

Young Lady 281

Chapter 281 – An Old Friend From An Aristocratic Family That Concubine Dong Took Seriously

It was a middle-aged man. Judging from his demeanor, one could tell that he must be from an aristocratic family. The lad servant respectfully led the way in front of him and they entered Wei Luowen's courtyard.

Wei Yuewu smiled and turned around. "Let's go..."

After following Wei Yuewu for a few steps, Shufei stopped and looked behind her. Then, she said hesitantly, "Should I go over and take a look?"

Since the young lady was interested in Lord Marquis' guest, why not investigate carefully?

"No need!" Wei Yuewu shook her head. She indeed did not know that person, but since everything Concubine Dong did today was so abnormal, then it must be for this guest. However, now that Concubine Dong's pastry was in her hands, it was impossible for her to attract the attention of that person today.

Besides, her father was going to have an audience with the Emperor soon...

Not long after they were back in Lotus Courtyard, the lad servant, whom Wei Luowen had sent out earlier to take the mold, also came over.

"Sixth Young Lady, Concubine Dong said that the mold was broken when making pastry. It can't be used for the time being. She can think of ways to repair it and then give it to you." The lad servant reported.

Wei Yuewu narrowed her eyes. "Broken?"

"Yes, it's broken. Concubine Dong was afraid that Sixth Young Lady wouldn't believe it, so she specially let me see it. The mold is indeed slightly damaged in the corner, and it needs to be repaired." The lad servant respectfully reported.

Wei Yuewu sneered in her heart. Concubine Dong had really made the pastry with ulterior motives, so now the mold for making the pastry was also “broken”. Needless to say, she was unwilling to lend the mold to her.

However, now that she said the mold was broken, even Concubine Dong could not use the model for the time being. No matter what Concubine Dong’s intentions were, she would inevitably fail to achieve her purpose.

“Then forget it. Since Concubine Dong’s mold happened to be broken, then I can’t use it. What a pity. Tell my father that when Concubine Dong’s mold is repaired, let her lend it to me.” Wei Yuewu said indifferently.

“Yes, I will report to Lord Marquis!” The lad servant hurriedly answered. At the moment, everyone could see that Lord Marquis was fondest of the Sixth Young Lady. Previously, Concubine Dong and the Third Young Lady ran into trouble, and Concubine Dong was even punished with protracted kneeling. However, Lord Marquis did not say a single word. By comparison, when the Sixth Young Lady wanted a mold to make pastries, Lord Marquis immediately sent him to ask Concubine Dong for it.

When had Lord Marquis cared about such a small matter?

After the lad servant left, Jin Ling came in with a cup of tea. She looked at the pastry on the table and said, “Miss, what is this?”

“Pastry made by Concubine Dong!” Wei Yuewu gave a very concise answer.

The exquisite pastry was placed on a blue and white porcelain plate. Whoever saw it could not help but be attracted and gasp in admiration.

Jin Ling looked at the plate of pastry and thought for a moment. Then, she said, “Miss, I seem to have seen such pastries before!”

“You did?” Wei Yuewu raised her eyebrows.

“But I can’t remember exactly. I seem to have seen it before. There was a time when someone sent the same pastry to the heir-apparent, but he didn’t like this kind of food. Therefore, the pastry was given to the servants as a reward. At that time, I liked the pastry and tasted a piece. Because it looked nice and tasted delicious, I have always remembered it.”

Jin Ling thought for a moment before answering.

This was a special piece of pastry she was granted in the Duke of Yan’s Mansion. That was why she still remembered it.

“It seemed that someone asked for a favor from the heir-apparent. That plate of pastry was offered to the heir-apparent at that time! But we were not clear about the exact detail!” Jin Ling shook her head.

It was clear that the person’s identity was not ordinary. Otherwise, he wouldn’t be able to send the pastry to Yan Huaijing. Concubine Dong was just an insignificant maid, and it was said that she sold herself to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang and had no relatives. Now that she was actually connected to such a person, it was apparent that her goal was not small.

Her heart skipped a beat. The thing Concubine Dong coveted the most was the position of Marquise Hua Yang. That day, after Concubine Dong was punished to kneel, she did not do anything unusual. Could it be that she was planning something big?

Concubine Dong wanted to be Marquise Hua Yang. In fact, she had a good chance now. For so many years, she was father’s only concubine, and she even gave birth to Wei Yuejiao. The mansion of Marquis Hua Yang had long lacked a legitimate hostess. Concubine Dong had been coveting the position of Marquise Hua Yang long before.

Right now, she should be running out of patience and couldn’t endure it anymore. However, her humble origin was the biggest obstacle! Could it be that she had a way to...

“Jin Ling, go to my father’s study and see if you have met my father’s good friend before!” After pondering for a moment, Wei Yuewu had an idea.

“Yes, I will go there in a moment!” Jin Ling nodded, but she still hesitated. “Miss, what if I have never seen this person?”

It was very likely, because Jin Ling knew very little about Yan Huaijing’s issues!

“It doesn’t matter. You just need to ask the lad servant which mansion this person is from.” Wei Yuewu glanced out of the window and said indifferently.

This matter wasn’t urgent for the time being. Even if Concubine Dong had a scheme, she couldn’t succeed because she had taken away her pastry. Even if that guest wanted to visit the mansion again, it would not be possible within the next couple of days.

Jin Ling went to the outer courtyard. Shufei and Huamo helped Wei Yuewu pack her things. She was going to stay in the palace for several days, so she had to get everything prepared in advance.

Although Wei Yuewu had prepared some clothes before, after seeing the gorgeous clothes the Madam Dowager had prepared for her, she knew that after entering the palace, there must be a grand ceremony. Therefore, she needed to make extra preparations.

“Miss, are these clothes enough?” Shufei looked at the clothes on the bed and said in embarrassment.

They had previously estimated that a few sets of clothes would be enough. However, it seemed that they had underestimated the event. None of the maids had experienced such a big event. They were now afraid that Wei Yuewu would be laughed at for not having enough clothes and accessories for the event.

“Miss, do you want to make a few more sets of clothes? I heard that the Fourth Young Lady has prepared a lot of clothes. By comparison, we have much fewer!” Huamo took out a few pieces of cloth from the inner room and said in embarrassment.

Wei Yuewu had plenty of cloth, but she did not care much about clothing and seldom made clothes for herself. Therefore, she had only a few sets of simple and plain-looking clothes.

Now that Wei Yuewu was going to enter the palace and the maids prepared clothes for her, it seemed that she was really in short of clothes.

The two maids were also anxious for Wei Yuewu.

“Miss, please pick two pieces of cloth. Embroideress Yun happens to be in our mansion. The two of us can work late into the night. Maybe we can make two sets of clothes for you!” Huamo placed the cloth in front of Wei Yuewu and suggested her to pick two pieces.

“Where did the cloth come from?” Wei Yuewu picked up a piece of cloth in front of her and asked casually.

The material felt not bad, and the patterns on the cloth were also nice. The light lotus-colored cloth was decorated with a few lotus flowers at the corner. The lotus flowers were in full blossom and looked enchanting. However, because they were not dense, the pattern looked elegant. What was special was that the lotus leaves were dotted with some fiery red flowers, which were actually not lotus flowers upon close examination, making people feel that the pattern was really made with great ingenuity.

Huamo had a good memory and thought for a while before answering, “I casually took a few pieces of cloth. These should be the gifts that Concubine Dong gave to you after returning to the capital.”

Shufei even knocked over Concubine Dong’s gift that day. At that time, she took special notice of the gift, so she recognized the cloth. At this time, she also nodded and said, “Yes, it was Concubine Dong who gave it to Miss!”

“Then I will choose this one!” Wei Yuewu said casually.

“Miss, are you going to choose only one piece?” Huamo was a little anxious and shook the other cloth on the side. “I heard that there are many young ladies accompanying the Third Princess in the palace this time. If you have few clothes for change, you will be laughed at by others.”

A faint smile appeared in Wei Yuewu’s clear and watery eyes. She shook her head and said, “It doesn’t matter. I have quite a lot of clothes. I’ll take this one!” She was going to enter the palace to accompany the Third Princess to pray, not to compete with the Third Princess for beauty of looks. There was no

need to wear too beautiful clothes. The Third Princess would definitely be displeased if others stole the limelight.

This Third Princess was not as kind and gentle as she looked on the surface!

She knew better than asking for trouble!

Shufei was also worried. After thinking for a while, her eyes lit up and she suggested, "Miss, how about going to the Brocade Clothing Shop to choose some ready-made clothes?"

"No need!" Wei Yuewu did not feel that there was a need to make such a fuss just for a few pieces of clothes.

Shufei's eyes fell on Wei Yuewu's dressing table. There were a few ornaments, but only a small bottle of face cream. She hurriedly said, "Miss, let's go and have a look there. You don't have much face cream here. Although you are already stunningly beautiful without makeup, there are some occasions where you still need to apply some makeup to prevent unfair criticism from others. Miss, let's go out and buy something for you!"

"That's right, Miss. It's better for us to be well-prepared. Otherwise, if you really need something when you are in the palace, it will be too late." Huamo agreed with Shufei.

Seeing that the two maids were so keen on buying clothes and accessories for her, and thinking about the situation in the imperial palace and the repeated instructions from her father, Wei Yuewu finally nodded.

Even if the Empress would not make things difficult for her, there were many people who wanted to curry favor with the Empress. If someone knew that the Empress disliked her, they would definitely think of ways to embarrass her so as to please the Empress.

Therefore, she should try her best not to leave any handle to others.

Shufei went to ask for instructions from the Madam Dowager. Hearing that Wei Yuewu was going out to buy things for her trip to the palace, the Madam Dowager naturally would not object. Moreover, she also asked Shufei to bring a one-hundred-tale silver ticket to Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu tidied up a little and brought Shufei and Huamo with her to board Old Li's carriage. She also brought the piece of brocade that Huamo had picked up earlier. Since she needed to make clothes, she might as well let the Brocade Clothing Shop do it so that Huamo didn't have to work at night! Besides, the Brocade Clothing Shop would get the clothes ready faster.

After the incident that day, Old Li's carriage became Wei Yuewu's exclusive carriage. Wei Yuewu expressed her trust in Old Li to Wei Luowen. After thinking about it, Wei Luowen assigned Old Li to Wei Yuewu as her exclusive driver.

The carriage slowly drove out of the side gate of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang and headed for the street.

Brocade Clothing Shop was not far from the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. The carriage turned a few corners and arrived in front of Brocade Clothing Shop's door. Seeing that there were all women coming and going at the door, Wei Yuewu could not help but ask, "Why are there so many people?"

"Miss, people heard that the Crown Prince was holding a nation-wide selection. Moreover, there were no requirements on family background. Therefore, families that could afford to dress up their daughters are all buying clothes for them to have a try!"

Shufei lifted the curtains for Wei Yuewu and looked outside with a smile.

"So, these people are all going to attend the nation-wide selection!" Wei Yuewu pondered for a moment and understood. The Crown Prince was young, and he was also the future ruler of the country. Entering the Crown Prince was equivalent to embarking on a road to unlimited wealth and fortune. Moreover, the Crown Prince was handsome and elegant. Few young ladies would not be tempted.

Moreover, the nation-wide selection this time had no requirements on family background or status. Such conditions were really tempting to those relatively rich families, which would go all out to participate in the selection!

“Blimey, don’t you have eyes? Why are you stepping on my new clothes?” A tender and angry voice sounded from the side of the carriage. Wei Yuewu raised her eyes and looked at the young lady in front of her in astonishment. The corners of her lips slowly curled into a smile. What a coincidence. It was actually her!

Chapter 282 – Sending Gifts Also Required Skills

“Hey, don’t you have eyes? Didn’t you see that you stepped on my dress!” A young woman said with a somewhat domineering voice, which was really difficult to forget.

Sure enough, it was Zhao Ruo’e from the mansion of Marquis Huaiqin.

“What happened?” Wei Yuewu asked behind the curtain that had not been lifted.

Huamo had already jumped out of the carriage and was about to apologize to Zhao Ruo’e who barely brushed past the carriage when she heard Wei Yuewu’s voice in the carriage. She hurriedly said, “Miss, Old Li accidentally bumped into this young lady!”

“What do you mean by accidentally? Look, my dress was stained by your carriage. This material was bestowed by the Palace. Can you afford to compensate me?” Zhao Ruo’e patted her dress and said angrily.

The maid beside her found the mark on Wei Yuewu’s carriage and pulled her sleeve, motioning her to take a look at it. However, Zhao Ruo’e was feeling annoyed about her dress at the moment.

“Miss Zhao, I’m really sorry. How much do you want me to compensate you for this dress?” Wei Yuewu sighed and asked Shufei to lift the curtain and she was ready to get off the carriage. The last time she saw Zhao Ruo’e, this young lady restrained herself a lot and did not say much. However, the scene of the first time they met was still very vivid in her mind.

“It’s you?” Zhao Ruo’e did not expect Wei Yuewu to come out of the carriage and was stunned for a moment.

Shufei jumped out of the carriage first, and Wei Yuewu held Shufei's hand and walked down.

"It's me. I'm really sorry for dirtying Miss Zhao's dress."

"Since it's Sixth Miss Wei, then forget it!" Zhao Ruo'e's eyes flashed. This meant that she didn't care about the incident anymore and was about to let it be.

Then, she turned around and was about to leave with her maid.

"How can I forget about it? Since I stained your dress, I have to compensate you for it. Moreover, your dress should have been rewarded by the Third Princess. It is really beautiful!" Wei Yuewu looked at Zhao Ruo'e's long dress and said softly.

When Zhao Ruo'e heard Wei Yuewu mentioning this dress that she was extremely satisfied with, she stopped in her tracks and shook her dress as she replied, "This was indeed rewarded by the Third Princess, but now it's dirty. What a pity!"

This dress was a gift from the Third Princess and had special significance. If it were someone else who had bumped into her, she would definitely not let her go. However, the person in front of her now was Wei Yuewu. Zhao Ruo'e felt that it was better for her to exercise restraint. She really had to think carefully about the faint message revealed by the Third Princess.

The scene in the Plum Blossom Nunnery appeared in front of her eyes from time to time, so she had no choice but to look up to this still childish Sixth Miss Wei.

"Miss Zhao, can you give me some face? Let's go in and pick a few dresses together. Just take it as my apology to you. If the Third Princess asks about it one day, I hope Miss Zhao can put in a good word for me!"

Wei Yuewu was extremely humble.

"This..." Zhao Ruo'e hesitated.

“Let’s go. Let’s go in and take a look. Perhaps there really are some nice dresses. Miss Zhao, you look nice in most dresses!” Wei Yuewu continued to invite her warmly.

“In that case, alright!” Looking at her slightly wrinkled dress and then looking at Wei Yuewu who was so enthusiastic, Zhao Ruo’e couldn’t help but feel a little proud. Even if Wei Yuewu looked very powerful, so what? She had the support of the Third Princess. Anyone who saw her would have to look up to her.

Thus, the two of them walked in with their maids.

“Miss Zhao, have you seen the dresses in the shop?” Wei Yuewu asked with a smile as they walked.

“I’ve seen all of them. There’s nothing good.” Zhao Ruo’e pouted and answered. “None of them can compare with the one I’m wearing.”

“The one on you was bestowed by the Third Princess. Of course, it is different. But after entering the Palace, how can you have only one beautiful dress? You need to prepare some more!”

Wei Yuewu looked at Zhao Ruo’e’s dress with a bit of envy as she uttered those words.

“That’s true. That was also why I came here to take a look. I heard that this shop is quite big, but after seeing all the dresses here, I didn’t find a suitable one.” Zhao Ruo’e raised her head, looking extremely proud.

“There isn’t any nice dress?” Wei Yuewu said in surprise. “I heard from my grandmother that the dresses here are very good, so I specially came here. I will soon enter the Palace to accompany the Third Princess to pray. So will you, Miss Zhao?”

Zhao Ruo’e was the Third Princess’ study companion, so it was inevitable for her to accompany the Third Princess to pray.

“That’s right. People like us definitely wouldn’t come here to buy dresses for the nation-wide selection.” Zhao Ruo’e looked disdainfully at the young ladies walking past her. Although those young ladies seemed to be from wealthy families, they did not look like a real young lady from a noble family.

“I have never accompanied the Third Princess to pray. Miss Zhao, could you tell me what else I need to prepare?” Wei Yuewu sincerely asked for advice. By the time, a shop assistant had seen her and hurriedly went to report to the shopkeeper.

The shopkeeper walked out and was ready to greet her. However, Wei Yuewu waved her hand from afar, indicating that there was no need for him to come over. The shopkeeper was a clever person and immediately understood Wei Yuewu’s intentions. He only sent a clever shop assistant to lead the way for them to a VIP room upstairs.

“You need to prepare more dresses and ornaments. Although we are accompanying the Third Princess to pray, we may need different dresses on various occasions. If we wear the same dress twice, we will be laughed at. We are going to stay in the Palace for about ten days. Therefore, we have to prepare more than a dozen dresses!”

Pleased with Wei Yuewu’s flattery, Zhao Ruo’e raised her head and said proudly.

“Huamo, ask the shop assistant to bring a few sets of beautiful dresses!” Wei Yuewu nodded and said to Huamo.

“There aren’t any nice dresses here. None of them looks as good as the dress on me!” Zhao Ruo’e had already seen the dresses in the shop, and she was so picky that she did not find a suitable dress.

“Then take some cloth for us to pick!” Wei Yuewu thought for a while and said.

“It’s fine to have a look at the cloth!” This time, Zhao Ruo’e did not object and responded. She had previously left in a hurry without looking at the cloth in this shop.

“Huamo, pick some nice cloth and bring it over. Bring the light lotus-colored cloth we saw last time as well!” Wei Yuewu smiled and instructed Huamo who was standing at the side.

Huamo blinked and immediately understood. “Yes, Miss, I will go and pick some nice cloth!”

This meant that Wei Yuewu wanted her to mix the cloth sent by Concubine Dong with the cloth of the shop!

Although Huamo did not understand Wei Yuewu's intention, she still followed her instructions and walked out of the VIP room. She first went to the carriage to take out the lotus-colored cloth and then went into the shop to pick some nice cloth. After that, she asked the shop assistant to take all the cloth to the VIP room on the second floor.

In the VIP room, Wei Yuewu was chatting with Zhao Ruo'e. From time to time, she would mention the Third Princess and the Fourth Princess and inquired about the preferences of the two princesses.

In the Plum Blossom Nunnery, although she also met with the Third Princess and the Fourth Princess, she didn't interact much with either of them. This time, she was going to stay in the Palace for more than ten days. She had to understand the temperaments of these two princesses well. She had originally planned to slowly learn about their preferences and hobbies after entering the Palace, but unexpectedly, she met Zhao Ruo'e here. How could Wei Yuewu let go of such a good opportunity?

"Miss, I picked a few pieces of cloth. Please see if there is something suitable?" Huamo pushed the door open and walked in, followed by a shop assistant holding the cloth in his hands.

"Put it on the table and let Miss Zhao have a look. I have never lived in the Palace. I don't know about the Third Princess' preferences. I am afraid the color picked by me may be disliked by the Third Princess." Wei Yuewu smiled and said very politely.

Huamo ordered the shop assistant to put all the cloth on the table.

The colorful cloth was made of exquisite silk and looked extremely attractive.

Huamo was an expert in picking cloth that was pleasing to the eyes in terms of both materials and colors.

"There really is something nice!" Zhao Ruo'e stood up, reached out to touch a few pieces of cloth and praised.

“Miss Zhao, pick a few pieces. Consider them my gift to you. After all, it was my coachman who accidentally stained your dress.” Wei Yuewu also stood up and followed Zhao Ruo’e to have a look at the cloth.

There were more than twenty pieces of cloth, and each piece was made of nice materials. Zhao Ruo’e felt that her eyes were going to be dazzled, and the smile on her face became brighter and brighter.

“Sixth Young Lady, you are too polite. It’s not a big deal. Your carriage just slightly scratched the dress the Third Princess gave me!” Although Zhao Ruo’e pretended to be lenient, she still deliberately exaggerated the accident.

“Miss Zhao, we are going to enter the Palace soon. We will both accompany the Third Princess to pray. I am glad that I can get some nice cloth for you. Maybe after we enter the Palace, I will need your help!” Wei Yuewu smiled gently and put a piece of cloth that Zhao Ruo’e had just seen in front of her.

Then, she picked another few pieces of cloth and placed it in front of Zhao Ruo’e. “Please take it as my gift and my thanks to you for taking care of me in the Palace!”

Zhao Ruo’e had taken a fancy exactly to those pieces of cloth. At the moment, she was elated and thought that Wei Yuewu really had a good taste.

“Then I won’t be polite with you! Thank you, Sixth Young Lady. In the future, if you need any help in the Palace, just let me know!” Zhao Ruo’e immediately vouched as if she had the final say in everything in the imperial palace!

“Miss Zhao, there is no need to be polite!” Wei Yuewu said with a smile.

“Thank you, Sixth Young Lady. I have some matters to attend to, so I will take my leave first. Let’s meet in the Palace!” Zhao Ruo’e took the gift and felt that she had to reciprocate Wei Yuewu for her kindness. She then leaned close to Wei Yuewu and said in a low voice, “After entering the Palace, stay close to the Third Princess. Don’t get involved with the Fourth Princess!”

Without waiting for Wei Yuewu to say anything, she turned around and left with a smile.

“Miss, that piece... that piece was given by Concubine Dong!” After Zhao Ruo’e left, Huamo said in confusion.

One of the pieces that Wei Yuewu had specially picked out was the one Concubine Dong had given her earlier!

“Concubine Dong sent quite a lot of cloth to me, right?” Wei Yuewu’s smile was a little cold. She sat down again. She didn’t care about the cloth before, but just now she noticed the flowers on the cloth. Although the flowers on the sachet sent by Wei Yuejiao were bright red, there were only a few of them, and it was easy to ignore the flowers on the sachet.

Huamo paid great attention to materials, needle threads, and so on. Hearing Wei Yuewu’s question, she thought for a moment and answered, “Yes, Concubine Dong sent quite a lot of cloth to you. The people in the mansion all said that Concubine Dong was the kindest to you. She sent more than a dozen pieces of cloth to you at once, and each piece was extremely outstanding!”

“Then I will send this piece out and see what would happen! Of course, after going back, make another dress for me!” The corners of Wei Yuewu’s lips curled into a meaningful smile. Both Concubine Dong and Wei Yuejiao sent gifts to her that had the same flowers. It was really strange. Besides, that Embroideress Yun did not reveal any useful information about the flower...

The door was gently knocked on a few times. Shufei went to open the door. When she saw the shopkeeper standing outside the door, she was stunned for a moment and asked, “What is it?”

“I want to see the Sixth Young Lady. There is news about the soft brocade she saw here last time!” The shopkeeper lowered his voice and answered.

Chapter 283 – Plum Blossom Nunnery Again

Soft brocade was the material that Jing Wenyan had given Yan Huaijing before!

Shufei hurriedly turned around to report to Wei Yuewu. After pondering for a moment, Wei Yuewu asked Shufei to invite the shopkeeper in.

After the shopkeeper greeted Wei Yuewu, he respectfully said, "Sixth Young Lady, the soft brocade that was put in our store last time was sent here by an ordinary middle-aged scholar. When he came to get the money later, I asked someone to follow him and found that he lived outside the city, near Plum Blossom Nunnery."

Plum Blossom Nunnery? It was actually Plum Blossom Nunnery again?

Inexplicably, Wei Yuewu thought of the soft brocade in the courtyard she lived in. Such an item must not be left behind for no reason. Therefore, she put the soft brocade away and waited for the owner to ask for it. But even until now, no one came to ask for this piece of soft brocade.

It could be seen that someone had deliberately left it there to attract her attention!

But what did that person want to do? Judging from the situation at that time, that person should not have any ill intention towards her. Nevertheless, after the elapse of so much time, no one could guarantee that person was still having a goodwill towards her.

"Does he live alone?" Wei Yuewu asked after pondering for a moment.

"Yes, he's alone. Normally, he only wrote and drew for a living. Nobody could tell that he was the owner of the soft brocade! However, I followed him for a few days and found that he seemed to be related to one of the stewards of the mansion of Duke of Jing. As for the specific details about their relations, I couldn't find out!"

The shopkeeper reported.

So this matter was still related to Jing Wenyan as she had expected? Back then, Jing Wenyan wanted to curry favor with Yan Huaijing, so she used such a reason to give away this piece of soft brocade. With the mansion of Duke of Jing's strength, it was quite a normal thing for the mansion to have such a piece of soft brocade.

However, what made Wei Yuewu feel strange was the middle-aged man. It was too coincidental that he lived near Plum Blossom Nunnery.

“Is that person still there?” Wei Yuewu asked softly.

“Yes, he’s still there. I heard that he has been living there alone for many years. He makes a living by selling works of calligraphy and painting. He doesn’t have many visitors and he is also a good person!” The shopkeeper replied.

He was a fallen scholar and lived by the side of the nunnery. Well, this was all the information that Wei Yuewu could get. Moreover, he had been living there for years. It seemed that he had nothing to do with the mansion of Duke of Jing, except that he was related to one of the mansion of Duke of Jing’s stewards.

“Manager, can you keep an eye on him for some time and see what he usually does? Try to find out if there is anything special about him. If there is nothing unusual, there is no need to come back!”

Wei Yuewu thought for a moment and ordered the shopkeeper.

There was nothing strange about a scholar who had been living quietly for so many years. Nevertheless, it was strange that he was still so calm after the incident in the mansion of Duke of Jing, as if nothing had happened!

After doing the mansion of Duke of Jing such a big favor, the man would definitely receive a generous reward from the mansion of Duke of Jing. However, this person still lived on as if nothing special had occurred. From whichever perspective, this man’s behavior was unreasonable.

“Yes, I understand!” The shopkeeper was not stupid. He immediately understood the meaning of Wei Yuewu’s words and nodded repeatedly.

“If you have any new dresses, bring a few sets over. Just pick some simple and elegant ones!” Wei Yuewu said casually.

“Yes, there are a batch of new dresses that haven’t been put on the shelf yet. Sixth Young Lady, wait a moment. I will get someone to send some to you immediately!” The shopkeeper replied with a smile. Then, he turned around and went downstairs.

In a while, a few shop assistants brought in some dresses.

Wei Yuewu picked a few dresses and let the shop assistants take the others away. She already had some dresses, and the Madam Dowager also gave her some dresses recently. Now, she had enough dresses for the trip to the Palace.

After choosing her dresses, Wei Yuewu returned to the mansion with her two maids.

Jin Ling had already been back to Lotus Courtyard. After Wei Yuewu entered the inner room and took a seat, Jin Ling served her tea. "Miss, I have never seen the Lord Marquis' guest before. But this time, I went closer and saw more clearly. He was a middle-aged man who looked to be in his thirties. He had a great bearing. I pretended to rush out accidentally and almost bumped into him. He did not care at all and only took a step back."

Because Jin Ling wanted to know something more about this person, she deliberately pretended to be a reckless maid and bumped into him. However, that person actually remained calm despite of the reckless behavior of a maidservant.

He just quickly retreated a little and then continued to walk forward calmly.

Wei Yuewu received the tea and took a sip. She leaned back in her chair and asked with a smile, "Which mansion is he from?"

"It's the Tu Mansion!" Jin Ling replied. When she apologized to this lord, she took the chance to ask Wei Luowen's lad servant about this man out of curiosity.

"Tu Mansion?" Wei Yuewu's heart skipped a beat. Was this Tu Mansion the same as that Tu Mansion famous for its outstanding daughters?

"Is he from the mansion of Grand Preceptor Tu?" Wei Yuewu sat up straight, her eyes filled with surprise.

“He’s not from the mansion of Grand Preceptor Tu, but he is a distant relative of Grand Preceptor Tu. As for the specifics, the lad servant didn’t explain it clearly, and I couldn’t keep asking.”

Jin Ling thought for a moment before answering. Well, the mansion of Grand Preceptor Tu had always been famous for its outstanding daughters who were really extraordinary and well-known to all the aristocratic families.

Wei Yuewu knew that Jin Ling was very cautious. She asked, “Did you see Concubine Dong’s people?”

“Yes, I did. I followed behind that Lord Tu all the way out. At the entrance of a courtyard, I saw that Jinzhu, who was a maidservant of the Third Young Lady. She stood there and seemed to be waiting for a chance to speak to him. However, when she saw me, she retreated.”

Jin Ling followed Lord Tu all the way to the gate. She didn’t leave until she saw that Lord Tu had left the mansion. Jinzhu also followed them from a distance. However, because she saw Jin Ling was also there, she did not have any chance to speak to Lord Tu.

Wei Yuewu lowered her head and pondered for a moment. No matter what Concubine Dong wanted to do, it was clear that she had completely failed to achieve anything.

Her watery eyes fell on the pastries on the table. Wei Yuewu had tasted one before, but there were still many left.

It could be seen that Concubine Dong had carefully cooked this plate of pastries and had also made some special preparation, but in the end, all her efforts were in vain!

Moreover, the plate was also extremely outstanding. Such an outstanding plate was extremely compatible with the delicate pastries contained in it. The pastries were like flowers blooming on the plate, forming an extremely delightful scene.

This plate and these pastries looked exactly like a set.

However, the pastries were newly made by Concubine Dong. Therefore, where did Concubine Dong find this plate for holding the pastries? How many such plates did she have? If there were only a few such plates, Concubine Dong would not be able to remain calm and would definitely try to get the plate back from her!

Her target should be this Lord Tu, right? It was a pity that she wouldn't have any chance to meet him in a short period of time. She would probably explode in anger...

However, there was more for her to suffer.

"Shufei, take a new plate and put some pastries in it. Send them to the Madam Dowager's Tranquility Courtyard. Tell her that Concubine Dong made the pastries and sent them to my father, and my father specially asked me to send some to the Madam Dowager!"

As Wei Yuewu said those words, her delicate little face looked a little cunning, but she also looked lively and enchanting.

"Send some pastries to the Madam Dowager? But since the Madam Dowager will know they were made by Concubine Dong, there is no need to change the plate!" Shufei pointed at the plate of pastries. "This plate looks very unique and is extremely beautiful. The Madam Dowager will be happy to see it."

"There's no need to use this plate. It's fine as long as the Madam Dowager is interested in Concubine Dong's pastries!" Wei Yuewu raised her eyebrows and her smile became even more brilliant!

She wanted Concubine Dong to be angry, and she was doing this to provoke Concubine Dong. The angrier Concubine Dong was, the easier it was for her to find out what Concubine Dong had done to her mother. It was easier for an angry Concubine Dong to make a mistake...

In her courtyard, Concubine Dong, who had received this news, was really about to explode in anger. She frowned and asked in a stern voice, "What? You said that the plate of pastries were taken away by Wei Yuewu?"

“Yes, I secretly went to ask the lad servant in Lord Marquis’ courtyard. He said that the plate of pastries were taken away along with the plate!” Nanny Dong’s face was also gloomy. That plate was found with great difficulty by Concubine Dong. It had an extremely important role in Concubine Dong’s plan.

Concubine Dong was so angry that her pupils contracted as she said angrily, “Go, tell the Sixth Young Lady to return the plate to me!”

She could endure the humiliation of being punished with protracted kneeling by the Madam Dowager, but she could not bear to see the plate falling into the hands of Wei Yuewu!

“I am afraid this is not appropriate. The Sixth Young Lady is very vigilant. Jinzhu also said the Sixth Young Lady’s maid, Jin Ling, had been following Lord Tu.” When Nanny Dong saw Concubine Dong was so angry that her face turned green, she hurriedly reminded her. “It is impossible for the Sixth Young Lady to know about that matter. At most, it was just a coincidence. If you particularly asked for the plate, wouldn’t the Sixth Young Lady become suspicious of the plate?”

Concubine Dong clenched her fingers tightly. “This bitch, did she really find out something?”

“That’s impossible. Be at ease. At that time, the Sixth Young Lady was not born yet, and she couldn’t possibly know anything. The Sixth Young Lady must have been called there by Lord Marquis by chance and she liked that plate of pastries when she saw them!” Nanny Dong also thought that Concubine Dong was unlucky. How come the Sixth Young Lady went to the Lord Marquis’ study just after Concubine Dong left the study?

Nanny Dong continued, “I also learned that it was Lord Marquis who asked the Sixth Young Lady to go to his study. At that time, the Sixth Young Lady just returned from the Palace and didn’t know anything about it!”

“Then what should we do?” Concubine Dong also felt that Nanny Dong was right, but when she thought about how she had racked her brains and was only a step away from achieving her goal but ended up in vain simply because of Wei Yuewu, how could she not be angry?

“It is better to take it easy. Fortunately, Lord Tu has a good relationship with Lord Marquis. Although it is impossible for him to specially come to the mansion for you, it is very likely that he will come to the mansion in the future. When the time comes, you can make some pastries again. As for this plate...”

Nanny Dong didn't know what to say. It would indeed take some effort to get back the plate that had fallen into Sixth Young Lady's hands without alarming her.

"No, there is only one such plate. I must get it back!" When Concubine Dong heard Nanny Dong mention this plate, she suddenly stood up and said angrily. She had spent so much effort to find the plate, and she could not really allow it to fall into Wei Yuewu's hands.

"Is Concubine Dong here?" A voice suddenly came from the courtyard. Concubine Dong was stunned for a moment. How could she come at this time?

Chapter 284 – Dresses Had To Be Made One By One

"Is Concubine Dong here?" Nanny Hong's voice came from the courtyard. Concubine Dong winked at Nanny Dong, who understood and hurried out to greet her.

"Nanny Hong, Concubine Dong is inside. Please!"

"Is she fine? In fact, nobody could blame the Madam Dowager for what she did. It's just that the Third Young Lady went too far. After all, the Fourth Young Lady will enter the Crown Prince Mansion in the future." Nanny Hong smiled and explained why the Madam Dowager was partial to Wei Qiufu that day.

"Well, Concubine Dong is fine. She also knew that the Third Young Lady was reckless in this matter, so she reprimanded the Third Young Lady after coming back to her courtyard." Nanny Dong nodded vigorously and echoed.

As they spoke, the two of them had already arrived at the corridor. A clever maid lifted the curtain and Concubine Dong was already waiting at the door. "Nanny Hong, please come in!"

"Concubine Dong is too polite!" Nanny Hong smiled as he entered the room.

"Does the Madam Dowager have some instructions for me?" Concubine Dong asked gently.

“The Madam Dowager really likes the pastries made by you. She specially sent me here to ask you to make more for her if you have time.” Nanny Hong said happily.

“Pastries?” Concubine Dong was stunned.

“That’s right. The Sixth Young Lady sent some of the pastries that you made for the Lord Marquis to the Madam Dowager. The Madam Dowager liked them very much and kept praising you for your cooking skills. She said even the pastries in the Palace couldn’t compare with those made by you. She asked you to make more pastries when you have time.”

Nanny Hong explained with a smile. This was her purpose for coming to Concubine Dong.

“The Madam Dowager saw the pastries?” Concubine Dong almost squeezed out her teeth as she said these words. A trace of hatred flashed in her eyes. Wei Yuewu, this cheap girl! She had not only ruined her plan, but also gotten the Madam Dowager involved.

However, the mold for making the pastries was extremely precious and each mold could only be used once. Where could she get so many molds to make pastries for the Madam Dowager?

“That’s right! The Madam Dowager kept praising you for being clever and skillful!” The smile on Nanny Hong’s face faded when she saw Concubine Dong’s gloomy expression. “What? Is there any problem?”

Seeing that the situation was a bit awkward, Nanny Dong hurriedly pulled Concubine Dong’s sleeve from behind to remind her.

“It is really a blessing to be able to make pastries for the Madam Dowager. But that mold was broken. Previously, the Lord Marquis also sent someone to get it for the Sixth Young Lady. When the mold is repaired, I will definitely make some pastries for the Madam Dowager!” Seeing the displeased look on Nanny Hong’s face, Concubine Dong immediately regained her senses and smiled awkwardly.

“Alright, then. Please quickly get someone to repair the mold. The Madam Dowager is waiting for your pastries. I won’t keep disturbing you. Have a good rest and I will leave now!”

When she heard that Concubine Dong did not have a mold to make pastries, Nanny Hong's expression hardened slightly. She said a few words in a lukewarm manner and took her leave.

Seeing Nanny Hong's figure disappearing at the entrance of the courtyard, Concubine Dong slammed the table angrily and gritted her teeth. "This bitch... she... How dare she..."

"Concubine, don't be angry. This might be a coincidence. After all, it is impossible for the Sixth Young Lady to know about it!" Nanny Dong consoled from the side.

"Coincidence? Ha, this bitch just won't let me feel at ease. I have already told the people sent by Lord Marquis that the mold was broken and couldn't be used for a while, but she still attracted the attention of the Madam Dowager by sending the pastries to her!" Concubine Dong gritted her teeth and said hatefully. Then, she sat down heavily, her eyes filled with malice.

Although her plan hadn't been completely ruined, it was still troublesome to have this cheap girl in the mansion. Although Wei Yuewu did not know what she wanted to do with these pastries, what would the Madam Dowager think after Wei Yuewu sent the pastries to the Madam Dowager?

The Madam Dowager would probably think that she was deliberately currying favor from the Lord Marquis and was unfilial to her because she made such nice pastries only for the Lord Marquis but not for her.

As soon as she thought of this possibility, Concubine Dong wished that she could tear Wei Yuewu apart. She couldn't help but regret not killing her back then.

She could only blame herself for not being ruthless enough.

Back then, she thought Wei Yuewu was just a little girl who had no mother and was born with congenital deficiency, which was likely to escalate into a serious illness and take her life. Who would have thought that this girl was so lucky and lived to this day?

Thinking of this, she couldn't help but think of Lady Li, who had been her accomplice over the years. Her eyes darkened as she asked, "Is the Second Lady really crippled?"

“It should be impossible for the Second Lady to come back. I think something might have happened to the Second Lady. When the Second Master returned to the mansion that day, he didn’t talk about the Second Lady with anyone. Do you still remember?” Nanny Dong reminded Concubine Dong.

That day, Concubine Dong was punished because of Wei Yuejiao. After Wei Luowu came in, she also saw the situation. At that time, Wei Luowu was obviously having something on his mind, and his eyes were gloomy as if he was bloodthirsty. Soon, the Madam Dowager sent her and Wei Yuejiao away.

“Can you manage to see the Second Lady?” Concubine Dong asked after pondering for a moment.

Although Lady Li had returned to her parents’ home and she did not know what had happened to her, some of the most trusted servants of Lady Li were still in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. If they could be used by her, it would be a great benefit.

Apparently, Concubine Dong was trying to fish in troubled waters.

“I’m afraid that won’t do. When I went to see the Second Lady last time, I was directly sent out by Li Mansion’s people. They said that the Second Lady was heavily injured and couldn’t receive guests before she got well.” Nanny Dong thought for a moment and said. “But the Second Lady only fell and injured herself. How come she wasn’t allowed to receive guests? Moreover, I told them that I was from the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang.”

Even though Lady Li was in her parents’ home, she was still a daughter-in-law of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. When the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang sent people over, the Li Mansion did not even allow Lady Li to show up. Was Lady Li really injured too seriously, or was there some secret that couldn’t be known by others? For a moment, Concubine Dong could not figure it out.

Back then, the two of them collaborated to take Qin Xinrui’s life. Both of them benefited from their cooperation and got what they needed. In a sense, they could be considered perfect accomplices. But now, Lady Li was actually injured to such an extent that she couldn’t even see anyone. Thinking of this, Concubine Dong couldn’t help but frown in grief.

If Lady Li was still in the mansion, she would not be in such a difficult situation. It seemed that she had to think of a way to let Lady Li come back. After all, she was now only a concubine, and there were many things that were beyond her control.

But now that she could not even contact Lady Li, Concubine Dong was really anxious. It seemed that she had to think of a way to secretly meet Lady Li!

“Concubine, don’t worry. The Sixth Young Lady is about to enter the Palace to accompany the Third Princess to pray. I heard that this isn’t an easy job. Who knows if she will provoke one of the masters in the Palace and cause trouble for herself?” Nanny Dong tried to make Concubine Dong feel better.

Palace? Nanny Dong’s words reminded Concubine Dong. Her eyes suddenly lit up. Others might not know what life was like in the Palace, but she did have some knowledge about it.

With that person in the Palace, Wei Yuewu might not have an easy time in the Palace.

However, that person might not necessarily hate the little girl who almost lost her life back then.

“Did I send those pieces of cloth to her last time?” Concubine Dong turned around and asked Nanny Dong. Although she prepared everything carefully before returning, she had been busy after returning to the mansion and had forgotten about this matter.

“Yes. The cloth was prepared long ago, and those pieces of cloth is very exquisite. Even the Lord Marquis said that you chose a nice gift for the Sixth Young Lady.” At that time, Concubine entrusted Nanny Dong with everything. Therefore, she remembered it clearly, especially the gift for Wei Yuewu. As for Wei Luowen’s words, they were just fabricated by her to flatter Concubine Dong.

She knew Concubine Dong spent a lot of time choosing the gift for Wei Yuewu.

“I heard that that girl doesn’t have many dresses, and she doesn’t have a biological mother to take care of her. As a concubine, I have to take care of her a little. In a while, we will go to the Lord Marquis’ study and put up a few good words for the Sixth Young Lady. We should make a few more sets of dresses for the Sixth Young Lady before she enters the Palace. We can’t let the Sixth Young Lady lose face because she doesn’t have enough dresses.”

Concubine Dong sneered. She had selected those pieces of cloths according to that lady's preferences. Those flowers were the ones she liked most in the past. It was said that Lord Marquis had once said these flowers were beautiful.

However, nobody would wear dresses decorated with such flowers now!

Moreover, that remote tribe was really too far away from the capital. This kind of flower pattern slowly disappeared. Now, in the capital city, there should not be anyone wearing clothes decorated with this kind of flower anymore!

As long as that person remembered the past and was truly provoked, even if Wei Yuewu had nine lives, she might not be able to survive.

"Let's go to the kitchen and make some sweet soup for Lord Marquis!" Having made up her mind, Concubine Dong stood up and walked out.

"Alright, I will go and prepare it right away!" Nanny Dong understood and followed her.

"What? Grandmother wants to make extra dresses for me?" Wei Yuewu put down the teacup in her hand and looked at the several old maidservants in front of her. She asked in surprise. She clearly remembered that the Madam Dowager had just given her a set of clothes before. She didn't ask her to make more clothes.

"Yes, Sixth Young Lady. The Madam Dowager specifically told us to come over to take your size and make a few sets of clothes for you to wear in the Palace. The Madam Dowager said that you will stay in the Palace for some days this time. It was impossible to come out in a short time. Even ten sets of dresses were not enough. It was best to prepare a few more sets in case of urgent need. That was why she sent us over. She asked us to make five more sets of dresses for you in the next few days. Someone has also gone to the Fourth Young Lady's courtyard to take her size!"

One of the old maidservants from the sewing house explained with a forced smile.

“But... where is the cloth...” Jin Ling looked at the empty hands of the old maidservants and asked in confusion. Why didn’t they bring any cloth with them since they claimed to make dresses for the young lady?

“The Madam Dowager said that we can use the cloth of the Fourth Young Lady’s and Sixth Young Lady’s. The Madam Dowager doesn’t have any good cloth at the moment. When the two young ladies come back from the Palace, she will reward you with some new cloth!” The old maidservant explained.

So, the Madam Dowager wanted her to wear dresses made of her own cloth in the Palace? She did obtain some cloth recently from Concubine Dong. Moreover, those pieces of cloth was indeed outstanding. Otherwise, Zhao Ruo’e would not have chosen the piece of cloth sent by Concubine Dong at a glance.

Wei Yuewu sneered in her heart. This must be Concubine Dong’s idea. She was forcing her to take out those pieces of cloth to make dresses!

The imperial palace? It seemed that Concubine Dong really had long arms...

Well, it seemed that Concubine Dong also knew about some of the things that happened back then. That was good. She really needed Concubine Dong’s guidance to solve the puzzle of her childhood...

Chapter 285 – Chu Xiu Palace

Sure enough, when Huamo took out those pieces of cloth from inside, the old maidservant in charge of the sewing house immediately indicated that the few pieces on the top were extremely beautiful and suitable for young ladies.

Thus, the other old maidservants immediately began to take Wei Yuewu’s size and recorded the numbers. After everything was ready, they left with the cloth!

Jin Ling had been paying attention to the movements of these old maidservants. After they left, she immediately reported, “Miss, they chose the cloth sent by Concubine Dong!”

Wei Yuewu nodded silently, her long eyelashes fluttering a few times to hide the stern look in her eyes.

There was indeed something unusual with Concubine Dong's cloth. Was it because of the flowers?

The day of entering the Palace arrived. Early in the morning, the Palace sent carriages to each mansion to pick up the designated young ladies. Two carriages were parked in front of the gate of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang.

Wei Qiufu and Wei Yuewu had taken a bath and changed their clothes early in the morning. They bid farewell to the Madam Dowager and got on the imperial carriages. The two carriages drove slowly one after the other and entered the gate of the imperial palace.

When they entered the gate, there were already two soft sedans waiting for them. They each got on a sedan, and eunuchs carried them to the inner part of the Palace. Jin Ling followed beside Wei Yuewu's sedan.

After quite a while, the sedan finally stopped at the Empress' Feng Yi Palace.

Wei Yuewu got off the sedan and saw that Wei Qiufu had already gotten off. However, she did not go forward. Instead, she retreated to the side and waited there. Her heart skipped a beat and she also obediently retreated to the side.

There were layers upon layers of stone steps at the palace gate. There were eunuchs and palace maids beside them, but no one came to summon them in. Wei Yuewu looked around and saw that Zhao Ruo'e had also come, but she also waited at the side. It seemed that they were waiting for the other young ladies.

Wei Yuewu also stood quietly at the side. Not long after, several other young ladies arrived one after another on soft sedans. Then, they got off the sedans and all stood calmly at the side. Each of them looked dignified and solemn. No one dared to talk.

After waiting for a while, it seemed that all the young ladies had arrived. A eunuch came over to summon them inside. Wei Yuewu followed the crowd and walked up the steps.

Walking all the three sections of steps was not easy, and the young ladies were a little breathless. When they got to the top, everyone took a brief rest before walking into the hall of Feng Yi Palace one by one in order.

Not only was Empress Tu sitting in the hall, but there was also Zhaoyi Tu beside her. On both sides were the Third Princess and the Fourth Princess.

Seeing Wei Qiufu enter, the Fourth Princess coldly snorted.

Empress Tu raised her head and glanced at her. In the end, the Fourth Princess did not say anything and only glanced coldly at Wei Qiufu.

Everyone knelt down and bowed to Empress Tu.

“As you were!” Empress Tu said with a faint smile.

Everyone stood up, but all of them lowered their heads, not daring to look around casually.

“You will be staying with the Third Princess during the next ten days of fasting and praying. For the time being, you will be living at Chu Xiu Palace. Every morning, you will accompany the Third Princess to pray. As for the rest of the time, if you want to take a look around the Palace, then feel free. You are all young girls, and I won’t be too strict with you.”

Empress Tu smiled very amiably, she looked every inch a paradigm of dignity and gentleness.

The few of them knelt down again to thank Empress Tu, “Thank you for your kindness, Your Majesty!”

“There is no need to stand on ceremony!” Empress Tu smiled and turned to the Third Princess, “Caidie, are you going to take them to the residence by yourself, or do you need me to ask the palace maid to take them there?”

“Mother Empress, let me do it myself. I don’t dare to trouble your people!” The Third Princess’ gentle voice came from the high platform.

“That’s fine too. You young girls have a lot to talk, so I am leaving it to you. Cailuan, are you going with your Third Elder Sister to take a look?” Empress Tu suggested with a smile.

The Fourth Princess had never liked the Third Princess, so she naturally had no interest in the Third Princess’ matters. At this moment, she weakly said, “I’m not going. I still have things to do!”

“Cailuan...” Empress Tu’s face darkened slightly.

“Elder Sister, the Fourth Princess is still young. She is definitely unwilling to be restrained. Just let the Fourth Princess play on her own. Otherwise, she will say that you and I are restraining her so that she can’t play!” Zhaoyi Tu teased with a smile on her face.

“Cailuan is not a kid anymore. She is about to pray for the prosperity of the country...” Empress Tu looked at the Fourth Princess with a smile and sighed.

“Elder Sister, why are you in such a hurry? The Fourth Princess was endowed by nature with unusual intelligence. She is just a little playful. When she grows up a little, she will immediately change and mature!” Zhaoyi Tu was an excellent speaker. After hearing her words, the Fourth Princess smiled and nodded repeatedly.

“Mother Empress, take your time. You are all busy with Third Elder Sister’s matter now. I can’t help much. If Third Elder Sister needs my help, I will definitely go there immediately!”

“Alright! Then you can go back first!” Empress Tu said helplessly.

“Thank you, Mother Empress, thank you, Your Highness!” The Fourth Princess was in a good mood. After bowing to Empress Tu and Zhaoyi Tu, she walked off the high platform.

Wei Yuewu and the other girls looked at their own noses and held their breaths, not moving a little bit.

“Mother Empress, then I will take them away with me!” The Third Princess also stood up and bowed to Empress Tu.

Empress Tu smiled and nodded. She waved her hand and said, “You can leave now!”

The Third Princess also walked down the high platform. Wei Yuewu and the others consciously bowed to Empress Tu and then followed behind the Third Princess.

After leaving Feng Yi Palace, the Third Princess got on her carriage, whereas Wei Yuewu and the others got on their soft sedans. They headed towards Chu Xiu Palace.

After they reached the gate of Chu Xiu Palace, they got off one by one.

The gate of Chu Xiu Palace was wide open, and a few senior nurses in charge stood at the gate. When they saw the Third Princess getting off the carriage, they all bowed respectfully.

“As you were!” The Third Princess waved her hand and pointed at the gate. “This is Chu Xiu Palace. You guys take your luggage into your rooms first. I’ll send someone over in the afternoon to lead you to my place to have a gathering.”

“Yes!” Wei Yuewu and the others answered in unison.

After the Third Princess got on the carriage and left, the few of them finally relaxed.

“Sixth Miss Wei!” Zhao Ruo’e gave Wei Yuewu a friendly nod.

“Miss Zhao!” Wei Yuewu smiled back.

“Let’s go in together. Chu Xiu Palace is still empty. When the nation-wide selection starts, this place will be filled with people!” Zhao Ruo’e had been accompanying the Third Princess to study in the Palace, so she wasn’t too reserved now. She pointed at the large palace and said with a smile.

“Miss Zhao, during the nation-wide selection, will all the candidates live here?” Wei Qiufu asked from the side. Apparently, she did not know much about the nation-wide selection either.

“That’s for sure. Where else can they live? The Crown Prince Mansion is close to this place, and each time a nation-wide selection is held, the candidates will live in this palace. Every room will be filled with candidates!” Because of the incident in the Plum Blossom Nunnery, Zhao Ruó’e was unhappy with Wei Qiufu, so she didn’t sound friendly when speaking to Wei Qiufu.

“Young ladies, these are the rooms where you will live. Which one do you want?” An old palace maid brought over a few tokens and asked with a smile.

Several young ladies who were familiar with the situation in the Palace immediately picked their rooms. As for the others who were not clear about the situation, they randomly picked a token and then were led by a young palace maid to their respective room.

Although they lived in Chu Xiu Palace, they were not real palace maids, so there was no need for them to share rooms.

The room selected by Wei Yuewu was at the corner. It could be considered a quiet place. However, it was now in winter, and such a quiet place was also very cold both inside and outside the room.

Wei Yuewu and Jin Ling followed the palace maid into the room. Everything inside the room was new. Although the room was not big, it was divided into two parts by a screen. The outer part could be considered a reception room, and the inner part was a bedroom.

After Wei Yuewu and Jin Ling were both in the room the palace maid left.

Jin Ling pushed open the window at the back and looked outside. Then, she said unhappily, “Miss, it is a bit cold here!”

This window was facing the north and cold wind kept blowing in. It was truly not a good place to live in during winter.

“It doesn’t matter. We only have to live here for ten days!” Wei Yuewu sat down by the bed and said with a faint smile.

“But you are in poor health. Living in such a cold place will hurt your body.” Jin Ling was truly worried for Wei Yuewu. She had been serving Wei Yuewu for a period of time. She knew that Wei Yuewu’s body was frail and needed more care than most young ladies. What was more, she had suffered a series of incidents recently.

“No need!” Wei Yuewu shook her head. She didn’t want to be noticed by others in the Palace. Who knew what the masters in the Palace would think if she asked to change her room immediately after entering the Palace? She only wanted to be an unknown Sixth Miss Wei!

“But Miss, your body...” Jin Ling was still worried and wanted to say something, but Wei Yuewu waved her hand to stop her.

“Jin Ling, we are now in the imperial palace. We all know that there are the Emperor, Empress, and imperial concubines of various palaces in the imperial palace. We must be respectful to any one of them. We must not forget that they are the masters of this place!” Wei Yuewu warned.

“Yes, Miss!” Jin Ling said helplessly.

The clothes they brought were carried here in the soft sedan. By the time, the young palace maid who led them to the room had brought in the clothes and placed them on the table in the outer room. Then, she respectfully retreated.

The palace maids all knew that the young ladies who entered the Palace today were all daughters of great aristocratic families. Their statuses were much nobler than those candidates in the nation-wide selection. It was a great blessing to be picked by the Empress to accompany the Third Princess to pray.

Jin Ling took the package into the inner room. She opened the package and started to sort out the dresses of Wei Yuewu.

“Miss, I wonder if Miss Zhao used that piece of cloth to make dresses for herself?”

Although she didn't say which cloth, Wei Yuewu knew that she was talking about the cloth sent by Concubine Dong. She smiled thoughtfully and said, "She did!"

It was such an outstanding piece of cloth, and the flower pattern looked so unique. How could Zhao Ruo'e, who was eager to make her name, not use it? Wei Yuewu knew it from her proud look just now.

Was the flower pattern on the cloth an annoyance to any master in the Palace? Concubine Dong did not seem like a person who would work for nothing. Who was that person? What kind of relationship did that person have with her?

Just as Wei Yuewu was thinking, there was a sudden knock on the slightly closed door. They had just entered the room. Which young lady would be so eager to come and chat with her? Jin Ling was a little confused and looked at Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu nodded and walked to the outer room. Jin Ling took a few quick steps ahead of her. She reached out and opened the door...

Chapter 286 – The Connection Between The Qin And Qin Scores

The door opened, and a eunuch stood at the door with a smile. "Is it Sixth Miss Wei who lives in the house?"

"Yes, it is. She is the young lady of our mansion!" Jin Ling answered warily.

"The Crown Prince asked to see her!" The Eunuch said politely.

"Crown Prince?" Wei Yuewu raised her eyes and asked in surprise. She did not have any special interaction with the Crown Prince. Why was the Crown Prince asking to see her so urgently?

The Eunuch explained, "The Crown Prince has something to inquire, so he asked some ladies to come over!"

So, the Crown Prince was also seeing others? Wei Yuewu's heart skipped a beat. "Who else is also going?"

The Eunuch replied, "There are also Fourth Miss Wei, Miss Zhao, and Miss Qin!"

"Are we going now?" Wei Yuewu smiled and asked.

"Yes, His Highness is currently free!"

That meant the Crown Prince had time now, and the few of them must go over immediately. Wei Yuewu pondered for a moment and nodded.

The eunuch stood outside the room waiting for her. Jin Ling quickly helped Wei Yuewu dressed up. Then, they hurriedly followed the eunuch out of Chu Xiu Palace.

There were four soft sedans waiting outside the gate. Wei Qiufu and the other two young ladies arrived earlier than Wei Yuewu. Seeing Wei Yuewu coming over, Wei Qiufu seemed to want to say something to her, but the eunuch who was beside her urged her to get on the sedan.

As a result, everyone got on the sedans, which went all the way to the Crown Prince Mansion.

The Crown Prince Mansion was actually also a part of the imperial palace, and it was not too far from Chu Xiu Palace. However, the Crown Prince Mansion was quite big.

The current Crown Prince Wen Tianyao didn't have a wife yet. Many of the palaces inside the Crown Prince Mansion were empty. In the main hall, Wen Tianyao frowned as he looked at the files in front of him.

"Is this news true?" Wen Tianyao's face was cold and his eyebrows twitched violently several times.

The guard kneeling in front of him lowered his head and answered, "Your Highness, I don't know if it is true or not, but it was reportedly true!"

Wen Tianyao stood up, walked around the hall for two circles, and finally stood in front of the guard.
“Go and investigate again!”

“Yes!” The atmosphere in the main hall was too depressing. The guard unconsciously lowered his voice and cold sweat began to form on his back. Knowing too much about the secrets of the royal family was extremely dangerous, and he was afraid of getting killed for this one day.

However, he did not dare to disobey the orders of the Crown Prince.

“Leave now!” Wen Tianyao waved his hand.

The guard stood up, bowed to Wen Tianyao and left by stepping backwards. When he was at the door, he met a eunuch who hurried over.

The eunuch was the supervisor of those eunuchs who went to pick up Wei Yuewu and the others. After entering, he respectfully reported to Wen Tianyao, “Your Highness, the young ladies have arrived!”

“Bring them in!” Wen Tianyao nodded. He actually only wanted to see Wei Qiufu and Wei Yuewu, but if he only summoned the two of them here, it would arouse the suspicion of others. Therefore, he specially picked two of the Third Princess’ study companions as a cover-up and asked the four of them to come together.

The Eunuch announced at the top of the stairs, “Young ladies, His Highness asks the four of you to come in!”

Wei Yuewu and the others responded and walked into the hall together.

Wei Yuewu was upset. After all, she still owed him a portrait. Moreover, although she had seen the Crown Prince several times, it was outside the Palace. Moreover, most of their encounters occurred with the presence of Yan Huaijing. It seemed that with Yan Huaijing on the side, the Crown Prince’s manner was not so imposing.

However, the situation was different today. Before she could see the Crown Prince, she was already shocked by the majestic buildings. In addition, the Crown Prince suddenly summoned them. Although Wei Yuewu had a firm will, she could not help but feel a little nervous.

The four young ladies entered one by one. Because Wei Yuewu was the youngest, she walked at the end. They bowed to Wen Tianyao, who then asked them to be seated.

“Young ladies, I heard the four of you are all famous for your talent and skills. I just happened to get a few qin instruments today, so I am giving them to you!” Wen Tianyao’s expression was calm as he reached out to pat on the desk.

A few beautiful palace maids immediately came out. Each of them held a qin in their hands and delivered it to the four of the young ladies.

Although these qins had different appearances, if people looked at them carefully, they would find all the qins were of the highest quality and were rarely seen.

Wei Yuewu stretched out her hand and gently stroked the strings. The sound of the qin was distant and lingering, and Wei Qiufu and the others could not help but gently stroke the strings of the qins in front of them. For a moment, melodious qin sounds resonated in the hall.

“Thank you, Your Highness!” Wei Qiufu liked qin the most. She was the first to stand up and bow to Wen Tianyao. Wei Yuewu and the others also stood up to thank Wen Tianyao.

“Young ladies, there is no need to stand on ceremony. These qins are my reward for your qin skills. I also have a book of qin scores here. I will also give it to you!”

Wen Tianyao said gently with a smile on his handsome face.

Several palace maids came in and put down a book of qin scores in front of each of the four young ladies.

Wei Yuewu picked it up and had a look. She had never seen this book before, but she could tell that qin scores had just been copied, because the ink was quite new. Apparently, it was copied in the past few days.

"I have always liked qin. Young ladies, please practice the tune in the next few days. There will be a banquet at Her Majesty's place several days later, and I want to invite the four of you to play qin at the banquet!" Wen Tianyao smiled as he glanced at Wei Qiufu and then at Wei Yuewu.

Among the four young ladies in the main hall, Wei Yuewu was the calmest. Daughters of noble families all learned to play qin and chess and practiced calligraphy and painting before they got married. In fact, no one was absolutely more accomplished than the others. However, almost all young aristocratic ladies would have a similar interest in qin.

But now, as he swept his gaze over them, Wen Tianyao noticed all of them revealed happy expressions upon hearing his words, except this Sixth Miss Wei, whose childish and delicate face did not have much of a ripple on it. That kind of expression coupled with that pair of clear and cold beautiful eyes made people unable to ignore her.

Could it be that Wei Yuewu had lived in the countryside for a long time and was not good at qin? If so, it was reasonable that she did not have much interest in this kind of things like rare qin and qin scores...

Sensing that he was distracted, Wen Tianyao retracted his gaze. Whatever the reason, the fact that she was not excited about receiving the things from him was worth investigating. He would definitely check it out. There were some things about this girl that really confused him. He was the Crown Prince and the future ruler of the country. If he could not even find out the truth about a weak young lady, how would he be able to rule the country properly in the future?

Wei Yuewu also noticed Wen Tianyao's gaze. She lowered her head slightly and avoided him. No matter what the Crown Prince was planning, she was determined to show that she was not skilled in qin.

The qin and qin scores rewarded by Wen Tianyao reminded her of the qin and qin scores that Yan Huaijing asked her to think of a way for them to fall into the hands of Wei Qiufu. Although they were not exactly the same as the ones Wen Tianyao rewarded her today, there was a connection that Wei Yuewu felt difficult to figure out.

“Yes, Your Highness!” Wei Qiufu was overjoyed as she stroked the qin in front of her. She was so happy that she couldn’t control herself. Back then, she made her name for her talent and skill by playing the qin. Now, the Crown Prince rewarded a qin and qin scores to each of them, she saw a perfect chance she had wanted.

She glanced proudly at Wei Yuewu who was looking down with her head drooped. She was confident that she would be able to familiarize herself with the qin scores within a few days. None of the other three was a match for her.

“Yes, Your Highness!” Following Wei Qiufu, the other young ladies also responded one after another.

If they succeeded in making their mark in front of the Empress, they might have a chance to enter the Crown Prince Mansion. Zhao Ruo’e and Qin Wenyu looked at each other, and the two of them couldn’t help but be overjoyed.

Although it was also a delightful thing for them to be the dowry maids of the Third Princess who would get married with an heir-apparent of a duke, the premise was that she could marry the incomparably handsome Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State. However, according to the current situation, the Third Princess might not necessarily get married to Yan Huaijing.

This gorgeous heir-apparent who looked like an exiled immortal hadn’t exhibited the slightest bit of interest in the Third Princess yet. It really made the Third Princess and her study companions worried. Could it be that this heir-apparent took a fancy to the Fourth Princess?

After all, the Fourth Princess was born by the Empress and the Crown Prince was her elder brother!

Therefore, Zhao Ruo’e and the other study companions of the Third Prince were also at a loss about their future. However, if they could directly enter the Crown Prince Mansion, they would not have to leave the capital. Moreover, they would also be doted by the Crown Prince. From whichever perspective, it was a happy ending for them.

“Take the ladies to try the qin instruments first. If there is anything wrong about the qins, ask the musicians in the palace to help adjust the qins!” Wen Tianyao instructed.

Several eunuchs came over and led the four young ladies out of Wen Tianyao’s main hall.

Wei Yuewu took Jin Ling with her and followed a eunuch into a side hall. The side hall was not big, but it was quite empty.

The Eunuch said with a smile, "Sixth Miss Wei, please try your qin here first. I will be waiting outside the hall. If you need anything, just tell me!"

Wei Yuewu nodded and waved her hand. The eunuch turned around and walked out.

"Miss, what did the Crown Prince mean?" Jin Ling asked in a low voice as she placed the qin on the table for Wei Yuewu. It was not a particularly urgent matter to play the qin at the Empress' banquet.

"We just wait and see!" Wei Yuewu shook her head and sat down on a chair. Although she really wanted to find out the relationship between the Crown Prince and her mother, it was not the right time yet. She reached out to pick up the qin scores and read carefully.

This should also be a rare copy. At least, Wei Yuewu had never seen it before. Her granny also collected some copies of qin scores for her, but they were almost all common qin scores. She had never seen a copy like this one or the one Yan Huaijing gave her last time.

Why did the two of them send these unique copies out?

However, Wei Yuewu knew there was a place where there was a collection of extinct copies of qin scores. Although there weren't many of them, Wei Yuewu found several copies that day. It took a lot of effort to get even one such extinct copy. Who would spend so much effort and money to find them unless they were really interested?

Her hand gently fell on the qin and stroked it, but her mind was spinning rapidly. What was the Crown Prince trying to do? He could let the four of them try the qins in the same room, but why did he send them each to a side hall and let them do it separately?

If her guess was correct, did it mean that the Crown Prince would ask the young ladies in the side halls one by one, whereas she would be the main target of his investigation?

Although her fingers were still playing with the strings, Wei Yuewu ordered in a low voice, “Jin Ling, when someone comes later, let me know!”

“Yes, Miss, I understand!” Jin Ling was quick-witted. Now that she saw Wei Yuewu’s expression, she became even more vigilant. Although she was standing at the side and waiting on Wei Yuewu as she played the qin, her attention was completely focused on what happened outside.

At first, it was very quiet outside the door. But soon, faint footsteps could be heard. There were at least three persons coming.

Then, there were footsteps at the door. It seemed that the eunuch, who was guarding the door, saw someone coming and went up to greet him.

Jin Ling reached out and pulled Wei Yuewu by the sleeve, indicating that someone was coming here!

Wei Yuewu nodded slightly. Her eyes were deep and serene. As expected, the person came, and he had come at the right time. How could she let go of such a good opportunity?

Chapter 287 – Who Was Marquise Hua Yang’S Favorite Child

After Wei Yuewu plucked the strings, she stopped and sighed softly!

Jin Ling, who was at the side, had already understood her intention and asked, “Miss, what’s wrong? Is this qin not good?”

“This qin reminds me of my mother!” Wei Yuewu lowered her eyes and said in a low voice. However, the hall was so empty and her voice could be heard even by people outside.

Beside the door, Wen Tianyao waved his hand, motioning the people behind him to stop. He also stood still and listened carefully. So, Wei Yuewu was going to talk about Marquise Hua Yang?

“What happened to Madam?” Jin Ling asked in confusion.

“My mother must like playing the qin when she was alive!” Wei Yuewu’s fingers flicked on the qin a few more times. “There are also a few extinct copies of qin scores on my mother’s bookshelf. They must be found by my father for my mother!”

“Madam seemed to like playing the qin. I also heard that Madam played the qin very well. I heard it from a few old nannies in the mansion.” Jin Ling echoed Wei Yuewu’s words.

“It’s a pity that my mother died early. I was raised at my maternal grandparents’ house, so I don’t know what my mother liked when she was alive. I am not very good at playing the qin either.” Wei Yuewu sighed and then continued, “Fourth Elder Sister’s qin skills are the best. Compared with her, I am really nothing!”

“Miss, don’t blame yourself. Playing the qin is not something that can be learned in a day. You haven’t lived in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang since you were a little girl. Without training by good teachers, it is really not easy to play as well as you do!” Jin Ling said indignantly.

“Actually, it is also because I don’t have a gift for qin! Fourth Elder Sister should be very good at playing the qin!” Wei Yuewu shook her head with a bitter smile. Her fingers casually plucked the strings of the qin. Then, she stood up and said in a somewhat annoyed tone, “Why is my mother related to the imperial palace? Before she got married to my father, hadn’t she been living in the capital? Could it be that something happened during the years when she was married with my father?”

Of course, Jin Ling didn’t need to answer these questions. It was obvious that she was upset and talking to herself.

“Jin Ling, what do you think will happen if I ask the Crown Prince about my mother?” Wei Yuewu suddenly stopped and asked Jin Ling.

“This... this is not appropriate!” Jin Ling hesitated for a moment, obviously having no idea. “But...Miss, the Crown Prince is high and mighty, if you ask him those questions, won’t you offend him?”

Offending the Crown Prince was a serious crime that could not be exonerated by mere misunderstanding.

“Then what should I do? I really want to know what happened between my mother and my father.” Wei Yuewu sighed and sat down again, as if she knew that her idea was too whimsical.

“Miss, don’t worry. You will find out sooner or later.” Jin Ling comforted Wei Yuewu.

“How can I not be anxious? Concubine Dong can’t wait to become the new marquise and is now eager for actions. If my father really promoted her to the position of Marquise Hua Yang, she would definitely burn all the things left by my mother. Look at my mother’s courtyard that has become so dilapidated. It is easy to know what Concubine Dong would do to my mother’s items!” Wei Yuewu mocked herself. “The moment Concubine Dong entered the city, she asked the Third Elder Sister to teach me a lesson. After she was back in the mansion, she even made things difficult for me in all respects. She was so deeply jealous of my mother.”

“Why didn’t Lord Marquis marry some noble young lady? Why does he have to elevate a concubine to the position of marquise? Isn’t this blasphemy to Madam? Miss, after we return to the mansion this time, you must ask the Madam Dowager to help find a noble young lady for Lord Marquis. Only a noble young lady will be generous. Not only will she not ruin Madam’s things, but she will also take special care of them.”

Jin Ling said indignantly.

Looking at Jin Ling’s angry look, Wei Yuewu chuckled and then her smile faded. “I have never been clear about what happened to my mother. If my mother’s things were really burned, I will never have a chance to get the answer!”

“Miss, it can’t be!” Jin Ling comforted her.

This time, Wei Yuewu did not answer. She just focused on playing the qin. The sound of the qin was elegant, but there was a sense of loss in it. It was not the tune that had just been given to Wei Yuewu.

Outside the hall, Wen Tianyao frowned and looked at the slightly opened door with a complicated gaze. However, he did not take another step forward, and his eyes were filled with a fierce look.

It turned out Wei Yuewu actually knew nothing about Marquise Hua Yang. But on second thought, it made sense. She was at such a young age when her mother died that if nobody talked to her about her mother, it was basically impossible for her to know anything.

Then what about Wei Qiufu, who had been living in the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang all these years? She was older than Wei Yuewu and she should know more about Marquise Hua Yang!

With this thought in mind, Wen Tianyao turned around and walked to another side hall where Wei Qiufu was trying the qin. However, he stopped after taking only a few steps. His long and narrow eyes looked at the door of the hall, and the corners of his lips slightly curled into a smile.

Ever since Wei Yuewu entered the capital, she had attracted his attention. This was the first time in his life that he had seen such a smart and quick-witted girl!

Now, she was also in trouble? Concubine Dong wanted to burn Marquise Hua Yang's items. Coincidentally, he was not willing to see such a result. What he was investigating was related to Marquise Hua Yang. He could not let that Concubine Dong ruin her items!

Father Emperor had said that he would grant a noble young lady to Marquis Hua Yang as his legitimate wife. Well, he could take the chance to offer help.

Wen Tianyao turned around. This time, he strode out without looking back.

"Miss, they are gone!" Jin Ling, seemed to have been listening to the qin the whole time, but in fact, she was paying attention to the outside. Hearing the sound of footsteps leaving, she reminded Wei Yuewu.

Wei Yuewu nodded. There was a strange look in her beautiful eyes. She took her hand away from the qin and rested her chin on one hand. With a faint smile, she said, "His Highness the Crown Prince's decree should be announced soon. The Fourth Elder Sister will enter the Crown Prince Mansion as she wished!"

"Miss, the Fourth Young Lady will definitely deal with you!" Jin Ling said uneasily. She was not happy with Wei Qiufu being able to enter the Crown Prince Mansion at all. Jin Ling and the other maids of Wei Yuewu were all clear about Wei Qiufu's hatred for Wei Yuewu.

“Don’t worry. It will be very difficult for Fourth Elder Sister to obtain a high position!” Wei Yuewu smiled slightly, her beautiful eyes glowing as she said meaningfully, “This Crown Prince has just made Yang Yuyan his junior concubine. Before the Crown Princess is announced, it should be very difficult for him to take others as his high-ranking concubine!”

Since a nation-wide selection was held to choose a Crown Princess, there must be some important reasons. Whatever the reasons were, it was not appropriate for side concubines to be announced one by one before the Crown Princess.

“But... but the Fourth Young Lady won’t give up!” Jin Ling still had some doubts. She knew the Fourth Young Lady was not someone who was willing to be placed under others. “Moreover, the Fourth Young Lady’s status in the Crown Prince Mansion must be higher than that of Eldest Miss Yang no matter what!”

In terms of status, Yang Yuyan was indeed inferior to Wei Qiufu. Moreover, Wei Qiufu’s reputation had always been good. However, the problem was that although Wei Qiufu’s token was kept by the Crown Prince, the Crown Prince did not like her. In the end, Yang Yuyan became the first to be taken by the Crown Prince as a junior concubine.

If Wei Qiufu wanted to enter the Crown Prince Mansion, the timing wasn’t in favor of her!

Of course, it was impossible for Wei Qiufu to submit obediently. Didn’t Wei Qiufu gang up with Wei Fengyao? It was evident that she would take action soon. The longer it dragged on, the worse it would be for her.

“Jin Ling, pay more attention to Fourth Elder Sister in the following days!”

Wei Qiufu did not expect that Wen Tianyao would appear in the side hall before she made a move. She hurriedly picked up the corner of her skirt and walked out of the table. Then, she respectfully curtsied to Wen Tianyao.

“Greetings, Your Highness!”

Wen Tianyao nodded. He walked to the seat and sat down calmly. His gaze fell on Wei Qiufu and he directly asked, "Fourth Young Lady, do you remember anything about Marquise Hua Yang?"

Wei Yuewu's birth mother? Wei Qiufu's heart skipped a beat. She hurriedly replied, "Eldest Aunt had been very nice to me since I was a little girl. At that time, I was still young. Sometimes, I even thought that Eldest Aunt was my mother, while my own mother did not care much about me!"

Wen Tianyao understood the meaning behind her words and asked calmly, "The Third Lady didn't treat you well?"

At this time, people could no longer see any impatience in his expression.

"Well, my mother treated me very well. It's just that... I always remembered that Eldest Aunt was more concerned about me. At that time, as long as I went to her place, Eldest Aunt would carry me in her arms! She would get someone to bring me delicious food. Sometimes, she even gave Sixth Younger Sister's share to me!" Wei Qiufu thought for a moment and answered according to her own conjecture.

While she spoke, she carefully observed Wen Tianyao's reaction, ready to change her words if anything went wrong.

"I heard that Marquise Hua Yang was extremely good at playing the qin and liked collecting qin scores. I wonder if you have any copy on your hand?" Wen Tianyao smiled and asked.

"I got a few copies of qin scores from Eldest Aunt. After Eldest Aunt passed away, her courtyard was also locked. After that, her things were never moved again!" Wei Qiufu breathed a sigh of relief. Of course, she already knew that Wei Yuewu's mother loved to play the qin when she was alive. Later, she went to Nanny Hong to get the key and secretly took away a few copies of qin scores without telling others.

However, she only dared to take away several copies of qin scores. Who knew when the Eldest Uncle would think of the courtyard again? If he knew that she had secretly taken away a few copies of qin scores collected by the marquise, he might get angry.

In the mansion, it had always been rumored that back then, in order to marry Wei Yuewu's birth mother, the Eldest Uncle actually acted against the will of the Madam Dowager. In the end, the Madam Dowager had no choice but to give her consent.

But of course, she could not tell the truth to the Crown Prince. Seeing that the Crown Prince was so concerned about Wei Yuewu's mother, she knew that there was a secret behind it. If she could seize the opportunity, she might have a chance to soar into the sky at one go.

At the thought of this, Wei Qiufu felt her entire body heating up.

The opportunity seemed to be right in front of her. Since the Crown Prince was concerned about Marquise Hua Yang, she must show that she was extremely close to Marquise Hua Yang. Such a relationship was an advantage that even Wei Yuewu didn't have...

"Did Sixth Miss Wei get qin scores from the marquise?" Wen Tianyao asked with a frown.

"I don't know. Maybe she was still a kid at that time!" Wei Qiufu hinted tactfully, indicating that she was Marquise Hua Yang's favorite child and the closest one to her.

At that time, she was only a child. Even if she did not notice something, it was normal.

"Your Highness..." Wei Qiufu appeared hesitant as she looked at Wen Tianyao.

"What is it? Speak!" Wen Tianyao's face turned cold as he asked in a low voice.

"There is one thing that I don't know if I should say or not!" Wei Qiufu's eyes were filled with panic. She looked at Wen Tianyao timidly and bit her lips. However, this showed the importance of the words she was going to say.

"Speak, I will pardon you!" Wen Tianyao's eyes narrowed.

Chapter 288 – My Woman Is Naturally The Most Outstanding

“Your Highness, there was one time when I was tired from playing at Eldest Aunt’s place. Eldest Aunt let me rest there, and I vaguely heard her crying...” Wei Qiufu swallowed nervously. In fact, she did not know the truth of the matter. She did not know if her speculations were correct or not. So, she looked at Wen Tianyao carefully and continued to make up her story.

“Didn’t she say anything?” Although Wen Tianyao looked very concerned, he did not care to the extent that he looked nervous.

What was wrong?

“I... I didn’t hear her clearly. She seemed to say...that I had an elder brother...” When Wei Qiufu said this sentence, she was also shocked. However, at this moment, if she did not say these words, she would not be able to shock the Crown Prince.

“Did she speak to you?” Wen Tianyao asked with a cold expression.

“Well... I think so. At that time... Sixth Younger Sister was sleeping in another room. Aunt only kept me by her side!”

Wei Qiufu couldn’t figure out what Wen Tianyao was thinking at the moment, so she could only try her best to make her “story” sound more appealing.

“What else did she say?” Wen Tianyao frowned tightly. Hearing Wei Qiufu’s story, he felt that some things were very similar to his findings, but some were not, especially this Fourth Miss Wei in front of him, who should have been just a passer-by. Now, he was confused by her story, which disrupted all his thoughts.

Was Fourth Miss Wei related to this issue?

“I didn’t hear anything else. At that time, I didn’t care. After that, I thought it was just a dream. Later, Eldest Aunt passed away, and Sixth Younger Sister was sent to her maternal grandparents’ home. Eldest Aunt’s courtyard was also locked and remained empty.” Wei Qiufu didn’t dare to say anything unnecessary. She only had a vague guess.

She originally did not know about this kind of thing. The more she said, the easier it would be for others to find out that she was lying. However, at that time, she was still a little girl. Nobody could blame her if something went wrong with her memory.

Due to her guilty conscience, she did not dare to look at Wen Tianyao anymore. She could not help but look to the side. This made Wen Tianyao inexplicably think of what happened in the Plum Blossom Nunnery, and his eyes turned cold.

He actually didn't have much of a good impression of Wei Qiufu! Thinking back to that day, he really didn't like this kind of sophisticated woman who was used to scheming against others! Therefore, he was skeptical of Wei Qiufu's words!

"Fourth Young Lady, please practice qin more. I hope that you can show off your talent at the banquet of Her Majesty!" Wen Tianyao turned around and walked out.

"Yes, Your Highness!" Wei Qiufu hurriedly bowed.

She was overjoyed. Although the Crown Prince was a little cold to her, his attitude was much better than before. At least this time, the Crown Prince still hoped that she could show off her talent.

She had been confident of entering the Crown Prince Mansion. If she could gain the Empress' favor, her status would definitely not be lower than that of Yang Yuyan.

Ming Yan also understood Wen Tianyao's words. After Wen Tianyao left, she said excitedly, "Miss, His Highness means that as long as you can make the Empress happy, you will definitely enter the Crown Prince Mansion with a high position!"

"That should be the implied meaning!" A hint of surprise flashed through Wei Qiufu's eyes.

"Then what about the Eldest Young Lady?" Ming Yan lowered her voice and asked.

“It doesn’t matter. Just let Eldest Sister continue with her plan. Who would be unhappy for having a high position?” Wei Qiufu said proudly. A sinister sneer appeared on her lips. Because of what happened in the Plum Blossom Nunnery, she had been implicated by Wei Yuewu. Not only did she lose the chance to compete for the position of Crown Princess, but she could not even secure the position of a side concubine.

She was determined to go all out to achieve what she wanted when entering the Palace this time. Now that the Crown Prince had said those words, she had even a brighter future.

Once she entered the Crown Prince Mansion with a high position, she would definitely trample Wei Yuewu under her feet. As for Wei Yuewu’s marriage, of course, she would also have a say!

As for what kind of man Wei Yuewu could marry, it would depend on her mood...

Wei Yuewu was the first to leave the Crown Prince Mansion.

She left early because the eunuch said that if there was nothing wrong with the qin, she could go back first and didn’t have to wait for the other young ladies.

Therefore, Wei Yuewu only plucked the strings casually to indicate that there was nothing wrong with the qin. Then, she left with Jin Ling.

It was said that if they left from here, they could go to Chu Xiu Palace from the side door, and it was relatively nearer. Therefore, Wei Yuewu refused the soft sedan and took Jin Ling with her and headed towards the direction the palace maid pointed.

Her current location should be in the middle of the Crown Prince Mansion and Chu Xiu Palace. After passing by another palace, she would be able to see the side door that the palace maid had just mentioned.

It was said that the side door was not large, and it was only used by the Crown Prince Mansion’s palace maids and eunuchs.

However, there was no one around now. Just as they approached the door, they suddenly heard footsteps coming from outside. Jin Ling immediately turned around and looked behind vigilantly.

A hand suddenly reached out from the door and silently pulled Wei Yuewu over.

“Who is it?” Jin Ling turned around and shouted. Just as she was about to attack, she saw a guard suddenly appeared in front of her and silently waved his hand at her.

The heir-apparent’s guard?

Jin Ling was stunned for a moment, then she saw the guard motioning her to follow him. After that, the guard entered a room on the side.

The footsteps were getting closer and closer. Jin Ling looked at the direction where Wei Yuewu disappeared. She gritted her teeth and followed the guard into the room...

After that, a large group of Crown Prince Mansion’s guards rushed over. Seeing that there was no one here, they rushed forward to continue their chase!

Her body fell into someone’s arms, her waist was tightly held and her mouth was covered by a big hand. Wei Yuewu struggled nervously. After all, she was only a thirteen-year-old girl. Her heart ached and she found it difficult to breathe!

“Don’t be afraid, it’s me!” A gentle voice sounded along with a bit of an enchanting smile, which immediately dissipated the fear in Wei Yuewu’s heart. Then, the hand that had been covering her mouth silently lowered.

“Your... Your Heir-apparent!” Wei Yuewu panted heavily. Her body fell back weakly and she fell into Yan Huaijing’s arms again.

“What’s wrong? Are you feeling unwell?” Yan Huaijing reached out and hugged her slender waist. His usually smiling handsome eyebrows wrinkled and he looked at Wei Yuewu’s pale face that seemed to have no trace of blood.

“Why... why are you here, Your Heir-apparent?” At this time, Wei Yuewu was really weak. She could only pull a part of his sleeve with her hand, trying to stabilize her breath. There was a faint pain in her chest.

“Injured?” A stern expression suddenly appeared on Yan Huaijing’s face. He placed a hand on Wei Yuewu’s wrist and tightly pursed his handsome lips. His entire body reveal a cold aura that prevented strangers from approaching him.

“I... I’m not injured. I was just shocked!” Wei Yuewu tried her best to answer as she tried to calm down. She was really frightened by the sudden change.

Sensing that Wei Yuewu’s pulse was steadily slowing down, Yan Huaijing resumed his usual leisurely smile. He helped her to the screen. On the screen hung a wide snow-colored cloak, which looked the same as the one he was wearing.

“Put it on!” Yan Huaijing took down the snow-white cloak.

“Your Heir-apparent, what...” At this time, Wei Yuewu had already recovered. She stood up slightly and took the snow-white cloak. She asked in confusion, “What do you want me to do?”

“Pass off as the girl I found!” Yan Huaijing smiled leisurely and reached out to help Wei Yuewu put on the cloak. He then took a veil from the side and covered her whole face in it.

“Your Heir-apparent, the Crown Prince has seen me like this before!” Wei Yuewu was very anxious. She did not know who this cunning fox was planning to scheme against this time, but no matter who it was, it was not appropriate for her to appear like this.

“So what?” Yan Huaijing raised his eyebrows and turned to look at Wei Yuewu. He nodded with satisfaction. “I’m not going to see the Crown Prince. I’m taking you to see someone else!”

“Who are you going to visit?” They were now in the Crown Prince Mansion. Who else could it be except the Crown Prince?

“Master Fenghe!”

This sentence successfully made Wei Yuewu calm down. She no longer pulled the veil on her face. Was Master Fenghe the master who read her palm that day?

“Master Fenghe is in the Crown Prince Mansion?” Wei Yuewu asked in surprise.

“Of course, he is in the Crown Prince Mansion. With so many candidates in the nation-wide selection, it would be inconvenient if Master Feng He is not in the palace.” Yan Huaijing said meaningfully, reaching out to hold Wei Yuewu’s slender waist and slowly walking out.

Wei Yuewu was led by him and had no choice but to follow his footsteps and walk out.

At this time, there were many guards outside the door. When they saw Yan Huaijing bringing Wei Yuewu over, they all bowed respectfully. “Your Heir-apparent!”

“Are they here?” Yan Huaijing asked as he reached out to hug the tightly wrapped Wei Yuewu.

Lin Fang stepped out and looked at Wei Yuewu curiously. He replied, “Your Heir-apparent, they have already gone to Master Fenghe’s place! Are you going now?”

“Right now!” Yan Huaijing nodded and walked out leisurely, holding Wei Yuewu’s slender waist in his arm.

Lin Fang and the other guards followed behind the two of them.

The veil on Wei Yuewu’s face was very thick, and she almost couldn’t see the road beneath her feet. She could only be led by Yan Huaijing. Fortunately, although Yan Huaijing’s steps were large, he didn’t walk fast. Therefore, Wei Yuewu could keep up with him by walking faster than usual.

As they walked, Wei Yuewu secretly frowned, wondering who this sophisticated heir-apparent was going to set up this time. Could it be that Yan Huaijing was scheming against Master Fenghe this time?

But on second thought, Wei Yuewu realized Yan Huaijing must have started to set up this Master Fenghe when they were in Plum Blossom Nunnery.

“Heir-apparent of Yan, you are really fast!” After they turned a corner, a cold voice was heard. It was the voice of the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Lu.

Yan Huaijing laughed and said, “Of course I have to be fast. Otherwise, all the good words will be heard by Heir-apparent of Lu!” He was extremely gentle.

Lu Yeli looked suspiciously at the woman who was half in his arms. Unable to see her appearance, he couldn’t help but sneer, “Is this the beautiful woman found by Heir-apparent of Yan? I wonder how outstanding she is?”

When they left the Palace last time, all the heirs-apparent vowed to bring beautiful young girls with them. After returning to his mansion, he immediately picked two. However, when he entered the Palace today, he heard that the other two heirs-apparent each brought four girls with them. He regretted not bringing more with him.

However, he did not expect Yan Huaijing to bring only one.

“My woman is naturally the most outstanding!” Yan Huaijing raised his eyebrows and said lazily.

Chapter 289 – Childhood Sweetheart

If this was said by others, Lu Yeli would only feel that it was ridiculous. However, Yan Huaijing was hailed as the number one young master in the world, and he was qualified to say those words without any doubt.

Judging from the fact that he embraced her so carefully and gently, the woman deserved to be the most outstanding!

“In that case, we’ll have to see how outstanding the woman Heir-apparent of Yan brought is!” Lu Yeli snorted coldly. His gaze fell on the tightly wrapped Wei Yuewu, and a trace of doubt flashed through his eyes.

He had already sent people to inquire about it. Yan Huaijing didn’t bring beauties with him to the capital this time. Although he had previously chosen two beauties, they were sent to the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang. Where did Yan Huaijing find this woman? Why did he not notice her beforehand? Could it be that Yan Huaijing was so good at keeping secrets?

Was the gap in strength between the two families so great?

“You are welcome!” Yan Huaijing was indifferent to Lu Yeli’s displeasure. He smiled slightly as if he did not hear the indignation in Lu Yeli’s voice.

Hearing Yan Huaijing’s overbearing tone, Wei Yuewu couldn’t help but feel speechless. In any case, she did not intend to say a word.

After turning around a corner, they arrived at a quiet courtyard. In the imperial palace that was filled with magnificent buildings, there was actually such an elegant small courtyard. It really made people wonder if this was still the Crown Prince Mansion.

A high and slender bamboo forest covered half of the quiet courtyard. The Heir-apparent of the Duke of Qi, Qi Yunhao, and the Heir-apparent of the Duke of Chu, Chu Fangnan, had already arrived. Each of them was followed by four delicate beauties with jade-like skin and enchanting charm. They could be considered as top-grade beauties.

“Heir-apparent of Yan only brought one beauty?” Qi Yunhao could not help but laugh when he saw Wei Yuewu being carefully protected by Yan Huaijing.

“When it comes to beauties, quality matters more than quantity!” A deep look flashed in Yan Huaijing’s eyes, and he smiled elegantly. He didn’t seem to care at all.

"I would like to see what kind of beauty it is that makes Heir-apparent of Yan so confident!" Chu Fangnan came over with a big laugh and frivolously stretched out the folding fan in his hand to pick up Wei Yuewu's veil.

Wei Yuewu's heart tightened. She subconsciously lowered her head. However, in the next instant, she saw the fan in Chu Fangnan's hand was slapped by Yan Huaijing and directly fell to the ground.

Lu Yeli stopped and stood where he was. He looked thoughtfully at Wei Yuewu, who was wrapped up tightly. How could a woman who was protected by Yan Huaijing like this be a simple person?

"Heir-apparent of Chu, this is a noble young lady of the Yan State. How can you casually profane her? I remember that you once went to our Yan State and had an encounter with a noble young lady of our Yan State." Yan Huaijing narrowed his eyes, his expression relaxed and his words sounded very gentle.

If one hadn't noticed his powerful movements just now, they would just take this sentence lightly.

However, Chu Fangnan could not help but shiver in his heart. He remembered the beautiful young aristocratic lady he met last time when he went to the State of Yan. She beat him so hard that he fell off his horse and was dragged along by the young lady. In the end, she threw a woman's dress on him and rode away.

The cause of this incident was quite simple: he saw the young lady was beautiful and teased her!

He didn't expect the woman to be so fierce. She actually taught him a lesson. Before his guards realized what happened, he had already been caught by the young lady, who gave him a good beating and humiliated him. Afraid of hurting him, his guards didn't dare to stop the young lady and they came up and untied Chu Fangnan only when the woman left with her maidservants.

This matter was simply a great humiliation for Chu Fangnan. It happened on his way to the capital of the State of Yan. He was too embarrassed to tell others. He only dared to secretly ask about such a young lady. However, he failed to find her until he left.

After hearing Yan Huaijing mention this incident, his face turned red and white. He was ashamed and angry, but he could not say anything.

“Who is that person?” Chu Fangnan gritted his teeth and asked.

“Who is Heir-apparent of Chu talking about? How about describing her appearance to me? Maybe I can find out that person for you!” Yan Huaijing lazily raised an eyebrow.

“No need! Thank you for your kindness, Heir-apparent of Yan!” Chu Fangnan took the fan that his guard picked up for him. He would never mention such a shameful thing again.

Qi Yunhao looked at Chu Fangnan and then at Yan Huaijing, deep in thought.

A monk appeared at the door and bowed respectfully to them, “Your Heirs-apparent, the Master invited you to go in to speak.”

Yan Huaijing flicked his sleeves and walked into the courtyard with Wei Yuewu.

There were five seats in the courtyard. Master Fenghe was sitting in the seat in the middle. Yan Huaijing brought Wei Yuewu to the first seat on the left and Lu Yeli sat in the first seat on the right with a cold face.

Chu Fangnan thought for a moment and sat down next to Lu Yeli. Qi Yunhao glanced at Wei Yuewu’s veiled face and sat down next to Yan Huaijing.

Because of the veil, the other people could not see Wei Yuewu clearly, but Wei Yuewu could see the layout here. She knew the tables and seats here had been specially arranged.

There were gaps between the four great dukedoms. The status of the Yan State was undoubtedly the strongest in the four dukedoms.

Yan Huaijing raised his hand and a guard immediately got an extra chair for him. He held Wei Yuewu’s hand and motioned her to be seated.

Wei Yuewu slowly sat down.

For a time, the entire courtyard strangely quieted down. Everyone looked at Yan Huaijing in shock. Even Master Fenghe, who had been sitting on the seat of honor with his eyes closed and resting, suddenly widened his eyes and looked at Yan Huaijing.

Being looked at by everyone, Yan Huaijing didn't seem to feel embarrassed at all. His beautiful eyes flashed and his smile became more handsome and elegant.

Yan Huaijing's beautiful eyes swept across the stunned crowd. He released Wei Yuewu's hand, leaned back and asked lazily, "What, is there a problem?"

Wei Yuewu sat on the chair undisturbed. Even through the veil and cloak, the others could sense the composure of the woman in front of them.

Well, any woman who was able to be so calm on such an occasion was worthy of their attention, not to mention the fact that Yan Huaijing had actually asked her to sit on the chair beside him.

The women brought by Lu Yeli and the others were all standing behind them with their heads lowered. The difference between their statuses was very obvious!

"Your Heir-apparent, is this a young aristocratic lady from the State of Yan?" Master Fenghe raised his eyebrows and slowly asked.

"Yes!" Yan Huaijing said lazily. He looked at Master Fenghe with a smile and flicked the corner of his clothes.

"I didn't know Your Heir-apparent brought a young aristocratic lady from the State of Yan when you came to the capital this time. I wonder which family she is from?" Master Fenghe asked more cautiously. On his way to the capital, Yan Huaijing had been monitored closely. Unexpectedly, no one noticed that there was such a noble young lady in his entourage.

Some of the aristocratic families in the State of Yan moved there with the first Duke of Yan, and some were promoted later. None of them could be underestimated.

Hearing Master Fenghe mention her, Wei Yuewu bowed on the chair to express her respect for Master Fenghe.

Master Fenghe also slightly cupped his hands in return.

“Actually, she just happened to come to the capital to play, but she didn’t come with me. Master Fenghe, let’s start!” Yan Huaijing’s dark eyes flashed with a long and narrow light as he rudely interrupted Master Fenghe’s inquiry.

Before Master Fenghe spoke, Qi Yunhao cut in. “Heir-apparent of Yan, you have to think carefully. You brought only one woman with you, are you sure she can really defeat these ladies?”

With these words, he gestured with his hand to indicate all the other beauties present.

He and Chu Fangnan each brought four beauties, and Lu Yeli brought two. The ten beauties were all extremely charming and seductive.

Inside the veil, Wei Yuewu’s rolled her eyes and her brows could not help but slightly frown. She knew nothing about Yan Huaijing’s plan and did not know what kind of trick he had in his sleeves. Would she really be of any help to him?

Even though Wei Yuewu had a calm mind, under such a situation, she couldn’t help but feel a little worried. She subconsciously looked back at Yan Huaijing.

Yan Huaijing stretched out his hand as if he wanted to reach out and grab Wei Yuewu’s hand. Wei Yuewu quickly leaned back and happened to avoid Yan Huaijing’s hand. However, her body leaned back and she almost lost her balance. Wei Yuewu hurriedly composed herself and managed to stabilize her body with great difficulty.

When she looked at Yan Huaijing again, there was an extremely gentle smile on his handsome face. However, his slender hand gently flicked twice in front of Wei Yuewu to indicate his innocence.

Wei Yuewu was so angry that she gritted her teeth. At this time, this heir-apparent still had a cynical look. But judging from the situation in front of them, something big must be going on.

Sure enough, the thoughts of this cunning fox were not something she could fathom.

Forget it. He was not afraid of her blowing his plan. Why should she be anxious for him? Her heart inexplicably calmed down. She simply looked at Master Fenghe carefully through the veil. She had always been very curious about this renowned and highly-respected Master Fenghe.

Since he had already seen through the vanity of life, why would he have to meddle with the mundane world again? From whichever perspective, Master Fenghe should not be involved in this kind of thing.

In the next moment, the hand that was placed on her knee was held by Yan Huaijing. There was a gentle laughter beside her ear that made her inexplicably nervous.

“Of course, the young aristocratic ladies of the State of Yan were different from women elsewhere, especially her. We have been childhood sweethearts. We grew up together, so she can naturally share the burden with me!”

Yan Huaijing looked at Wei Yuewu, his long and narrow eyes seemed to overflow with light, and the corners of his lips curved up.

Childhood sweethearts?

As soon as Yan Huaijing said these words, everyone turned their attention to Wei Yuewu. At this time, even if Wei Yuewu wanted to pull out her hand, she couldn't.

“A childhood sweetheart from an aristocratic family? Heir-apparent of Yan, I remember that you came to the capital this time on a special mission, right?” Chu Fangnan could not help but ask in astonishment.

The four of them all came to the capital with the aim of marrying the princesses, but it was not appropriate to announce it to others.

If Yan Huaijing had his a childhood sweetheart, then what about the marriage with the princess? When the four of them entered the capital, everyone said that Yan Huaijing was the most likely person to marry the princess. At that time, Chu Fangnan felt depressed. He did not expect that before any of them made a proposal to the princess, Yan Huaijing announced he had a childhood sweetheart. Chu Fangnan couldn't help but feel happy.

“So what if I have a childhood sweetheart? Could it be that Heir-apparent of Chu does not have a childhood sweetheart?” Yan Huaijing lazily leaned back on the chair behind him. He glanced at Chu Fangnan and smiled leisurely.

Chapter 290 – Find Out Who On Earth That Woman Was

The other three heirs-apparent had all grown up in the capital cities of their dukedoms. Of course, they also had their own childhood sweethearts. However, in order to marry the princess, no one got married before coming to the capital. The meaning behind this was clear: to show respect for the princess.

But everyone knew that no matter who married the princess, it was impossible for him to have only the princess in his heart. Each of them must have their own so-called childhood sweetheart. However, although everyone was well aware of this matter, no one would openly bring it up in public, especially in the Crown Prince Mansion. Yan Huaijing had not married the princess yet, but he actually brought his childhood sweetheart out. This made the other heirs-apparent present speculate.

What was Yan Huaijing trying to do?

Could it be that he did not want to marry the princess?

However, on second thought, all the other three heirs-apparent knew it was impossible. If Yan Huaijing did not want to marry the princess, he would have already left the capital.

Nevertheless, he didn't behave like he really wanted to marry the princess. Otherwise, he would not have brought his childhood sweetheart out in such a manner at this time.

None of them believed the so-called “surprise meeting” as was said by Yan Huaijing.

Yan Huaijing smiled and broke the strange silence. He stretched out a hand and flicked it on the table.
“Master Fenghe, let’s begin!”

“Alright, let’s begin!” Master Fenghe turned his attention away from Yan Huaijing and said.

Wei Yuewu’s heart trembled. Not knowing what to do next, she looked at Yan Huaijing hesitantly.

“It’s fine!” Even though she was wearing a veil, Yan Huaijing could still sense her hesitation. His long and narrow eyes were suffused with a dense glow, and there was a trace of a smile in them.

“What... am I going to do?” Wei Yuewu was really uncertain. Looking at the venue set up by the eunuchs present, she did not know what to do for a moment.

“You... don’t need to do anything. Just sit quietly!” Yan Huaijing smiled, his white and slender hand holding Wei Yuewu’s hand, not showing the slightest intention of letting go of her.

“You guys start first!” Yan Huaijing raised his voice and said to the other three.

“Alright, then I will be the first!” Chu Fangnan immediately responded and clapped his hands. The four beauties behind him immediately bowed to him respectfully and then went around to the front of the table.

There was a carpet on the ground. The four beauties stepped forward one by one and stood on the four corners of the carpet. Then, they started to dance in an enchanting manner. It was actually an extremely moving performance of dance in the chorus.

The women brought by Qi Yunhao were the next to perform. Two of the four beauties performed the dance while the other two played musical instruments. The music was pleasing to the ears and the dance was graceful.

The last to perform were the two beauties brought by Lu Yeli. These two beauties each had a cold temperament similar to Lu Yeli. This made the two of them look more heroic. They performed a set of sword dance.

After the performance was over, there was a round of applause.

“Heir-apparent of Yan...” Master Fenghe turned to Yan Huaijing with a smile.

It was now Yan Huaijing’s turn.

Wei Yuewu moved uneasily. After all, she still had no confidence. She was inexplicably brought here, and Yan Huaijing did not say anything to her. However, under the current situation, she was expected to perform, but she wasn’t prepared at all.

If Yan Huaijing really wanted her to perform, what should she choose to do?

Wei Yuewu was speechless for a moment, and she quickly thought about whether there was something which she was adept at but was not particularly eye-catching!

“No need!” Yan Huaijing’s words caused the expression on everyone’s face to stiffen.

“Why did you say that, Heir-apparent of Yan?” Master Fenghe’s face turned cold. Even with his well-controlled mentality, he was also a bit angry. The matter was brought up by Yan Huaijing, but in the end, he did not take it seriously.

“She’s sick!” Yan Huaijing exerted force in his hand, and Wei Yuewu’s body involuntarily leaned against him.

Wei Yuewu wanted to struggle, but she heard a soft voice in her ear. “Don’t move if you don’t want anyone to know who you are!”

This voice was very gentle, but the meaning of threat in it was enough to make Wei Yuewu stay motionless in Yan Huaijing's arms.

Although she gritted her teeth in hatred, she did not dare to move recklessly, afraid that she would anger this Asura King.

Wei Yuewu had never felt that she could ignore Yan Huaijing's threat, especially now that he had placed a hand near her veil.

Wei Yuewu had no choice but to bury her head into his arms, trying to avoid his slender hand on her veil.

However, she couldn't take it anymore and simply bit him hard on his chest.

However, the winter clothes were thick. Even if Wei Yuewu used all of her strength, she could not really injure Yan Huaijing.

However, Yan Huaijing was both surprised and pleased that Wei Yuewu dared to bite him in his arms. His hand slid from her veil to her back and gently hugged her, letting her lean close to him in his arms.

In the eyes of outsiders, their secret strife seemed to be very romantic. As Yan Huaijing pulled, the other threw herself into his arms. No matter how one looked at it, their actions were full of deep affection and looked extremely natural.

Lu Yeli's last trace of doubt disappeared. It seemed that the woman next to Yan Huaijing was indeed his childhood sweetheart. Well, it was reasonable for her to appear here because she was unhappy that Yan Huaijing wanted to marry the princess and therefore deliberately followed him to the capital without telling him!

However, this was the imperial palace. The two of them were so intimate that it made the other people present look down on this so-called young aristocratic lady.

If she was really a well-educated lady from a noble family, how could she act so intimately in front of so many outsiders?

“She is sick?” Feeling that he had been ignored, Chu Fangnan couldn’t bear it and asked with a sneer. “Heir-apparent of Yan, don’t you think that these words are ridiculous? If she is sick, why didn’t you take another one with you?”

“I don’t want to.” Yan Huaijing said lazily. His handsome eyes were filled with arrogance as he looked at Chu Fangnan. His voice was indifferent and cold. “Even if she isn’t sick, she doesn’t need to perform for anyone. Why should my woman perform for others?”

These words, coupled with his gentle and refined manner, had a strange sense of contradiction, but they easily made people feel the fierceness and care in them.

Who exactly was this woman that she was actually able to make Yan Huaijing protect her so much, to the extent that he didn’t hesitate to offend everyone present?

Everyone couldn’t help but look at each other.

In a tall building of the Crown Prince Mansion, the teacup in the Third Princess’ hand was smashed to the ground, making a crisp sound of shattering.

Her beautiful face that had always maintained a gentle look almost got stiffened and distorted. “Find out who that bitch is!”

“Third Princess, don’t worry. Maybe it’s not like what you think!” Standing by her side, Jing Wenyan, who was accompanying her, hurriedly reached out to stop her and said. “How can someone like the Heir-apparent of Yan casually care about a woman!”

So this woman was definitely not simple!

This was what Jing Wenyan wanted to tell the Third Princess. However, the Third Princess was so angry that her face turned livid. Her hand that was placed on the table involuntarily spasmed. Her lips trembled twice but she wasn't able to utter a word.

After a long while, the Third Princess finally said, "Heir... Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State, you are too presumptuous!"

"Third Princess, the heir-apparent has always been so domineering!" Jing Wenyan thought for a moment and said directly to the Third Princess. She was also one of the few people who knew Yan Huaijing's true face.

She knew that the seemingly gentle and refined Heir-apparent of the Duke of Yan State had always been wearing a mask. Back then, after exhausting all her means to beg him, the only thing she got was his cold, refined, and jade-like indifference.

Jing Wenyan didn't believe that the Third Princess enjoyed any advantage over her except for her status.

The Third Princess was not a reckless person. After hearing Jing Wenyan's words, although her face was still alternating between green and white, she sat down again. Her eyes fell on the slender woman in Yan Huaijing's arms. Her eyes flashed with a trace of fierceness as she made a decision.

The Third Princess calmed her breathing and looked straight at Jing Wenyan. "Wenyan, I will consider your suggestion. Since the Heir-apparent of Yan already has such a woman by his side, if I want to win his heart, I must find another stunning beauty to marry along with me. Wenyan, are you really not going to help me?"

Her gaze was burning!

Jing Wenyan's heart skipped a beat. She hurriedly bowed to the Third Princess respectfully, and a bitter smile appeared on her face. "Third Princess, Wenyan doesn't dare to have any improper thoughts. There isn't much interaction between me and the heir-apparent. The so-called marriage contract between the two families was just my father's wishful thinking. You also saw it for yourself. If the heir-apparent had any pity for me, my father wouldn't have ended up in his current situation!"

“Wenyan, I don’t have any other intention. I just want to ask about your feelings. But if you are unwilling, who else can help me?” The Third Princess kept staring at Jing Wenyan who had quite a natural expression on her face. When she mentioned Yan Huaijing, she only smiled bitterly. In particular, she also mentioned her father, the Duke of Jing, whose territory had been seized by Yan Huaijing.

If Yan Huaijing had even the slightest bit of pity for Jing Wenyan, she would not have become down and out like this. Thinking of this, the Third Princess felt Jing Wenyan’s words were quite plausible!

It seemed that even if Jing Wenyan was interested in Yan Huaijing, Yan Huaijing didn’t have any interest in Jing Wenyan.

As the number one beauty in the State of Jing who was reportedly to be once engaged with Yan Huaijing, Jing Wenyan gave the Third Princess a lot of psychological pressure.

Sensing that the Third Princess’ attitude had softened, Jing Wenyan secretly heaved a sigh of relief. The Third Princess was not the Fourth Princess who was easy to deal with, but she felt that Third Princess was the one who was most likely to marry Yan Huaijing.

Sensing the Third Princess’ anxiety, Jing Wenyan smiled. In a seemingly inadvertent manner, she mentioned the name that had been repeated in her heart several times, “Third Princess, do you know about Sixth Miss Wei of the mansion of Marquis Hua Yang?”

“Wei Yuewu?” The Third Princess was stunned for a moment. The appearance of the young girl with delicate facial features with a hint of childishness flashed before her eyes. Her eyes could not help but sink. “Why did you mention her?”