

## Medical Princess 1161

### Chapter 1161 Something Was Wrong with Chu Liuyue

After saying that, Yujie reached out to pick the flower. She had never seen this kind of vine, which might have high medical value. To show it to Mingqiu Nun, she stooped down to take one. Since Yujie had done this many times, she knew it would likely be the case. Its medicinal value, in Yujie's judgment, was much more critical than its ornamental value.

As Shao Wanru heard her words, her eyes also alighted on these vines. She picked up the hem of her dress and walked over.

Shao Wanru didn't notice them at first. With a closer look, she found these vines were indeed unusual. She had never seen this kind of vine. It didn't seem to be what Princess Yuyan or Princess Yutao liked. Even she herself had ignored them.

Only Yujie caught sight of these blooms, though they were not very beautiful. Of course, they could not compare with those sheets of blossoms for ornament as beautiful as rosy clouds. However, because Yujie had been living in the mountain area, she preferred wildflowers like them.

If Yujie didn't mention these tiny flowers, Shao Wanru wouldn't notice. How could Princess Yuyan and Princess Yutao find this kind of flower?

"They are... newly transplanted, right?" The green leaves were so lush that she could not see the bottom.

Yujie carefully reached out to flick the vines and nodded. "Yes, they have been transplanted lately. The two princesses moved into this garden not long ago, so many flowers and plants must have been moved here recently."

Qing'er also came over, looked through the branches and leaves that Yujie had just parted, and said, "Unlike others, this plant has not yet fully recovered. It should have been placed here in the past few days."

There were newly transplanted flowers and plants along the way, but they had fully recovered. At least they had been here for more than ten days. These flowers competing in splendor had not withered a little. But the few tiny flowers before them appeared weak and weary, very listless after the transplantation.

Without close observation, they would notice nothing abnormal. But after a closer look, something unusual emerged.

When Yujie raised her hand to nip off the flower again, Shao Wanru walked over.

This courtyard was covered with flowers and plants. On their way here, the air was heavy with the scent of flowers. Surprisingly, these small flowers barely had any fragrance. Shao Wanru inexplicably felt a little strange. This cluster of flowers gave her an exceedingly weird feeling.

It was as if something had been forgotten.

She looked around, searching up and down. But everything was perfectly normal. With crisp sounds of birds singing, this place was no different from other pavilions for rest.

The fragrance of tea wafted in the air. Occasionally, the breeze would send the scent of the flowers. Along with the songs of birds, this scene was a perfect delight to both the eye and the mind.

The pavilion was in a lovely location adjacent to a rockery and a small lake. The lake was full of green lotus leaves, among which a few pink lotus buds had shown their pointed tips. Small touches like these delicate buds gave the leaf-covered pond its beauty and vitality. It was indeed a delightful place to enjoy the flowers and scenery.

"Let's go!" Shao Wanru frowned slightly and said, feeling inexplicably uneasy.

"My Lady, it's a nice place. Why don't you rest a little longer?" Yujie, squatting on the ground, looked up at Shao Wanru and asked with a small flower she picked in her hand.

Qing'er also looked at Shao Wanru in surprise. She didn't understand why Shao Wanru suddenly wanted to leave.

"I think this place is too quiet and a little out-of-the-way..." Before Shao Wanru could finish her words, she saw someone coming from the corner of her eyes and immediately stopped talking.

Unexpectedly, Chu Liuyue appeared at the intersection near the rockery. Since he came from the pavilion's side, he only saw someone in the pavilion but didn't notice who it was. He strode over, followed by a young eunuch. When he turned to the front of the pavilion and saw Shao Wanru in the pavilion, he seemed stunned.

"Princess Chen?"

"Greetings, Your Highness!" Since she had seen him, Shao Wanru could not be impolite. She took a step forward and bowed first.

"Forego formalities. Were you here just now?" Chu Liuyue's eyes fell on Shao Wanru's face. She stood sideways with a respectful expression. In profile, she looked tender and stunningly beautiful. Her facial features were delicate, and her rosy lips were dazzling, though without any makeup. When Chu Liuyue saw her like this, he had a lot going on in his head.

He had thought Zhang Qilan was here but didn't expect to see Shao Wanru. Why would she look for him?

Never had he imagined that it was Shao Wanru. Chu Liuyue knew it was time to leave. However, seeing her flower-like delicate features, he felt like staying.

"I was tired after the walk, so I have a rest here!" Shao Wanru stood up straight and explained.

"Mm." Chu Liuyue said noncommittally. Then, he strode into the pavilion and sat on the stone bench. The young eunuch beside him hurried forward to pour him a cup of tea and retreated aside.

Chu Liuyue took a sip and nodded. The tea was not bad. Then, he looked up at Shao Wanru, who was still standing at the pavilion's entrance, pointed at the stone bench before him, and said, "Your Highness, please sit down!"

"She asked me to come over for something, but why is she so reserved? Could it be that there are too many people here?"

Looking at her two servant girls and his young eunuch, Chu Liuyue waved his hand. Right away, the eunuch sensibly retreated to the pavilion's entrance and stood there with Yujie and Qing'er.

Shao Wanru hesitated. But since she couldn't leave without saying anything, she walked up to Chu Liuyue and said, "Your Highness, if you are tired, you can rest for a while. I have had a good rest and will take my leave now!"

"Are you leaving?" Chu Liuyue played with the teacup in his hand, his eyes on Shao Wanru. Without any outsiders around, he could look at her closely.

She was wearing a very simple lavender dress with an eight-panel lower hem. Her slender waist was slightly tied up by a beautiful belt, and only a hairpin tilted upward on her black hair. The beads hanging down were not big but made her more delicate than flowers. She seemed to have never adorned herself with finery whenever she appeared in front of others.

He looked down and fixed his eyes on her red lips. Chu Liuyue had seen her several times, so he knew her rosy lip color was natural without a dab of lipstick. Though she did not say anything or smile, he was tempted to taste the corners of her lips. He wanted to know if such brightly-colored lips were soft and sweet.

For some reason, his breathing quickened.

"I've had a good rest. I won't disturb your rest!" Shao Wanru said indifferently.

Her manner was cool, but her scarlet lips were full of charm in Chu Liuyue's eyes. For Chu Liuyue, Shao Wanru was like Shao Yanru, who liked giving herself airs to reject.

"Sure enough, they are sisters from the same mansion." Chu Liuyue smiled. Even though the two sisters did not grow up together, they acted similarly. Since they held themselves slightly aloof at heart, others could not imitate their offhand manner.

Fortunately, he had been used to Shao Yanru's ambivalent attitude and always knew how to handle this situation. In his eyes, Shao Wanru was like Shao Yanru, who did not want to break through her reserve and wanted to be respected.

If it were another woman, he would not bother chatting with or pleasing her. But Chu Liuyue was willing to cheer Shao Wanru up, making her feel respected and letting her keep a reserved manner.

"You don't have to be in a hurry. My third brother will be here in a while. Have a seat first. You can go back with him later!" Chu Liuyue said mildly with a charming smile.

"Thank you for your kindness, Your Highness, but Miss Zhang is waiting for me ahead." Shao Wanru made up an excuse because she didn't want to stay with Chu Liuyue.

"Is Zhang Qilan on the road before her?" Chu Liuyue was a little displeased. On the way here, he did not meet Zhang Qilan at all. Instead, Shao Wanru called him over in the name of Zhang Qilan. But what did she mean now? When he arrived, she looked determined to leave, as if he wanted to force her to do something.

Chu Liuyue grew increasingly restless, possibly because of her attractive appearance or because of her cold attitude.

Chu Liuyue thought even if he wanted to coax her, she should stop before going too far instead of acting spoiled before him. "You don't have to leave in such a hurry. Miss Zhang will be here soon."

"Miss Zhang will be here soon?" Shao Wanru was puzzled about this situation, looking at Chu Liuyue in astonishment.

Her beautiful, lustrous eyes fell on Chu Liuyue. Her eyes were crystal clear, making the corners of her rosy mouth more alluring. As her long eyelashes fluttered twice, Chu Liuyue's heart thudded.

Impatiently, he stood up and walked up to Shao Wanru with his hands clasped behind his back. The wind went through the pavilion, blowing up Shao Wanru's dress. Though she was simply dressed in a light purple dress, she was of peerless beauty. Shao Wanru was drop-dead gorgeous, more charismatic than Shao Yanru in his eyes.

Involuntarily, he stretched out his hand and said, "Please sit down and wait for a while. She will come soon!"

He leaned over abruptly before Shao Wanru could react. Then they were too close to each other. Seeing him reach out his hand again, Shao Wanru was so scared that she took a few steps back and almost fell. Fortunately, Qing'er behind her reacted quickly and flung out an arm to stop her from falling.

Chu Liuyue missed her hand and only managed to pull her sleeve.

"Your Highness, please behave yourself!" Shao Wanru exploded with rage, pulling back her sleeve hard.

Chu Liuyue looked at his empty hand, and his frown grew deeper. He looked toward Princess Chen with icy eyes and said, "I think you should mind your conduct. Since you have invited me here, why do you pretend to be indifferent to me? In this case, why would you send someone to invite me in the name of Miss Zhang? Won't you afraid Miss Zhang will be angry when she finds it out?"

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Chu Liuyue flew into a rage out of humiliation. In his eyes, Shao Wanru pushed too far when playing hard to get.

"I invited you here in the name of Miss Zhang?" Shao Wanru was quite taken aback. After a long time, she finally came to her senses, looking around vigilantly. In a flash, she knew she might have fallen into someone's trap.

Not just her but also Chu Liuyue had been tricked.

She moved back several steps and backed straight to the pavilion's entrance. "Your Highness, you made a mistake. I just came here and never asked you to come over. Maybe Miss Zhang made the appointment. But you misunderstood!"

At this time, having a horrible feeling, she let her eyes settle upon Chu Liuyue's agitated face. Strangely, a dull flush crept into his delicate and handsome face, perhaps because of anger or something else. He

fixed his glaring eyes on her. Seeing her step back, he pressed on toward her, trying again to grab Shao Wanru.

Something was wrong with Chu Liuyue...

Chapter 1162 She Believed It to Be a Secret Date!

Chu Liuyue had always been calm. As the Emperor's eldest son, he maintained his dignified image perfect in every way, and always kept a certain distance from others.

How could he become so emotional at this time?

Even if he had been tricked into coming here, he should have left at this time instead of being entangled with her.

Shao Wanru immediately had a miserable hunch that someone must have seen them like this. So, who was this scene meant for? She took a few more steps back and decisively withdrew from the pavilion.

Qing'er and Yujie stood in front of her.

"Your Highness, I'm afraid you've fallen into someone's trap. I didn't invite you over. I would never do such a thing, let alone ask you to see me in the name of Miss Zhang. I didn't know where you were. Besides, we had nothing to do with each other before this, so how could I want to see you?"

Shao Wanru raised her cold eyes and reminded Chu Liuyue.

In the past, Chu Liuyue would have listened to her and left immediately. But now, Chu Liuyue, dominated by inexplicable anger, was pissed off. He felt Shao Wanru was playing hard to get and went too far.

He took a few strides forward to chase after her, forcefully pulling away Yujie, who was an eyesore to him. Then he was about to get Shao Wanru, who was hiding behind another servant girl. His eyes were full of angry flames as he said, "You made a nice speech. Did you mean I came uninvited? But you asked me to come here, saying you had something to tell me!"

Chu Liuyue became more and more annoyed. His hand was pushed away by Qing'er, but he reached out again. His eyes, with anger or excitement, fixed on Shao Wanru's cherry lips as if they could appease him.

Shao Wanru didn't expect Chu Liuyue to be so irrational. After retreating again and again, she suddenly stood still and asked, "Your Highness, don't you think it strange? You have always been calm, but how can you be so furious now? Have you been drugged?"

She stared at Chu Liuyue, her steel eyes without a trace of warmth. Chu Liuyue even spotted a hint of sarcasm in her eyes.

Somehow, he became angrier and felt like rushing over to grab Shao Wanru with all his strength!

"Your Highness!" Xiao Qizi, who was waiting outside, finally sensed something was wrong. He took out something from the pocket before his chest. After two steps forward, he hurriedly reached out to stop

Chu Liuyue. Shao Wanru didn't know what was in his hand. But after he put it in Chu Liuyue's palm, Chu Liuyue shivered and came to a sudden halt, looking puzzled and uncertain.

"Your Highness, I'm afraid you have been plotted against. Someone must have seen this scene. If you come closer, I'm afraid you can't bear the consequences!" Seeing him calm down a little, Shao Wanru warned coldly.

Chu Liuyue's face was still slightly red, and his eyes were gloomy. He took a deep breath to calm himself down. There was a piece of cool jade in his hand. When he held it, his palm became cold. He had asked Xiao Qizi to keep it for him. Chu Liuyue feared he would do something he might regret when he was upset.

Feeling the coldness in his hands, he saw Shao Wanru step back repeatedly, her eyes cold. Finally, Chu Liuyue felt something was wrong. Just now, he was very impulsive, much different from what he used to be.

He looked around. As he chased after Shao Wanru, she kept retreating and reached the rockery. Half of his visual field was blocked by the rockery, and the other half was the tilted corner of the eaves. He couldn't see anyone else among shades of trees and flowers, but it didn't mean that others couldn't see him.

He touched his hot forehead, waved at Shao Wanru, and said with difficulty, "Please go back!"

Shao Wanru nodded, turned around, and left with her two servant girls. Anyway, this was not a safe place to stay for a long time. There must be something wrong with the bunch of flowers at the pavilion door. She saw Chu Liuyue's change clearly. When he came here, he behaved normally, but later he became abnormal and increasingly furious.

The Xu State was in a remote and undeveloped area. Many things there were mysterious to her, and even Mingqiu Nun might not know these foreign things. If this plant were useless, Princess Yuyan wouldn't put it here.

If it was just an ordinary bunch of tiny flowers, Princess Yuyan needn't have spent so much effort to move it here. But there was no evidence for this kind of thing. After all, many things in the Xu State still remained unknown to the Kingdom of Dongcang.

But it was strange that the flower didn't affect her, the two servant girls, and the young eunuch. Only Chu Liuyue turned agitated. It seemed that he must have drunk, smelled, or taken something before coming here.

The investigation of this matter should start with Chu Liuyue...

The loft faced the pavilion. Zhang Qilan and Infanta Yuan'an sat there and tasted tea while enjoying the scenery. The scenery was charming. Although this place was not spacious, it was elegant and quiet. Some items from the Xu State were placed there. They had never seen any of them in the Kingdom of Dongcang. Zhang Qilan was very curious. She leaned against the rail, talking to Infanta Yuan'an while enjoying the view.

It was a coincidence that she met Infanta Yuan'an. She was wandering around with her servant girl. In the past, she was not very familiar with Infanta Yuan'an. Zhang Qilan was too embarrassed to separate from her when meeting her here.

Both of them were going to marry into the royal family. Zhang Qilan would marry into the Prince Yue's Mansion first. After that, Infanta Yuan'an would get married. Since they would be sisters-in-law in the future, they could not ignore each other.

After enjoying the scenery together for a while, they came upstairs. They leaned against the rail by the window and chatted while admiring the view.

Suddenly, Zhang Qilan saw Shao Wanru in the pavilion with her two servant girls. She frowned slightly but maintained her composure.

Ever since she heard rumors about Prince Yue and Shao Wanru, she disliked Shao Wanru from the bottom of her heart.

She had thought Shao Wanru was a tender and gentle girl, but now she felt Shao Wanru had been pretending to be a nice girl. She knew Prince Yue long ago, and they had an affection for each other. Prince Yue even went to the Empress and asked to marry her. If Prince Chen hadn't acted before Prince Yue, Shao Wanru would have been Princess Yue now.

"Then how does Prince Yue think of me? Am I the woman he casually chose when he failed to marry his beloved one?"

Zhang Qilan had heard that Prince Yue took a fancy to First Miss Shao. But no matter how much he liked her, no one had ever heard he officially asked the Empress to let First Miss Shao marry him. It could be seen that this rumor was not valid. Only Shao Wanru was the woman Prince Yue wanted to marry.

For this reason, Zhang Qilan felt very uncomfortable.

Shao Wanru was injured. She had wanted to visit her, but after hearing such a rumor, she didn't want to go. Later, they all went to the Palace for the Empress Dowager's birthday party. To show her concern and respect, she forced herself to see Shao Wanru. But somehow, she only hid behind the small tent. Prince Yue, instead of Prince Zhou, visited Shao Wanru in person at that time. Seeing that, she was even more jealous.

He still couldn't let go of Shao Wanru in his heart.

What did Shao Wanru mean? She was still hooking up with Prince Yue at this time. Did she want to keep this affectionate relationship with Prince Yue? As a woman from a small place, Shao Wanru did not know women should be dignified and decent. Never could they defy female virtues. Since she married Prince Chen, she should live a peaceful life with Prince Chen and not have an affair with Prince Yue.

In Zhang Qilan's view, Prince Yue still bore her in mind only because Shao Wanru was a cheap woman with loose morals.

Thinking that she had treated such a woman as a friend, Zhang Qilan felt sick. She regretted thinking highly of Shao Wanru at that time. Now, she hated Shao Wanru even more deeply.

"What's wrong? Did you see anything attractive?" Infanta Yuan'an asked with a smile as if she had just found Zhang Qilan in a daze. There was a proud and self-satisfied look in her eyes, but Zhang Qilan didn't notice it. It was almost time. Infanta Yuan'an wanted to enjoy the show. But for fear of arousing Zhang Qilan's suspicion, she had better pretend she didn't see anything unusual.

"Nothing." Zhang Qilan looked away calmly. She picked up the lukewarm tea on the table and took a few sips. After calming down, she couldn't help looking at the pavilion again. There, Chu Liuyue appeared at the small intersection. Seeing this, she clenched the handkerchief in her hand. "As expected, they keep in contact with each other."

"They... They can't bear to stay away from each other, even in the courtyard of the Xu State Princesses. Does it mean they have been secretly dating somewhere I can't see?"

Zhang Qilan felt a sudden sharp pain in her chest, as if her heart had been stabbed hard by a knife. She was burning with wrath and fixed her eyes on Chu Liuyue. She watched him enter the pavilion. Without outsiders, they should have stayed away from each other to avoid arousing suspicion!

Due to the hanging gauze curtain around the pavilion, she couldn't see the whole scene inside. She saw Chu Liuyue sit down and stand up. It seemed that he had walked up to Shao Wanru. They stayed close together and talked, hand in hand. Zhang Qilan bit the corner of her lip hard in hatred. How she wished she could go down and tear off Shao Wanru's gentle mask right now!

It took all Zhang Qilan's self-control not to break into a furious rage.

Infanta Yuan'an pretended not to notice Zhang Qilan's abnormal act. At this time, she was busy picking up the snacks on the table with her servant girl. They put these snacks on the table one by one to see which one looked more delicious.

Seeing that Infanta Yuan'an didn't notice her, Zhang Qilan looked toward the pavilion again. When she looked around, she found the two of them were gone. She suddenly turned her eyes to another place. From her position, she could only see small parts of clothes outside the rockery. "Oh, they... They hid in the rockery to do something intimate!"

Thinking they might have clung together in intimate postures behind the rockery, Zhang Qilan suddenly jumped up, and her face turned pale with anger.

"Miss Zhang, what's wrong?" Infanta Yuan'an was shocked and looked up at her in confusion.

"Nothing. I suddenly remembered something!" Zhang Qilan took a few deep breaths to steady her nerves and slowly sat down. In the past, she had been suspicious, but now she saw it for herself. They indeed had an affair. It was no longer her guess. Initially, she felt a little uneasy about this idea. This time, only fury was burning in her breast.

"Shao Wanru, a whore! How could this bitch seduce her husband's brother? They shamelessly meet secretly in someone else's mansion, hiding behind the rockery and flirting with each other." With this in mind, no matter how hard she tried, she could not suppress her anger. Picking up the cup nearby, she gulped half a cup of tea and slammed it down. With envy and hate in her eyes, she decided she would never let Shao Wanru go...

Chapter 1163 What Do You Mean?



"Did you forget something? Do you want me to help you?" Infanta Yuan'an asked seriously.

"No, nothing serious!" Zhang Qilan reached out to rub her forehead.

"It doesn't matter, even if it's not a big deal. Anyway, I have nothing to do!" Infanta Yuan'an said with a smile, "We are guests here. Perhaps, the two princesses invited only a few guests. So far, I've only seen you. If you have anything to do, I can help. I'm free anyway. It can relieve my boredom!"

There were indeed few people around them. Until now, Zhang Qilan had only seen Shao Wanru and Chu Liuyue.

"Let's go down for a walk!" Zhang Qilan thought for a moment, stood up, and said, "We've been here for so long. We have to go down and see other sceneries."

"Okay, that's what I have in mind!" Infanta Yuan'an agreed happily.

After tidying up their clothes slightly, they went downstairs with their servant girls. Before leaving the window, Zhang Qilan looked at the pavilion again. There was still no one there. She turned to look at the rockery, where she could vaguely see a corner of the clothes. The two of them were still dating there. They were shameless to the extreme.

She could no longer hide the hatred and anger in her heart. Her smile faded, and there was only bitter hatred in her eyes.

They went out of the loft, one in front of the other. Infanta Yuan'an pointed to a place ahead, saying she wanted to have a look. Zhang Qilan parted with her because she had to send someone to deal with some trivial matters of the Prime Minister Zhang's Mansion. Infanta Yuan'an had repeatedly said she could help, but Zhang Qilan said it was not convenient for her to intervene in the internal affairs of her mansion.

Helplessly, Infanta Yuan'an walked away.

After watching Infanta Yuan'an leave, Zhang Qilan turned around and walked to the pavilion she had seen before. No matter how kind Infanta Yuan'an was, she would be Princess Zhou. Thus, Zhang Qilan could not let her see this kind of thing. Otherwise, it might become something that Infanta Yuan'an could hold against Prince Yue. Zhang Qilan could not understand why Prince Yue would foolishly ask for trouble.

"Doesn't he know who Princess Chen is? How dare he get involved with her? Does he forget his ultimate ambition?"

"Does he like her so much that he could even let go of everything in his heart?"

Thinking of this, she became increasingly exasperated. After coming over, she went straight to the rockery. When she turned the corner, she saw Chu Liuyue standing by the pond with his hands clasped behind his back. Behind him was only Xiao Qizi, the eunuch.

She looked around but didn't find Shao Wanru.

"Miss Zhang!" Xiao Qizi was the first to see Zhang Qilan and hurried forward to salute her. Zhang Qilan was the future Princess Yue, so he did not dare to offend her.

Chu Liuyue turned around, his face gloomy. The excitement on his face had subsided, and now there was only coldness. How could he be in a good mood after being schemed against? Even when he saw Zhang Qilan appear here, his eyes remained dull — he did not look happy when seeing her.

Zhang Qilan felt another fit of anger.

“Greetings, Your Highness!” Zhang Qilan took a step forward and bowed.

“Did you ask someone to lure me here just now?” Chu Liuyue’s sharp eyes fell on Zhang Qilan’s face. The more he thought about it, the more suspicious he felt. When Zhang Qilan came over at this time, he began to doubt her motives.

“I didn’t lure you here!” Zhang Qilan shook her head. At first, she didn’t understand what he meant. But suddenly, she thought of something and became angry. “Did someone invite you here on my behalf?”

She didn’t say Shao Wanru’s name because she wanted to see Chu Liuyue’s reaction.

“Someone did it in your name, but you have no idea about it?” Chu Liuyue looked at her suspiciously.

The suspicion in his eyes made Zhang Qilan feel wronged. Although she had never thought of marrying Chu Liuyue, she accepted the marriage with him since she knew it. After all, Prince Yue was a handsome man admired by many Misses from aristocratic families in the capital city.

Prince Zhou was rough, Prince Chen was sick and terribly cool toward others, and Prince Xin was still immature. Compared with them, Prince Yue was the most eligible prince to be a husband.

“But what did he mean? Did he want to slander her and protect Shao Wanru, who had a secret date with him?”

“What do you mean? Did you see anyone coming?” Zhang Qilan’s eyes were burning with anger. With all her strength, she slightly suppressed her anger and asked.

“No one came over. I just saw you. If you have nothing to say, you can go back!” Chu Liuyue was very annoyed and reached out to rub his forehead. “It seems that it is not Zhang Qilan. Then who could it be? Who tricked me into coming here?”

He had always been cautious. If it hadn’t been for Zhang Qilan, he wouldn’t have come. Even if he had feelings for Shao Wanru, he wouldn’t believe it if anyone told him that Shao Wanru wanted to see him.

He knew very well that Shao Wanru had no feelings for him. It used to be the case, and the situation was still the same. When Shao Wanru married into Prince Chen’s Mansion, he accepted the reality, but he was still unwilling to take his defeat lying down.

However, he had gone too far just now. Chu Liuyue felt reluctant to tell others about it, not even Zhang Qilan. He wanted to hide this secret deep down in his heart, not allowing others to pry into his private affairs.

“Do you want to meet someone in this hidden place?” Zhang Qilan bit her lip and said. Though she knew she shouldn’t have said that, she couldn’t control herself. She had clearly seen Shao Wanru here, but now Shao Wanru was nowhere to be found. In addition, Chu Liuyue did not admit he had met Shao Wanru. It was evident that there was something fishy between them.

“Miss Zhang, what was that all about?” Chu Liuyue was annoyed and impatient. He waved his hand and said, “You want to stay here to appreciate the flowers, but I happen to have something to do. See you then!”

After that, he turned around and was about to leave.

He was in a bad mood and didn’t want to say anything to anyone. Moreover, he had to think about who had plotted against him. After entering this mansion, he had only drunk a cup of tea. Was there anything wrong with the tea?

“You don’t want to stay with me, but you enjoyed your time with someone else. Unfortunately, no matter how good she is, she has got married!” Zhang Qilan couldn’t stand it anymore and screamed.

Chu Liuyue stopped and rubbed his eyebrows, intending to relax himself a little. Then, he turned around, his eyes icy cold, “You are also a Miss from an aristocratic family. You should know misfortunes come from the mouth. A woman should be gentle and quiet. Don’t act like a gossip. Didn’t Prime Minister Zhang teach you this?”

After that, he swung his sleeve and left.

Zhang Qilan’s eyes turned red, and she shed tears of grievance. She wanted to reach out to pull Chu Liuyue, but he was not in the mood to pity her. After a few big strides, he was far away from her, leaving only a few reproaching remarks without warmth.

Watching Chu Liuyue leave, Zhang Qilan couldn’t help but tilt her head and cry. She knew Shao Wanru was not a decent woman. To see Prince Yue at the city gate, Shao Wanru had secretly booked a private room. Prince Yue treated her so badly even before Zhang Qilan married him. What kind of miserable life would she live if she married into his mansion?

“Miss, don’t cry!” The servant girl hurried forward to comfort her. She had been standing behind Zhang Qilan, so she also saw the scene in the pavilion and knew what Zhang Qilan was thinking about. While persuading her to calm down, she said indignantly, “Miss, stop crying. It’s useless for you to shed tears like this. You’d better think of a way. Princess Chen is utterly detestable. How can she do such a thing?”

“You also saw it, didn’t you?” Zhang Qilan asked to gain some support.

“Yes, I saw it. It’s disgusting. You treated this ungrateful woman so well in vain!” The servant girl was in a filthy mood, defending her master against injustice.

“What... what should I do? What should I do?” Zhang Qilan threw herself into the arms of the servant girl and cried.

“Miss, don’t be sad. We should never let Princess Chen get away with this. She must pay the price. Let’s think of a way to punish her!” The servant girl was loyal and supported Zhang Qilan wholeheartedly. She always put herself in Zhang Qilan’s shoes, thinking Princess Chen was a skittish woman. Because of her, Prince Yue hated her master.

“What else can I do? I... I can’t do anything about it!” Zhang Qilan wiped her tears, gritted her teeth, and said with hatred. Sure enough, she wouldn’t let Shao Wanru go. In the past, she was suspicious and didn’t want to get close to Shao Wanru. Now that she had witnessed her affair with Prince Yue, how

could she swallow the insult? Fortunately, Infanta Yuan'an turned away and overlooked her. Otherwise, she would feel too ashamed to show her face.

Infanta Yuan'an would become Princess Zhou, who would only make Zhang Qilan feel inferior after this incident.

A servant girl came from the intersection. Seeing Zhang Qilan, she stepped forward and bowed.

Zhang Qilan hurriedly turned her face away, for she didn't want others to see the tear traces on her face. She gently covered her face with a handkerchief and said lightly, "Get up!"

"I met Princess Chen just now. She asked me where you were. I said I didn't know!" The servant girl reported respectfully.

Zhang Qilan suddenly had an idea. "Did Princess Chen look for me?"

"Princess Chen has asked about your whereabouts!" the servant girl said.

"She probably wanted to find out where I was and have a secret date with Prince Yue!" Zhang Qilan sneered and was about to ask her to leave. But when she saw the plate in her hand, she suddenly thought of something and turned her eyes to the pavilion. There were two teacups in the pavilion. It was obvious that they had just had a secret date here, but Prince Yue lied through his teeth.

"Are you going to clean up the tea inside now?" Zhang Qilan asked.

...

Usually, when there was a banquet in the mansion, some servant girls would be responsible for cleaning up the food and tea in the pavilions. If someone left, they would take the tea away. They would feel whether the tea was still warm if no one came. When the tea turned cold, they would make new tea and send it over. They would do the same with the fruit.

"Yes!" The servant girl answered. The plate in her hand was empty then, but it would be half full when she took it away later.

"Is there a tea room nearby?" Zhang Qilan looked around and asked.

The tea would get cold after being brewed for a long time. Thus, there had to be a tea room nearby for boiling water and preparing fruit. One tea room could provide tea and food for several nearby resting places. Generally, people in the mansion who held a banquet would do this. The servants couldn't bring the tea from the kitchen. It was too far away, and the tea would be cold when reaching the resting spots.

"It's nearby. Miss Zhang, do you need any snacks?" The servant girl thought Zhang Qilan wanted to eat something that this resting spot didn't have. Some common snacks were placed here, but there were many more. Sometimes, different places had different kinds of snacks. What Zhang Qilan wanted to taste might not be available here.

"Are there a lot of snacks in the tea room?"

"Yes, a lot. The two princesses specially asked some people to make them. There are even some Xu State snacks," the servant girl replied.

"Let's go. Take me there to have a look!" A trace of coldness flashed across Zhang Qilan's eyes. She clenched her fists and slowly unclenched them. "Shao Wanru, you are ruthless. Then, don't blame me for being heartless."

"Yes. Please let me take the two cups of tea!" The servant girl said. Zhang Qilan waved her hand and agreed.

#### Chapter 1164 Dessert on one Plate

The tea room was not very far away. Zhang Qilan followed the servant girl and reached there after taking a few turns. Along the way, Zhang Qilan learned about the situation. This tea room provided tea and pastries for six resting places in total. The paths inside were winding. These resting places, neither too far nor too close, were approximately the same distance from this tea room.

Upon arrival, they saw a lot of people inside the tea room. There were old maids doing the cleaning and servant girls bringing and sending items. They all seemed very busy. Although they talked to each other occasionally, they were quick in doing their jobs.

Zhang Qilan followed the servant girl to a place for storing pastries.

There were many kinds of pastries here. They were placed on the plates and had not been taken out yet. Many of them had just been steamed and were still steaming with heat.

!!

"Can I pick some snacks?" Zhang Qilan looked at these busy servants in the tea room and asked.

"Of course, Miss Zhang. You can choose whatever you like. I'll take them for you!" The servant girl said with a grin.

Zhang Qilan looked at them and picked up a few hot pastries, which were still steaming. At first glance, she knew they were just freshly made. Their sweet fragrance gave people a good appetite. "Two pieces for each of these pastries. Please put them on two plates, one kind for each plate."

"Yes!" The servant girl answered and packed two identical plates of snacks for her.

Zhang Qilan looked at the two plates and frowned. "Are there any more beautiful plates?"

"Well... I'll go and look for them." The servant girl hesitated and answered.

"Then go and find the plates quickly. We'll wait here for a while!" Zhang Qilan's servant girl said.

The maid answered and left, walking inside to see if there were more outstanding plates. A lot of plates were brought to the tea room, but many of them had been sent to the resting pavilions. Therefore, she didn't know what kinds of plates remained there.

After the servant girl left, Zhang Qilan motioned to her servant girl. Then, with trembling hands, the servant girl took a small bag of powder from the pocket before her chest and sprinkled some on one of

the plates of pastries. However, a little fine powder was still visible. But after clouds of steam, the powder soon disappeared.

Zhang Qilan waited for a while and could no longer see the powder. Afterward, she changed a few pastries in the two plates. As a result, in each plate, some pastries were drugged, and some were not. After carefully remembering those pastries without the powder, she gently wiped her hands with a handkerchief.

The two plates on the table looked the same. Several pieces in each plate contained the powder, and some were not. She put the plate she needed in the front and the other in the back.

Zhang Qilan and her servant girls acted together quickly. Besides, there happened to be a few steamers on the table before them. Therefore, none of these busy servants coming and going noticed their little trick.

After that, since no one paid particular attention to them, Zhang Qilan walked out with her servant girl in boredom and waited outside the tea room.

Not long after, the servant girl of this courtyard ran out with sweat all over her face. She held a few delicate plates in her hand. When she saw Zhang Qilan outside, she breathed a sigh of relief. She ran over and asked, "Miss Zhang, what do you think of these plates?"

She had searched around inside the tea room just now. She saw the two plates with pastries, but Zhang Qilan was not in the room. She thought Zhang Qilan got bored waiting for her, so the servant girl chased after her in a hurry.

"These two plates!" Zhang Qilan picked out two identical blue plates with red flowers.

"Miss, I think the previous ones look better." The servant girl she brought here said with a smile, "Their patterns are red plum blossoms. Your favorite ones, right?"

Hearing her words, Zhang Qilan hesitated. "Do you think the previous ones look better?"

"Yes, I honestly think so," The maid nodded and said with certainty.

"Then... let's use the original ones!" After thinking for a while, Zhang Qilan said. She seemed to be easily influenced.

"I'll get them now!" The servant girl said with a smile.

Zhang Qilan nodded.

Since she had agreed, there was no need to change the plates. This time, she did not enter the room but asked her servant girl to go in with the servant girl from this courtyard.

After a while, the two servant girls came out. Her servant girl held a plate full of pastries in her hands. It was the plate they had chosen before. The plate had not been changed.

"Why is there only one plate?" Zhang Qilan looked at it and asked.

“Miss, I think I’d better put the other plate in the room. I’ll ask someone to get it when you finish this plate. I’ve asked them to put the other plate aside. If you want it, they can take it to you. When we go out, the snacks will turn cold quickly. It’s not good to eat too much cold food!”

The servant girl advised.

Her words sounded reasonable, so Zhang Qilan didn’t argue about it and asked her servant girl to reward this courtyard’s servant girl with a small purse of money. After she asked about the directions to the pavilions ahead, she slowly moved toward a direction. It was much faster to take a shortcut than to take detours.

Shao Wanru didn’t see anyone else along the way. Then, she sat down to rest in a place nearby. The scenery here was also good. A few pretty flowers were planted on the edge of a bamboo grove. They were huge, bright-colored, and beautiful, which were very attractive.

There was also a carpet of flowers as beautiful as rose-tinted clouds beside the pavilion.

Shao Wanru walked over, smelling the fragrance of flowers. When she sat down and looked around, the green bamboo forest seemed right before her, making this sea of flowers even more gorgeous. This pavilion was close to a courtyard on the side.

The courtyard was empty, and the door was open. Only two princesses lived temporarily in such a large area, so many places here were empty.

Yujie poured a cup of tea for her. Shao Wanru took a sip and looked at the beautiful scenery in front of her leisurely. She recalled what had happened just now.

“Yujie, have you seen the cluster of flowers at the entrance of the pavilion just now?” Shao Wanru asked.

Tiny flowers grew in the bushes. She had never seen such flowers.

“I haven’t seen them before. I think they look like wild blossoms in the mountain. How can the two foreign princesses like wild flowers in the mountain? Besides, these wild flowers are less bright and luxuriant than the ones before us.” Yujie shook her head, thinking that those flowers were not carefully cultivated. They must have grown only by themselves in the wilderness.

But how could noble princesses like Princess Yutao and Princess Yuyan plant such wild flowers?

Yujie could not figure it out.

After a short silence, Shao Wanru was more confident that these flowers were unusual. Princess Yuyan and Princess Yutao had only been in the capital city for a few days, and neither had left the city. In this case, how could they get these wild flowers? As for others, they could not give them these wild bush flowers as a gift.

Instead, they would only send precious flowers and plants.

Taking such worthless flowers as a gift to the two princesses would be humiliating.

Apart from these two possibilities, there was only one possibility: this kind of flower was brought here from the Xu State. People from the remote Xu State must know some unimaginable tricks, such as the Changxing Grass she knew and the wild flower she hadn't figured out.

"My Lady, isn't this Miss Zhang?" Yujie suddenly saw Zhang Qilan advance slowly from the intersection, and her eyes lit up.

Shao Wanru looked up and found Zhang Qilan also saw them. With a smile, Zhang Qilan walked over, followed by a servant girl holding a plate. The fresh pastries were still steaming.

"Greetings, Your Highness!" Zhang Qilan came over, bowed sideways to Shao Wanru with a smile, and said mischievously.

Shao Wanru stood up and said, "We are friends. Don't stand on ceremony. I heard you were in front, but I didn't expect you to go behind me!"

"I was ahead of you. Later, I wanted to get some fresh pastries, so I made a special visit to the tea room. I got some freshly baked pastries from there and came over!"

Zhang Qilan smiled and asked the servant girl to put down the pastries. She gently pushed them forward and said, "Let's try them together. They are the latest batch, much fresher than the ones placed here."

There were pastries on the stone table, but they were no longer hot. The pastries in Zhang Qilan's hands were still steaming hot. At first glance, one could tell that they were freshly baked. At this time, the tantalizing aroma of fresh pastries wafted toward them.

After strolling around for a while, Shao Wanru was indeed hungry. However, it was not time for the meal. In addition, the dessert looked and smelled quite delicious, which easily whetted her appetite.

...

Zhang Qilan took a piece first. After she took a bite and tasted it, her eyes brightened. "Try it. It's really good!"

As she spoke, she pushed the pastries closer to Shao Wanru.

When hanging out together in the past, they were at ease with each other and had done many casual things like sharing pastries. Zhang Qilan did this very naturally. She nodded and smiled, her eyes crinkling around the edges. All in all, she appeared very lovely and innocent.

Somehow, Shao Wanru looked a little sad, with a trace of deepness in her clear eyes. Her eyes fell on Zhang Qilan's face, and the corners of her mouth curved into a polite smile. Then she slowly reached out her hand to the dessert.

Since when had their relationship come to this?

Just before Shao Wanru's fingers touched a small round pastry, Zhang Qilan happened to push the plate closer to Shao Wanru. This time, a small square pastry stopped below her fingers.

Shao Wanru had randomly picked a piece, but now her hand landed precisely on the square one.



"It's tasty. Just try one!" Zhang Qilan was still inviting, and her smile was a little cute. She looked adorable, so her bright smile was quite pleasing to the eye.

Shao Wanru picked up the pastry and took a closer look at it. There were tiny sesame seeds on it, but she didn't know what the stuffing was.

She put it under her nose and sniffed it gently.

"Does it smell good? It's particularly fragrant. I heard some pastries were not from our Kingdom of Dongcang. The two princesses must have brought over their unique recipes. I've also smelled them just now but can't smell any fragrance. It smelled a little strange to me. Their snacks are different from ours, but they are tasty!"

...

Zhang Qilan said softly and took another bite. Then she took the pastry to her nose and deeply sniffed it. Once again, she enthusiastically invited Shao Wanru to try it. "I eat some but can't tell what's inside. You won't know it by smelling. Try it."

Her smile was gentle and warm, as usual. There was some pastry powder on the corner of her mouth. It looked indecent, but they certainly didn't care about it since they were close friends.

Shao Wanru looked at the pastry in Zhang Qilan's hand and hers. Then she opened her mouth and slowly took a bite...

In the end, they went this far...

Chapter 1165 "Something Happened" to Zhang Qilan?

Zhang Qilan was eating the pastries, but her attention was all on Shao Wanru. When Shao Wanru sent the pastry to her lips, Zhang Qilan unconsciously clenched her fists on her knees and concentrated on the corner of her mouth. Then she saw the dessert stop at Shao Wanru's lips.

"Why won't you eat it? It's delicious," she urged subconsciously.

"I was in poor health, so the doctor told me to eat less sticky food. They won't digest easily when I am lying in bed!" Shao Wanru explained softly. Looking at the pastry in her hand, she looked a little complicated.

It was a pity that Zhang Qilan couldn't see through the complex situation. Shao Wanru seemed sentimental and even sad.

Zhang Qilan clenched her fists gently, thinking she must have misread her expression. How could Shao Wanru have so many feelings about a piece of pastry? Zhang Qilan felt she must have misunderstood her.

Her attention shifted back to the pastry. She clearly remembered she had sprinkled the drug over the top of this piece in Shao Wanru's hands. When Zhang Qilan saw Shao Wanru take another snack without the drug powder, she was anxious and pushed the plate forward. By doing so, she successfully let Shao Wanru take the drugged one.

"It has a very pleasant flavor. Have a taste. Don't eat too much!" Zhang Qilan advised considerately.

Shao Wanru glanced at her thoughtfully. This time, she didn't hesitate and took a bite.

"Gee? What's that?" Yujie suddenly pointed somewhere behind Zhang Qilan. involuntarily, Zhang Qilan turned around and looked in the direction Yujie was pointing at. It was the bamboo grove. "I seemed to have seen someone there. It was a man, and he was looking at us!"

Everyone looked over but didn't find anything. Seeing this, Yujie explained with embarrassment.

"Was there anyone over there?" Zhang Qilan frowned and suddenly remembered what Infanta Yuan'an had told her: the outer court for men was not far away from where they were.

Only two Xu State princesses lived in this place, and there was no male master. Therefore, the boundary between the outer and inner courts was not obvious and not protected by guards.

Recently, Princess Yuyan had been close to Infanta Yuan'an, so some of the information revealed by Infanta Yuan'an was accurate.

Infanta Yuan'an told her not to go too far in this direction. Some handymen and guards from the Xu State lived in the outer court, helping the two princesses deal with some ordinary affairs and protecting their safety.

"Could it be that someone from the outer court has entered?" Zhang Qilan's eyes twinkled. She turned to look at Shao Wanru and saw her eating the pastry. Then, she put aside the dessert in her hand to drink the tea.

She looked down and found a corner of the pastry was gone. The missing part was not large, but she had added enough drug powder. Seeing this, Zhang Qilan finally breathed a sigh of relief in her heart.

"This is the inner court of the two princesses. How could a man appear here? She must have made a mistake!" Zhang Qilan smiled and said.

Shao Wanru put down the teacup in her hand and nodded. "Maybe her eyes deceived her. The swaying bamboo shadow over there looks like a cyan robe."

Hearing the words of the two masters, Yujie lowered her head in embarrassment and said, "Well... maybe!"

"Do you think the pollen here is too much?" Zhang Qilan reached out to touch her head and asked, knitting her thin eyebrows.

"It seems so." Shao Wanru narrowed her eyes slightly. No one could see the coldness in her eyes. She had regarded Zhang Qilan as a trustworthy friend, but now it seemed she was wrong.

In fact, since Zhang Qilan was appointed Princess Yue, they were destined to be enemies.

There was no trace of Zhang Qilan in the memory of her previous life. However, Shao Wanru met her in the Yuhui Nunnery in this life by chance. But at this moment, Shao Wanru could only lament the ever-changing affairs of the world.

She was sure that Zhang Qilan wanted to drug her. She would have fallen into the trap if she hadn't been on guard against Zhang Qilan.

As for the drug, Zhang Qilan must have brought it with her as early as when she entered this place. That was to say, Zhang Qilan had been hostile to her long ago. She hadn't yet done anything against her only because she had no good reason.

Now, she seemed to have found a valid reason.

Did the change happen just now?

Shao Wanru immediately resolved the doubts that had puzzled her. Zhang Qilan must have seen Chu Liuyue with her just now. And she knew someone was plotting against them.

Shao Wanru was not surprised by it and took this matter lightly. Princess Yuyan of the Xu State was not easy to deal with. In addition, Infanta Yuan'an was very active among these people. Shao Wanru knew they would bring her trouble, no matter what.

However, Zhang Qilan's reaction upset her. She had sincerely taken Zhang Qilan as a friend. However, Zhang Qilan took out the long-prepared powder to plot against her. The drug powder was in Zhang Qilan's hands before she came here today. She must have harbored malice against her for a long time, no matter whether she saw Chu Liuyue and her today.

Though a little sad and depressed, Shao Wanru let out a long sigh of relief. Their friendship ended today.

When they met again, Zhang Qilan would be Princess Yue while she was Princess Chen. They were destined to be opponents.

"Are you also not feeling well?" Zhang Qilan looked more and more uncomfortable. She stretched out her hands to clutch her chest and tilted her head. It seemed as if she was going to vomit.

"Miss, Miss, what's wrong with you?" The servant girl beside her asked anxiously.

"Help me to have a rest over there." Zhang Qilan looked miserable. Her face paled slightly. She covered her chest in pain and staggered to her feet.

"Yes, I'll help you over right away!" The servant girl answered and put Zhang Qilan's hand on her arm.

"I... I feel ill too!" Shao Wanru also stood up.

"Let's... let's go there and have a rest." Zhang Qilan turned around with difficulty and suggested to Shao Wanru. She was overjoyed when seeing Shao Wanru leaning weakly on a servant girl. "This drug is not bad. It worked so well." Zhang Qilan took the initiative to pretend sickness according to the effect of the drug she had learned.

With this, she would not be blamed when anything terrible happened later.

When the two masters fell ill, their servant girls panicked. In a great hurry, they brought Zhang Qilan and Shao Wanru to the yard nearby. Zhang Qilan asked Shao Wanru to go to the main room, and her servant girl helped her to rest in the wing room.

After the servant girls settled their masters down, Zhang Qilan's servant girl ran over and said to Yujie and Qing'er, "Perhaps, our masters are allergic to the pollen outside. Could either of you go out and get a doctor?"

There were three servant girls. Two of them were brought by Shao Wanru. So, either Qing'er or Yujie had to go out.

"I'll go and invite a doctor over!" Yujie said. It was better to leave Qing'er here to take care of Shao Wanru. Though Yujie was stronger, she was not as agile as Qing'er.

"Sister Yujie, go ahead. I'll guard Her Highness!" Qing'er nodded and said.

Yujie left hurriedly, and the two maids returned to their rooms. As soon as Qing'er entered the room, she heard someone knocking on the door again. Shao Wanru, who was lying on the bed, nodded at her.

Qing'er hurried out again and saw Zhang Qilan's servant girl standing outside. "Is there anything else?"

"The tea outside has been here for some time. We can get some hot tea for our masters from the tea room. What do you think?" the servant girl asked.

"My Lady is resting here, so I guess I can't leave," Qing'er said awkwardly.

"Then I'll go and get the tea. Would you mind keeping an eye on my master? She vomited just now and felt very uncomfortable," the servant girl said anxiously. Compared with Shao Wanru, Zhang Qilan looked worse.

"Okay, don't worry. I'll take care of her!" Qing'er nodded and said. At this moment, this was the only way.

"Could you come over to have a look at my master? She is in bad condition!" The servant girl said worriedly.

Qing'er had no choice but to follow her. When she entered the room, she saw Zhang Qilan lying feebly on the bed, twitching slightly. She was indeed in a much worse situation than Shao Wanru.

The servant girl got a handkerchief and said, "Sister, please take care of my master. I'll go to the tea room and find some hot water now. I'll be back soon. Don't leave for the time being."

"But what about my master?" Qing'er was dumbfounded.

"It won't take long. I'll be right back. My master appears healthy, but she is very fragile. I'm afraid that something bad will happen to her..." The servant girl cried.

...

Seeing that she was wasting her time, Qing'er urged, "Go ahead and come back soon."

"Okay, I will!" The servant girl ran out in a hurry. But when she got outside and looked around, she did not go toward the tea room. Instead, she walked out to the outer court.

There were handymen in the outer courtyard. Her Miss had brought over an old maid doing rough work, who had been waiting there for a long time.

Her Miss had prepared the drug powder and the old maid long ago. Knowing she would meet Princess Chen today, her Miss made a plan. In the carriage, her master said they were well prepared and would succeed. Yet, the servant girl was still afraid when carrying out their plot.

Fortunately, shortly after she went outside, she saw the old maid. Seeing her, the old maid knew it was time to go ahead with their plan. She walked with the servant girl for a while and came to the back of a house. She made a gesture to the servant girl, who then hurriedly hid.

A very thin servant in his thirties came over. The old maid hid in the house corner and watched the man walk past her. Then, she picked up a wooden stick she had prepared and knocked hard on the man's head. The man was reeling a little and soon fell into a faint.

They succeeded with one strike.

The old maid and the servant girl were delighted and came out from the dark.

The old maid was of great strength. She carried the thin man on her back and followed the servant girl to the yard. As long as she threw the man on Princess Chen's bed, their task would be completed.

Princess Chen must have fainted, so she would not know who did it.

Their Miss just wanted to ruin Princess Chen's reputation. Whether she was framed or not, Princess Chen would lose her reputation if she lay in bed with another man. Princess Chen and Prince Yue had an ambiguous relationship, so she deserved to be punished.

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Even if others couldn't see it, this matter would be evidence for their Miss to deal with Princess Chen!

Thinking of this, the servant girl felt she was helping her master vent her anger. It was not a big deal. Eventually, she plucked up enough courage.

When they arrived at the courtyard door, the servant girl fetched hot water from the tea room. Under the guidance of the servant girl, the old maid knew only Princess Chen was in the main room. Thus, with the man on her back, she sneaked into the courtyard and approached the main room. When she pushed the main room's door, it slowly opened...

#### Chapter 1166 The Last Affection

The rough old maid, fat and sturdy, got real physical strength. It did not take her much effort to bring a thin man over. Furtively, she pushed the door open. Before she could see everything inside clearly, she received a head-on blow. Her body went limp, and she almost fell to the ground. Fortunately, she reacted quickly. Throwing away the man, she held on to the doorframe.

In the room, Yujie stood vigilantly before Shao Wanru, clasping a door bar. She didn't use much strength for fear of hitting the person to death. She just wanted to knock out whoever came inside.

Unexpectedly, the old maid was so sturdy that she didn't knock her out with a stick.

Seeing the situation in the room clearly, the old maid felt her head reeling. Pointing at Yujie and Shao Wanru, who was behind Yujie, she stammered, "You... you two..."

Yujie held the wooden stick tightly and threatened with a sneer, "How dare you plot against Her Highness? You're so audacious and rebellious. The guards will come soon and execute all your family members."

The old maid didn't expect that they would put her whole family to death. She was just an old maid with great strength doing heavy manual labor. Among all women in the inner court of Prime Minister Zhang's Mansion, she was the strongest, but she was a person with a very limited outlook. Hearing that her whole family would be killed, she went limp and fell to the ground, trembling. At this time, she was too dreadful to say a word. How could she do anything bad against Shao Wanru?

"If you want to live, come over with the man!" Shao Wanru said, her cold eyes on the old maid.

After saying that, she walked past the old maid shrinking with fear. Yujie harshly urged the trembling old maid, "Hurry up!"

Hearing that she might survive, the old maid finally gathered some strength. The servant had fallen in a faint. When she hurriedly pulled the servant lying unconscious on the floor, she stumbled and almost fell to the ground.

Yujie had to reach out to help her. Only then did the old maid manage to pull the servant up again. She staggered to the wing room next door.

The old maid regretted it. She should not have listened to her Miss. To get the cheque, she followed her master and made a big mistake. It turned out that they were plotting against Princess Chen. Before this, the old maid only knew that her master had loathed a woman and wanted to teach her a lesson. Thus, she took this matter lightly.

After all, her master would be Princess Yue. So what if she targeted a lady from another mansion? The old maid had thought it was not a big deal, but she didn't expect their target to be Princess Chen.

She was Prince Chen's legal wife! Even an ignorant old maid like her knew that something big would happen.

Her legs became weak and sore, and she dragged the man to the next door...

Shao Wanru entered the wing room first. Seeing Shao Wanru coming in, Zhang Qilan, lying on the bed, and Qing'er reacted entirely differently.

Zhang Qilan looked as if she had seen a ghost. According to her speculation, Shao Wanru must have fainted at this time. How could she appear here? Qing'er, not surprised at all, retreated aside and stood behind Shao Wanru.

"Why... why are you here?" Zhang Qilan's voice was nervously high-pitched.

"I had always thought that you were upright. It had never occurred to me that you would be so hostile to me even before marrying into the Prince Yue's Mansion. Worse still, you are eager to ruin me." Shao Wanru looked at Zhang Qilan calmly. She had lamented about the unexpected loss of their friendship. At this time, her heart was as calm as still water. She spoke very matter-of-factly as if she were talking about someone else's business.

Only the darkness at the bottom of her eyes showed she was not utterly untouched.

"Your Highness... What do you mean?" Zhang Qilan tried her best to compose herself, pretending to be calm.

Although she didn't know what had happened, she was sure something terrible had happened. Of course, she wouldn't admit her guilt at this time.

"Miss Zhang, are you unwilling to admit it? You've been frank and outspoken, but it seems you faked it. You deserve the title of Princess Yue. You must have planned such a scheme for a long time. I don't understand it. Why are you so determined to plot against me?"

Shao Wanru raised her eyebrows and asked.

"You..."

"Don't deny it in such a hurry. Since I said so, I must have evidence." Shao Wanru interrupted Zhang Qilan.

At this moment, the door opened, and Yujie appeared at the door. Behind her was a rough old maid dragging and pulling a man in with difficulty.

It took Zhang Qilan a great deal of effort to remain calm. Instantly, she went into a mad panic, her face changing dramatically.

"Which mansion does this old maid come from? Miss Zhang, you don't need me to inquire about it, do you? You may want to hear the evidence of this old maid. I plan to send the two people to the outer court. How about we let Prince Yue judge this matter?" Shao Wanru asked, arching her eyebrows.

Her words pierced Zhang Qilan's heart like a sharp thorn.

No. Actually, this thorn had existed in her heart for a long time. It was there when she heard some rumors about Shao Wanru and Chu Liuyue. This time, Shao Wanru just shook it roughly and hurt her.

"Shao Wanru, are you sure that Prince Yue will help you? I'll be Prince Yue's legal wife. Do you think he will go against me for you?" Zhang Qilan shouted all of a sudden. Her voice was shrill and penetrating, which shocked the servant girl who had just arrived at the courtyard gate. She nearly dropped the two cups of boiling tea in her hands.

The noise came from her master's room. Realizing this, the servant girl got very anxious. In a few strides, she walked to the door and pushed it open. When she saw the scene in the room, she was stunned.

"Shouldn't Princess Chen be in the main room? Why is she in my master's place? My Miss seems to be at a disadvantage?"

"Zhang Qilan, I'll only tell you the truth once and for all. Prince Yue has nothing to do with me. I ask you to let him judge who is right because I want him to make detailed inquiries about this matter!" Shao Wanru said earnestly.

Zhang Qilan was taken aback. Much to her surprise, Shao Wanru didn't intend to expose this matter.

Shao Wanru looked up and said, "Miss Zhang, I brought the people here, and I've also told you my sincere words. It's time we wrote off all our past affections."

She let Zhang Qilan off today because they had been close friends. Now their friendship was gone forever.

"If you and Prince Yue hadn't kept a dubious relationship, I wouldn't have got into such a mess!" Zhang Qilan's gloomy voice came from behind.

Shao Wanru suddenly stopped at the door. After a brief pause, she abruptly turned around and said with intense eyes, "Miss Zhang, since you want to make everything clear, I won't hide it from you, lest you fall into someone's trap and drag me down. Miss Zhang, tell me when Prince Yue got involved with me. Let's make it clear today so that you won't feel wronged."

"You... If there is nothing between you and Prince Yue, why would Prince Yue ask the Empress to let you marry him?" Zhang Qilan blushed and defended herself.

"Did Prince Yue ask to marry me?" Shao Wanru was stunned. She didn't know about it.

"See? Since we have decided to be frank, why do you hide it?" Zhang Qilan sneered.

"Honestly, I have no idea about this, but I wonder who told you that. No one without ulterior motives would reveal this to you. Besides, even if Prince Yue wanted to marry me, so what? If he wants to marry someone, he must have something with the woman. Is that what is in your mind? You're going to be Princess Yue. Does it mean you have begun a close relationship with him long ago?"

Shao Wanru laughed scornfully, and her eyes looked icy.

It was the first time she had known about this rumor, and she felt even more disappointed. Zhang Qilan had suspected her for a long time, but she had never revealed anything in front of her.

Their so-called friendship might have soured as early as when Zhang Qilan heard these words.

Shao Wanru thought she and Zhang Qilan were close friends, but she knew she was wrong. If Zhang Qilan treated her as a friend and heard this kind of thing, she would ask her about it in the first place.

However, Zhang Qilan had never talked about it to her. Instead, she carefully hid her evil intentions, waiting for a suitable opportunity to give her a hard time. Just like this time, if anyone found out she was lying on the bed with a servant, she might not even stay alive.

She was Princess Chen, and she was framed. But so what? This scandal brought disgrace to the royal family. The whole capital city would be buzzing with the news. Even if Chu Liuchen wanted to protect her, the Empress Dowager and the Emperor would not allow him to do so. She might luckily survive that crisis, but it was impossible for her to keep her position as Princess Chen. She would be either demoted to a consort or sent back to the Marquis Xing's Mansion.

It seemed a simple trick, but for a woman, it was a fatal and overwhelming disaster more vicious than a murder.

"You..." The deepest evil thoughts in Zhang Qilan's heart were exposed. She was ashamed and annoyed. "You have been intimate with Prince Yue just now. What shameful things did you do behind the rockery? You have harmed Prince Chen and me even before the incident in this courtyard!"

Zhang Qilan was guilty. As she spoke, she became angry from shame.



"Let's not talk about the past, but what happened at the rockery must be true. Do you think I can tolerate you at this time?"

The scene she saw was like a fishbone getting stuck in her throat. It had been difficult for her to say it, but now she blurted it out.

After saying that, she resentfully looked at Shao Wanru with an evil eye.

"Zhang Qilan, frankly, you don't have to use these high-sounding excuses. You must have planned to plot against me long ago. After all, you have arranged for these people to deal with me and have kept the drug powder with you. Don't tell me that Infanta Yuan'an or the two princesses prepared all this. As for other things, you must have already set up a way out," Shao Wanru said.

...

Her words were aggressive, forcing Zhang Qilan to face the embarrassment in her heart.

"Just now, I was with Prince Yue because he heard you asked him to come over. However, when he arrived there, he saw me instead of you. I think Prince Yue will ask you in person later. Miss Zhang, you can listen to his explanation. As for me, please stay away from me in the future," Shao Wanru said.

Then, with a note of sarcasm in her eyes, she glanced at Zhang Qilan, the trembling old maid with great strength, and the fainted man. "Miss Zhang, you'd better find a good reason to make this mess clear. Infanta Yuan'an and the two princesses may be here soon."

"What... what do you mean?" Zhang Qilan, terrified, asked anxiously.

"Nothing serious. It's just that you will have to explain the current situation. Otherwise, I'm afraid I'll tell others the whole story exactly as it happened. Your reputation will be ruined at that time, and your father will be implicated. As for the position of Princess Yue, you may have to give it up to another woman. Since you are willing to give it away, there will always be someone ready to accept it!"

Shao Wanru said.

After that, she walked out and went back to the main room. Her two maids followed her closely to guard her. When she entered, she went straight into the inner room and sat on the bed in the middle.

"My Lady..." Yujie said.

"Let's just listen quietly!" Shao Wanru waved her hand and motioned for her to stop talking, pricking up his ears. Some people had arrived outside...

Chapter 1167 Open a Window for Princess Chen

"I feel tired after the long walk. Let's go in and have a rest." Princess Yuyan walked toward the courtyard with Infanta Yuan'an. A large group of servant girls flocked around them and poured into the courtyard. This spectacular scene was in line with her status as a princess.

"Thank you for this. I happen to be tired of walking!" Infanta Yuan'an pressed her temples with a handkerchief and said with a smile.

The two of them went to the main room together with a trace of smugness in their eyes.

Zhang Qilan thought her plot was cleverly executed, unknown to gods or ghosts. But in fact, everything had been in the grasp of Infanta Yuan'an and Princess Yuyan.

When Shao Wanru met with a mishap, Zhang Qilan would have to take all the blame. Even if Zhang Qilan had ten thousand mouths, she couldn't explain it clearly. They had spoiled some tricks of Zhang Qilan. Even if some people investigated it, they could only trace everything back to Zhang Qilan.

Shao Wanru's reputation would be ruined, and Zhang Qilan would take the blame. When they suffered, the two positions of Princess Yue and Princess Chen would be vacant. At that time, Princess Yuyan could marry anyone she wanted.

The door of the main room was tightly closed.

"Why is the room closed?" Infanta Yuan'an looked at the tightly closed door and asked in confusion, "Could anyone be resting inside?"

"Let's see which Miss is inside!" Princess Yuyan said, not very surprised that the door was closed tightly. When Zhang Qilan brought Shao Wanru in just now, Princess Yuyan's servants did not dare to follow them too closely for fear of being discovered. After some time, they saw the rough old maid carry a man into the courtyard door.

Then, Yujie and Zhang Qilan's maid left, but they didn't see Zhang Qilan and Shao Wanru walk out.

Thus, they were sure that something must have happened, but they didn't know how serious this matter became.

Zhang Qilan had nursed jealousy against Shao Wanru. After they inflamed the situation, Zhang Qilan was on the verge of exploding with rage. In addition, she told Zhang Qilan that Prince Yue and Princess Chen would come. The implication in her words would make Zhang Qilan want to take action. Therefore, Zhang Qilan must have come prepared today.

Princess Chen was in poor health and lived in the seclusion of her home. Now that Prince Chen had returned to the mansion, no one dared to ask for an insult in his mansion. Such a rare chance must not be missed. How could Zhang Qilan not be well prepared?

On purpose, they let Zhang Qilan see Chu Liuyue and Shao Wanru together.

Whether Zhang Qilan saw it or not, she would take action today. Nevertheless, this scene could provoke Zhang Qilan into being more ruthless and vicious.

However, not all things happened according to their plan. Prince Yue was supposed to lose control of himself and take Shao Wanru into his arms on the spot. Unexpectedly, the two of them separated peacefully.

They had planned to stimulate Zhang Qilan directly with this scene. In that case, she would confirm all the doubts in her heart and firmly believe that Chu Liuyue and Shao Wanru had an affair. As soon as her secrets were exposed, Zhang Qilan would lose all sense of reason and expose their affair. Even if she had never succeeded in harming Shao Wanru, Shao Wanru would never get a chance to start over again because of this.

Even though the Emperor couldn't do anything to Chu Liuyue, he could kill Shao Wanru, a troublemaker. There were many ways to make a person disappear silently.

As for Zhang Qilan, could she escape the punishment after being found scheming against Shao Wanru?

The current situation showed that there were people in the room. The door was closed, which meant that something was not right.

Princess Yuyan and Infanta Yuan'an smiled knowingly. They were the most innocent passers-by and had just encountered this matter.

A servant girl went forward to knock on the door. At first, she knocked gently. Then she knocked hard. After a long while, Yujie came to open the door.

The door opened a crack. When Yujie saw Princess Yuyan and Infanta Yuan'an standing outside, her face changed greatly. In a panic, she tried to close the door.

A palace maid beside Princess Yuyan stepped forward and held the door open.

"Why didn't you salute our princess when you saw her?" The palace maid rebuked.

"Greetings, Your Highness." Yujie had to bow her head and salute while trying to keep them outside of the door.

Infanta Yuan'an looked through the crack of the door but didn't see anyone. Thinking that they should be in the inner room, she stepped forward to push the door open.

"Your Highness, Her Highness is resting in the inner room!" Yujie reported hurriedly.

Infanta Yuan'an put down her hand and asked with concern, "Is your master not feeling well? Does she need a doctor?"

"My Lady is a little uncomfortable. She should be fine now!" Yujie explained anxiously. Her flustered response made them more suspicious. Nine times out of ten, something happened to Shao Wanru.

Infanta Yuan'an was complacent. There were three princesses for the three princes: Zhang Qilan, who would be Princess Yue, Shao Wanru, who was the present Princess Chen, and she. At last, she would be the only one who deserved the noble title. For this reason, the Empress Dowager and the Emperor would think highly of her and the Prince Zhou's Mansion. The Emperor favored Consort Lan, but so what? Prince Chen couldn't even manage his inner court well. How could he well handle the affairs of the imperial court?

She was eager to go in and see what would happen to Shao Wanru.

"Since Princess Chen is fine, let's go in and have a look!" Infanta Yuan'an invited Princess Yuyan.

"Okay!" Princess Yuyan happily agreed.

The two of them came here for Shao Wanru. How could a servant girl stop them from entering? Moreover, the servant girl looked flustered and even dared to stop them. Something terrible must have happened inside. Even when they made such a scene here, nobody was stirring in the room.

“Your Highness and Your Grace, Her Highness is resting.” Yujie stepped forward to stop them again.

“We’re here to see Princess Chen. If she is in bad condition, I’ll call a doctor over right away,” Princess Yuyan asked mildly.

Infanta Yuan’an frowned and said unhappily, “You’re just a humble servant girl. How could you block our way? Have you done anything bad to your master?”

“Your Grace, I didn’t!”

“Then get out of the way. Let us see how Princess Chen is doing!” Infanta Yuan’an said with a severe look and winked at the two servant girls beside her. The two servant girls understood it and went forward to pull Yujie away.

Seeing them take action, Yujie struggled and shouted, “Your Highness, Your Grace, Her Highness is indeed resting. She is not feeling well and has just rested in bed for a while.”

“Nonsense!” Princess Yuyan’s face darkened. Since she had gone through these polite formalities, she would not give Shao Wanru, who was inside, more time to hide.

Two more palace maids came over and pulled Yujie aside, and the group entered the room.

Princess Yuyan and Infanta Yuan’an didn’t let these servant girls and palace maids wait outside. Instead, they swarmed into the inner room with them. Princess Yuyan and Infanta Yuan’an wanted more people to see Shao Wanru in a miserable situation inside. With so many witnesses, it would be increasingly hard for Shao Wanru to vindicate herself.

The curtain of the inner room was lifted, and a large group of people came in. But when they saw the beauty lying back against the pillows on the bed, Princess Yuyan and Infanta Yuan’an were stunned.

Shao Wanru sat quietly on the bed with her black hair hanging down on her shoulders — it seemed she had just woken up. But unlike her delicate and exceedingly attractive appearance, her eyes were steely with a chill in them. She just looked at Infanta Yuan’an and Princess Yuyan quietly. After a long while, she raised the corners of her red lips and said, “Princess Yuyan, why did you bring such a large group of people here?”

It had never occurred to Princess Yuyan that Shao Wanru would sit there safe and sound!

“Where is that male servant? “How could I not see him?”

She glanced around the room. Instantly, she found that there seemed to be someone in the shadow behind the large bed. Her eyes lit up. Shao Wanru must have hidden the man in the shadow behind the bed curtain.

“I heard you were not feeling well, so I came here to see you,” Princess Yuyan said as she walked inside. Instead of walking up to Shao Wanru, she looked behind the curtain.

“Princess Yuyan, what are you looking for?” Shao Wanru kept her eyes on Princess Yuyan. Under her gaze, Princess Yuyan felt quite uncomfortable and stopped. Infanta Yuan’an had repeatedly reminded her to be careful about Princess Chen and not to underestimate her.

It seemed that it was true. How could she remain calm at this critical time? When their eyes met, she didn't flinch a little. Instead, Princess Yuyan was beginning to feel alarmed. It seemed her clear watery eyes could see through her mind. Feeling a little uneasy, she stopped walking.

For some reason, she had a feeling that she had to be more careful at this time.

The imperial harem of the Xu State was not peaceful, either. Her mother had always told her to be cautious. Even when her mother had a matter well in hand, she would still proceed at a measured pace. Mainly because of this, her mother managed to obtain much progress and forced the Empress to pay a lot of effort into protecting herself.

...

Although she was sure of success, she still needed to be careful. After all, most of the information she knew about Princess Chen came from Infanta Yuan'an. Princess Yuyan would not naively think that Infanta Yuan'an had told her everything without reservation.

"Nothing. I just want to open a window for you. It's too stuffy inside!" With a slightly strange look, Princess Yuyan stopped and replied with a smile.

This reason sounded very far-fetched.

Shao Wanru's calm eyes looked steadily into Princess Yuyan's as she said with a smile, "If you and Infanta Yuan'an have nothing else to do, please wait outside. I'll come out after washing up."

"The air in this room is indeed stuffy. I'll open a window for you." Seeing Princess Yuyan stand still, Infanta Yuan'an was very anxious. With the excuse of Princess Yuyan, she took a few steps forward and leaned forward to see the back of the bed curtain.

But the window was not behind the curtain. It was on the right side of the bed.

Shao Wanru leaned back, her eyes calm and cold, and asked, "Infanta Yuan'an, what's your purpose? Why do you go behind my curtain? Do you think someone else is in the room? How do you know it?"

"Even at such a critical moment, she still looks so calm. If she is not too dull to see the danger, she must be sure she is safe."

"Infanta..." Princess Yuyan had a bad hunch, and her face changed dramatically. It was too late for her to ask Infanta Yuan'an to come back. There, Infanta Yuan'an pulled open the bed curtain.

The figure behind the bed curtain moved. It was Qing'er, the servant girl. She came out from behind the bed curtain and bowed to them. Then she turned to Shao Wanru, who was lying on the bed, and said, "My Lady, I found your hairpin!"

There was an exquisite hairpin in her hand. It seemed to be what Shao Wanru had worn before she came in.

...

Princess Yuyan and Infanta Yuan'an's faces changed color.

Subconsciously, Infanta Yuan'an took a few steps around the edge of a bed. In disbelief, she poked her head out to check the situation. Only Shao Wanru and her two servant girls were in this room. How could it be?

When the gauze curtain was raised, she saw no one behind the bed...

Chapter 1168 The One Controls the Perilous Situation

"What's wrong? Are you searching for people in my wife's room?" A sinister voice, icy-cold, rang out from behind everyone.

His voice should be gentle and elegant, like the distant clouds in the sky, though it gave people an unapproachable sense of alienation. But this time, it inexplicably made people feel cold and gloomy.

His voice sounded bloodcurdling!

Princess Yuyan reacted faster. She immediately stepped aside and turned around — Chu Liuchen was standing at the door with his hands clasped behind his back.

He was in a dark purple brocade robe embroidered with lake ripples. Under his tied-up hair, his beautiful eyes were full of terrifying coldness. Princess Yuyan subconsciously retreated two steps with only one glance, feeling her heart palpitating with fear. "Too bad! How could Chu Liuchen run across such a thing?"

She secretly regretted it. When she heard Chu Liuchen had entered the mansion, she deliberately sent someone to invite him. Moreover, she told the servants not to stop Chu Liuchen nor to report his arrival when he came in. They just needed to show him the way. That way, Chu Liuchen could see how Shao Wanru ruined her reputation.

She had brought so many people here today for the same purpose: she needed more people to see Shao Wanru's hideous manner. When this scandal was blown up, no one could suppress it. She must utterly destroy Shao Wanru's reputation.

It had been a dead certainty that their plan would succeed. They just needed to stand by and wait for Zhang Qilan to implement the plan. Unexpectedly, something went wrong now. They discovered nothing unusual in Shao Wanru's room and were caught on the spot by Chu Liuchen.

"Tell me, who did you expect to find in Princess Chen's room? Princess Yuyan and Infanta Yuan'an, you took so much trouble and brought many people here. Don't you know your manner is intolerably aggressive?" There was no trace of a smile on Chu Liuchen's handsome face. Slowly, he stepped into the room and walked past them.

Shao Wanru smiled, knowing she just needed to wait and see. Chu Liuchen came at the right time.

Infanta Yuan'an felt uneasy and wanted to go back. After all, she was right behind the bed curtain. Her situation was much weirder than Princess Yuyan's, for she had gone deeper at the back of the bed to see it more clearly. Her posture had explained everything.

"I... I wanted to see if something else was dropped behind the bed. Just now, Princess Chen asked the servant girl to pick up... pick up the hairpin from behind the bed." Infanta Yuan'an argued with difficulty.

She stepped back, carefully trying to turn around.

"Helping my wife?" Chu Liuchen stared at Infanta Yuan'an coldly. His eyes, as deep as an abyss, were devoid of warmth. Infanta Yuan'an was frightened. She remembered Chu Liuchen had broken her second brother's hand without saying anything. "Will he break my hand too?"

Thinking of this, she felt a dull pain in her arm.

"Someone, go and invite Prince Zhou over!" Chu Liuchen ordered coldly. Xiao Xuanzi, who was at the door, answered and hurried out. With a smile, he said to Chu Liuzhou, who was leisurely enjoying the scenery in the yard, "His Highness, my master invites you in."

The few princes happened to be together before entering this courtyard. Chu Liuyue came here after hearing Yujie's words, and Chu Liuchen came over with the message sent by Princess Yuyan's servant. When Chu Liuzhou saw them coming, he asked to go with them.

Upon entering the yard, Chu Liuyue went to Zhang Qilan's wing room, and Chu Liuchen went to the main room. It was inconvenient for Chu Liuzhou to go in, so he was idling about the yard and listening to what was happening inside.

The room in the middle was the noisiest. There seemed to be a lot of people inside. He still didn't know that Infanta Yuan'an was inside.

"Who is inside?" Hearing Xiao Xuanzi's words, he looked into the room curiously and asked.

"Infanta Yuan'an is also here!" Xiao Xuanzi smiled and said.

"Okay!" Chu Liuzhou replied casually, walking toward the room. Since Chu Liuchen didn't avoid him and Yuan'an was also there, it was okay for him to go in and have a look.

The layers of gauze curtain in the inner room had been let down, keeping Shao Wanru's figure on the bed out of everyone's sight. When the two servant girls dropped the gauze curtain, Infanta Yuan'an wanted to take this chance and step back. However, as she looked up, she saw Chu Liuchen's vicious eyes falling on her face. She froze there as if under a cobra's fatal gaze, not daring to move an inch.

Her back was covered with sweat, and her throat felt dry and constricted. She turned to look at Princess Yuyan for help.

Princess Yuyan gave a little cough, revealing a delicate and sweet smile. "Since Prince Chen is here, let's talk outside. We can't let Prince Zhou come in!"

As she spoke, she looked at Shao Wanru, who was sitting on the bed. Even if the gauze curtain fell, it was still inappropriate for Prince Zhou to come in.

"Since I am here, I am not afraid of gossip. I can just kill those long-tongued ones!" Chu Liuchen rolled his deep eyes and said slowly.

"It's... not proper..." Princess Yuyan said with sweat on her forehead, "A lot of people are here, all of whom are my trusted subordinates from the Xu State. Infanta Yuan'an's servants are from the Great Elder Princess's Mansion..."

“So what? Do you think Uncle the Emperor will blame me for killing them?” Chu Liuchen touched on the matter lightly. It seemed he was not talking about the lives of so many people here but the weather.

Those servant girls and palace maids who followed Princess Yuyan and Infanta Yuan’an here all fixed their eyes on the ground, trembling unconsciously. It was because they all felt the murderous intent in Prince Chen’s words.

He was going to kill them. It was not a threat.

Many people regretted it so much that their faces turned ghastly pale. The few trusted palace maids Princess Yuyan brought here from the Xu State were especially regretful, bitterly repenting their folly. They would have persuaded Princess Yuyan not to set up such a trap if they had known that Prince Chen was so outrageous and ferocious.

“What’s going on?” Chu Liuzhou’s voice came from the door. His eyes swept around the room and finally landed on Infanta Yuan’an, who was in the innermost corner. He frowned because he didn’t expect to see such a scene.

Infanta Yuan’an was in a weird position. She stood behind the bed alone. It looked like she squeezed into the back of the gauze curtain, which was disgraceful.

Infanta Yuan’an enjoyed a noble and high position. At this time, it seemed she would squeeze into the back of the bed to do something.

A red flush spread from Infanta Yuan’an’s face to her neck. She didn’t know whether to advance or retreat. Suddenly, she lowered her head and wiped the tears from her red eyes.

Princess Yuyan relaxed immediately. As long as Infanta Yuan’an cried, things would be much easier. After all, Infanta Yuan’an would be Princess Zhou in the future. It would be better for her to cry with such grievances when Prince Zhou was here. Prince Chen could not force her to do anything when she was in tears!

How could Prince Chen make a fuss over such a matter with a heartbroken and helpless woman? He even forced her to cry.

But the next moment, Princess Yuyan’s face went rigid like it had been frozen. Infanta Yuan’an, who had been crying with great grievances, paused for a moment. No one had expected that Chu Liuchen would come straight to Chu Liuzhou. Without showing Chu Liuzhou any respect, he directly exposed this matter.

“Second Elder Brother, you have to give me an explanation. Your future legal wife brought many people to my wife’s room to look for evidence. I wonder what she was looking for, the proof of rebellion or the evidence for framing my wife? Tell me so that I can help you find it.”

Chu Liuzhou’s face immediately changed. Chu Liuchen’s words were insidious and cunning evil. However, Infanta Yuan’an’s position and embarrassed look proved he was telling the truth. He was a little annoyed. He had cooperated with Infanta Yuan’an several times and felt she was a good partner. His mother had found an intelligent woman for him.

He didn’t expect Infanta Yuan’an to get him into serious trouble not long after he praised her.



There were so many people in the room. The atmosphere was hostile and oppressive.

He took a deep breath and suppressed the rising anger in his heart. In the beginning, he insisted on following them because he sensed something was wrong. Whether it was about Chu Liuyue or Chu Liuchen, he just wanted to watch the fun. He didn't envision that he would be involved instead of being a looker-on with pleasure.

"Infanta Yuan'an, what were you doing in Princess Chen's inner room?" Chu Liuzhou asked. Although the gauze curtain on the bed was hanging down, he could vaguely see a figure. It should be Princess Chen inside.

"Your Highness, it... it was not about the evidence. I just wanted to help Princess Chen find the things behind the bed..." Infanta Yuan'an cried again and said with grievances.

"Infanta Yuan'an, when did you have such a good relationship with me? You rushed to help my servant girl find things for me. Moreover, you are even willing to search the place behind the bed?" Shao Wanru's voice, as cold as icicles, came from the bed. She bluntly broke the faked peaceful atmosphere Infanta Yuan'an was trying to present.

"I..." Infanta Yuan'an did not know how to argue and prove her innocence.

Even if Shao Wanru lost something, she could send a servant girl to look for it. She was a noble lady in a high position. It was impossible for her to look for items behind the bed in person, even if she had a good relationship with Shao Wanru. However, too bad for her, Shao Wanru said they were not close friends.

There was dust behind the bed. If she accidentally got some dust on her. She would have to change her clothes and wash up.

When defending herself in haste, Infanta Yuan'an used lame arguments. She had used this excuse. Subconsciously, she used it again to argue against others. When she finished speaking, she found it sounded not reasonable at all. She flushed crimson up to her ears, too stammered to say anything.

"Second Brother, you can deal with me if you don't like me. Why do you ask Infanta Yuan'an to hurt my wife? My wife has always been in poor health and injured before. If anything happens to her because of anger, Infanta Yuan'an, will you pay with your life or Princess Yuyan's life?"

Chu Liuchen's cold eyes swept over the people present and finally fell on Chu Liuzhou. Suddenly, he smiled evilly.

Since he was devastatingly handsome, he looked like a celestial beauty descending to the world. However, when he cracked a malevolent smile, everyone could feel a chilliness from his bones. It seemed like he was something evil crawling up the hell that could cover people in endless loneliness and coldness.

...

Princess Yuyan's face paled a little. Subconsciously, she took another step back for fear of getting too close to Chu Liuchen. It was not empty talk. If something terrible happened to Shao Wanru, Prince Chen might inflict severe punishments on her and Infanta Yuan'an.

Somehow, Princess Yuyan suddenly felt a sharp annoyance with Infanta Yuan'an. She had just arrived here, so she didn't know the specific situation, but how could Infanta Yuan'an not know it? How could she tackle the current crisis? It suddenly dawned on her that she would not bear the consequence. It was better to shift the blame on Infanta Yuan'an. After all, it was Infanta Yuan'an who proposed this...

#### Chapter 1169 Trading Accusations

"Yuan'an, what has happened? Didn't you come here to attend a banquet? Why did you bring so many people and follow Princess Yuyan here?" Chu Liuzhou frowned deeply and said asked, his face cold. His eyes fell on Infanta Yuan'an. If he made a slight mistake, he would be implicated. Although his mother was the Empress, she held no real power for the time being. At this critical time, he couldn't let anything happen to her.

Helping Infanta Yuan'an clear her name was the only way to get him out of trouble.

For this reason, Chu Liuzhou had to save Infanta Yuan'an and remind her.

This place was the two princesses' courtyard. Most people in the large group were Princess Yuyan's servants. Yuan'an had only brought two servant girls, but Princess Yuyan took a large group with her.

Compared with Infanta Yuan'an, Princess Yuyan was more likely the one plotting against Princess Chen. Chu Liuzhou felt that Princess Yuyan had nothing to do with him, so this matter could only be related to Chu Qing or even Chu Liuyue.

He heard that Princess Yuyan had specially invited Chu Liuyue. According to Infanta Yuan'an, Princess Yuyan had the intention to marry Chu Liuyue.

Initially, he just wanted to watch a good show aside and quietly let Infanta Yuan'an instigate Princess Yuyan to do dirty things. However, in the current situation, he had to tell Infanta Yuan'an to expose Princess Yuyan.

He was of exactly the same idea as Princess Yuyan, but he spoke it out much faster than Princess Yuyan.

Although Infanta Yuan'an was crying, she had been listening to their conversation. Hearing Chu Liuzhou's words, she immediately understood his meaning. After a moment of hesitation, she immediately betrayed Princess Yuyan and said, "Your Highness, I... I'm a guest here. I followed Princess Yuyan all the way here. Princess Yuyan wanted to go in and have a rest. When blocked at the door, she pulled Princess Chen's servant girl aside and rushed in. I don't know about anything else. I just thought something wrong must have happened, so I wanted to find it out before Princess Yuyan and remind Princess Chen!"

Infanta Yuan'an's grandmother was Ruiping Great Elder Princess, who had told her a lot about what had happened in the Palace. Later, because Infanta Yuan'an was going to marry Chu Liuzhou, Ruiping Great Elder Princess had especially reminded her about some conflicts in the Palace. Ruiping Great Elder Princess had even taught her how to defend herself in a similar situation, but Infanta Yuan'an had not remembered it quickly.

"You... you are talking nonsense!" Princess Yuyan was so angry that her face changed greatly. She pointed to Infanta Yuan'an and rebuked her angrily.

Infanta Yuan'an meant that she had harbored evil intentions. She wanted to deal with Princess Chen and use her as a tool. When Infanta Yuan'an felt something wrong, she acted first only to help Princess Chen.

Infanta Yuan'an made a clever statement to prove her innocence. Hearing that, Shao Wanru almost wanted to applaud Infanta Yuan'an. For a time, Infanta Yuan'an had changed from the prime suspect to the person with the best intentions.

As expected, Princess Yuyan was pushed to the heart of the dispute.

Shao Wanru leisurely leaned back against the pillows, looking at the hazy figures outside the gauze curtain. "Infanta Yuan'an and Princess Yuyan have officially turned against each other. Not bad!"

"Princess Yuyan, although Yuan'an is not very sensible, she has always had a good relationship with Princess Chen. She paid a special visit to Princess Chen when she was ill. How could she want to hurt Princess Chen? I don't know what you want to do. Did you find anything here?" Chu Liuzhou interrupted Princess Yuyan with a gloomy face.

His words sounded a little softer than Infanta Yuan'an's. He didn't directly say Princess Yuyan had deliberately framed Princess Chen. Secretly, he gave her an out. If it weren't necessary to push one out to take the blame, Chu Liuzhou wouldn't want to offend Princess Yuyan. He had thought the arrival of Princess Yuyan could bring him many opportunities.

"Princess Yuyan, Infanta Yuan'an, you must give me an explanation for what happened today." Chu Liuyue's voice suddenly came from the door. Behind him stood Zhang Qilan, whose eyes were red and swollen from crying.

"Oh... how could Chu Liuyue be here?" Chu Liuyue's appearance gave Chu Liuzhou a headache. Although he knew something might happen in the two foreign princesses' place, he didn't expect them to organize such a giant conspiracy. They plotted against two high-status ladies at one stroke.

He couldn't deal with Chu Liuchen alone, so he had to push Princess Yuyan forward. Now, even Chu Liuyue was involved. The tricky situation utterly knocked Chu Liuzhou out.

"Princess Yuyan, Infanta Yuan'an, what did I do to offend you? How could you be so... so..." Zhang Qilan came over from behind Chu Liuyue and criticized with tears in her eyes.

She was not stupid and connected the causes and effects of many things. Seeing Princess Yuyan and Infanta Yuan'an breaking into Shao Wanru's room together, she felt something was seriously wrong. After pondering about it, she broke out in a cold sweat. If anything happened to Shao Wanru today, she could not get away with it. Even if she had carefully done something to mislead others in the tea room, it would be useless.

She deliberately went out for a walk when she was in the tea room. Thus, if others discovered this, they would think that someone secretly targeted her. The person drugged her pastries when she was out. After all, she was the one who would eat the pastries at that time.

In secret, Zhang Qilan had considered everything carefully, but she was surprised to find out that she had fallen into the trap of Infanta Yuan'an and Princess Yuyan long ago. When she saw the two of them, she was full of hatred. She had felt injured and miserable because of Shao Wanru. Now, she was anxious to vent her anger on them.

She had been complaining tearfully to Chu Liuyue in the wing room. Of course, she shifted all the blame onto Infanta Yuan'an and Princess Yuyan.

Chu Liuyue looked gloomily at the few women in the room and finally turned his eyes to Chu Liuzhou and said, "Second Brother, you must make this whole thing clear. Infanta Yuan'an will be your legal wife. She played rotten tricks on Third Brother and me. What had she intended to do?"

Unlike Chu Liuzhou, Chu Liuyue really hoped Infanta Yuan'an would bear the consequences. Of course, he would want to take Chu Liuzhou down.

"Eldest Brother, what are you talking about? What's wrong with Miss Zhang?" Chu Liuzhou had a headache and forcefully suppressed his anger. Times changed, and their situation was different from the past. His mother had repeatedly sent her people to tell him to be careful and keep a low profile.

"Miss Zhang is my future legal wife. You could ask someone to remind her even if she did something wrong. Why would you have to put drug powder into her pastries? She fainted, and a servant at the door had been knocked unconscious. If she hadn't brought a tough old maid here, something terrible would have happened."

Chu Liuyue denounced angrily.

Chu Liuzhou was tongue-tied, feeling anxious and angry. Before he could settle Chu Liuchen's matter, Chu Liuyue began questioning him. At this time, he really couldn't bear it alone. He rolled his eyes and saw Princess Yuyan, who remained silent on the side. He sneered. Chu Liuyue was focused on getting Infanta Yuan'an involved in this matter. However, he didn't expect that he was not utterly clean.

"Princess Yuyan, could you please explain why?" Chu Liuzhou snapped at Princess Yuyan, "Princess Chen and Miss Zhang both had an accident. Though as a guest here, Infanta Yuan'an can hardly absolve herself from the blame. But what about you? You are the host! What do you mean by saying that? I heard you visited the Prince Yue's Mansion and especially visited my Eldest Brother."

All the princes present knew about it, but they didn't say it out loud.

Zhang Qilan abruptly raised her head and looked at Princess Yuyan in astonishment. Then she turned her eyes to Chu Liuyue because she didn't know about this.

"I... I don't know anything. I just accompanied Infanta Yuan'an here for a walk. Infanta Yuan'an said she was tired and wanted to get in and rest, but a servant girl stopped her. She thought something had happened to Princess Chen, so she asked others to take the servant girl away." Princess Yuyan blushed and hurriedly explained.

She and Chu Liuyue intended to marry each other. However, she could not say it aloud. At this time, Zhang Qilan would be Princess Yue, and she was going to marry Chu Qing.

"Nonsense! It was you who wanted to come here and rest. I didn't know what this place was!" Infanta Yuan'an shouted anxiously when Princess Yuyan passed the buck to her again.

She didn't dare to take the blame. Judging from the gloomy look in Chu Liuzhou's eyes, she knew if she took all the responsibility on herself, she would probably come to a terrible end.

"I'm telling the truth. I've just arrived in the capital city and don't know much. Infanta Yuan'an offered me guidance on many matters. She asked me to go to the Prince Chen's Mansion, saying she would invite Prince Zhou. My Eldest Sister had already invited Princess Chen that day, so Prince Chen would come with her. Since no one sent the invitation to the Prince Yue's Mansion, I made this special trip. Infanta Yuan'an, I thought you were a good person, but it turns out that..."

Princess Yuyan was not a pushover. She immediately turned hostile and explained in an injured tone, throwing herself into the palace maid's arms and bursting into tears.

"Second Brother, I wondered why Princess Yuyan would come to my place. She was a guest from a distant country. Even if it was inappropriate, I must come out to welcome her. I didn't expect this matter to be related to Infanta Yuan'an again. Infanta Yuan'an is really good at socializing. The foreign processes have only been in the capital city for a few days, but such things have happened. Go, go, go. Let's go to the Palace and ask my father to judge. I want to know what is the reason for the mess."

Chu Liuyue tingled with excitement. He stepped forward and grabbed Chu Liuzhou's sleeve to pull him out.

Princess Yuyan put all the blame on Infanta Yuan'an. Immediately, Infanta Yuan'an became the most likely culprit, especially when Princess Yuyan said Infanta Yuan'an asked her to visit the Prince Yue's Mansion.

Chu Liuzhou was going to pull Chu Liuyue out. Seeing this, Infanta Yuan'an was very anxious. Regardless of anything else, she rushed over, grabbed Princess Yuyan's head, and burst into tears. "Princess Yuyan, you... How could you say that? Why would I advise you to go to the Prince Yue's Mansion if you didn't want to be Princess Yue? You never intend to marry Commandery Prince Qing and wish to marry into the Prince Yue's Mansion. That was why you were willing to be alone with him. Now you let me bear the consequences. You... you've gone too far!"

"What nonsense are you talking about? What makes you think I want to marry Prince Yue?" Since such a shameful secret was exposed, Princess Yuyan could not bear it anymore, no matter how impudent she was. She shook off Infanta Yuan'an's hand.

Infanta Yuan'an was thrown out. She staggered a few steps and bumped straight into a pillar on one side. The servant girl standing beside her couldn't stop her, no matter how much she wanted to. She could just watch Infanta Yuan'an's head hit the pillar with a bang. Instantly, the blood streamed down from her forehead, and she fainted.

"Your Grace," the two servant girls she brought here screamed and rushed to Infanta Yuan'an one after another.

"Wake up, Your Grace! Wake up!"

Chapter 1170 All Kinds of Plots Are in Vain

When Princess Yuyan pushed Infanta Yuan'an, no one expected Infanta Yuan'an to bump her head.

Princess Yuyan was also flustered. Her hands and feet trembled as she muttered, "No, not like that. I didn't use much strength. I didn't push her."

"Go and find a doctor!" Princess Yutao appeared at the door, looked at the scene inside, and ordered a palace maid beside her. The palace maid turned around and ran out.

Behind the bed curtain, Shao Wanru looked at the scene before her calmly. In Shao Wanru's previous life, Infanta Yuan'an managed to stay alive after an awful disaster happened to Prince Zhou. The past matched the reality. From this scene, she could tell that Infanta Yuan'an was a formidable opponent.

When pushed, Infanta Yuan'an rushed out and hit herself heavily. Shao Wanru, lying on the bed, could even hear the thud clearly. It could be seen that Shao Wanru had exerted much strength. Infanta Yuan'an was not afraid that she would get seriously injured for real.

In this case, Infanta Yuan'an couldn't come out of this incident without a scratch. She exposed Princess Yuyan's secrets, argued with her, and banged her head when pushed by Princess Yuyan. Princess Yuyan couldn't escape from the punishment, no matter what.

Unexpectedly, Princess Yuyan took a fancy to Chu Liuyue. No wonder she even planned to drag Zhang Qilan down. When Shao Wanru thought of this, the corners of her mouth slightly raised, and she revealed a faint smile.

Every one of the people before her harbored malice toward her. She was not surprised to see them turn against each other.

Whether it was Zhang Qilan, Infanta Yuan'an, or even Princess Yuyan, they were not easy to deal with. So, she might as well let them fall out and become enemies first!

The doctor came quickly. After checking Infanta Yuan'an's injury, he applied medicine on her wound and bandaged it.

They could not make it clear when things had gone this far. Thus, they went out together. Some rode the horses, and some got on the carriages. All of them headed for the imperial Palace.

When they arrived at the Palace gate, the three brothers went to the Emperor's Imperial Study, and the few women went to the imperial harem.

Concubine Ming and Consort of Virtue met with a group of people.

The Empress was not in charge of the affairs now, and the Empress Dowager was not feeling well. These people did not dare to disturb the Empress Dowager, so they went into the Palace to see Consort of Virtue and Consort Ming.

Consort Ming was delighted that Chu Liuxin was not involved in this mess. At this time, she comforted everyone with a smile. In contrast, Consort of Virtue's face darkened a lot. Zhang Qilan was the daughter-in-law she chose. Judging from the information she had learned, Princess Yuyan from the Xu State seemed to have taken a fancy to her son.

In normal times, Consort of Virtue would not mind if Chu Liuyue took her into his mansion as his consort. She was a princess of the Xu State, but the Xu State was just a small country. Although her state supported her, she could not be of much help after marrying into the Kingdom of Dongcang unless her Eldest Brother became the Xu State's emperor in the future.

She was much less helpful than Zhang Qilan.

After Zhang Qilan sobbed out the whole story, Consort of Virtue looked at Princess Yuyan unfriendly. "She is merely a princess from a small country marrying into our country, but even until now, she has no idea of her humble identity. She doesn't want to marry Chu Qing, that good-for-nothing. Then she is determined to marry my son and audacious enough to plot against the daughter-in-law I chose for my son.

"I'm amazed she had the cheek to scramble for a much higher position."

Everyone understood what had happened. Infanta Yuan'an and Princess Yuyan had worked together to plot against Princess Chen and Zhang Qilan.

Although Infanta Yuan'an had come, she was still lying unconscious in the side hall. The imperial physicians in the Palace had come to see her, all of whom said she was seriously injured. Things would go from bad to worse if she didn't wake up.

Shao Wanru didn't make a complaint in tears. She just briefly answered a few questions when Zhang Qilan mentioned her. She was the most guiltless, much more innocent than Zhang Qilan. If Zhang Qilan was smart, she would avoid saying anything that would implicate her further. After all, Shao Wanru held the evidence of Zhang Qilan framing her.

Shao Wanru lowered her head and looked down at the ground before her, fluttering her long eyelashes twice. She hid all the emotions in her eyes and listened quietly, waiting to see how things would go.

"Princess Yuyan, what's your purpose?" After Zhang Qilan finished speaking, Consort of Virtue pulled her to sit down on one side and eyed Princess Yuyan unkindly with a sharp look.

Everyone here had gone through ups and downs in the Palace, so how could they not know that Princess Yuyan hatched this plot? Of course, Infanta Yuan'an could not get away.

In Consort of Virtue's heart, Princess Yuyan was not a decent woman, even worse than Infanta Yuan'an. Thinking that she was a skittish woman, she was filled with nausea.

"Your Grace, I didn't know things would end like this. Since I had just come to the capital city, I listened to all the arrangements Infanta Yuan'an made for me. I always thought that she did everything for me wholeheartedly." Princess Yuyan cried. On the way here, Princess Yutao told her she would be doomed if she couldn't drag Infanta Yuan'an into the mire with her.

Princess Yutao wanted to watch her sink, but after all, she was her younger sister. Besides, she was responsible for accompanying Princess Yutao and ensuring she married smoothly. If Princess Yuyan was no longer qualified to get married, her country might ask her to stay and marry into the Kingdom of Dongcang.

"Your Grace, my sister has just arrived in the capital city of the Kingdom of Dongcang. She is ignorant of everything. My Second Sister said Infanta Yuan'an was nice. They always hung out and had a good time together. If I had known they would cause such serious trouble, I wouldn't have let my Second Sister go with Infanta Yuan'an."

Princess Yutao stepped forward and bowed to Consort of Virtue.

Her words were very impartial. She did not say Princess Yuyan was not responsible for it, but her ingenious remarks placed a large part of the responsibility on Infanta Yuan'an. Compared with Princess Yuyan, Infanta Yuan'an knew many more things. Even if she wanted to plot against others, it was easier for her to fall into traps. Moreover, their relationships with Prince Chen's Mansion and Prince Yue's Mansion were complicated.

Princess Yutao didn't try to sidestep responsibility. Hearing her words, Consort of Virtue's face softened a little. "Princess Yutao, since your sister is going to marry Commandery Prince Qing, she should have more contact with Commandery Prince Qing. She should often visit the Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion if she is at leisure. If she wants to go somewhere and have fun, Commandery Prince Qing should accompany her. How could she ask the future Princess Zhou to come along with her? Infanta Yuan'an will marry Prince Zhou, so she doesn't have time and energy to keep her company!"

What Consort of Virtue said almost confirmed that Princess Yuyan was going to marry Chu Qing.

Princess Yuyan was very unconvinced because she had spent a lot of effort avoiding marrying Chu Qing. She was going to marry Chu Liuyue. How could she marry Chu Qing, a useless good-for-nothing?

When she was about to speak, she saw Princess Yutao glaring at her and had to lower her head in silence.

At this time, she didn't dare to argue with Princess Yutao.

"Of course, when we were still in the Xu State, my father confirmed the marriage between my Second Sister and Commandery Prince Qing. But when we arrived in the Kingdom of Dongcang, she hadn't received the Emperor's imperial edict about her marriage. My Second Sister thought His Majesty must have other ideas about her marriage." Princess Yutao explained.

Consort of Virtue took a deep breath. Although she despised Princess Yuyan, she knew Princess Yuyan was related to the national affairs of the two countries. Thus, it was not a matter of the inner court. "Since it is a dispute between Infanta Yuan'an and Princess Yuyan, I can't do anything about it. Wait for the Emperor's order!"

Princess Yuyan, without powerful background, was also a troublemaker. She would not let Princess Yuyan marry into the Prince Yue's Mansion of her son.

"Princess Chen, what do you think of this?" Consort of Virtue thought for a moment and asked softly, looking at Shao Wanru, who was sitting aside.

Shao Wanru was the most innocent one among them.

"It is for you to decide, Your Grace!" Shao Wanru raised her delicate little face, curved her red lips, and replied softly.

"Speaking of this, both you and Qilan are innocent. Princess Chen, you are the first daughter-in-law of the royal family. You can't be wronged," Consort of Virtue said.

Although Zhang Qilan and Infanta Yuan'an would be in the same high position, they had not married yet.

Consort of Virtue intended to dump this problem on Shao Wanru. No matter how Shao Wanru dealt with it, she would offend someone.



"Your Grace, His Majesty has known about it. Let's wait for his decision!" Shao Wanru said calmly, glancing at Zhang Qilan with deep eyes.

"Mother, let's wait for His Majesty's decision!" Meeting Shao Wanru's eyes, Zhang Qilan had to say something to support her. She didn't dare to go against her will. Shao Wanru knew all the ins and outs of this matter.

Consort of Virtue frowned, measuring Zhang Qilan and Shao Wanru with the eye. She had heard that they were on good terms with each other, but little did she know their relationship was so good. She was very displeased about this.

Zhang Qilan was going to marry her son, so she should fully consider the interests of the Prince Yue's Mansion before doing anything. If she couldn't work for her son's interests heart and soul, what was the use of having such a daughter-in-law?

"Consort of Virtue, Consort Ming, His Majesty has issued an imperial edict!" A high-pitched voice of a eunuch came in. Then they saw a chief eunuch coming over with a few young eunuchs.

Everyone hurriedly stood up and knelt to accept the imperial edict.

There were two imperial edicts. One was for the marriage between Princess Yuyan and Chu Qing. It said she and the daughter of the Mo Family would marry Chu Qing. However, His Majesty didn't choose a legal wife for Chu Qing. Therefore, one should be the legal wife, and the other be the secondary legal wife or even a consort. Even if Princess Yuyan became a secondary legal wife, her status was inferior to that of the legal wife.

Hearing this, Consort of Virtue breathed a sigh of relief in her heart. She had worried that the Emperor would think that Princess Yuyan had an affair with her son. If Princess Yuyan were allowed to marry into the Prince Yue's Mansion, how could it remain peaceful?

She would marry into the Commandery Prince Qing's Mansion. It meant she would have nothing to do with Consort of Virtue. Since such a troublemaker had not even gotten the position of a legal wife, no one knew what tremendous uproars she would create. For Consort of Virtue, Princess Yuyan could feel free to throw the Chu Qing's mansion into turmoil. Anyway, she was not in the Prince Yue's Mansion.

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With Princess Yuyan's status, she should be Chu Qing's legal wife, but now the imperial edict didn't say it. It only said that she would marry Chu Qing. Instead of becoming a secondary legal wife, she might even be a consort. As for her final position, everyone had to wait and see. Anyway, it could be seen that the Emperor was annoyed with Princess Yuyan.

Considering the diplomatic relations between the two countries, the Emperor would not kill Princess Yuyan. However, such an imperial edict was enough to make her suffer a lot.

Since she didn't like Chu Qing and wanted to find another husband, the Emperor wouldn't even grant her the position of a legal wife. Since she had an excess of energy, she could fight for a higher place in Chu Qing's family. This way, she would not instigate incidents and stir up unnecessary trouble in the mansions of the other princes.

The wedding date was set very close. It was in a month.

The marriages of Prince Yue and Prince Zhou were also during this period, but they had started preparing for their weddings long ago. Only Princess Yuyan's marriage was decided on the spur of the moment, and it was extremely hasty to make the preparations.

As soon as Princess Yuyan heard the imperial edict, she knew the situation was beyond salvation. She would have to marry Chu Qing, whom she despised the most, and try her best to become his legal wife. She was so angry and anxious that she rolled her eyes and fainted directly!