was better at fighting than arguing with others. According to Prince Chen, she could beat anyone against Princess Chen, and he would take the consequences.

But since Princess Chen didn't allow her to take action, she could only wait aside quietly.

Old Madam's face was livid, and she almost fell unconscious for real. But after Shao Wanru dropped the questions, she bypassed her and walked to the carriage with two servant girls. Seeing this, Old Madam gritted her teeth with hatred. "Sure enough. Her mother is Infanta Qinghua. How could a slut's daughter be good?" How Old Madam wished Infanta Qinghua could appear before her right now! So, Old Madam could slap her hard a few times to vent her anger.

"Go... Go to stop... Stop her!" Old Madam said with difficulty, feeling dizzy. Her limbs convulsed.

Nanny Yu looked at Shao Wanru and then at Old Madam. Helplessly, she took a few steps forward and caught up with Shao Wanru. "Your Highness, please check on my master. She is in an awful condition!"

Shao Wanru ignored her and continued her way.

Nanny Yu, burning with impatience, took a few quick steps forward and approached Shao Wanru's carriage. She reached out to stop Shao Wanru, but Yujie exerted a little strength and pulled her away. Nanny Yu swirled around and finally managed to stop by holding a tree aside.

The two servant girls helped Shao Wanru get on the carriage, and the carriage sped away.

"Shao... Shao Wanru... you... you..." Old Madam's lips trembled, and her face was ashen. She pointed at the carriage's back but couldn't finish a sentence in a cold shiver.

"Young Madam, hurry... hurry up and get a doctor..." Nanny Yu knew at a glance that Old Madam was in critical condition. She dashed over while ordering Zhao Xiran loudly.

Zhao Xiran frowned unhappily. No matter how much Old Madam favored her, Nanny Yu was merely a servant. How could she audaciously command her?

However, since Old Madam looked dreadful, Zhao Xiran suppressed the anger in her heart and turned around. She ordered her servants to go to the third branch and invite the imperial physician over to examine Old Madam. Zhao Xiran came here because she heard Shao Wanru had asked an imperial physician to treat Third Madam.

In a great bustle, the few servants carried Old Madam into the Chuntang Courtyard.

The imperial physician had been waiting there. After feeling Old Madam's pulse, he asked someone to bring over a set of needles. After having acupuncture for some time, Old Madam finally got better.

Zhao Xiran accompanied the imperial physician to the wing room, waiting for him to write a prescription. When it was ready, the imperial physician said, "Old Madam in your mansion showed signs of a stroke. She should be nursed well. Otherwise, she may easily have a stroke. I happened to be here this time. If no one gave her timely treatment, it would be troublesome!"

"Just now, Old Madam and Fifth Sister had a dispute. This critical situation won't happen again!" Zhao Xiran said helplessly, knitting her finely arched eyebrows, "Sir, could you..."

"Young Madam, I have something to do in the Palace, so I can't stay any longer. Just fill the prescription and take good care of her. Older people are prone to have a stroke. Her sufferings have nothing to do

with others. Perhaps, she had an unhealthy diet and lacked physical exercise. Anyway, she is too old to maintain health.”

The imperial physician interrupted Zhao Xiran, shaking his head. After handing over the prescription, he turned to leave with the medicine chest on his back.

He didn’t want to know what had happened in the Marquis Xing’s Mansion, let alone get involved. No matter what happened to Princess Chen, he didn’t care.

He was an imperial physician, not a court official of the Ministry of Justice, so he didn’t want to figure out the whole story. Old Madam of the Marquis Xing’s Mansion was difficult to deal with. He had heard in the Palace that Old Madam was unkind. It was not strange that she quarreled with Princess Chen. He also heard Old Madam had never treated Princess Chen sincerely as her granddaughter.

As for the Young Madam of the Marquis Xing’s Mansion, she looked bright, but there were plenty of smart people in the Palace!

No matter how honest the imperial physician was, he wouldn’t testify for the Marquis Xing’s Mansion.

Princess Chen irritated Old Madam of the Marquis Xing’s Mansion, who nearly had a stroke. There was absolutely nothing to be gained by saying that. Prince Chen was the last person the imperial physician wanted to provoke!

With the prescription in her hand, Zhao Xiran saw the imperial physician run away in a panic, and her face darkened. She didn’t expect the imperial physician to be such a coward. Before this, she had planned to use him and put pressure on Shao Wanru.

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“Young Madam!” Qiu Yue, her personal maid, came over and whispered.

Zhao Xiran lowered her head to see the prescription in her hand, silently raising the corners of her mouth. Then, she walked to the window and picked up the writing brush used by the imperial physician just now. After thinking for a while, she added another kind of medicine. When she finished, she carefully checked the new line of characters in the imperial physician’s handwriting. In silence, a trace of darkness flickered across her eyes.

It would be best if this old woman couldn’t get up. Of course, Zhao Xiran didn’t want her to die because she needed Old Madam to deal with her father-in-law’s mistress. Thus, it would be good if she could lie in bed and rest!

“Get the herbs in this prescription!” Zhao Xiran raised the prescription in her hand and ordered.

Qiu Yue understood and nodded. With the prescription, she went out to look for Nanny Yu. She had better not fill the prescription. If anything went seriously wrong, she couldn’t get away.

Only a few people close to Zhao Xiran knew she had medical skills.

Nanny Yu took the prescription. After a quick scan through it, she sent someone to go to the pharmacy and get the medicine. When everyone was in a rush, Shao Jing heard the news and hurried to the Chuntang Courtyard.

“Greetings, Father!” Zhao Xiran came out of the wing room and bowed to Shao Jing when seeing him.

Shao Jing impatiently waved her away and went straight into the room in the middle. Nanny Yu welcomed him in and retreated to the door. When she saw Zhao Xiran standing at the door of the wing room, she smiled uneasily and explained in a low voice, “Old Madam is not feeling well and doesn’t want too many people in her room!”

Chapter 1142 What About Madam Jiang?

Shao Jing and Old Madam needed to talk about something secretive without her. Zhao Xiran nodded with a smile, looked up at the door, and quietly returned to the wing room.

Sitting on a stool in the wing room, she looked toward the room next door. The mother and son seemed to have a lot of secrets. Somehow, she felt something strange here...

Inside the room, Old Madam leaned against the headboard and had calmed down. When she saw her son enter, she said, “What’s wrong with you? Why do you have to marry that woman? She’s just a servant girl. Didn’t you say you kept her as a plaything?”

“Mother, it’s all for Ru’er.” Shao Jing said without asking about his mother’s condition. With a frown, he reached out to touch his head in a fret.

“What’s the matter with Ru’er?” Old Madam was stunned and asked in astonishment.

“We should consider her future. She is just a Secondary Consort without any children. Whoever inherits the throne, Ru’er will be locked up in the Yuhui Nunnery and live in miserable conditions for the rest of her life!” said Shao Jing.

Old Madam’s eyes turned piercing, and she asked sharply, “What do you want?”

“Mother, Prince Cheng has promised to make Ru’er his consort as long as she can leave the Palace. If Prince Cheng can get the chair, Ru’er may get a higher position!”

Shao Jing lowered his voice and pointed up, indicating the imperial chair of supreme power — the throne.

“Do you want her to marry Prince Cheng?” Old Madam asked in surprise and unconsciously lowered her voice, “Ru’er is more optimistic about Prince Yue.”

“Prince Yue can’t defeat Prince Cheng!” Shao Jing said grumpily, “If he had listened to me, how could he have ended up like this? Prince Yue is not sensible enough. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have quarreled with Prince Zhou and pushed us into a dilemma!”

Shao Jing never blamed his daughter for hooking up with others. Instead, he accused Chu Liuyue of being incapable and making his family suffer such a big loss. However, he didn’t dare to tell anyone about it. It made him very aggrieved.

“I have arranged everything. E’niang will marry me and bring a daughter into our mansion. Then, Ru’er can come back as the illegitimate daughter. An illegitimate daughter is also my daughter. Once E’niang becomes my secondary legal wife, Ru’er will be a legitimate daughter. Since our mansion has

acknowledged her identity, it doesn't matter even if others gossip about this. Consort Lan was also an illegitimate daughter, but she still managed to marry into the Palace!"

Shao Jing didn't take it seriously.

Old Madam gasped at his boldness and asked anxiously, "Where did you get an illegitimate daughter? E'niang has no child, hasn't she?"

"We have no child, but I can say otherwise. No one can find out where she used to live, let alone know that she didn't have a daughter. If she and I keep it a secret, everyone will think I have another daughter!" Shao Jing said.

He had no choice. Since he had spent so much effort cultivating Shao Yanru, how could he exchange her for nothing? At present, a successful marriage for Shao Yanru would benefit everyone.

For this daughter, he didn't even dare to compete with Rui'an Great Elder Princess for the position of the heir of a duke. If he provoked Rui'an Great Elder Princess, she might even intervene in such an internal affair of his mansion and ruin his elaborate plan.

He wanted a more promising future than being the heir of a duke. For the time being, his nephew held the position of the heir of a duke, but so what? Back then, his brother was the heir of a duke, so he believed this title would be his sooner or later.

As long as he schemed carefully, he could achieve anything!

"You already have a secondary legal wife, Madam Jiang!" Old Madam reminded him. He could only have one legal wife and one secondary legal wife. Shao Jing's current situation was special: he didn't have a legal wife but had a secondary legal wife. According to law and discipline rites, he wasn't allowed to marry another secondary legal wife.

After saying that, Old Madam suddenly thought of something and added hurriedly, "Do you want to make Madam Jiang your legal wife again? Don't even think about that. The Empress Dowager downgraded her, and no one can change her decision!"

No matter what, Madam Jiang mustn't be the legal wife again.

"Madam Jiang caused all the trouble. Her lousy schemes got us into this mess. Since she brought trouble to Ru'er, she should bear the consequences!" Shao Jing said coldly, with a vicious look flashing in his eyes.

"You... Don't tell me you want to... take away Madam Jiang..." Old Madam's lips trembled. Even though she didn't like Madam Jiang at the moment, she had never thought of killing her.

"Mother, this is the only way to save Ru'er. Madam Jiang is in such a miserable situation and has become the burden of her son and daughter. Why don't we take a risk for Ru'er? As a mother, she should sacrifice something for her children!" Shao Jing said.

Old Madam's heart pounded a few times violently. If Madam Jiang said this as a loving mother, such words would sound touching. However, when Shao Jing mentioned this, he gave Old Madam an indescribable insidious sensation.

"Mother, do you want to keep Madam Jiang or Ru'er?" Shao Jing asked when the opportunity was ripe.

Without a doubt, Old Madam would choose Shao Yanru over Madam Jiang. Shao Yanru, her granddaughter, had a future full of endless possibilities. How could she be stupid enough to give up Shao Yanru?

Old Madam had placed infinite hope in Shao Yanru, the apple of her eye. For the sake of this granddaughter, she was willing to sacrifice other granddaughters. In this case, she might as well discard Madam Jiang. Besides, as Shao Yanru's mother, Madam Jiang should be glad to give up her interests and even her life.

With this in mind, Old Madam nodded slowly, thinking Madam Jiang would feel the same way.

"How will you arrange this matter? Do you have a plan?" Since she had made up her mind, Old Madam made a detailed inquiry.

"Take Ru'er out first and keep her in our mansion as an illegitimate daughter. Since this illegitimate daughter is supposed to be her sister, it's pretty normal that they look alike. Ru'er can pretend to have different hobbies and dress in different styles when being the illegitimate daughter. She doesn't have to see outsiders, so no one will get the chance to scrutinize and judge her. After some time, we can directly send her to Prince Cheng's Mansion!"

Of course, Shao Jing had planned it long ago. He was not surprised that Old Madam would agree to it, so he told her the whole scheme on the spot.

"Have you decided to let that servant girl marry into our mansion?" Old Madam still felt this decision hard to accept. As Marquis Xing, how could Shao Jing take a servant girl as his secondary legal wife? She was a little reluctant to accept this.

"Mother, but there is no other way. Without a proper disguise, Ru'er can't come back and live in our mansion in just ways!" Shao Jing whispered, knowing what Old Madam was worried about.

In fact, he didn't want to do that, but he had no choice. This was the best solution.

"How should we deal with Madam Jiang?" After thinking for some time, Old Madam finally accepted his choice without demur. Slowly, she uttered another question. She couldn't let any accidents happen to Madam Jiang for no reason, especially when she had just returned to the mansion. At this critical point, such sudden changes would arouse suspicion.

Shao Jing nodded. It was true that Madam Jiang couldn't get into trouble without cause, and he also had to avoid arousing suspicion. He was soon going to take his mistress into the mansion. If Madam Jiang had an accident at this critical moment, many others would cast serious doubt on him.

He looked up at Old Madam and asked abruptly, "Mother, what happened to you? Why is your mouth a little contorted?"

"My... my mouth is twisted?" Old Madam was stunned.

Shao Jing stood up and walked to the dressing table, picking up a small bronze mirror. Then, he turned around and handed it to his mother.

After taking the mirror, Old Madam looked at herself and foamed with rage. Her mouth was indeed distorted seriously. "Shao Wanru, that slut is indeed an ungrateful beast! She showed no sense of gratitude for our kindness. Relying on Prince Chen's power, she dared to insult me and piss me off."

Nanny Yu had implicitly told her that she had a slight stroke. But she was fine now and just needed to take a good rest.

Old Madam had never imagined her mouth would become distorted after such a mild stroke. At this moment, she was filled with fury.

"What do you think of making Princess Chen kill Madam Jiang?" Shao Jing suddenly had this idea and smiled.

"What do you mean?" Old Madam raised her head and asked anxiously, without any hesitation, "Shifting the blame of Madam Jiang's death onto that girl? Can... Can we make it?"

"Mother, why couldn't we do it? No matter how difficult it is, we can achieve our goals by planning carefully!" Shao Jing snorted at her question, lifting his robe, and sat down again. Without his constant schemes, he wouldn't have been able to become Marquis Xing.

"What are you going to do?" Old Madam leaned over and asked in a low voice.

Shao Jing thought it over and also lowered his head, whispering in Old Madam's ear. One of them spoke, and the other nodded repeatedly...

When Shao Jing came out, Zhao Xiran hurriedly walked out of the wing room. Looking at his daughter-in-law, Shao Jing assumed a lukewarm attitude and just told her to take good care of Old Madam before turning away.

Nanny Yu and Zhao Xiran entered the room together. It had been two hours since the mother and son began talking in the room.

Old Madam was tired and had no energy to rest against the headboard. The two of them helped her lay down to rest. Soon, she fell asleep. Eyes on Old Madam's crooked mouth, Zhao Xiran looked calm.

"First Young Madam," Nanny Yu covered Old Madam gently with the quilt and said softly.

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Zhao Xiran nodded and left the room with Nanny Yu.

"Eldest Young Madam, Old Madam is weak with sickness, so I'm afraid she'll have to trouble you recently." Nanny Yu said with a wry smile. For now, only this Eldest Young Madam could handle the affairs in the mansion.

"Nanny Yu, you don't have to say that. It's my duty to care for her as a granddaughter-in-law!" Zhao Xiran replied softly with a gentle smile. Zhao Xiran appeared pretty tender and harmless. When Nanny Yu looked at her, the rims of her eyes turned red. Miss Shao had once looked after Old Madam with meticulous care too.

Nanny Yu tilted her head to wipe away her tears. After that, she turned around and forced a smile. "His Grace told me that Old Madam had agreed to his marriage. He wanted you to prepare for it in advance. Everything should be ready when the new Madam marries into our mansion. Also, you'll have to ask servants to clean up a courtyard for the new Miss!"

Of course, the so-called new Miss was the illegitimate daughter.

Zhao Xiran was quite taken aback, her eyes widening. She didn't expect Old Madam to agree with Shao Jing's marriage so quickly. Immediately, she flew into a rage. It took her quite an effort to contain her anger. At last, she asked gruffly, "What kind of courtyard does he need?"

In a while, she would see Shao Hua'an and ask him what was happening. Didn't he say Old Madam would deal with the mistress as soon as she returned? Such a cheap mistress had the delusion that she could become the secondary legal wife! How could she become her mother-in-law and domineer over her? She was the daughter of Minister Zhao's Mansion! Zhao Xiran couldn't swallow her pride and endure in silence.

She had to accept Madam Jiang. After all, she gave birth to her husband. But now, even such a woman of humble origin wanted to trample on her. She had no idea how their minds worked! She would be too ashamed to go out!

Chapter 1143 A Visit to Criticize?

The gauze curtain covering the window was very thin and transparent. When it was dropped, a layer of light gauze landed gently on the couch by the window. Shao Wanru was lying there with her eyes tightly closed, her hand on the little pillow for doctors feeling pulse near the couch. After checking her pulse, Qi Jue slowly put down her hand and glanced at Chu Liuchen, who was waiting near the couch. When he walked out of the door, Yujie hurried forward and placed Shao Wanru's hand back on the couch.

Chu Liuchen stepped out of the door and stood still. "How is she?"

"Don't worry, Your Highness. It's nothing serious!" Qi Jue said.

"But if it's not a big deal, why would she vomit violently like this?" Chu Liuchen asked coldly.

"Perhaps, Her Highness heard or saw something unbearable. She couldn't endure it and got such a big reaction. After a period of recuperating, she will be fine!" Qi Jue thought for a while and implicitly reminded Chu Liuchen — it seemed to be a psychological problem.

Qi Jue also felt strange about this matter.

He had seen Princess Chen several times and admired her for her courage and strong will at such a young age.

This intelligent young lady made a stand at every advance when proceeding through so many trials and hardships. Such a young girl was a good match for Prince Chen. No one else could be better suited to Prince Chen than her.

However, what could melt down Princess Chen, a woman of intelligence and firmness of will? Qi Jue was curious about it.

With a discreet cough, he said untruthfully, "Your Highness, if you tell me what happened to Princess Chen in the Prince Chen's Mansion, I can help analyze it!

How could Chu Liuchen not see through Qi Jue's intention of watching the fun? His face darkened as he said, "Good idea. You can stay and listen to the story. Xiao Xuanzi happened to tell me he was overly occupied and needed helpers!"

What sort of person was Xiao Xuanzi? He was a eunuch! His assistants should certainly be eunuchs too. Qi Jue stood rooted to the ground with fear. Then, he hurriedly picked up his medicine chest and said thoughtfully, "Your Highness, I suddenly remember some medical issues that I can't figure out. There is something wrong with Doctor Qiu's medical skills. I have to discuss it with Mingqiu!"

Before Chu Liuchen could say anything, he had run away.

Qi Jue didn't want to be a eunuch, for he hadn't yet had any children. At least he had to leave a descendant for the Qi family!

A guard came over, reporting to Chu Liuchen, "Your Highness, Marquis Xing wants to see Princess Chen!"

"Take him to the reception room on the side!" With a trace of gloom across his eyes, Chu Liuchen steadily ordered.

The guard answered and left. After leading Shao Jing to a parlor, he withdrew.

Shao Jing looked around with a frown. This was the first time he had been to the Prince Chen's Mansion, but he could tell he was in the outer court. Somehow, he felt disturbed.

He came here to see Shao Wanru. Like Old Madam, he felt Shao Wanru had overreacted. Most likely, she pretended to be sick. Now he came here to check the situation.

He finished a cup of tea and waited a long time, but no one came. Shao Jing felt upset but forced himself to appear composed when waiting.

The door was suddenly pushed open, and Chu Liuchen slowly walked in, followed by a eunuch and a guard with a sword.

"Greetings, Your Highness!" Shao Jing hurriedly stood up and saluted.

Chu Liuchen lowered his head to look at Shao Jing and said, "Please get up!"

After the host and the guest sat down, the servant served fresh tea. Chu Liuchen's eyes fell on Shao Jing, and he asked gently, "Why do you come here?"

Shao Jing had guessed he might encounter Chu Liuchen. Thus, he wasn't flustered. With a light smile, he asked with concern, "When I returned to the mansion, I heard Her Highness suddenly felt uncomfortable. I was worried, so I came here to see her. Is anything troubling her? How is she now?"

"Thank you for your concern. She is fine now!" Chu Liuchen gave a lukewarm response, slightly narrowing his pretty eyes.

After Chu Liuchen finished his words, Shao Jing didn't know what to say. He coughed uneasily and said, "My mother is getting old and not in a good mental state. Recently, my mansion has suffered a series of mishaps, and she could hardly cope with them. An imperial physician examined her and said... she had a stroke..."

"Did she have a stroke? How about I send a few imperial physicians to the Marquis Xing's Mansion for a diagnosis?" Chu Liuchen rudely interrupted Shao Jing in a flat tone.

"Thank you for your kindness, Your Highness. But she doesn't need it now. She has been treated with acupuncture and only needs to take good care of herself!" Shao Jing said, shaking his head uneasily.

"Since everything is fine now, what do you come here for?" A trace of coldness flashed across Chu Liuchen's eyes, but his face grew calmer.

Shao Jing's heart thumped wildly, and he felt a little nervous.

He came to see Shao Wanru. For one thing, he wanted to explain what had happened to Shao Wanru in his mansion. No one had hurt Shao Wanru. Instead, Shao Wanru irritated Old Madam, who nearly had a stroke. For another, he wanted Prince Chen to give Shao Wanru a warning. No matter how wrong Old Madam was, she was Shao Wanru's biological grandmother.

Her grandma was incensed by her rudeness and almost had a stroke. If this matter were spread out, many people would criticize Princess Chen, and even Chu Liuchen's reputation would be tarnished. In this respect, Shao Jing thought he had got something on Prince Chen.

"I'm worried Princess Chen will be impeached because of this!" Shao Jing gritted his teeth with determination and said. With a solemn expression, he looked up at Chu Liuchen and continued, "No matter what my mother has done, she is Princess Chen's elder. But because of her, my mother is now ill in bed. How could she do this? When the imperial physician checked her out, he said her life would be in danger if he arrived a little later!"

Since they had started talking about this, Shao Jing secretly told himself to maintain a firm attitude. Prince Chen seemed to have had a chance to become the crown prince, but so what? In Shao Jing's opinion, it was just an illusion. How could the Emperor pass the throne to his nephew instead of his biological son? It was just a show of affection between family members to others!

No one would take this statement seriously!

Anyway, Shao Jing didn't believe it. He was never optimistic about the Prince Chen's Mansion.

Besides, if Chu Liuchen was ambitious, he shouldn't offend the Marquis Xing's Mansion. Without the support of her parents' family, Princess Chen would be of no use. Chu Liuchen might genuinely cherish Shao Wanru, but so what? Was he willing to give up the Marquis Xing's Mansion for her? Based on this, Shao Jing felt he shouldn't get panic.

"If you have any witnesses, you can complain to the Emperor!" Chu Liuchen smiled slightly. Leisurely, he picked up the teacup and took a sip. Then, his face darkened. His beautiful eyes grew wider, blazing with bloodthirsty menace.

His utterly evil look pierced Shao Jing's heart like a dagger. In a panic, Shao Jing opened his mouth and almost bit his tongue.

"You can enter the Palace through my mansion. I don't care if you'll complain to the Emperor or the Empress Dowager. As for the imperial physician, I wonder if he has agreed to testify for you!" Chu Liuchen uttered scathing remarks, eying Shao Jing with a sinister and ruthless look.

"Your... Your Highness, what do you mean?" After a long time, Shao Jing finally managed to say something.

"I'm thinking pretty much the same thing as you do! If you're worried you might not make a big thing out of it, I can send a few people to help you. Let's make the Marquis Xing's Mansion lively!" When Chu Liuchen's eyes swept over him, Shao Jing felt like a viper's tongue was sliding across his face. It made his flesh creep.

"Your Highness, I... I was trying to advise Princess Chen not to be naughty with my mother around. My mother is getting old and a little muddle-headed!" Shao Jing gave in to Chu Liuchen and said with a hollow laugh.

Would the imperial physician testify for him? Of course, it was impossible. The testimony of other people in the mansion sounded pretty untenable. More importantly, though Shao Jing thought Chu Liuchen had little hope of getting the throne, he didn't dare to go against him openly.

No matter how useless Chu Liuchen was, no one dared to look down on him for so many years. No other princes had the guts to provoke him.

Prince Cheng had repeatedly warned him never to enrage Chu Liuchen.

Not long ago, Shao Jing entered the room in a very threatening manner. But now, his attitude had softened quite a lot. Shao Jing was fairly flexible. The coldness on Chu Liuchen's face faded away. He looked at Shao Jing with a skin-deep smile and raised his eyebrows. "If there is nothing else, you can go back. My wife is not feeling well, and I'm not in a good mood."

He was asking Shao Jing to leave.

Shao Jing had to stand up and say, "I'm glad Her Highness is fine. I'll have to take care of my mother, so I think I must go now!"

"Please go ahead!" Chu Liuchen said lazily and gave a casual wave.

His disrespectful attitude annoyed Shao Jing, who had to swallow the insult. He still wanted to take advantage of Shao Wanru. At this moment, he mustn't fall out with Shao Wanru. Moreover, he was intimidated by Chu Liuchen's aggressive posture.

Laughing hollowly, he said goodbye to Chu Liuchen with good manners. But after leaving the Prince Chen's Mansion, he didn't go straight back to the Marquis Xing's Mansion. Instead, his carriage went to E'niang's current residence, near the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

As soon as he entered it, E'niang brought him a cup of tea at the perfect sipping temperature. After taking several swigs of tea, he finally felt better.

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All went awry. He felt blue.

"Your Grace, did anything bad happen?" E'niang asked softly and refilled his cup.

Shao Jing took it and gulped down a few mouthfuls of tea before putting it down heavily. He came straight to the point and asked, "When will you go to see Princess Chen again?"

"Even if I want to see Princess Chen, she won't meet me. I don't know why she is not interested!" E'niang also frowned. She had been quite sure of success, but now she felt frustrated at the lack of progress. "I can go to beg Rui'an Great Elder Princess. What do you think of it?"

Since they could win over Princess Chen, Rui'an Great Elder Princess was also a good option.

"It won't work. Princess Chen must have told Rui'an Great Elder Princess about this. Princess Chen suspects you, and so will she!" Shao Jing denied E'niang's suggestion.

"But even if Rui'an Great Elder Princess doesn't trust me, she must be interested in meeting me, right? Or maybe I can see the little heir of a duke!" E'niang said meaningfully. Whenever she thought she was about to become Marquis Xing's secondary legal wife, she couldn't help feeling thrilled. At present, she was firmly determined to remove all the obstacles to get this position.

Long ago, she was just a humble servant girl. Both Infanta Qinghua and Madam Jiang were high above her. Unexpectedly, one day, she would be the final winner. How could she not be wild with joy?

Chapter 1144 I Know He Is Furious but Not Crazy!

"Do you want to see Shao Yuanhao?" Shao Jing rolled his eyes, thought for a moment, and came up with a good idea.

It was never easy to deceive Rui'an Great Elder Princess and Shao Wanru, but what about Shao Yuanhao? He had always been well protected. Compared to the others, he was the easiest part to break through.

"You're right. We should go to the Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion and have a try, especially when Princess Chen is in poor health. I heard she was ill in bed and had no time to care about anything else." Shao Jing nodded and said after pondering for a while.

Since Shao Yuanhao went to the Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion, he became estranged from his family in the Marquis Xing's Mansion. Only at every festival and New Year would he come over with Rui'an Great Elder Princess's trusted subordinates. Usually, he paid the visit perfunctorily as a mere formality. Shao Jing didn't know much about his nephew. He only remembered Shao Yuanhao as an overbearing child brought up in his mansion.

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It had only been three years. Even if he had started his life anew, it was challenging to reform himself. After all, he had been a child arrogant to the core. It was always easy to fool a person with such a character, not to mention he was just a child.

“Then you go back to the mansion. I’ll go to the Rui’an Great Elder Princess’s Mansion later!” E’niang joyfully made the arrangement.

The sooner the matter was settled, the earlier she would become a Madam of the Marquis Xing’s Mansion. What was unimaginable in the past would become a reality soon. It was not that she didn’t dare to think about it. She was just afraid of exposing her wild ambition. Her long-cherished wish would come true in the near future. No matter how hard she tried to keep a low profile, she grew dizzy with her future success.

She was a mistress. Beyond this, she had become a pawn of Shao Jing long ago.

But she was willing to be his pawn. Otherwise, she would always and forever be a servant girl low in social status. Nowadays, she had the opportunity to obtain the high position she had been longed for over the years. Marquis Xing would even let Madam Jiang give way to her. For this reason, E’niang felt everything she had done for Shao Jing over the years was worth it.

For the final victory, she could endure hardships. Unlike Infanta Qinghua and Madam Jiang, she would be the one who had the last laugh. She saw those noble women suffer a disastrous decline one after another. In contrast, as a woman of humble origin, she would eventually have a meteoric rise. With this in mind, E’niang was full of fighting spirit.

“You shouldn’t be overhasty, lest you arouse the suspicion of Rui’an Great Elder Princess. You must be careful with everything in the Rui’an Great Elder Princess’s Mansion. Don’t give yourself away!” Shao Jing cast a cold glance at her. E’niang was brimming with confidence, but Shao Jing had many worries. His mansion was in a mess. He had planned to kill Madam Jiang and place the blame on Shao Wanru. However, his plan had been shelved because he didn’t see Shao Wanru.

His mind was in turmoil. When he saw happiness appear on E’niang’s face, he only felt depressed. For no reason, he struck upon another idea: other than Madam Jiang’s death, the death of E’niang could also solve the dilemma.

However, there was also a problem with this.

He reached out to rub his forehead, feeling dizzy. He didn’t look very good.

When meeting Shao Jing’s sinister gaze, E’niang finally realized she had lost all her bearings in a moment of pride and satisfaction. She panicked. After all, Shao Jing was ruthless and could sacrifice anything to achieve power. In a flash, she changed her expression and said softly, “Your Grace, are you not feeling well? Let me give you a massage.”

Standing behind Shao Jing, E’niang stretched out her hands and gently pressed against his temples. Shao Jing closed his eyes, indulging himself with E’niang’s soothing massage.

He was very familiar with E’niang’s massage manipulations. From time to time, she would rub somewhere that could make Shao Jing comfortable. Gradually, Shao Jing’s expression softened, and he moaned softly. His breathing became steady.

It was a long massage. When her hands were too sore to move, E’niang stopped and gently dropped her hands. Shao Jing had fallen asleep. Cautiously without any noise, she went to the inner room, took out a blanket, and carefully covered Shao Jing with it.

She moved softly, but Shao Jing still felt it. He suddenly opened his eyes, gazing at E'niang coldly with murder on his face.

"His Grace..." E'niang called out timidly, too scared to move.

At last, Shao Jing remembered where he was. He slowly looked up at the window and saw the sunlight come in through it. To his surprise, he had fallen asleep just now.

He hadn't slept well in the past few days. When troublesome things emerged one after another, he was mentally and physically exhausted.

"I'm going back to my mansion. Deal with this matter carefully. Don't mess it up!" Shao Jing rose to his feet, rubbing his head again. E'niang could make Shao Jing more comfortable with a better massage technique than other women. It was mainly because she had extraordinary wrist power. No ordinary woman could exert so much strength.

"Yes, Your Grace. I got it!" E'niang said submissively in a soft voice.

It delighted Shao Jing to see E'niang like this. He didn't like Madam Jiang, who was swollen with arrogance. Long ago, she regarded herself as his sister-in-law, yet she kept the ambiguity with him. However, after marrying him, she often looked toward his Eldest Brother, her soft eyes exuding tenderness and love. Old Madam spared no effort to prevent him from doing anything terrible to Madam Jiang. Afterward, she gave birth to two outstanding children, a daughter and a son. Otherwise, Shao Jing wouldn't have tolerated her for so many years.

Shao Wanru blinked and slowly opened her watery eyes. In front of her was a handsome and elegant face. Seeing her open her eyes, he asked with a smile, "You're awake?"

He reached out, took her in his arms, and lifted her a little.

Only then did Shao Wanru see that Chu Liuchen was sitting by her couch. There was a table with some memorials to the throne nearby.

Whenever she needed him, Chu Liuchen was always there.

"I'm fine!" A smile touched her face as she sank into his arms. "Old Madam had a stroke because I infuriated her. I don't know if she's all right now!"

Back then, she was in no mood to pay attention to Old Madam.

"She's fine now. An imperial physician happened to be in the mansion." Chu Liuchen comforted her, reaching out to touch her head. He said indifferently, "Even if she is ill, it doesn't matter. As her granddaughter, you pleaded with the Empress Dowager to release her. No one would believe she fell ill because you provoked her in the Marquis Xing's Mansion. Even if people in the Marquis Xing's Mansion strongly denounce you, others would only say you're unkind!"

Chu Liuchen didn't criticize her for losing her composure, nor did he care about the adverse consequences of her anger. He just stated a fact that could reassure her.

Shao Wanru's long eyelashes fluttered twice. Her nose twitched, but she didn't shed tears. She hurried back to the mansion only to see Chu Liuchen as quickly as possible. She was like a child who had been wronged outside and wept out her grief to her parents.

But at the sight of Chu Liuchen, she fainted without saying a word. At this time, when she thought back on the matter, she felt bored. Anything related to the Marquis Xing's Mansion couldn't be good. She had already guessed a wide range of possibilities, but now she felt sick because of Third Madam's words.

"Is it because I become soft and lose some strength? Or perhaps I have someone to rely on now, so I hurriedly fled home, looking for comfort and safety."

When Shao Wanru quietly snuggled up to him, Chu Liuchen reached out to hold her in his arms without asking her anything. He gently stroked her hair loose on her back and asked softly, "Do you need me to do anything?"

"Not now!" Shao Wanru shook her head calmly. Her long eyelashes, hanging down like the wings of a tired butterfly, cast two jagged shadows on her fair and delicate face. After a brief sleep, she calmed down. She had guessed various causes of the death of her parents, hadn't she?

"When do you need my help?" Chu Liuchen didn't question her closely and just asked softly.

Shao Wanru put her arms around Chu Liuchen's firm waist and said, "My mother might have been murdered. Unlike what others had said, she didn't die of depression. Third Madam said she would break away from the Marquis Xing's Mansion and expose what had happened that year."

In emotional turmoil, she uttered some incoherent remarks.

Chu Liuchen looked down at her pale face, and his heart ached. He tightened his grip on her and almost buried her in his arms. The corners of his mouth gently brushed past her ears. His eyes darkened as if a devastating storm were brewing in them. "We can simply wipe out the Marquis Xing's Mansion!"

Ruining it would save them a lot of trouble. Chu Liuchen preferred protecting the woman in his arms in this way, but he also knew Shao Wanru didn't want him to intervene in some things. Anyway, he would try his best to protect her.

Similar things happened to him. He didn't want to talk about it even if he knew Shao Wanru might have known the darkest secret in his heart.

The Marquis Xing's Mansion must be the last thing she wanted to mention in her heart!

In fact, they were two of a kind. They were more willing to solve this kind of thing by themselves. He just needed to back her up and assist her.

The first time they met, Chu Liuchen knew she was persistent and dauntless, though she had a delicate appearance.

He gently kissed her snow-white earlobe. Seeing her tender and white earlobe turn red, he smiled. The lady in his arms was the person he wanted most in his life. Also, she was the only woman he wanted to protect.

When Shao Wanru felt Chu Liuchen's warm breath close to her ear, her face reddened to the ears. She had been in a gloomy mood, but as she listened to his breathing near her ears, she became less depressed, and her spirits lifted. Whatever happened, he would always be there to protect her. It made her feel sweet to heart.

A warm current surged in her heart, submerging the gloom.

"Just now, Shao Jing came to see you, threatening to go to the Palace and complain about the matter. I asked him to go quickly and even allowed him to enter the Palace directly through the side door of our mansion."

Chu Liuchen drawled lazily in a soft voice.

Shao Wanru cracked a smile — Shao Jing must have felt angry and hateful. However, he couldn't vent his anger on the spot. When quarreling with her, Old Madam got angry and had a stroke. Shao Jing intended to threaten Chu Liuchen with this. However, it was just his wishful thinking. Shao Wanru dared to enrage Old Madam because she firmly believed the imperial physician wouldn't dare to say anything, and Chu Liuchen would stand by her side without saying a word.

She smiled gently, her eyes alight with excitement and her heart full of sweetness. "He must have become insane out of anger!"

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"I could tell he was pissed off but not crazy. He then went to find his mistress. This mistress seems much more important to him than Madam Jiang!" Chu Liuchen's eyes glittered as he replied.

Shao Jing did think highly of this woman called E'niang, but she was more like a competent subordinate than a mistress to him. Her heart thumped, and her watery eyes flew open in surprise. Shao Wanru looked at Chu Liuchen in astonishment. "It couldn't be what I'm thinking?"

"It should be what you think!" Chu Liuchen said. His eyes darkened when he lowered his head...

Chapter 1145 The Xu State Princesses Came

According to the news from the Marquis Xing's Mansion, Old Madam fell ill when she returned to the mansion. Princess Chen went to pick her up, but she was sick too!

Others were more convinced that the Marquis Xing's Mansion was on the decline. For the sake of Princess Chen, some families had intended to unite with the Marquis Xing's Mansion by marriage. But this time, they hesitated again.

The third branch of Marquis Xing's Mansion was not close to the first branch's two children. Princess Chen had only stayed in the Marquis Xing's Mansion for a few days. As for the young heir of a duke, he was now living in the Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion. In this situation, he couldn't be close to his cousins in the mansion.

These families held back their thoughts for a moment and watched the situation develop quietly. Recently, the Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion became a hot topic, attracting many people's attention.

Commandery Prince Qing had been engaged. It was said that he was engaged to a woman of common origin long ago. Commandery Prince Qing's faithfulness to her never wavered. He didn't choose any noble beauties during the Pageant in the Palace. He spoke bluntly that he already had a legal wife. In this respect, Commandery Prince Qing made a favorable impression on many people. Everyone praised him for being loyal and trustworthy.

After the Xu State princess came to the capital, everyone suddenly learned that she seemed to be going to marry Commandery Prince Qing. Then what about his fiancée?

Many people thought rumors were unreliable, but the news should be real since some people had been talking about it.

Moreover, since the marriage with the Xu State princess could be considered a national affair, more people were concerned about it. Many people couldn't figure out the situation, so they could only keep an eye on the courtyard where the two princesses of the Xu State lived temporarily.

Some people even visited Qin Huaiyong's place to get some information.

It was easier to inquire about the information from Qin Huaiyong than from Prince Chen and Commandery Prince Qing.

But even after meeting Qin Huaiyong, they all shook their heads in dismay. Qin Huaiyong always clammed up when others asked about this marriage. He only said everything was under the Emperor's command. Although there were various rumors, the Emperor issued no imperial edict. Did it mean that everything was possible?

Unexpectedly, before Shao Wanru could solve the problem of the Marquis Xing's Mansion, the Xu State princesses came to the Prince Cheng's Mansion.

Both Princess Yuyan and Princess Yutao arrived.

Hearing the two princesses come to visit, Shao Wanru pondered for a moment and asked someone to invite them in.

When they got inside, Shao Wanru found that not only the two princesses of the Xu State but also Infanta Yuan'an were there. She felt a little surprised.

"This is Princess Chen!" Infanta Yuan'an led the way for the two princesses. When seeing Shao Wanru, she stepped forward to bow and retreated aside, pointing to Shao Wanru and introducing her to the two princesses.

"Greetings, Your Highness." Princess Yutao looked Shao Wanru up and down with critical eyes. Chu Liuchen wouldn't marry her, but she felt she only lacked a chance. When the time came, Chu Liuchen would marry her. Princess Yutao had always been very proud of her outstanding appearance.

But as soon as Princess Yutao saw Shao Wanru, she was petrified. This woman, no, this girl dressed as a married woman, but she appeared a little childish. Her delicate and beautiful facial features made her look soft and feminine. When this graceful young girl watched them, her limpid eyes sparkled. Besides, her snow-white skin set off her rosy lips. With just one glance, people would be stunned by her beauty. She was just like a fairy descending to the earth.

Princess Yutao had learned the traditional Han culture of the Kingdom of Dongcang. She could even recite many excellent lines of verse describing beautiful women. In the past, she had thought those poems exaggerated the beauty of women. But now, Princess Chen made her feel these poems were too superficial. They could only roughly describe a beautiful woman with distinguished air of elegance. However, no poem could fully describe a great beauty fair as a flower and beautiful as the moon.

“But isn’t the first beauty Secondary Consort Shao in the Palace? How could she be more beautiful than Princess Chen?” Princess Yutao asked in surprise upon seeing Shao Wanru.

As soon as she arrived in the capital, she sent someone to inquire about important affairs in the capital. She heard the most outstanding woman in the capital was Shao Yanru, the First Miss of Marquis Xing’s Mansion. Now, she had become Secondary Consort Shao in the Palace. Because of this, Princess Yutao was confident that she could outshine Princess Chen.

“Secondary Consort Shao is surely beautiful, but Her Highness is also of peerless beauty.” Princess Yuyan said after greeting Shao Wanru with a smile. She reacted quickly.

Jealousy flashed across her eyes.

On that day, she tried every means to seduce Chu Liuchen, but he remained unmoved. Therefore, she was also very curious about Princess Chen.

Since Shao Wanru couldn’t be as good-looking as her, how could she maintain her position as Princess Chen?

However, at this moment, Princess Yuyan was devoured by envy. “Why could she be so beautiful and marry such an excellent man as Prince Chen? The Emperor has confirmed Prince Chen’s status, but Chu Qing is good for nothing.” Thinking of this, she felt increasingly aggrieved and didn’t want to marry Chu Qing at all.

She didn’t have the slightest desire to marry Chu Qing but was willing to be Prince Chen’s consort.

Her mother married her father as a consort. Now, even the Xu State Queen had to give in to her!

It didn’t matter whether she would be the legal wife or a consort when marrying Prince Chen. Princess Yuyan felt she could rely on her charm to gain the upper hand in the future. So what if Princess Chen was exceedingly beautiful? The Xu State Queen looked attractive but was still defeated by her mother.

The striking appearance was far from enough. A successful woman must be sensible and intelligent. Moreover, she had the support of Xu State. With these advantages, Princess Yuyan was sure she would soon be in charge after marrying into the Prince Chen’s Mansion.

With this in mind, Princess Yuyan put up a genial smile, and her face softened.

After they greeted each other, everyone took their seats.

Princess Yutao put down the teacup and smiled. “Your Highness, please excuse us for visiting you suddenly. But among the princes, only Prince Chen has married, so we came to visit you first. Please forgive us if we disturbed you!” Although Princess Yutao felt reluctant to give up on Chu Liuchen, she knew she couldn’t marry him. Thus, she just smiled and let go of this idea.

Since she was determined to become the Xu State Queen, she could only marry a noble child from her country. It was nice to encounter Prince Chen, but that was all. She accepted her fate without complaint.

After figuring out this, Princess Yutao was sure of her position. Deep down, she had to admit that Chu Liuchen didn't like her at all. Otherwise, she might have had another idea. At present, she must concentrate on getting the throne of the Xu State, so it was best to cooperate with Chu Liuchen.

"They heard that we were close, so they invited me to come with them." Infanta Yuan'an explained with a smile.

"I have a good relationship with Infanta Yuan'an?" Shao Wanru frowned. "It should be Zhang Qilan!"

"They also invited Prime Minister Zhang's daughter, but it seemed Miss Zhang was ill." Princess Yutao smiled and explained.

Zhang Qilan would be Princess Yue, and Infanta Yuan'an would become Princess Zhou. They would soon enjoy the same high status as Shao Wanru. In addition, because Prince Yue and Prince Zhou were Prince Chen's elder brothers, the positions of Zhang Qilan and Infanta Yuan'an would be slightly higher than that of Shao Wanru.

They were indeed perfect companions for the two Xu State princesses.

"Infanta Yuan'an is nice, so we sent someone to invite her. And she immediately came over!" Princess Yuyan said. She was a little dissatisfied with Zhang Qilan.

Since the two princesses of the Xu State had just arrived in the capital, there were many things they didn't know. How could Prime Minister Zhang let his daughter get involved? As for Infanta Yuan'an, she was in a different situation.

"Your Highness, has Miss Zhang fallen ill?" Infanta Yuan'an asked, wearing a smiling face.

"I... I've been in poor health recently, so I'm not very sure about that." Shao Wanru shook her head.

"Didn't Miss Zhang come to see you? But I heard you were best friends even before your marriage." Infanta Yuan'an became curious and asked as if she didn't know her words sounded offensive.

"She doesn't feel well, but I don't know it." Shao Wanru smiled faintly and added, "It's my fault!"

"Your Highness, we want to invite some distinguished guests in the capital city to our courtyard in a few days. Could you please provide us with a name list?" Princess Yutao asked. She was a little impatient, for she hated the implicit talks between women the most. Couldn't they be outspoken in their remarks?

"Well... why don't you ask Ruiping Great Elder Princess for help?" Shao Wanru suggested, looking at Infanta Yuan'an.

"We want to invite some Young Madams about the same age. It'll be easier for us to get familiar with each other." Princess Yuyan explained, "Ruiping Great Elder Princess knows many Misses, but as an elder, she can't be as understanding as a young lady like you!"

She meant to let the Prince Chen's Mansion take the lead!

Shao Wanru was keenly aware of this. She refused lightly, keeping her gentle and elegant smile, "I'm afraid I can't help you with this. I've only been in the capital city for three years. I've spent most of my time in the Yuhui Nunnery and have little contact with Misses of aristocratic families in the capital city. Unlike me, Infanta Yuan'an is one of the few well-known beautiful ladies with talent in the capital city. Besides, I don't feel very well recently!"

The two princesses of the Xu State had just arrived in the capital, and many people took a wait-and-see attitude. Shao Wanru didn't want to intervene at this time.

All she wanted to do was to solve the problem of the Marquis Xing's Mansion. There was probably something fishy about the matter of Xu State princesses. Moreover, she had been in poor health and had just recovered from her injury. Now, she fell ill again.

Infanta Yuan'an's eyes fell on Shao Wanru's face, and she found Shao Wanru indeed didn't look well. With concern on her face, she asked, "Why do you suddenly get sick again? I heard it happened when you went to welcome Old Madam back to the Marquis Xing's Mansion. Did anything happen?"

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Infanta Yuan'an failed to find out what happened in the Marquis Xing's Mansion that day. She only vaguely heard that Old Madam had something to do with Shao Wanru's illness.

"It's nothing serious, but I must take good care of myself. I can't worry about too many things!" Shao Wanru said softly. Then, she tilted her head, gently covered her mouth with a handkerchief, and coughed a few times.

Although Princess Chen was as beautiful as a painting, she looked too fragile to live long. Thinking of this, Princess Yuyan secretly despised Shao Wanru in her heart. She didn't necessarily need Shao Wanru. She just came here to see Princess Chen out of curiosity. Chu Liuchen had refused her many times, but did he do all this just for such a weak and useless woman?

But the next moment, the smile on her face froze when she heard Princess Yutao ask, "Your Highness, could you please ask Prince Chen to invite Commandery Prince Qing? Since we came here, he has never shown up again!"

Chapter 1146 Two People Acting, Two People Watching

Those well-informed people had known Princess Yuyan would marry Chu Qing, though the news had not been officially announced.

It had been a few days since the Xu State princess arrived in the capital, but Chu Qing had not visited her for once. It didn't make much sense.

"It's probably not very appropriate for His Highness to meddle in this affair. Princess Yuyan, do you know Commandery Prince Qing has engaged to someone else?" Shao Wanru changed the topic naturally and calmly.

Princess Yuyan's face darkened at once. She could discard Chu Qing, but how could he feel reluctant to marry her? It felt like a slap in the face from a man she looked down upon.

However, she was pretty scheming. She gritted her teeth, swallowed her anger, and said with a smile, "Ningyuan Army General said the same thing before. This marriage was a matter between the two countries, and there should be a suitable way to settle her down!"

In the face of national interests, such a thing was not a big deal. When her mother saw Princess Yuyan off, she repeatedly told her that whether she would marry Chu Qing or not, she should not fall out with that woman. There must be a force behind that woman. If she used it correctly, it would be good for all.

Since Consort Li said so, Princess Yuyan paid some attention to it. However, she didn't care about it that much. That woman's identity was far inferior to hers. How could she compete with her?

As for the identity of Qin Huaiyong, Princess Yuyan also inquired about it. Princess Chen used to be raised by Ningyuan Army General. She could only say it was such a coincidence, which was great!

Shao Wanru's face darkened, and she understood what Princess Yuyan hinted. Although Qin Huaiyong had nothing to do with her now, he had raised her for so many years.

"Ningyuan Army General said you could lend me a hand and invite Commandery Prince Qing. It would be best if his former fiancée could be invited over!" Seeing Shao Wanru remain silent, Princess Yuyan smiled again and changed to this topic. She didn't have to ask Shao Wanru to do it. But Shao Wanru's delicate face looked so unpleasant to the eye. Princess Yuyan had an uncontrollable urge to ask Shao Wanru to do the things she felt reluctant to do.

The relationship between Ningyuan Army General and Princess Chen was unusual.

"Since you said so, I will ask His Highness to convey your message!" Shao Wanru didn't want to intervene, but it didn't mean she was afraid of it. Princess Yuyan pressed her again and again. With her eyes turning cold, Shao Wanru put down the teacup heavily and asked coldly, "How about tomorrow?"

The smile on Princess Yuyan's face froze. She had thought Shao Wanru would refuse again because she seemed in a dilemma. Unexpectedly, Shao Wanru agreed and even planned a tight schedule.

Princess Yutao raised the corner of her mouth and looked at her younger sister mockingly. Although she was not good at those veiled struggles between women in the inner court, she knew that her younger sister did something foolish. What was the benefit of offending Princess Chen? No matter whom Yuyan wanted to marry, she had to live here in the future.

However, she didn't say anything and continued to watch the show.

She was not the only one seeing the fun. Like her, Infanta Yuan'an slightly raised the corners of her mouth. But she was sneering at Shao Wanru. It was great that Shao Wanru and Princess Yuyan confronted each other!

Her efforts finally bore fruit. On their way here, Infanta Yuan'an mentioned Shao Wanru from time to time, making Princess Yuyan hostile to Shao Wanru. Thus, it was inevitable for her to provoke Shao Wanru.

What surprised her was Shao Wanru's attitude. She didn't expect Shao Wanru to take the challenge head-on and even put Princess Yuyan in a difficult situation instead. However, it was none of her business. She just needed to watch the fun!

“Will Commandery Prince Qing come tomorrow?” Princess Yuyan felt embarrassed, looking toward Princess Yutao and Infanta Yuan’an, who were still smiling. Her smile gradually faded.

“Since you have come to the Prince Chen’s Mansion for help, His Highness has to tell Commandery Prince Qing about it for you! I wonder if you’re free tomorrow?” Shao Wanru asked softly with a smile. As for how Chu Liuchen would talk to Chu Qing, she didn’t want to think about it. Yet, she knew Chu Liuchen never used to speak nicely.

“Then let’s do it tomorrow. I hope you can keep your promise!” Princess Yuyan became increasingly embarrassed. Before her marriage was settled, she was still a Xu State princess. How could she have any important things to do recently? She might just go shopping and feel the exotic atmosphere here. After all, she couldn’t say she was busy trying to hook up with Chu Liuyue.

“Don’t worry. Commandery Prince Qing will come over tomorrow!” Shao Wanru said meaningfully.

Looking at Shao Wanru, who was full of confidence, Princess Yuyan was so angry that her face paled a little. However, she couldn’t get mad, for Shao Wanru helped her solve a big problem.

At this point, she seemed to have nothing to say. Princess Yuyan, feeling deeply wronged, stood up and said goodbye. Princess Yutao and Infanta Yuan’an also got up together.

Since the three of them came together, they would leave together.

Shao Wanru personally saw them off. When they arrived at the mansion gate, Princess Yutao got into a carriage alone. While Princess Yuyan and Infanta Yuan’an entered another carriage, followed by a carriage from the Ruiping Great Elder Princess’s Mansion. Seeing this, Shao Wanru silently raised the corners of her mouth.

“Your Highness!” The carriage curtain in front was lifted, revealing Princess Yutao’s face. “In a few days, we might invite the Misses and Madams in the capital city to appreciate the flowers. I hope you can also come!”

Princess Yutao invited her sincerely. She and Chu Liuchen had agreed to make an offensive and defensive league. However, as a woman, it was inconvenient for her to meet him. Prince Chen told her she could go to see Princess Chen if there was anything. Of course, she had to cozy up to Princess Chen now.

She was delighted with Princess Chen’s performance just now — her arrogant sister had suffered such a big, concealed loss.

Princess Yutao appreciated Shao Wanru very much and expressed her kindness to her.

“Thank you, Princess Yutao. If I’m in good health, I will visit your place!” Shao Wanru bowed sideways with a smile and said. She looked up and saw the curtain of another carriage being banged down heavily. Her eyes were shining as Shao Wanru thought. “Princess Yuyan is very unruly. That’s great!” Obviously, Infanta Yuan’an was stirring up trouble inside. However, the unruly and wilful princess with ulterior motives inside the carriage was not utterly useless.

It was said that the relationship between Princess Yuyan and Chu Qing was not simple!

Princess Yuyan was not as stupid as she looked. If Infanta Yuan'an regarded her as her pawn, she might suffer a great deal...

The carriages left one after another. In the carriage at the back, Princess Yuyan's face turned ghastly pale with anger. Infanta Yuan'an looked at her and comforted her softly, "Calm down. That's what Princess Chen is like!"

"How could Prince Chen marry a woman with such a character? I heard she was just an orphan. Does she really believe she could help Prince Chen a lot?" Princess Yuyan barked, abusing without thinking.

"Please watch your words!" Infanta Yuan'an reminded hurriedly with caution, pointing out of the window. "Be careful not to be heard by anyone outside!"

"Even if someone hears it, so what?" Princess Yuyan argued furiously but unconsciously lowered her voice. "She has a good appearance only. There are many women as good-looking as her. If Prince Chen likes this type of woman, my country can send eight or ten similar beauties to him!"

Infanta Yuan'an curled her lip secretly in disapproval. She was also jealous of Shao Wanru's outstanding appearance. Few women could be as pretty as her, who was like an enchanting fairy. Even if there were women with similar appearances, how could they get her unique temperament? Shao Wanru looked both delicate and charming, her bright red lips bringing her an air of elegance.

Infanta Yuan'an had seen a lot of women, but she had never encountered another woman as attractive as Shao Wanru. Even Shao Yanru, who used to be famous in the capital city for her beauty, was not as stunningly beautiful as Shao Wanru.

"Will Commandery Prince Qing come tomorrow?" Infanta Yuan'an carefully changed the topic.

"If he doesn't come, I'll go to the Prince Chen's Mansion and ask Princess Chen why she shamelessly made such a promise. What does she mean by doing this? Does she despise the Xu State or the two princesses from the Xu State?" In a fit of anger, Princess Yuyan roared. Her face flamed with rage. She had intended to humiliate Shao Wanru, but unexpectedly, she brought disgrace on her own head.

Whether Princess Chen looked down on the Xu State or the princesses from the country, she would have to bear the same severe consequences.

Shao Wanru became Princess Chen, who was in a noble and high position, but so what? She would be her country's sinner if she caused a dispute between the two countries.

Infanta Yuan'an was very satisfied with such a result. She chatted with Princess Yuyan intimately for a while and occasionally mentioned Shao Wanru. With every subtle sentence she said, Infanta Yuan'an was sowing discord between them. Princess Yuyan did not like Shao Wanru initially, and now she disliked her even more. She only regarded Shao Wanru as the major stumbling block on her way to success. Especially when Infanta Yuan'an said Chu Liuyue seemed to treat Shao Wanru differently, Princess Yuyan's face immediately changed.

"Did you say Prince Yue also wanted to marry her?"

"Yes, I heard it from a palace maid of the Empress!" Infanta Yuan'an's voice sank to a whisper for fear of being heard by others passing by the carriage. "I heard it when I paid a visit to the Empress last time."

Infanta Yuan'an was going to marry Chu Liuzhou. Since the Empress had only one son, she was more favored than ordinary daughters-in-law. It was not surprising for her to hear some secrets.

"Bitch, what a slut!" Princess Yuyan was so pissed off that her face turned ghastly pale. She had taken a fancy to Chu Liuchen and hadn't yet given up on him. Then, she was about to seduce Chu Liuyue, her next target. To her great dismay, both of the two men liked Shao Wanru. Right away, Princess Yuyan regarded Shao Wanru as her mortal enemy.

She had thought that Chu Liuyue might have someone he liked. However, she took this matter lightly because she was confident in her extraordinary beauty. In her eyes, she could outshine Princess Yutao. After all, she was more feminine than Yutao. Her mother had told her that women with tenderness were the most attractive to men.

But Shao Wanru was different. Whenever she recalled Shao Wanru's dazzlingly beautiful appearance, a dark jealousy would stir in her heart. What Princess Yutao hated the most was the subtle tenderness on her face. Shao Wanru had an ethereal beauty with a natural charm faintly emanating from her. Behind her endearing features, people could dimly discern an air of aloofness. Those discordant temperaments were miraculously mixed well in her.

With a sense of crisis, Princess Yuyan said through gritted teeth. "I will teach her a lesson!"

Chapter 1147 Allies With Their Own Motives

Of course, Princess Yuyan had to wait for Chu Qing to teach Shao Wanru a lesson when he came to the Prince Chen's Mansion tomorrow.

She firmly believed that Chu Qing would lend her a hand as long as she saw him. Even better, Princess Yuyan was thinking about using him to fight back against Shao Wanru.

Since Princess Yuyan and Infanta Yuan'an needed each other, both intended to please the other party. As a result, they talked more and more congenially in the carriage. After this trip, they became as intimate as sisters.

When they arrived at the residence, Princess Yutao jumped out of the carriage first. With sarcasm in her eyes, she looked at the two women supporting each other out of the carriage. She didn't wait for them to catch up. Instead, she just smiled at Infanta Yuan'an and went straight to the main room.

Infanta Yuan'an was obviously an enemy of Prince Chen's Mansion. The future Princess Zhou? It turned out that Infanta Yuan'an and Princess Yuyan were birds of a feather. Because of this, Princess Yutao felt a little contempt for Infanta Yuan'an.

Compared with Infanta Yuan'an, she had more faith in the future Princess Yue.

"Princess Yuyan, I have something else to do, so I'll go back now!" Infanta Yuan'an said, smiling broadly. She achieved her goal of coming here today and successfully established a good relationship with Princess Yuyan. It was not appropriate for her to get too close to the two Xu State princesses at this time. It was enough for her to accompany them to the Prince Chen's Mansion.

Infanta Yuan'an knew now was the best time to go back — there was certainly a reason why the Empress valued her.

"Please stay a little longer. I happen to have something to ask you." Princess Yuyan took Infanta Yuan'an's hand affectionately, not intending to let her return early.

Infanta Yuan'an was familiar with the capital city and didn't get along well with Shao Wanru. More importantly, she might even know what had happened between Princess Chen and Prince Yue. It was rare for Princess Yuyan to find someone who knew the answers to many of her questions. Thus, Princess Yuyan wanted to pester Infanta Yuan'an for more information. It had been too short a time along the way, and she still had a lot of things to inquire about.

"Your Highness, I'm really sorry. Before I came here, my grandma told me to go back early. The next time I come, I will ask her to let me stay a little longer!" Infanta Yuan'an said with an embarrassed look.

"Are you leaving for real? Won't you stay a little longer? How about I go to meet Ruiping Great Elder Princess?" Princess Yuyan looked at Infanta Yuan'an with expectation, feeling reluctant to part with her.

Infanta Yuan'an's heart skipped a beat, and she hurriedly waved her hand. "Grandma is not feeling well. I'm afraid it's inconvenient for her to receive you now. Let's do it the next time!"

Her grandma had told her not to take the two princesses from the Xu State to her mansion. At this time, she didn't want to see them. After all, the situation was unclear, so Ruiping Great Elder Princess had to wait and see.

"All right then!" Princess Yuyan put down her hand with a face full of pity.

"I'll go back first and come to see you tomorrow, okay?" Infanta Yuan'an suggested with a smile. She also had something to tell Princess Yuyan today, but it was not the best time to say it now.

Tomorrow, after Commandery Prince Qing came to see Princess Yuyan, she would come over and see if there was any chance that she could use.

Of course, if Chu Qing didn't come, it didn't matter. There are two sides to everything, after all.

Infanta Yuan'an and Princess Yuyan separated seemingly quite reluctantly. Infanta Yuan'an got on the carriage while Princess Yuyan watched until the carriage disappeared from view. Then her smile vanished, and her face turned cold. Princess Yuyan snorted and turned to walk inside. Infanta Yuan'an was a great ally. However, she only hoped that this ally didn't have the delusion of getting huge benefits from her!

Chu Qing was invited to the Prince Chen's Mansion.

He had been waiting in a reception room of the Prince Chen's Mansion. Looking at the sky's color outside, he knew almost two hours had passed. Several cups of tea had been served, but he was told to wait each time he asked when Prince Chen would come.

As a prince of a country, he also had something important to do. How could Chu Liuchen keep him waiting for a long time like this? They were both the sons of the deceased emperor, and no one was superior to the other. What did Chu Liuchen mean by keeping him waiting?

After finishing the third cup of tea, Chu Qing put it down with a thump. He couldn't help standing up with a cold face. Chu Liuchen asked him to come over, but why would Chu Liuchen keep him waiting?

"Your Highness, let me add some tea for you?" The young eunuch, serving at the side, hurried forward and asked in a high-pitched voice.

"No need!" Chu Qing growled, turned around, and strode out.

"What's wrong? Is there anything else you must do, Commandery Prince Qing?" The door was pushed open, and Chu Liuchen entered at a slow pace. He wore a loose milky white brocade robe, and his belt was untied. He appeared graceful and casual as if he had been enjoying a stroll in the woods. The corners of his mouth were slightly raised on his handsome face. Inexplicably, his expression struck a chill in Chu Qing's heart.

Chu Qing was scared and stopped in a hurry.

"Are you leaving?" Chu Liuchen came in with a book in his hand. He shook the book and asked casually, "It's good for you to go back. You'll save me a lot of trouble!"

Chu Qing's heart leaped. He clenched his fists but put up a smile. When Chu Liuchen walked in and sat down, he turned around and said, "You must have been occupied with something important, so I thought I could leave. But since you are here, I have nothing more urgent to deal with!"

Smiling, he sat on the chair aside and greeted Chu Liuchen with a fist and palm salute. "What can I do for you?"

Chu Liuchen's current status was much higher than before. In the past, Chu Qing was not courageous enough to provoke Chu Liuchen, not to mention now. Even though Chu Qing was full of anger, he had to keep a gentle smile on his face.

"Nothing important. I just want to talk to you about Princess Yuyan!" Chu Liuchen looked up at Chu Qing and said. He didn't care about Chu Qing's attempt to flatter him.

"Princess Yuyan's matter? What's up?" Chu Qing's heart skipped a beat. He quickly calmed down and asked.

"She wondered when you would go to ask for an imperial edict about your marriage from Uncle the Emperor in the Palace. As for your previous fiancée, I think she didn't want you to keep her, but Princess Yuyan didn't say it clearly." Chu Liuchen said slowly, "You want to enjoy the happiness of living with two beauties, but I'm afraid Princess Yuyan won't agree!"

As Chu Liuchen talked about his difficult position with sarcasm, a trace of hatred flickered across Chu Qing's eyes, and blue veins stood out on his hands. It was Princess Yuyan who pushed him into a wretched plight.

Even if he married her in the end, Chu Qing could not do anything harmful to Mo Qiuyi. They had made this matter clear, but she was still unwilling to give up.

"I've talked about this with her when we were in the Xu State. It's okay if Princess Yuyan doesn't want to marry me." Chu Qing said, trying hard to suppress the sudden surge of anger in his heart.

"Circumstances change with the passage of time. Now, the time and the situation have both changed. Don't you understand it? Since Princess Yuyan of the Xu State likes you, we should show our sincerity.

We can't ruin the relationship between the two countries because of a woman. Uncle the Emperor wants to get some news from the Xu State to learn about a few things."

Chu Liuchen rolled his deep eyes with a hint of imperceptible contempt. He leaned back lazily to make himself more comfortable and said leisurely, "Actually, I'm not supposed to interfere in this kind of thing. As an envoy, I was only responsible for taking Princess Yuyan to the capital city. After that, it's not for me to judge your relationship. It's a personal matter between the two of you, after all. But Princess Yuyan specially came to my mansion to talk about that. If I turned a deaf ear to it, it would make us look rude and disgrace our country!"

Chu Liuchen spotted Chu Qing's anger, and his handsome face darkened.

His most annoying thing was others disturbing Shao Wanru. Worse still, these people even planned to take advantage of her.

It turned out that Princess Yuyan took the initiative to find Chu Liuchen. Knowing this, Chu Qing gritted his teeth in anger. He had thought that Princess Yuyan was smart, but now she had caused such big trouble for him. Was Chu Liuchen easy to get along with? Usually, even Chu Qing himself didn't dare to provoke him. He had never imagined Princess Yuyan would irritate him.

"You'd better get rid of that woman for the peace of the two countries!" Chu Liuchen said casually. He glanced at Chu Qing's stony face and discovered the controlled anger carefully hidden by him.

"I'm afraid it's inappropriate!" Chu Qing exhaled deeply and barely suppressed the blazing anger burning in his heart. Fury in his breast was nearly ignited.

Princess Yuyan gave Chu Liuchen a sound reason to poke his nose into his mansion's business openly!

"Why is it improper? She's just the daughter of a small official. I heard you hadn't seen her before. I heard she had been living in the Yuhui Nunnery and had never met outsiders. Is that so?" Chu Liuchen asked lightly.

Of course, he meant that they had probably never seen each other. At best, they could only secretly meet each other once or twice. Since they had no strong feelings for each other, why would he feel reluctant to part with her?

Could Chu Qing say he had known Mo Qiuyi for a long time? Could he tell Chu Liuchen they had been in touch for years?

"Well... My mother said she owed them favors!" Chu Qing had to explain it in this way.

"Favors?" Chu Liuchen changed his countenance and sat up straight, keeping his slightly steely eyes upon Chu Qing. "What do you mean? Had Consort Dowager Qing secretly left the Yuhui Nunnery? Or, did this woman's elder help Consort Dowager Qing with something when she was in the Palace?"

"You must be joking! How could such things happen?" Chu Qing said with a dry smile, feeling very uncomfortable. Secretly, he was on the alert. Chu Liuchen, a man of incalculable moods, was not to be pushed around. Thus, Chu Qing knew he mustn't let Chu Liuchen get something on him at this critical moment.

He only hated Princess Yuyan, a foolish woman. How could she cause such a disturbance? In the Xu State, she had repeatedly promised to support him. Her support greatly disappointed him!

"Since you denied the two possibilities, you owe them nothing. However, Consort Dowager Qing never forgets them for a moment. You worship the daughter of a small official as a god."

Chu Liuchen cracked a smile again, flicking on the table with his slender fingers. No one knew what was in his mind. Chu Liuchen shot Chu Qing a sideways glance, and his manner relaxed. "Now, this matter has come to this. No matter what favors this woman has done for Consort Dowager Qing, you should give her up. No country, no home! You should put the national interest first. If you can't bear to do it yourself, I can help!"

...

"No... no need..." Chu Qing suddenly shot up from his seat, waving his hands randomly. Chu Liuchen's help would mess up everything. Once Chu Liuchen took action, it would bring forth fatal disasters. During the reign of terror, he might be exposed. When the Mo Family made a last desperate effort to survive, he might even be implicated and ruined. He could take advantage of the Mo Family to some extent, but he mustn't wipe them out.

"Really?" Chu Liuchen asked, giving him a wry look.

"No!" Chu Qing shook his head decisively again and said with cold sweat on his back. He must not let Chu Liuchen intervene in this matter.

Chapter 1148 An Ugly Confrontation, Each Sticking to Their Own Argument

"Thank you for telling me this. I still have something to do, so I must go back now. Don't worry. I will solve this problem. I won't trouble you or cause a conflict between the two countries!" Chu Qing said all the words in his heart in one breath. After that, he bowed deeply to Chu Liuchen before leaving.

"If I intervene, I can deal with this matter quickly!" This matter seemed to have aroused Chu Liuchen's interest. Then, he added with relish, "She is just an insignificant woman!"

Chu Qing shook his head decidedly and said, "It's not just a matter of a woman. I should build up good credit."

"Credit? Why do you need so much credit?" His lazy voice made people feel sluggish, but Chu Qing's forehead broke out in a cold sweat when he heard that.

As an ordinary prince, he certainly didn't need too much credit, but what if he had other plans, or more specifically, other wild ambitions?

"Please don't tease me. I just think I should keep my promises!" Chu Qing grew more cautious when answering Chu Liuchen's questions. Chu Liuchen had been very unpredictable. Facing him, Chu Qing had always been worried about causing other unexpected accidents.

"In this case, go back now. The matter related to Princess Yuyan is also the two countries' business!" Chu Liuchen waved his hand and reminded lightly.

"Okay, I'll take my leave now!" Chu Qing said, nodding his head vigorously.

This time, Chu Liuchen didn't make things difficult for him. With a perfunctory wave to let him leave, he lowered his head and continued to read the book in his hand.

Chu Qing withdrew in dejection. Only when he reached the door did he breathe a sigh of relief. Then, he turned around and stole a glance at Chu Liuchen to check his reaction. "He should not have found anything unusual, had he?"

Just now, he nearly gave himself away. Thinking back on it, he turned purple with rage. "What exactly does Yuyan want to do? It won't do her any good if she annoys me! What a foolish woman. She still has the illusion that she is in the Xu State, so she can do whatever she wants."

"Let's go to the two princesses' courtyard!" Upon getting on the carriage, Chu Qing immediately asked.

"Your Highness, it's getting late now!" the coachman reminded him.

"Go!" Chu Qing ordered with a gloomy face, not wanting to wait even a moment.

The carriage turned a corner and went to the temporary residence of the two princesses.

Shao Wanru came out from the back of the reception room and sat opposite Chu Liuchen with a bright smile. Hurriedly, Xiao Xuanzi brought her a cup of fragrant tea.

"Commandery Prince Qing seems very affectionate and faithful!" Shao Wanru said with a smile. She had been hiding behind the wall and heard their talks. It looked like a wall at the room's back, but there was space for people to sit behind it.

"Affectionate and faithful?" Chu Liuchen raised the corner of his mouth sarcastically, "Zhuozhuo, do you think so?"

"No!" Shao Wanru shook her head and said. She just found it strange. "Is the relationship between Chu Qing and Mo Qiuyi so close?" When Chu Liuchen took her out at night, she saw Chu Qing enter the small courtyard where Mo Qiuyi lived.

There were a lot of secrets in the Yuhui Nunnery, and Chu Qing's matter was one of them.

After thinking for a while, she asked, "Who do you think he will marry?"

Chu Qing's current situation was quite interesting. Both women would marry him, and Princess Yuyan could never fulfill her duty and exercise self-control. The Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion already had Shao Jie'er. Would Mo Qiuyi and Princess Yuyan marry into this mansion? If so, the Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion would become very lively.

"Whomever he wants to marry, there are some things he can't decide!" Chu Liuchen slouchingly got on his feet, walking to Shao Wanru, who was also in plain and white clothes. He reached out to take her tender fingers and said with an enchanting smile in his eyes, "He thinks everything is under his control, but he is just holding a tiny part of it. Let's go. You don't have to worry about this kind of thing. Let's go for a walk!"

"But didn't we just do it? Are we still going for a walk?" Shao Wanru said helplessly.

They were strolling in the garden when Chu Qing arrived. Only until they felt tied did they come over.

One entered the reception room through the front door, and the other came in from behind. At that time, Chu Qing had been so focused on Chu Liuchen that he didn't notice the sound of Shao Wanru entering the room. Besides, Shao Wanru made her way carefully for fear of alarming Chu Qing.

"Let's go and have a look again. If you like those flowers, I'll ask them to plant more on the edge of the black bamboo wood. With bamboo and flowers, we can enjoy the garden with a rustic charm. Isn't that wonderful?"

Chu Liuchen pulled Shao Wanru out of the reception room. With a smile, he looked down at her and said.

As the wind blew past them, their clothes fluttered...

They held hands and enjoyed the flowers together. At this moment, Chu Qing arrived at Princess Yuyan's living place and got out of the carriage. When Princess Yuyan came to welcome him, he snorted coldly at her with a livid face.

In fact, Princess Yuyan didn't want to greet him. As a noble princess of a country, why should she welcome a prince here?

But she remembered what her mother had told her before she came to this country for marriage. Considering her current situation, she had to maintain a good relationship with Chu Qing. Therefore, to show her kindness, she specially came out to greet him.

When Chu Qing came at this time, she felt flattered. Not long ago, they asked him to come over tomorrow. Unexpectedly, he took it so seriously that he came now. The light was beginning to fail. At this time, servants with lanterns had already started lighting the candles.

To her dismay, as soon as Chu Qing got out of the carriage, he ignored her and gave her a cold snort. Right on the spot, Princess Yuyan's temper flared. Indeed, he didn't know how to appreciate favors.

They entered the hall one after another, their faces gloomy.

Princess Yutao was also in the hall. When seeing them coming sullenly, she smiled. There seemed to be another good show. She had thought it would begin tomorrow. To her surprise, she could enjoy another show today.

Princess Yutao stretched herself out on the wide chair. She didn't intend to leave but wanted to watch the show quietly.

"Greetings, Princess Yutao!" When seeing her, Chu Qing stepped forward and bowed to greet her.

Princess Yutao waved her hand and said carelessly, "Don't stand on ceremony. You're here to see my sister? Consort Li can rest assured now. Even in the Kingdom of Dongcang, you still regard my sister as the most important person in your heart!"

Hearing her words, Princess Yuyan looked better. She grunted and sat down on the chair next to Princess Yutao. Seemingly taking it lightly, she raised her eyebrows and squinted at Princess Yutao smugly.

The three of them sat down. Chu Qing fought to hold back his anger, and his expression softened slightly. He said to Princess Yutao with a smile, "May I discuss something with Princess Yuyan alone?"

Princess Yutao was Princess Yuyan's elder sister and accompanied Princess Yuyan when she married into the Kingdom of Dongcang.

"Do as you please, Your Highness. I have something else to do, so I can't stay here with you!" Princess Yutao stood up sensibly and said with some regret. In fact, she preferred staying and watching the show. But since Chu Qing had asked her to give them some private time, it was inappropriate for her to stay any longer.

Glancing at Chu Qing's fixed smile, Princess Yutao smiled slightly and left with her servants.

Princess Yuyan looked disapprovingly at Princess Yutao's back, raised her head slightly, and asked, "If you have something to say, go ahead!"

She had asked Commandery Prince Qing to come over, but she just mentioned it casually to embarrass Shao Wanru.

"Princess Yuyan, please behave yourself. I don't care what you are thinking now, but please always remember that you are now in the Kingdom of Dongcang, not in your Xu State. Everything has to be done according to the rules of the Kingdom of Dongcang. If you break the rules, you will suffer the consequences!" Chu Qing came here with pent-up anger. When Princess Yutao left, he could no longer control his anger. He looked up, glaring at Princess Yuyan.

Princess Yuyan didn't expect Chu Qing to flare up as soon as he spoke up. She was stunned for a moment and flew into a rage. When she furiously banged the table, she almost knocked over the teacup on the table. "Chu Qing, what do you mean?"

"What do I mean? Don't you know that? You have no right to arrange my people. Even if you marry into my mansion as my legal life, Qiuyi will be my secondary legal wife. Her status won't be that inferior to yours." After coming back from the Prince Chen's Mansion with a deep sense of grievance, he felt a sharp annoyance at this time.

But Princess Yuyan still pretended not to know anything about it. Seeing that, Chu Qing exploded with rage and also smacked his hand onto the table, knocking the teacup over.

"You... you... Chu Qing, you... Do you think I want to marry you, a good-for-nothing? Look at yourself in the mirror... If you weren't... I..." Princess Yuyan was so angry that her face changed significantly. She stood up, pointed at Chu Qing, and scolded harshly.

A Nanny standing near her saw that the situation was going wrong. She hurried forward, pulled her back, and whispered, "Your Highness, please be careful with your words!"

This Nanny was a trusted subordinate sent by Consort Li. Seeing her, Princess Yuyan immediately came to her senses and zipped her mouth, but her face was still livid with rage. Eying Chu Qing's somber face, she said, "What on earth do you mean by saying that? As soon as you came in, you began criticizing me. What have I done wrong? You rushed here tonight and can't stop blaming me!"

The hidden meaning in her words scared Chu Qing. His face turned very gray, but finally, he sobered up. "You visited the Prince Chen's Mansion and pleaded with Prince Chen to invite me here. Am I right?"

...

"So what? You didn't show up these days. What do you mean?" Princess Yuyan's heart jumped, but she refused to admit defeat and asked in reply.

"Why would you ask Prince Chen to interfere in my affairs? I've been occupied with too many things, and Prince Chen has domineered over me for a long time. Don't you think all of this is not enough?" Chu Qing composed himself and snapped. His eyes ran down the hall — only his and Princess Yuyan's reliable servants were there. He hissed at her, "Do you want to push us into serious trouble?"

After saying that, he looked at Princess Yuyan coldly. They were in the same boat, and neither could get away alone.

His words choked her off.

Princess Yuyan's trusted Nanny helped her sit down. After making tea for them again, she retreated and guarded outside the door. Just now, she saw Princess Yutao's personal guard passing the door. Princess Yuyan was so careless! How could she dare to say such words when no one was guarding the door?

When the Nanny thought of the meaning of Princess Yuyan's words, her back was covered with cold sweat!

How could she say these life-threatening words? She had been following Princess Yuyan to the Kingdom of Dongcang, but now, she couldn't help feeling worried. She only hoped the two masters inside could talk nicely and not cause any other trouble...

Chapter 1149 Joining in a Conspiracy, with Big Ambition

At this time, the hall became quiet. Both of them seemed to have calmed down in an instant.

Although Chu Qing's face darkened, he did not lose his temper again. After taking a sip of water with an icy look, Princess Yuyan put down the teacup and said, "Let me say it again. I'm not satisfied with the Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion. And I don't want to be your legal wife, let alone do anything to your woman. You can rest assured!"

Evidently, she disdained him.

Chu Qing's face turned livid again with a trace of hostility. He hated it the most when people talked to him in a scornful tone. It sounded as if he was a worthless fool in their eyes.

He had known that Princess Yuyan didn't want to marry him, but he didn't doubt Chu Liuchen's previous words.

He didn't quite care about whether Princess Yuyan liked him or not. With her character, she was very likely to target Mo Qiuyi because she couldn't tolerate any other women around him.

Ever since others knew about Chu Qing's existence, they had been jeering and sneering at him. Most people he encountered would look at him with contempt as if he should not have shown up before everyone.

But when Chu Liuchen appeared, everyone treated him with caution. They did not dare to stare at him for fear of provoking him. But after he appeared, no one cared about him. What was worse, others would watch him with silent contempt. Merely because of this, Chu Qing did not like Princess Yuyan. She was no different from those who looked down on him.

He wished he could gouge out their eyes that disapproved of him.

But now, it was not the time to fall out with Princess Yuyan. He needed the support of Princess Yuyan and the Xu State.

"So what if you don't want to marry me? I've already told Consort Li about it when we were in the Xu State. In the end, she still sent you here to marry me!" Chu Qing made an effort to soften his tone, but his words still sounded sarcastic.

"How could she despise me? Doesn't she know her inferior status and background? Does she wishfully think that others would abandon their fiancées to marry her? What makes her think others want to marry her?"

Chu Qing's attitude also provoked Princess Yuyan to anger. She had never suffered such a great grievance. Somehow, she got involved with Chu Qing, but her mother didn't allow her to go back on her word, saying Chu Qing was also a good choice.

How could it be? She didn't want to marry this worthless wretch at all!

After calming down, Princess Yuyan felt it was better to speak calmly. In the Kingdom of Dongcang, she could not be so willful! She was trying so hard to appease herself. After all, she needed Chu Qing and mustn't break it off with him.

"We aren't compatible with each other. Even if we are forced to get married, I'm afraid we won't live in peace. Why not do me a favor and let me marry into another mansion? At that time, I will be of great help to you." Princess Yuyan's attitude changed for the better, and she even managed a faint smile when looking at Chu Qing.

"Are you crazy? You really take a fancy to Chu Liuchen?" Chu Qing widened his eyes and said in disbelief.

"More than him, Chu Liuyue is also a good option. Prince Yue is the Emperor's eldest son, right?" Princess Yuyan glanced at him indifferently and came up with another plan. "Either of them is living a better life than you. If I marry one of them, I promise I will help you to achieve great things. This is my mother's order. I will not disobey it!"

Princess Yuyan took what she said as a matter of course as if she was considering everything for Chu Qing wholeheartedly. Her promises sounded dignified but would not bring any tangible benefits. Chu Qing couldn't wait to slap this shameless woman hard in the face. He had known she was restless, but it never occurred to him she was unruly to the extreme.

Would she help him achieve anything significant? If she didn't marry him, he firmly believed this woman would betray him in the end.

"Who on earth do you prefer?" Chu Qing controlled his anger and asked with a subtle emotion in his eyes. He was waiting for this woman to be badly battered. At that time, not to mention being the princess, she might feel content to be any prince's second legal wife.

Seeing Chu Qing agree to her idea, Princess Yuyan was satisfied. She thought carefully and said, "Frankly, Prince Chen is quite good really. It's best if I can marry into the Prince Chen's Mansion. But with Princess Chen around, I'm afraid it's not easy for me to... Then why don't we..."

"You might as well get rid of Princess Chen. She has always been in poor health!" Chu Qing interrupted her and said.

After pondering over his suggestion, Princess Yuyan didn't think it wouldn't work. Shao Wanru, Princess Chen, was exceedingly beautiful. Even if Princess Yuyan refused to admit it before others, she had already acknowledged Shao Wanru's beauty to herself.

"It's better to marry Prince Yue. Since he hasn't married yet, I will meet much less resistance!"

"Prince Yue is not married, but he is going to marry Prime Minister Zhang's daughter. Prime Minister Zhang is of great assistance to him. Do you think Chu Liuyue will give him up for you?" Chu Qing asked.

"But I'm the princess of a country, backed by the Xu State!" Princess Yuyan retorted indignantly.

"So what? A princess from a remote country and a powerful minister of the current imperial court, who do you think Prince Yue will choose?" Chu Qing violently crushed Princess Yuyan's pleasant dream.

His descriptions of a remote country and a powerful minister were accurate. Princess Yuyan had considered the same thing. Now, she had to admit the fact, though unwillingly. She gritted her teeth and said, "I can be a second wife as a start. Even so, I can help you succeed. If you encounter setbacks, I can protect you in the Prince Yue's Mansion. When I ascend to the supreme position, you can assist me!"

"Since she is willing to be a second wife, why doesn't she choose me? Obviously, she holds me in contempt and thinks it is impossible for me to succeed." Chu Qing loathed her to the marrow but showed no hatred on his face. There was only a trace of viciousness crossing his eyes. "This should be the idea of both Princess Yuyan and Consort Li!"

She tempted Chu Qing to support Princess Yuyan, saying they would help him achieve wholeheartedly. Meanwhile, she led her daughter to think of other possibilities, planning to make Chu Qing their supporting power. Back then, Chu Qing had known Consort Li was sufficiently sophisticated. Now, Chu Qing could see the fact more clearly.

They intended to build a monarch-subject relationship instead of a principal-subordinate one. No misinterpretation about that was allowed!

Sure enough, Consort Li was an over-ambitious woman, just as Chu Qing's mother had said. Compared to the Mo Family, Consort Li was slicker and more likely to betray him. Consort Li plotted to rule over Chu Qing, making him their paw. Oh, wishful thinkers!

“Even if you only want to be Chu Liuyue’s second legal wife, the Prime Minister Zhang’s Mansion may disagree. Chu Liuyue won’t go against Prime Minister Zhang for you!” Chu Qing frowned slightly as if he sincerely cared about Princess Yuyan’s future. But in fact, he didn’t want to intervene in this matter. Anyway, he had nothing to do with whatever chaos Yuyan caused in the end. One thing was sure: both Chu Liuchen and Chu Liuyue were not to be pushed around.

When he returned to his mansion, he wouldn’t visit this place again unless necessary and would keep a certain distance from Princess Yuyan.

“That’s not necessarily true. Is Prime Minister Zhang’s daughter as beautiful as me? Moreover, my mother is the imperial consort of the Xu State, and my brother will be the King in the future. Just because of this, he will want to marry me!” Princess Yuyan analyzed proudly. She didn’t believe that Chu Liuyue wouldn’t be attracted to her. When their longingly gaze met that day, she could tell Prince Yue admired her. At first glance, his desire and interest were aroused by her. Princess Yuyan would not make a mistake about that.

“Well, I don’t care, but be careful not to let anyone get anything on you.” Chu Qing didn’t intend to persuade her. He nodded at once to show that he agreed with her idea. Then he stood up and reminded her, “Since you have no intention of marrying me, I should avoid arousing suspicion. In the near future, I won’t come over. Don’t come to me if you have nothing to do, lest others misunderstand!”

Of course, he meant he was afraid that Chu Liuyue might misunderstand them. If Chu Liuyue was really interested in Princess Yuyan, he would not be willing to see Princess Yuyan get close to another man, especially Chu Qing. After all, it had once been rumored that Princess Yuyan and Chu Qing would get married.

Princess Yuyan thought it made sense. At this moment, Chu Qing seemed more pleasing to the eye. A charming smile faintly emerged on her face. Princess Yuyan looked amiable and tender. Everything was just like the beautiful scene when she met Chu Qing for the first time in the Xu State. “You’re so thoughtful. I’ll pay attention to it. But since I’ve just come here, I don’t know much about your country. I need some information!”

“Don’t worry. It’s not a big deal. I’ll ask someone to send you the information about Chu Liuyue, Chu Liuxin, and even Prince Cheng.” Chu Qing agreed readily. Since he had decided to let Princess Yuyan explore the way ahead, he would undoubtedly do something to help her. Giving her some widely known information was not an issue. He should show his goodwill to Princess Yuyan and relax her vigilance toward him.

“Thank you very much, Your Highness!” Princess Yuyan replied happily and even politely. She bowed sideways to Chu Qing and reassured him with a smile, “Don’t worry. After I succeed, my family will help you quickly rise to the top. This is your way to success, and no one is more suitable than you.”

“Thank you, Your Highness!” Chu Qing also returned the salute.

The two of them behaved courteously to each other, well displaying elegant demeanor as descendants of aristocratic families. Anyone seeing this scene could hardly imagine that they had almost started fighting.

Chu Qing left satisfied, while Princess Yuyan sent him off to the door. Watching his carriage leave, she waved goodbye to show they were in harmony.

She stared after his carriage until it disappeared around a corner. Afterward, she entered the mansion. Instead of going back to her courtyard, she went to Princess Yutao's place.

The mansion was huge, but the two princesses lived independently on each side, far away from each other. If they didn't go to see each other, they had no chance of coming across each other.

Princess Yutao had asked the palace maid to light the lamps in the room. Hearing that Princess Yuyan was on her way here, she was slightly stunned and asked someone to invite Princess Yuyan in.

"Eldest Sister, have you decided which guests you want to invite?" As soon as Princess Yuyan entered the door, she asked amiably and smiled broadly.

"I was thinking about it. I've come up with several names. Do you want to add some?" Princess Yutao pointed to a piece of paper on the table and said. There were only a few names on it, and Princess Chen's name stood out.

"Let me do it. Tomorrow, Infanta Yuan'an will come over. I'll discuss with her whom we should invite. We've just arrived here, so we need local people's guidance. I'm afraid that we might offend some people without noting it. What do you think?" Princess Yuyan's attitude was quite different from the past. People who didn't know the truth would think she was another princess.

However, Princess Yutao was used to it. She didn't want to do this. It was best for Princess Yuyan to take it over, and she didn't mind it at all. "Then take it!"

"Thank you, Eldest Sister!" Princess Yuyan was delighted and became perfectly courteous to her. She had to draw up a list of names with Infanta Yuan'an carefully...

Chapter 1150 Infanta Qinghua Died Unjustly!

E'niang's visit to the Rui'an Great Elder Princess's Mansion was not going well — she could not even enter the gate.

Seeing her like this with no trustworthy name card, people in the mansion refused to deliver her message. For three days in a row, E'niang failed to meet Rui'an Great Elder Princess, which made her anxious. After thinking for a whole night, she got up early the next day and waited outside the mansion.

As expected, Rui'an Great Elder Princess's special carriage came out of the mansion when it was time.

E'niang had heard yesterday that Rui'an Great Elder Princess would see Princess Chen today. She left early because she would pay her respects to the Empress Dowager in the Palace after meeting Princess Chen.

!!

The carriage slowly left the mansion. In it, Rui'an Great Elder Princess looked fine. She felt she was in much better spirits than three years ago. She was no longer as listless as before. Now, whatever she was doing, she felt pretty energetic.

She had an intelligent granddaughter and a sensible and lovely grandson. Though she still felt sad when thinking of her daughter, her current situation made her grateful to heaven for her luck.

Knowing Shao Wanru was sick again, she went to see her. She was finally relieved when she was sure that Shao Wanru was okay.

Today, she wanted to go out and have a look at her granddaughter again. She got up early in the morning so as to talk more with Shao Wanru in the Prince Chen's Mansion.

But a sudden braking of the carriage nearly tumbled Rui'an Great Elder Princess out. Inertia pushed her forward. Fortunately, the servant girls on her side reacted quickly. They grabbed her sleeves and managed to stabilize her.

"What's going on?" By holding the window, Nanny Gao struggled to stand firm and shouted angrily to the outside.

The carriage stopped so abruptly that the people in it almost had an accident.

"Great Elder Princess, someone stopped the carriage!" The coachman was also shocked. A person suddenly jumped out of the roadside, and he only had time to hold the reins tightly.

Glaring at the woman before him, the coachman felt a sudden surge of anger. Was this woman blind or stupid? She rushed straight out and rashly reached out to stop the carriage. It might knock her down and kill her. Didn't she know that?

It was said that the carriage from the Ruiping Great Elder Princess's Mansion had an accident. As a result, Infanta Yuan'an's face was disfigured, and the coachman ended up in trouble.

Nanny Gao looked at Rui'an Great Elder Princess. After ensuring she was okay, Nanny Gao lifted the carriage curtain and got out. A woman stood before the carriage, and Nanny Gao sized her up. With a frown, she asked unhappily, "Who are you? Why did you stop Her Grace's carriage?"

This woman looked a little familiar. She was about 30 years old, but somehow she made people feel unpleasant. Because she appeared overly tender and charming, Nanny Gao did not like her very much.

"Nanny Gao... do you... do you still remember me?" E'niang knelt with a thud, wailed in tears., and looked at Nanny Gao excitedly.

"Who... who are you?" In shock, Nanny Gao stepped back and looked at the E'niang suspiciously.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess asked someone to lift the curtain in the carriage, and her face darkened. Looking down from the window, she saw the woman kneeling before Nanny Gao. From her angle, she could only see the top of her head, so she couldn't recognize her.

Although it was early, some people passed by. Seeing this scene, the passers-by stopped one after another, wondering what was happening!

"Nanny Gao, I am E'niang... E'niang!" Seeing Nanny Gao's confused look, E'niang moved a few steps forward on her knees and cried, "I am E'niang, Infanta Qinghua's servant girl. Nanny Gao, do you still remember me?"

"The servant girl of Infanta Qinghua?" Nanny Gao was stunned. In disbelief, she reached out to rub her eyes and looked at E'niang again.

In the carriage, Rui'an Great Elder Princess's face changed dramatically. "This woman came to me finally. Zhuozhuo has told me to be on guard against her." A trace of sharpness flashed in her eyes.

"The Marquis Xing's Mansion never stops plotting against Zhuozhuo. After Zhuozhuo rebuffed her, she turned to deal with me!"

"Nanny Gao, let's go back to the mansion!" Rui'an Great Elder Princess ordered coldly without any hesitation.

"Yes, we should return to the mansion first!" Nanny Gao quickly caught on and ordered the coachman, who didn't understand why he had to return when just going out. Nevertheless, he certainly didn't dare to disobey his master's order. So, the carriage turned around and went back to the mansion.

"Miss, please come in first. Let's talk inside. I really can't recognize whether you are... or not!" Nanny Gao kindly reached out to pull E'niang up and said after patting her clothes.

"I enter the mansion so easily." E'niang was overjoyed. "Rui'an Great Elder Princess seems to care much more about Infanta Qinghua than Princess Chen. That is good. The more she cares, the better!"

She followed Nanny Gao into the mansion and waited outside a courtyard nearby. After a while, she saw Rui'an Great Elder Princess. Surrounded by many servant girls and old maids, she walked forward and stopped before E'niang.

"Greetings, Your Grace!" E'niang knelt and did not dare to look up, her eyes landing on the Rui'an Great Elder Princess's feet.

After a long while, the feet moved.

"Get up first!" Nanny Gao pulled her and let her get up.

E'niang stood up carefully. Behind Nanny Gao, she didn't dare to glance around at all.

Upon arriving at the main room, she saw Rui'an Great Elder Princess sitting high above. Instantly, she went down on her knees again and said, "Greetings, Your Grace!"

"Are you... the girl coming back with Qinghua?" Rui'an Great Elder Princess's grim eyes fell on this woman with a trace of hatred flicking.

"The Marquis Xing's Mansion, the Marquis Xing's Mansion again!"

"Yes... I am... Your Grace, I... I finally saw you... I thought I could never see you again in this life!"

E'niang choked out in excitement and started weeping softly.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess cooled down and intoned, "Tell me what this is all about. Didn't you say you were with Marquis Xing? What do you mean by doing this?"

Fury burnt in her heart. Accompanied by her granddaughter and grandson, she had thought she could forget all these miserable things. However, now she realized she had not forgotten the past but just buried it deep in her heart.

E'niang was not surprised that Rui'an Great Elder Princess had learned about it. Long ago, she had planned for this situation: Princess Chen mentioned her to Rui'an Great Elder Princess.

"Your Grace... I had no choice. Since I accompanied Infanta Qinghua back, I had been serving the little heir of a duke given birth by her. Madam Jiang hated me to the bone. Later, my master passed away. I had no other way but to follow Marquis Xing... Otherwise... I wouldn't even have survived. Later... later, I left the Marquis Xing's Mansion!"

E'niang said while wiping away her tears.

She lowered her head but couldn't dry her eyes. What had happened to her in the Marquis Xing's Mansion? Infanta Qinghua had died at that time, and she became a helpless servant girl. Worse still, for Infanta Qinghua, she had provoked Madam Jiang. When no one was around to protect her, she could only rely on Shao Jing, Marquis Xing, who was relatively reliable.

Rui'an Great Elder Princess was immersed in the grief of losing her biological daughter. How could she think of an unimportant servant girl?

"Is that why you chose to be Marquis Xing's mistress?" Rui'an Great Elder Princess asked in a deep voice.

"Your Grace, I had no other way out... If I hadn't chosen to be with him... I might have died... My death was not a big deal. But... I just felt Madam Jiang was too... too much..." E'niang wiped away her tears hard and looked up at Rui'an Great Elder Princess pleadingly. "Your Grace, if it hadn't been for Madam Jiang, my master wouldn't have died so early!"

"What... do you mean?" Rui'an Great Elder Princess asked nervously, her hand pressing the table corner hard.

"Your Grace, I've seen Her Highness, but I didn't mention it, for I was worried that she might raise an uproar. She was young, after all. Besides, I witnessed it as a servant girl, and it had been so many years. Even if I explain it clearly, others won't believe me," said E'niang, cleverly straightening out her unpleasant meeting with Shao Wanru and making her words plausible.

She made a proof all-round without any omission and explained why she kept this secret from Shao Wanru. Rui'an Great Elder Princess felt she had really underestimated this servant girl named E'niang. Slowly, she pressed her hand against her chest to appease herself.

"Go ahead!"

"That day, my master gave birth to the little heir of a duke. She had been in a confused state of mind, but occasionally, she would sober up a little bit. At such times, Madam Jiang would deliberately send someone to talk about the former heir of a duke, accusing my master of bringing disasters to him. His death was all her fault. If it weren't for her, he wouldn't..."

E'niang choked with sobs when defending her master against injustice.

“Madam Jiang ordered her people to say all this from time to time. Otherwise, my master wouldn’t have... so early. It was Madam Jiang who hounded my master to death. I strove to survive only to bring this message to you. Then, you could avenge my master’s death. Your Grace... I’ll have no regrets even if I die now!”

...

E’niang denounced with grief and indignation.

Judging by her pitiful performance, others would believe she was a servant girl loyal to her master.

Without her granddaughter’s warning, Rui’an Great Elder Princess believed she would have been touched by this maid and even blamed herself. She might have thought the tragedy was all her fault. Back then, she didn’t pay any attention to this maid. Thus, E’niang had to find ways to survive with Shao Jing’s help. Even worse, Rui’an Great Elder Princess might have thought that E’niang became Shao Jing’s mistress mainly because she hated Madam Jiang.

When encountering such a loyal servant girl in the past, Rui’an Great Elder Princess would strongly support her. Of course, she would want to use her to deal with Madam Jiang. Recently, Madam Jiang never showed up in public. Even if Rui’an Great Elder Princess was eager to go and deal with her, she had no chance!

This servant girl seized the right time and acted according to Rui’an Great Elder Princess’s character. With her personality, Rui’an Great Elder Princess would avenge her daughter’s murder and make Madam Jiang suffer. In such circumstances, was there any better way than taking away everything that Madam Jiang cared about most?

If it weren’t for Shao Wanru, Rui’an Great Elder Princess would have been tricked...

“Nice girl! You have suffered for so many years. It was my negligence. I overlooked your situation!” Rui’an Great Elder Princess said.

“It’s what I should do. For my master, I’m ready to sacrifice everything. But, Madam Jiang... She... I’m too weak to do anything about her. Your Grace, please uphold justice for my master. She died unjustly!” E’niang’s voice was choked with sobs, but she still kowtowed heavily to Rui’an Great Elder Princess a few times. After that, she raised her head and said with hatred.

She was now a loyal servant girl who would do anything for her master. Anyone who heard her explanation and saw her sad and angry look would think she was telling the truth...